History

A partnership between Rowan University and The Cooper Health System, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU) opened in summer 2012. It was the first new medical school in New Jersey in over 35 years and the only four-year MD-granting medical school in South Jersey. CMSRU is proudly mission-driven, focused on developing highly skilled and socially conscious physician leaders who value a patient-centered, team approach to health care. Its innovative curriculum provides students with small-group, self-directed learning and early and continuous patient care experiences, beginning the third week of medical school. Annette C. Reboli, MD, is dean of CMSRU. CMSRU earned Full Accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education in June 2016.

CMSRU mission and core values

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University is committed to providing humanistic education in the art and science of medicine within a scientific and scholarly community in which inclusivity, excellence in patient care, innovative teaching, research, and service to our community are valued. Core values include a commitment to: diversity, personal mentorship, professionalism, collaboration and mutual respect, civic responsibility, patient advocacy, and life-long learning.

Camden is our classroom. Camden is our home.

CMSRU is located in Camden, a city where basic needs such as housing, food, healthcare and education go unmet for many residents. CMSRU is helping close this gap by educating new physicians who will practice regionally, as well as through the creation of new programs where students and faculty can provide care, resources and services to the community. Already noted as a “hot spot” for progressive approaches to addressing community health, Camden provides an ideal setting for exposing students to diverse cultures and socioeconomic groups with a range of social, emotional and medical needs.
Curriculum Highlights

CMSRU’s medical education curriculum is a seamless continuum over four years, integrating knowledge of basic science concepts, early clinical experience and patient care, self-directed learning, teamwork and medical and non-medical activities for the greater community’s benefit. The curriculum ties to the mission and vision of CMSRU, preparing students to become physicians, educators and leaders in their communities. Coursework is divided into two phases: “Foundation and Integration” during Phase 1 and “Application, Exploration and Advancement” in Phase 2. Highlights include:

• The Ambulatory Clerkship, a medical clinic where students are the primary caregivers to underserved patients, beginning the third week of medical school and continuing weekly through all four years.

• Week on the Wards, which provides students with early exposure to medical care in an inpatient hospital and training in Lean Six Sigma to enhance quality, safety and process improvement.

• Small group, facilitated learning through Active Learning Groups

• Interprofessional Education to foster collaborative work across professions and enhance students’ understanding of team-based care.

• Built-in, mandatory service learning time to encourage student-community engagement and help students understand firsthand the range of socio-economic conditions affecting Camden residents. CMSRU students engage in 30 hours of service learning per academic year as part of the curriculum.

• A three-year accelerated M.D. program for highly motivated students interested in primary care, internal medicine, or pediatrics.

Students

Currently, more than 375 students are enrolled at CMSRU as first, second, third and fourth year medical students. The school is gradually increasing its class size until it reaches total enrollment of approximately 420 students.

CMSRU is committed to providing an academic and work environment where diversity is celebrated, and to fostering access to medical education for learners from all walks of life. While more than half of CMSRU students hail from New Jersey, soon-to-be doctors from across the U.S. choose CMSRU for their medical education. CMSRU’s students bring with them a wealth of diverse life experiences, but all share the drive to become successful physicians and the passion to affect change in their communities.

Faculty

At the heart of CMSRU’s scientific and scholarly community—and the driving force behind the school’s dynamic curriculum—is the school’s outstanding faculty. CMSRU has more than 600 clinical and basic science faculty in 17 departments. They are experienced medical educators with discipline-specific knowledge.

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<th>CMSRU faculty snapshot</th>
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<td>Total faculty</td>
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Medical Education Building

CMSRU’s Medical Education Building is located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus on South Broadway, between Benson and Washington Streets in Camden. The $139 million building, which opened in July 2012, was designed for CMSRU’s curriculum with spaces and technologies to support faculty and students in their educational process.

Features:

• 25 Active Learning Rooms
• 250-seat auditorium
• Research and teaching labs
• Dedicated space for student wellness activities including quiet meditation
• Medical library/learning commons with study space for a variety of learners
• Cafe that offers freshly made sandwiches, salads, coffee, snacks and more

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