The mission of the School of Medicine is to educate physicians who are science-based, skilled, and compassionate clinicians prepared to meet the challenges of practicing medicine in the 21st century. The school also conducts cutting-edge biomedical research focused on bettering the human condition and advancing our fundamental understanding of medical science.

The University of Pittsburgh is a leader among academic medical institutions in the United States in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding — a universally recognized benchmark of research excellence.

- Even with an austere economic climate and fierce competition, the University (driven mainly by the School of Medicine) has fared extremely well in terms of NIH funding. Since 1998, the University as a whole and the School of Medicine have more than doubled NIH support. In fact, the University has experienced the fastest and largest increase in federal support for biomedical research of any institution in recent history and, despite stagnation in congressional appropriations to NIH, continues to outperform most other universities.

- In the only truly objective metric by which the overall stature of research-focused institutions can be assessed in a nationally competitive context, the University of Pittsburgh moved into the top 10 list of recipients of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding in 1998 and has remained within this enviable echelon ever since.

- A recent analysis of NIH funding indicates that, out of more than 2,300 organizations nationwide, Pitt faculty are ranked fifth in dollars awarded. The faculty of the University received more than $460 million in NIH support in fiscal year 2012, with 90 percent of this funding going to faculty in the Schools of the Health Sciences. The faculty of the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Public Health received more than $400 million of the total amount that year, ranking fifth in NIH funding.

The School of Medicine supports continued research excellence through construction of new facilities, advanced academic programming, and the recruitment of top scientific talent from around the world.

- The School of Medicine has developed an impressive array of research facilities. Of particular note is the 10-story, 335,000-square-foot Biomedical Science Tower 3. Opened in 2005, it houses the Center for Vaccine Research; the University of Pittsburgh Drug Discovery Institute; the structural biology and computational and systems biology programs, which are among the most advanced in the country; the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases; more than 10,000 tanks for zebrafish, one of the most important model systems for developmental research; and a 7-tesla, whole-body magnetic resonance imager, one of a very few available worldwide.

- In addition, there is 161,000 square feet of new research space in the Bridgeside Point II building near campus; 21,000 square feet of state-of-the-art, LEED-certified laboratory space in the Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower renovated for and occupied by the Vascular Medicine Institute in 2011; the 218,000-square-foot John G. Rangos Sr. Research Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, opened in late 2008; and Magee-Womens Research Institute, which doubled its research space with a 70,000-square-foot expansion in 2007.

- University projects in the construction stage include a 350,000-square-foot research facility near UPMC Shadyside, which will house the new Institute for Personalized Medicine, among other programs; a biomedical research and biotechnology center near Palermo, Italy, which is being funded, in part, by the Italian government and jointly overseen by the School of Medicine and UPMC; and additions to Salk Hall and to the Graduate School of Public Health.

The University of Pittsburgh is nationally recognized for its educational excellence and commitment to the advancement of biomedical science.

- After the most recent review of the School of Medicine by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting authority for MD degree programs in the United States and Canada, the survey team noted numerous areas of strength, including an environment that encourages student and faculty engagement in research.

- Areas of research excellence in the School of Medicine include cancer research and therapy; cardiology and cardiovascular biology; bioinformatics and computational and systems biology; drug discovery and design; vaccine development; comparative effectiveness research; organ transplantation/immunology;
Admissions to the School of Medicine are increasingly competitive, attracting top-quality students from across the globe.

- In 2000, the RAND Corporation founded a Pittsburgh branch, through which it developed the RAND–University of Pittsburgh Health Institute, a collaborative venture between RAND Health, Pitt’s Schools of the Health Sciences, and Magee-Womens Research Institute. The emphasis is on shared activities in research, education, and training, with particular focal areas being research in women’s health, behavioral health, comparative effectiveness research, patient safety, health disparities, translation of new knowledge into evidence-based medicine, and global health. To date, Pitt and RAND investigators have conducted more than 50 collaborative research projects, supported by more than $126 million in external funding.

- The University of Pittsburgh is one of the original 12 institutions nationwide to receive Clinical and Translational Science Awards from NIH as part of a novel initiative to pioneer a transformation in how clinical and translational research is conducted. The ultimate goal is to improve how efficiently and effectively biomedical advances reach individual patients and the population as a whole. Pitt’s program, funded with an initial five-year grant of $83.5 million and renewed in 2011 with an additional $67.3 million, is called the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, which counts UPMC, Carnegie Mellon University, and RAND Corporation among its collaborators.

