



## Downtown Kalamazoo is future home of the WMU School of Medicine

The Western Michigan University School of Medicine will make its future home in downtown Kalamazoo, thanks to MPI, a Mattawan-based pharmaceutical research firm, and its commitment to donate the building to WMU. The gift was announced by Trustee Dennis Archer, chair of the WMU Board of Trustees, at the board's meeting December 8th.

The 330,000-square-foot science and research facility, located just off the northwest corner of Lovell and Portage streets and widely known as Building 267, will be extensively renovated and slightly expanded to become the WMU School of Medicine campus. Renovations will begin in early 2012 with a completion date of mid-2014, in time for the first entering class in August 2014.



**A big "Thumbs-Up" (from left: Paul Spaude, CEO, Borgess Health; Frank Sardone, CEO, Bronson Healthcare; William Parfet; WMU Board of Trustees Chair Dennis Archer; Dean Hal Jensen; President Dunn; Trustees William Johnston, Larry Tolbert, and Mary Asmonga-Knapp)**

**William Parfet**



In 2008, MPI Research accepted ownership of Building 267 and the adjacent research facility, Building 126 from Pfizer; once part of the Upjohn, Pharmacia and Pfizer downtown campuses. William U. Parfet, MPI's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, is the great-grandson of W.E Upjohn. "In 1886, my great grandfather moved from Hastings, Michigan to Kalamazoo, Michigan to start the Upjohn Company and the first piece of land he bought is the land on which this building is located...I'm proud of that. It only made sense that this would be the headquarters for the medical center for Western Michigan University. This is the right place at the right time."

WMU President John M. Dunn said, "This is an extraordinary gift that will not only benefit our new medical school, but will also have a dramatic impact on our broader community and the two great hospitals--Borgess and Bronson--our partners in developing the School of Medicine." While the cost of renovation and the cost of new construction are roughly comparable, Dunn says, "In the final analysis, the opportunity to develop Building 267 for our use gives us a long-term financial advantage. This remarkable gift will start us at a level significantly above what we could afford with new construction, and five years from now, as the medical school grows, we won't be strained by the need to acquire or build additional space."

**Future home of the WMU School of Medicine**



## Facility Planning Team Includes Local, State and National Expertise

The Facilities Planning Committee is leading the planning efforts and has been building the design and construction team that will ensure the medical school has a state-of-the-art facility that is ready when the first class of medical students begins in August 2014. In August, the S/L/A/M Collaborative, a nationally known, Connecticut-based architectural and engineering firm with an extensive portfolio in medical and health science facilities, was selected as the design firm for the medical school. Based in Glastonbury, Conn., the 150-member SLAM also has offices in Atlanta, Boston and Syracuse, N.Y. For the WMU School of Medicine work, SLAM will partner with a well-known Kalamazoo-area firm, Diekema Hamann Architecture and Engineering, which has extensive experience in the medical facility arena as well. The SLAM team hit the ground running this summer and hosted several facility planning boot camps with the Accreditation Committees to provide input on the site selection and to develop the overall facility program for the new medical school. In October, Walbridge, a Michigan construction firm with a nearly 100-year history of managing complex building projects around the globe was named the construction management firm for the building project that will likely bring hundreds of jobs to Southwest Michigan. The next phase of the facility-planning project includes detailed schematic design for the new medical school.

## Deal of the Year

For the second consecutive year, the WMU School of Medicine was being singled out by *Business Review West Michigan* as the educational arena's Deal of the Year. The annual awards program, now in its sixth year, was designed by the business publication to honor the year's most significant business transactions in West Michigan. The publication's staff members look at every major industry and "call out the transactions that had or will have the greatest economic impact on West Michigan." The launch of the WMU medical school initiative was the winner last year in the higher education category.

This year, Deal of the Year winners were selected from among 22 finalists in six categories. Earlier this fall, WMU's medical school initiative was named as a 2011 finalist in the higher education category and singled out for its March announcement of a \$100 million foundational gift for the medical school from anonymous donors.

The winning organizations in all six categories were announced during an October 26 awards reception at the Grand Rapids J.W. Marriott. Business and community leaders from around the region gathered to hear the names of the winners. WMU President John M. Dunn and Dr. Hal B. Jenson, founding dean of the School of Medicine, were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the University and its community partners in the initiative – Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare.



