The Department of Internal Medicine plays a major role in the University of Michigan Medical School’s student education programs. Internal Medicine faculty members not only teach more than one-quarter of the entire four-year Medical School curriculum, but also occupy key leadership positions in all of the programs.

Each of these professors from the department is deeply committed to the programs they direct and the students they teach. The first year (M1) curriculum is led by Robert Paine III, MD, and the second year (M2) curriculum is directed by Roger J. Grekin, MD. The third year (M3) and fourth year (M4) curricula are directed by Cyril Grum, MD Robert W. Lash, MD is director of the Introduction to the Patient course, which spans both the first and the second year of instruction, and Arno K. Kumagai, MD heads the Family Centered Experience Program.

At the departmental level, the Core Internal Medicine M3 Clerkship is directed by Dr. Grum and Robert G. Sitrin, MD leads the (M4) Internal Medicine Subinternships.

The Basics: First and Second Years
Changes in the Medical School’s curriculum that began with the entering class of 2003 are now giving students a much stronger grounding in the basic sciences in their first and second years, preparing them extremely well for their clinical experiences and future careers. At the same time, these students begin to develop their patient-interaction skills early through the Standardized Patient Program (far right), and continue to hone them as they progress. First and second year students also participate in department-sponsored career seminars, which faculty members encourage and endorse.

Learn While Doing: Third and Fourth Years
2005 marked the first time that third-year medical students began their clinical year in May, allowing them to learn from the most experienced residents. The core M3 clerkship in internal medicine is three months long, and gives students tremendous experience in outpatient settings, where so much of today’s medical care is delivered. Our faculty have made this transition nearly seamless, and have devoted their time and energy to making the most of their one-on-one interactions with students during outpatient rotations, and providing thorough evaluation of students’ performance. In just the first quarter of this year, three dozen students took part in 831 half-day outpatient clinics, and faculty wrote 272 evaluations. Rotation sites include subspecialty and general medicine clinics at the University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers, the Ann Arbor Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and the Oakwood Healthcare System, St. Joseph Mercy Health System and Clinics and carefully selected private physicians’ offices in the area.

As is evident from its diverse and creative educational programs, the Department is strongly committed to innovation and excellence. Departmental faculty members also regularly supervise students who elect to take the fourth-year Science in Clinics rotation. This year, further emphasis on professionalism and humanism in medicine was added. A lot has changed with the new curriculum, but what hasn’t is our Department’s educational philosophy that students learn best while caring for patients.

Internal medicine continues to be one of the most popular career choices among University of Michigan Medical School graduates: about 17 percent of graduating seniors have matched into Internal Medicine or Medicine-Pediatrics training programs this year.
Global opportunities

Medical students, even those in their pre-clinical years, have myriad options for international projects and clinical rotations through the Global REACH program headed by our faculty member David Stern, MD. This year, the program secured new funding for group projects from the Medical School, and continued to match our students with opportunities in India, South Africa, Ecuador and many more countries. The opportunity for our students to understand the health needs of our world, and to treat patients with diseases that are rare in our own country, continues to grow.

Student Awards

For more than 30 years, the Department has been very pleased to present the most outstanding graduating senior student with the William Dodd Robinson Award for Excellence in Internal Medicine in recognition of the student’s superb academic performance in the junior medicine clerkship and senior electives in Internal Medicine. This year’s recipient, Laura F. Heyns, exemplifies the highest standards, which we are proud to foster here at the University of Michigan. This prestigious award recognizes the deep contributions made to the Department by its long serving chairman, William Dodd Robinson, who was Chair of the Department from 1958 to 1975.

In addition to the Robinson Award, the Department was very proud to award its second-ever Department of Internal Medicine Faculty Scholarship to Lee Park, a fourth year medical student, in recognition of her overall outstanding academic excellence. This award, established by our Chair, Dr. Marc E. Lippman, is funded exclusively by financial contributions of the faculty of the Department of Internal Medicine and pays the recipient’s last year of medical school tuition. The department takes great pride in being able to offer this scholarship and looks forward to the annual presentation of this award.

Faculty and House Officer Teaching Awards

Dr. Richard H. Moseley received the Richard D. Judge Award for Excellence in Medical Student Teaching from the Department. Dr. Thomas D. Gelehrter was awarded the Kaiser Permanente Award for Excellence in Pre-Clinical Teaching. Drs. Rajesh S. Mangrulkar, N. Cary Engleberg, Kim A. Eagle, and Arno K. Kumagai received the Medical Student Award for Teaching Excellence from the first- and second-year medical students. Special Recognition for Contributions to the Medical Student Teaching Program went to Dr. Robert G. Sitrin and the students gave Bronze Beeper Awards to four Internal Medicine residents for excellence in medical student education. They were Drs. Kirsten A. Neudoerffer, Sara Saberi, Shelley L. Schmidt, and Scott H. Visovatti.

Two faculty members held positions on major committees of the National Board of Medical Examiners: Drs. N. Cary Engleberg (United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 1 Committee) and Cyril M. Grum (Executive Committee, Medical School Liaison Committee and Step 2 Interdisciplinary Review Committee).