

## **New WMU School of Medicine Campus Named After W.E. Upjohn**

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KALAMAZOO – Dr. Hal B. Jenson, founding dean of the new Western Michigan University School of Medicine (WMed), announced today that the future home of the school located in downtown Kalamazoo, will be called the W.E. Upjohn Campus. W.E. Upjohn was the founder of The Upjohn Co.

In December 2011, William U. Parfet, chairman and CEO of MPI Research in Mattawan, Mich., announced the donation of a 330,000 square-foot building to the University for use by the new medical school. The building, located just off the northwest corner of Lovell and Portage streets and widely known as Building 267, was once part of the Upjohn, Pharmacia, and Pfizer downtown campuses.

Planning is under way to extensively renovate and slightly expand the facility to house the WMed. Renovation will begin later this summer and is scheduled to be completed by mid-2014, in time for the first class of medical students to enter the school in August 2014.

“In 1885, my great grandfather moved from Hastings, Michigan to Kalamazoo to start The Upjohn Co.,” according to Parfet, great grandson of W.E. Upjohn. “The first piece of land he purchased was located on Lovell Street. This property represents the beginning of the greatly expanded Upjohn campus, which included this building throughout the life of the company. I’m proud of that. It only makes sense to our family that this would be the headquarters for the WMU School of Medicine.”

William Erastus Upjohn was an 1875 graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School and practiced medicine for 10 years in Hastings. In his home, Upjohn experimented with ways to improve the means of administering medicine, and received a patent for his invention of the easily digested friable pill. In 1886, he founded The Upjohn Pill and Granule Co. in Kalamazoo which later became The Upjohn Co., manufacturer of friable pills. He served for 43 years as the company’s president. Upjohn was known as Kalamazoo’s “first citizen” because of his active role in the community.

According to Jenson, plans for the medical school development are moving forward as expected. Recently the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) granted the WMed “Candidate School” status. The medical school has submitted the required medical education database and planning self-study documents. They have been favorably reviewed by the LCME and approval has been granted by the LCME for the medical school to host a site visit for preliminary accreditation.

The LCME will review the site visit findings to determine if the program meets the LCME standards and will vote to grant preliminary accreditation. The medical school would then be able to recruit medical students to begin in fall 2014. Throughout the first four years of the curriculum, the medical school will submit additional information and host two more site visits in order to achieve provisional accreditation then full accreditation before the first class of medical students graduate in 2018.

The accreditation of medical education programs assures that they meet national standards of educational quality. The cyclical process of institutional self-study and assessment, coupled with external

validation by a team of professional peers, provides a mechanism for ongoing quality improvement.

### **About the WMU School of Medicine**

WMU's new School of Medicine is a partnership involving the University and Kalamazoo's two teaching hospitals, Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare. Planning has occurred over the past four years; fundraising, accreditation work, and curriculum development for the school are well underway. Expecting to welcome its first class in fall 2014, the school is a privately funded initiative housed at WMU, which is one of the nation's 139 Carnegie-designated public research universities and one of only five such universities in Michigan. In March 2011, WMU announced a foundational gift of \$100 million for the medical school from anonymous donors.

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