**From left: WMU President Dunn, Dean Jenson, Jack Luderer, Associate Dean for Research; and Jim Thomas, WMU Vice President for Development**

## Accreditation Committees Formed and Making Progress

To assure a successful launch and accreditation of the medical school, 12 Accreditation Committees, 22 subcommittees, and 23 workgroups have been formed involving over 300 individuals include KCMS and community physicians, WMU faculty as well as hospital and community leaders. The Accreditation Committees include: Institutional Setting, Finance, Operations, Facilities Planning, Faculty, Communication & PR, Educational Program, Medical Student Services, Research, Simulation, GME Strategic Planning, IT & Library. The subcommittees and workgroups are primarily focused on curriculum development defining the scope, content and format of delivery for individual areas of the curriculum.



**Faculty Committee includes:** Karim Essani, Ph.D., James Eichman, M.D., Susan Stapleton, Ph.D., Michele Serbenski, Bernard Roehr, M.D., Mary Moore, M.D., Krishna Jain, M.D., Dale Rowe, M.D., Hal Jenson, M.D.

Missing from the photo is Earl Norman, M.D.

The WMU School of Medicine is considered an Applicant School by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). The plan is to secure Candidate School status in June 2012 and Preliminary Accreditation by Fall 2012, with hopes of welcoming the first class of medical students in Fall 2014.

**The GME Strategic Planning Committee includes:** Dale Rowe, M.D., Hal Jenson, M.D., Greg Feldmeier, M.D., Joseph D'Ambrosio, M.D., Elizabeth Burns, M.D., Gary Wortz, M.D., Scott Larson, M.D., Joanne Baker, D.O., Michele Serbenski, David Overton, M.D., Harriet Roelof.

**Missing from the photo:** Anthony Oliva, D.O., William Allen, M.D., Robert Baker, M.D., Donald Greydanus, M.D., Mark Loekrke, M.D., Earl Norman, M.D., Robert Strung, M.D.



## Dean Offers Thanks and News at Reception



Western Michigan University School of Medicine Founding Dean Dr. Hal Jenson hosted a reception October 11th at WMU's Fetzer Center and used the occasion to thank the many people now involved in launching the new school.

The School of Medicine has just six full-time employees at this point, but there are literally hundreds of volunteers working on various committees addressing issues such as facilities, curriculum, research, simulation, communications and more. The majority of these people represent the school's founding partners, Borgess Health, Bronson Healthcare and Western Michigan University, in addition to faculty and staff from Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies (KCMS). Dean Jenson thanked members of the committees, as well as leadership from the partner organizations, for their efforts as the medical school moves toward accreditation. "We simply could not do this without you," he said.

In addition to saying thank you, Dean Jenson made two important announcements at the reception. Those in attendance were the first to learn that Walbridge, an award-winning global construction firm based in Michigan, had been selected to serve as construction manager for the medical school. The Dean also announced that the school's planned simulation center would not only be a critical component in medical education, it will be made available as a regional asset for the healthcare community in southwest Michigan.

## WMU School of Medicine Hosts Open Forum Meetings

Dean Hal Jenson, along with members of the Accreditation Committees, have been hosting regular Open Forums to gather input from KCMS and WMU faculty as well as community physicians on a variety of important issues related to planning for the new medical school. Eight Open Forums were held during September through December with over 500 attendees providing input on future faculty needs, facility planning and design, medical student selection criteria, faculty tenure, library services, conflicts of interest, information technology, research, clinical experiences for medical students and specific elements of the educational program.

To keep key stakeholders informed on the medical school development, monthly Town Hall meetings will be planned throughout 2012.

## Employment Opportunities

Recruitment is underway for two faculty positions in the WMU School of Medicine. Current employment opportunities include a Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Chair of the Department of Medical Education. More detailed information about these positions and other staff positions that will be posted in the near future is available at [www.wmich.edu/medicine](http://www.wmich.edu/medicine) in the Employment section.

### OUR MISSION

*The mission of the Western Michigan University School of Medicine is to advance the health of humanity through excellence in medical education, clinical care, research, and service. These pursuits are interdependent and together assure optimal care for today and hope for tomorrow.*