

## Curriculum transformation: Highways to Excellence

As the members of the Wayne State University School of Medicine Class of 2022 prepare to begin their medical school careers, we are excited to be launching the first phase of the new Highways to Excellence curriculum.

While our history and graduates have proved our urban clinical excellence strength and impact in numerous ways, we are transforming our curriculum to provide the best student experience possible – a learning environment informed by extensive research, analysis and review that will provide physicians-in-training with a unique set of tools, skills, knowledge and experiences to position them as leaders in medicine.

The redesign of the way we educate physicians-in-training is focused on real-world outcomes. We are, and we have been for 150 years, a reflection of the city where we live and learn – Detroit. We are developers of cutting-edge clinicians who are in demand nationwide. Medicine is constantly moving, and as you know, we know how to move fast in the Motor City.

The Highways curriculum builds on a 150-year tradition of excellence in education, research, care and service, and emphasizes active learning and constant integration to build skills and knowledge simultaneously. It provides students with:

- An organ systems-based curriculum that integrates clinical experiences with basic sciences from day one, utilizing the most advanced methods of teaching to allow development of a cohesive class of students who learn and work together as professionals in training
- A deep and authentic understanding of health needs and social determinants gained from education by physician leaders who are actively making differences in the community
- Multiple ways to take advantage of experiential service-learning, community engagement and research opportunities via individualized elective tracks, and strong academic, health care and community partnerships
- A longitudinal focus on professionalism that stresses high-quality and compassionate care, cultural understanding and a commitment to decreasing health disparities

The curriculum is structured in phases that divide the four years on a time, and more importantly, conceptual level. The initial segment is 18 months and establishes a framework of scientific, clinical and societal skills. It is broken into two segments, with the first focusing on the healthy patient and the second focusing on abnormal states. The second segment is 12 months and involves an intense clinical experience in all aspects of medicine. The final segment, which is 14 months, sees students advance toward their career goals while being prepared for residency.

The process for curriculum transformation was completed in a thorough, systematic curricular assessment process with strategic revisions that were made with faculty, stakeholder and student input.