For more information about the 2013 residency match, visit www.medadmissions.pitt.edu/why-choose-pitt/residency-match.php

The School of Medicine offers a wide range of PhD programs in such fields as cell and molecular biology; neurobiology, systems neuroscience, and neurological surgery; structural biology; developmental biology; vascular biology; psychiatry, neurobiology, systems neuroscience, and neurological surgery; structural biology; developmental biology; stem cell biology and tissue engineering; medical device development; molecular biology; psychology, neuropsychology, systems neuroscience, and neuroimaging; and epidemiology.

- For 2013, the School of Medicine received 4,982 applications for admission, and interviewed 836 prospective students, for a first-year class of 162 members. In addition, for the 2013-14 academic year, the medical school has 296 registrants in PhD programs (including 80 students in the Medical Scientist Training Program), plus 68 students in MS programs and 57 students in certificate programs. Not included in these numbers are students in cross-campus graduate programs who are registered through other schools.

- The School of Medicine has 603 students: 274 women (45 percent) and 329 men (55 percent). Of these students, 158 (26 percent) are Pennsylvania residents.

- Students consistently score above the national mean and enjoy a higher-than-average pass rate on the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination, which entails a basic sciences test at the end of the second year and clinical knowledge and skills tests in the fourth year.

- In 2013, 67 percent of Pitt medical graduates matched to coveted residencies in premier centers, including Barnes-Jewish Hospital; Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Duke University Medical Center; the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Johns Hopkins Hospital; the Massachusetts General Hospital; UCLA Medical Center; University of California, San Francisco Medical Center; University of Chicago Medical Center; University of Washington; and UPMC.

- Residents and fellows at the School of Medicine can take part in 118 programs throughout the teaching hospitals of UPMC, making UPMC the third-largest sponsoring institution in the United States. More than 95 program directors have received commendations from residency review committees in their areas of specialty.

- The University of Pittsburgh’s Health Sciences Library System includes the Falk Library of the Health Sciences, as well as the libraries at UPMC Shadyside and Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

- All medical students engage in a scholarly project to help them learn the scientific method by developing a hypothesis and collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data, while enhancing their ability to think independently.

- Scholarly project work by students in the Class of 2013 resulted in 39 fellowships, grants, or other national awards; 39 School of Medicine awards; co-authorship of 134 peer-reviewed papers; and 234 national presentations and abstracts.

- The School of Medicine offers opportunities for students to pursue in-depth study in various areas of concentration, including health care to underserved populations, global health, women’s health, disabilities medicine, neuroscience, and patient safety, as well as international study programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America.

- The School of Medicine offers a wide range of PhD programs in such fields as cell and molecular biology; neuroscience, biomedical informatics, computational biology, and integrative molecular biology, and master’s programs in clinical research and medical education.

continued
The School of Medicine is a vital economic engine for the region.

- Pitt was named among the nation’s top five universities—and the top public university—in the 2009 edition of Saviors of Our Cities: A Survey of Best College and University Civic Partnerships.

- The University spent nearly $755 million for research of all kinds in fiscal year 2013; nearly 80 percent of this amount was for research in the health sciences. Those dollars alone support, directly and indirectly, some 28,000 local jobs. Pitt sits at the heart of what the U.S. Department of Labor calls the education and health services “supersector,” which now is responsible for more than one in every five jobs in the greater Pittsburgh region.

- $11.7 billion in personal income and $1.1 billion in local government revenues has been generated by Pitt-supported jobs over the past decade.

- University-based research drives new product development and promotes entrepreneurship and the commercialization of technology. Through its research program alone, the University imports between $700 and $800 million into the region each year.

- A U.S. Department of Commerce analysis estimates that 36 jobs are created for every $1 million in research and development expenditures.

- Since 1996, the year Pitt’s Office of Technology Management was founded, 98 companies have been formed that are dependent upon the licensing of technologies developed at the University; a majority of them are life sciences companies.

- In 2013, technology commercialization efforts resulted in 254 invention disclosures, 51 U.S. patent filings, and the execution of 155 technology options/licenses. Since 2001, the University and its innovators have been issued 433 U.S. patents.