

419-381-4172

3000 Arlington Avenue  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10008  
Toledo, Ohio 43699-0008

419-381-4260  
FAX 419-385-6351

Richard D. Ruppert, M.D.  
President



DECEMBER 1990

PRESIDENT  
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO  
YEAR 2014

DEAR MR. OR MADAM PRESIDENT:

THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO HAS SEEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS ON 360 ACRES OF LAND INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOLS OF NURSING, MEDICINE, ALLIED HEALTH, AND GRADUATE EDUCATION. WE HAVE WITNESSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOUR-YEAR CURRICULUM FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL EDUCATION AND THE GROWTH OF UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH, ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO AND BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THE MASTERS PROGRAMS IN ALLIED HEALTH AND NURSING AS WELL AS A DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDY.

THE PHYSICAL PLANT CONSTITUTES \$150 MILLION WORTH OF CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDING ACADEMIC BUILDINGS AND PATIENT CARE FACILITIES--BOTH IN-PATIENT AND OUT-PATIENT--ALONG WITH THE ELEANOR N. DANA CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER AND THE HILTON HOTEL. THIS PHYSICAL SETTING ACCOMMODATES APPROXIMATELY 2,000 STUDENTS, INCLUDING RESIDENT EDUCATION. IT ALSO HAS BECOME ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN THE AREA WITH OVER 3,200 EMPLOYEES, NOT INCLUDING THOSE EMPLOYED AT THE HILTON HOTEL. ONE OF OUR LEGACIES TO YOU IS THE CONTINUED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THIS COLLEGE AND THE LEASING OF THE FIRST PROPERTY ON OUR CAMPUS TO A PRIVATE CONCERN, THE AGREEMENT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE HILTON HOTEL.

IN ADDITION, WE ARE BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT OF A TECHNOLOGY PARK WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE LEASING OF SPACE ON VACANT LAND ON THE CAMPUS TO INDUSTRIES INTERESTED IN ASSOCIATING WITH THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO. TO DATE, THE EARLY DISCUSSIONS HAVE INVOLVED PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATIONS, COMPANIES INVOLVED IN RESEARCH IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES, AND DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD FOR A PROPOSED ARMORY FACILITY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR THE MILITARY.

MY IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE IS TO TRY AND PREDICT THE FUTURE OF THIS MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR YOU, AS PRESIDENT, IN THE YEAR 2014. AT THIS POINT IN TIME, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SEVERAL ENTITIES BECOME VERY IMPORTANT TO THIS COLLEGE'S CONTINUED GROWTH:

1. CONTINUED GROWTH IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS RELATED TO MEDICINE, INCLUDING NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH. WE WOULD EXPECT TO SEE GROWTH NOT ONLY WITHIN THOSE AREAS BUT ALSO IN NEW FIELDS WITHIN NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH. THE FUTURE MAY WELL RELATE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME SPECIALTY PROGRAMS WITHIN ALL OF THESE AREAS BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR INCREASING CONCENTRATION IN THE DELIVERY OF CARE FOR VERY COMPLICATED ILLNESSES. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WILL HOPEFULLY SEE CONTINUED GROWTH IN RESEARCH EFFORTS ON THE MCO CAMPUS, AS WE ANTICIPATE THE INCREASING NEEDS FOR BASIC RESEARCH IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES.
2. CONCENTRATED EFFORTS IN THE AREAS OF RESEARCH AND CLINICAL CARE WHICH APPEAR TO BE CLEARLY NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE. WE WOULD INCLUDE IN THOSE CONSIDERATIONS: 1) INCREASING PROGRAMS IN TOXICOLOGY RELATED TO ENVIRONMENT; 2) INCREASING EMPHASIS ON PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE AS ADVOCATED BY ALL HEALTH PROFESSIONS; 3) CONTINUED GROWTH IN COMMUNICATIONS SUCH THAT ALL IMAGING WILL BE PERFORMED IN A COMPUTERIZED SETTING ALLOWING THE INFORMATION TO BE PASSED FROM ONE SITE TO ANOTHER, THEREBY ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR HARD COPY, INCLUDING X-RAYS FILMS WHICH ARE NOW HEAVILY UTILIZED IN ALL RADIOGRAPHIC UNITS.
3. CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE AREA OF RESEARCH IN ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION.
4. CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE AREA OF RESEARCH IN THE PROCESS OF AGING, INCLUDING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, SCHIZOPHRENIA, AND PATIENTS WITH SEVERE MOOD SWINGS, INCLUDING DEPRESSION.

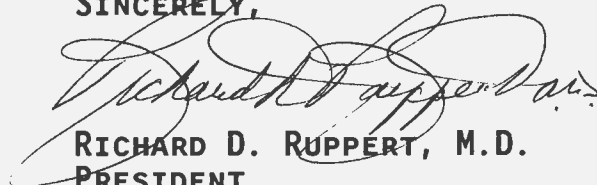
5. CONTINUED GROWTH IN RESEARCH OF CANCER PATIENTS WITH THE GOAL THAT CANCER GROWTH MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY CONTROLLED BY THE YEAR 2014.

OVERRIDING ALL OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS WILL BE THE CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE QUALITY OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO ALL OF OUR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS AS WELL AS INCREASING INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION. QUALITY OF EDUCATION, BOTH FOR THE PROFESSIONAL AND FOR THE PUBLIC, IS ESSENTIAL TO INCREASE THE UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLE'S OWN PARTICIPATION IN THEIR HEALTH CARE AS WELL AS ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE THE TOTAL COSTS OF HEALTH CARE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE WHOLE SYSTEM OF HEALTH SCIENCE RESEARCH WILL BE EXPANDED IN THIS NATION AS WE GET MORE AND MORE ORIENTED TO OUTCOME RESEARCH AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE APPROPRIATE PARAMETERS OR PRACTICE FOR PHYSICIANS AND ALL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

ONE OF THE SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE ANSWERED BY THE YEAR 2014, IS WHETHER OR NOT A SPECIALTY COLLEGE SUCH AS AN ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER CAN SURVIVE AS IT ATTEMPTS TO BE SOLELY INVOLVED IN AN EDUCATIONAL-RESEARCH MOLD WITH ITS ONLY SERVICE PROVIDING FOR PEOPLE'S HEALTH CARE. IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A SOCIETY TO SUSTAIN AN INSTITUTION WHOSE ORIENTATION IS IN A SPECIFIC AREA OF HEALTH WITH ALL OF ITS GOALS RELATED TO EITHER THE SERVICES BEING PROVIDED FOR GOOD PUBLIC HEALTH OR TO THE AREAS OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION RELATED TO THAT GOAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH? TO WHAT EXTENT HEALTH CARE CHANGES BECOMES A PUBLIC HEALTH PHENOMENON RATHER THAN A MEDICAL SCIENCES PROBLEM CAN ONLY BE SPECULATED UPON, WITH CERTAINLY NO GUIDANCE AT PRESENT TO GIVE US CLUES OF THOSE KIND OF DIRECTIONS.

THOSE PRESIDENTS WHO FOLLOW ME WILL NOT HAVE THE PROBLEM OF DEVELOPING A FACILITY BUT WILL HAVE TO DETERMINE ITS FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND WHAT AREAS OF CONCENTRATION WILL BE NEEDED IN ORDER TO NOT ONLY SECURE ITS FUTURE BUT ALSO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PUBLIC HEALTH. AFTER ALL, THAT IS THE GOAL OF THE HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION CENTER, TO INFLUENCE AND IMPROVE UPON PUBLIC HEALTH.

SINCERELY,



RICHARD D. RUPPERT, M.D.  
PRESIDENT  
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO  
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