A New Beginning for New Jersey Healthcare

The New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act brought sweeping changes to higher education in New Jersey. The Act, effective July 1, 2013, bolstered science and medical education and research throughout New Jersey; established Rowan University, Glassboro and Camden, N.J., as the state's newest comprehensive research university; and partnered Rowan with the School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM), Stratford, N.J.

New Partners: Rowan and School of Osteopathic Medicine

The new partnership bridges the 12-mile gap between the Glassboro and Stratford campuses and puts Rowan and SOM on a path toward significant growth in education, research and healthcare. Together, Rowan and SOM become bigger, stronger and better. Among many benefits, their union:

- Encourages the expansion and creation of academic programs, including graduate and professional degree programs in science, technology, engineering, medicine and business
- Establishes Rowan as only the second university in the United States to offer both M.D. and D.O. medical degrees. SOM and Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, Camden, will graduate more than 200 new physicians annually
- Spurs economic activity through improved access to academic programs that prepare students for careers in high-growth fields of health care and life, physical and social sciences
- Encourages and supports research to develop ideas into viable commercial products that grow business and industry. Together Rowan and SOM were awarded $24 million in grants and sponsored programs in academic year 2012/13. Each $1 million in research funding creates or supports 36 jobs, and every dollar of federal research funding generates more than two dollars in local economic growth.

The Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act, landmark legislation that dramatically reshapes education and the future of healthcare in New Jersey, was signed into law on Aug. 22, 2012.
Beyond the Integration

In February 2013, the Rowan University Board of Trustees approved Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine—or informally, RowanSOM—as the medical school’s new name. A second key milestone was achieved in March 2013 when the regional accrediting body, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, approved Rowan’s substantive change application that included the addition of SOM and its related graduate programs in the biomedical sciences to Rowan.

On July 1, Rowan and SOM celebrated the joining of their two historic institutions and began a journey toward establishing Rowan as a regional powerhouse in research and development. Already, the South Jersey Technology Park at Rowan University, Mantua Township, hosts 16 sponsored research labs and the Rohrer College of Business incubator. RowanSOM is home to several centers of excellence, including the newly launched Biomarker Discovery Center and the Center for Mood Disorders and Neuromodulation Therapies. Recent discoveries at Rowan and RowanSOM include diagnostic blood tests for Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, the development of cancer drugs that target malignancies without toxicity and the creation of the CoolGuide Catheter, a device that rapidly cools blood during angioplasty.

In April 2013, the State of New Jersey also awarded Rowan more than $117 million, primarily from the Building Our Future Bond Act, for an ambitious construction program that will change the landscape of the University. Rowan will in part use that funding to construct new facilities for the Rohrer College of Business and the College of Engineering, which will enable the two colleges to double their enrollment to 2,000 and 1,500 students, respectively.

Overall, Rowan anticipates significant growth in many areas in the next decade, including doubling enrollment to 25,000 students and increasing research funding from $24 million (Rowan and SOM combined 2012/13) to $100 million.

About Rowan University

From a small teaching college founded in 1923, Rowan has grown into a highly respected, highly competitive, award-winning university that draws applicants from across the nation and around the world. Today, Rowan is a medium-sized public university that has campuses in Glassboro, Camden and Stratford, N.J. that offer bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees to nearly 12,500 students in 57 disciplines in eight academic colleges. In addition to two medical schools, Rowan includes the Rohrer College of Business and colleges of Communication & Creative Arts, Education, Engineering, Graduate & Continuing Education, Humanities & Social Sciences, Performing Arts, and Science & Mathematics.

About RowanSOM

Established in 1976 in Camden, the medical school is the state’s only college of osteopathic medicine and is a leader in medical education. The college has one of the largest osteopathic graduate medical education programs in the United States, with more than 350 interns, residents and fellows. Its postdoctoral training program includes seven participating hospital systems. RowanSOM enrolls nearly 650 medical students and, of the 162 students enrolled in the class that began in August 2012, 79 percent are from New Jersey and 18 percent are from South Jersey. The school’s large network of clinical affiliates in South Jersey includes its principal hospital system, Kennedy University Hospital, and major teaching affiliates, Lourdes Health System and Inspira Health Network.

About CMSRU

In 2009, Rowan partnered with Cooper University Health Care in Camden to open Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU). The new school welcomed its first class of 50 students—74 percent from New Jersey—in August 2012 and will increase class size by 10 each year until it reaches 100 students per class, for a total of 400. CMSRU 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 the community are valued. CMSRU is the first new M.D. program in New Jersey in more than 35 years.

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