

PULSE

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION
at the University of Virginia Health System



Enhancing Medical Education Through Technology

The School of Medicine is adapting ideas from a state-of-the-art Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) classroom to use in two new major teaching rooms in the medical education building.

UVA's version of the Technology Enhanced Active Learning (TEAL) classroom will support new educational models currently under development in the medical school. "The traditional, large lecture halls that have been fixtures here for decades don't facilitate the small-group interactions, student-faculty dialogue, and image-rich instruction that are essential to active learning in the 21st century," says Richard Pearson, M.D., senior associate dean for education. "The TEAL classrooms will allow us to teach in a more relevant and effective manner and greatly enhance the educational experience of our students."

MIT's TEAL classroom was designed to be both high-tech and high-touch. The room's perimeter is lined with eight projectors for PowerPoint presentations. Round tables—each with its own video camera that projects onto a whiteboard—surround an instructor's workstation. Nine students sit at each table, and every group of three has access to a networked laptop.

UVA's classroom promises to be equally impressive. "Our faculty knows that students learn better from active, hands-on experiences," says Pearson. "These classrooms will help our teachers make medical instruction far more effective."

UVA will become the nation's first medical school to introduce a Technology Enabled Active Learning (TEAL) classroom similar to one pioneered by Microsoft Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Momentum Builds for New Medical Education Building

A state-of-the-art home for medical education at the University of Virginia is closer to becoming a reality, thanks to two \$1 million gifts that were recently made in response to a donor challenge. Darracott Vaughan Jr., M.D. (Med '65)—a member of the University's Board of Visitors, the Medical Alumni Association Board of Directors, and the UVA Health Foundation Board—and his wife Anne donated \$1 million to the new facility. Another medical alum, who wishes to remain anonymous, also contributed \$1 million to help the School of Medicine advance medical education nationwide.

"We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build an outstanding facility for our outstanding students and faculty," says Arthur Garson Jr., M.D., M.P.H., vice president and dean of the School of Medicine. "The building is positioned to be the gateway for medical education at UVA. Educational programs will truly be 'models for all of U.S.'"

The \$30 million Claude Moore Medical Education Building will be constructed adjacent to the School of Nursing. The 37,500 square foot, six-story brick structure—whose design will be influenced by Thomas Jefferson's Academical Village—will consolidate programs currently housed in several buildings located around Grounds. The newest of these structures, Jordan Hall, was completed in 1975. The oldest, known affectionately as the Old Med School, dates from the 1930s.

The two recent million dollar donations add momentum to a project that was launched last year with a \$12.5 million challenge gift from the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation of Fairfax, Va. The foundation's commitment, the largest private gift ever made to UVA's medical school for a building project, must be matched before it can be fulfilled. The gift honors Claude Moore, M.D. (Med '16). A noted philanthropist and a longtime supporter of his alma mater, Moore established the foundation in 1987 to enhance educational opportunities for young people, especially in Virginia. He died in 1991 at age 98.



Darracott Vaughan Jr., M.D. (Med '65), has joined a growing number of medical alumni supporting the new medical education building.

New Directions in Medical Education

According to Charles Campbell, M.D. (Med '76), chair of the Medical Education Campaign Steering Committee, these financial commitments have come at just the right time.

"Medical education has shifted—from mastery of a core body of knowledge to the study of evolving principles and procedures that are under constant challenge and change," he says. "The faculty prepares students for a lifetime of learning, which requires collaboration, innovation, evaluation, and an up-to-date educational facility. The sooner we raise funds for the building, the sooner our students and society can reap the benefits that will come with it." The School of Medicine has donated \$3 million to the building fund.

The new building offers educators innovative ways to accommodate student learning styles, including individual wireless communication, classrooms with multimedia capabilities, and a medical simulation training center, where students, residents, and emergency medical technicians can hone essential skills using computerized patient simulators. The facility will also include space for mock exams, clinical teaching and assessment, and small- and large-group interaction. The building, and what it will offer medical students at UVA, will help draw prospective students to the School of Medicine, giving UVA an edge over its competition.

Medical alumni have a great appreciation for what the Claude Moore Medical Education Building will bring to UVA, and several reunion classes plan to designate their gifts to support the new facility.

For more information on the project, contact Cindy Reynolds, director of development for medical alumni, at 800-297-0102, or 434-924-8432, e-mail creynolds@virginia.edu.