

January 28, 2003

## HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM RECEIVES GRANT

Rockford, Ill.—A Quentin N. Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program grant, totaling \$180,942, has been awarded to the Illinois Health Education Consortium, of which the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford is a part.

Michael Glasser, PhD, assistant dean for Rural Health Professions at the College of Medicine is a co-investigator for the program, along with Paula Winkler, executive director of the Western Illinois Area Health Education Center.

The Burdick program focuses on collaboration and development of long-term relationships between academic institutions and community organizations in rural areas. Burdick grants help establish interdisciplinary training projects that are innovative, increase access to comprehensive, cost-effective care in rural areas and help to recruit and retain health care practitioners in rural areas.

The present program involving the College of Medicine provides a six-month post-graduate interdisciplinary fellowship to professionals employed in rural communities in the fields of nursing, pharmacy, social work and dentistry. In addition to attending classroom modules, fellows spend 20 percent of their time in interdisciplinary training consisting of classroom, clinical and community-based experiences.

The program combines the resources of Western Illinois AHEC, Rural Health Professions, the Center for Rural Health and the Illinois Department of Public Health in addressing the needs of three Illinois communities: **Dixon, Gerard/Springfield and Quincy**. Participating organizations in each community are **Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital in Dixon, Macoupin County Health Department in Litchfield and Quincy Family Practice Residency Program**.