School of Medicine
University of Missouri Health

One Medical School.
Two Campuses.
More Physicians.
The Patient-Centered Care Learning Center, seen here in an artist’s rendering from an aerial perspective, will connect the school with the larger MU campus. “By creating a six-story building with views back to Jesse Hall and the older parts of campus, we’re creating a link between the medical complex and the rest of the campus,” said Adam Cohen, an architect with Kansas City-based firm BNIM. “We’re also thinking of building materials, salvage redbrick, that is a reference to some of the older buildings on campus.”

A symbol of commitment

School of Medicine expansion reflects medical school’s mission

The University of Missouri, CoxHealth and Mercy health systems of Springfield are addressing a critical shortage of physicians in the state and nation by adding a second MU School of Medicine campus in Springfield. As part of the expansion, MU recently broke ground on a $42.5 million Patient-Centered Care Learning Center in Columbia. These changes will make it possible for the MU School of Medicine to increase its medical school class size from 96 to 128 students.

While the building will provide first- and second-year medical students with a new educational home when it opens in 2017, the Patient-Centered Care Learning Center is more than just a new state-of-the-art facility. It’s a tangible symbol of the School of Medicine’s mission to provide education that focuses on the patient in every aspect. “This new medical education building was designed with input from our students and faculty, as well as from the community, and it will provide a wonderful space for us to train patient- and family-centered physicians,” said Linda Headrick, MD, senior associate dean at the MU School of Medicine. “The vision for the building is to create a learning space that reflects our goal of educating physicians to provide effective care for the people of Missouri and beyond. That is why the building is called the ‘Patient-Centered Care Learning Center.’ This new learning environment will explicitly focus the students’ attention on the people they are preparing to serve.”

The goal of the project is to train more physicians for Missouri by expanding the class size of the MU School of Medicine and adding an MU clinical campus in Springfield. Starting in June 2016, eight to 12 MU medical students will complete their last two years of training in Springfield. By August 2017, 32 additional medical students will be admitted to MU every year as a result of the expansion. By 2020, there will be a total of 64 third- and fourth-year medical students based in Springfield.

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leaders. The experience allowed her to get an understanding of the learning activities that currently take place in the medical school in order to maximize the new space to meet the needs of students. It was an eye-opening experience.

“We sat down with representatives from the M1 through M4 classes who were able to tell us about their experiences,” Kerr said. “At one point, I almost started crying as the students talked about how phenomenal the program is. I was blown away by the idea of patient-based learning and how much it’s focused on the patients and on collaboration.”

Throughout the planning process, it became clear to Kerr how much School of Medicine leaders valued the students’ input. She was able to see how MU emphasizes patient-based learning, and it was exciting to see the teamwork that developed among the students. It compelled her and her colleagues to design a space that would help the students maximize their education.

“Throughout the programming process, which ultimately informs the design of the building, we wanted to make sure that every decision we were making, in terms of how big a space is or how many rooms were needed, that we were really supporting the idea of patient-based learning. The title of the building is not just a title,” Kerr said.Adam Cohen, an architect with Kansas City-based firm BNIM, shared a similar idea of patient-based learning. The title of the building is not just a title.

When planning for the construction of the center, MU enlisted the services of Christner Inc., a St. Louis-based planning and programming firm, to determine the amount of space needed to support current and future needs. Providing a space that is ideally suited to the needs of the students was at the forefront of the planning process. Representatives from Christner such as Rachel Kerr surveyed and shadowed medical students and School of Medicine leaders. The experience allowed her to get an

thousands of patients in communities throughout the state.

“Our medical students are going to serve thousands and thousands of patients, families and their communities,” Headrick said. “That is the goal of the medical education program at the University of Missouri: to educate physicians to provide effective patient-centered care for the people of Missouri and beyond. That goal drives everything we do, and that’s what this project is all about.”

As associate dean for the Springfield clinical campus implementation, Weldon Webb worked closely with CoxHealth and Mercy health systems to make the clinical campus a reality.

“CoxHealth and Mercy could not be better partners in our mission of improving the health of all Missourians,” Webb said. “Their unyielding support of this project and their dedication to improving the health of their community has been instrumental in bringing the Springfield clinical campus and class expansion to fruition.”

A SYMBOLIC STRUCTURE

Not only is the Patient-Centered Care Learning Center a symbol for the commitment MU has for the people of Missouri, but it is also a symbol of its commitment to attracting and educating top medical students.

“It shows that MU is dedicated to drawing the best and brightest aspiring physicians from the state of Missouri,” Osborn said. “The new Patient-Centered Care Learning Center will reflect the modern, innovative nature of the patient-based learning curriculum here, as well.”

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Adam Cohen, an architect with Kansas City-based firm BNIM, shared a similar desire to create a space that focused on the student experience. Based on Christner’s space plan, BNIM then designed a building that supports the school’s mission.

“From the earliest stages of the project, we recognized how enthusiastic the faculty, staff and the students are about the mission of the medical school and its focus on patients, and we designed the building around that,” Cohen said. “As much as we’re able to, we really want to promote the patient-based learning method of teaching and collaboration among students and faculty.”

Many of the school’s current classrooms are in basements devoid of windows and natural light. In surveys sent to students seeking their input, the responses were overwhelming that students were looking for a comfortable space rich with technology support, Cohen said.

For Kerr, she now thinks of the MU School of Medicine as one of the best in the country for teaching medical students to interact with patients, their families and the health care team.

“If I ever need a doctor, I’m going to find one that’s been trained at Mizzou or somewhere who uses a similar patient-based learning method,” Kerr said. “This experience gave me so much respect for how they’re taught. This isn’t just about the students themselves and their experiences. It’s about what’s going to happen later. The experiences they’re getting will make them better doctors, and they will be able to touch lives in a more profound way.”

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE PATIENT-CENTERED CARE LEARNING CENTER

- 97,088-square-foot expansion
- 30,400 square feet for patient-based learning labs
- 23,700 square feet for offices and support space
- 15,200 square feet for a simulation center
- 11,700 square feet for an Anatomy Learning Center
- 6,900 square feet for a flat-floor auditorium
- 5,000 square feet for mechanical space
- 4,188 square feet for a two-story connector link to the existing medical school building

FLOOR PLAN:

- FIRST FLOOR: Anatomy Learning Center — including storage space, changing/locker rooms, offices, storage, and mechanical and electrical space
- SECOND FLOOR: Main entrance, open lobby, multipurpose flat-floor auditorium, offices, conference room and storage
- THIRD FLOOR: Medical education programs and services
- FOURTH FLOOR: Three simulation rooms, staging room for standardized patients, patient-centered care exam rooms, observation and control room and a conference room
- FIFTH FLOOR: First-year medical student patient-based learning labs
- SIXTH FLOOR: Second-year medical student patient-based learning labs

KEEP UP WITH CONSTRUCTION

Visit medicine.missouri.edu/morephysicians for updates and a live video feed of the construction of the Patient-Centered Care Learning Center.