



University of Rochester

School of Nursing

Jean E. Johnson Endowed Chair in Oncology Nursing

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The Opportunity

The University of Rochester School of Nursing (SON), in partnership with the newly NCI Designated Wilmot Cancer Institute (Wilmot), seeks an inspirational leader with a distinguished record of research excellence and national prominence in oncology nursing to serve as a newly endowed chair. This role will advance the shared mission of excellence in scientific discovery, nursing education, and clinical care within a highly collaborative and inclusive academic environment.

Since 1925, the SON has been at the forefront of education, research, and practice — preparing nurses to lead, innovate, and care with compassion. Over the past 100 years, the SON has elevated nursing as both a profession and a discipline through excellence in education, practice, and research. Founded alongside Strong Memorial Hospital and the School of Medicine & Dentistry, the partnership created the foundation for an integrated academic health system unlike any other in the nation. The SON became known nationally for advancing the Unification Model —integrating education, practice, and research in a way that elevates nursing scholarship and patient care alike. Rochester was also among the earliest schools to establish master's and doctoral programs in nursing, cementing research as a cornerstone of the mission. The SON is among the top 32 nursing schools in NIH funding, and it received \$5.5 million in research funding from all sources in 2024.

The **inaugural Jean E. Johnson Chair in Nursing Oncology** represents a significant investment during a pivotal period of growth for SON, Wilmot, and the University of Rochester Medical Center, one of the nation's leading academic institutions. The position is made possible through a generous gift from Dr. Jean E. Johnson, an eminent and groundbreaking nurse researcher. Johnson was a pioneer in oncology nursing research, whose theory of self-regulation focused on stress and coping with physical illness for patients with cancer.

The SON seeks a distinguished Associate or Full Professor with recognized expertise and accomplishments in oncology nursing research to assume this prestigious role. The successful candidate will contribute to improving cancer care by advancing innovative research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and excellence in nursing oncology at a nationally prominent cancer center poised for continued growth and impact.

Candidates must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent research-focused doctorate and demonstrate a sustained record of extramural funding as principal investigator in oncology nursing research. The ideal candidate is a recognized scholar, mentor, and academic leader whose accomplishments merit appointment at the rank of Associate Professor (with tenure) or higher at the University of Rochester. Eligibility for licensure as a Registered Nurse in the State of New York.

Organization Overview

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER SCHOOL OF NURSING

Founded in 1925, the University of Rochester School of Nursing (SON) has been a leader in nursing education, research, and clinical practice for a century. Established alongside Strong Memorial Hospital and the School of Medicine & Dentistry, the SON helped form an integrated academic health system that remains distinctive nationwide.

The SON offers more than 30 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and certificate programs across the full continuum of nursing education and consistently ranks among the top 25 nursing schools for undergraduate and master's programs. Over the decades, the SON became known nationally for advancing the Unification Model —integrating education, practice, and research in a way that elevates nursing scholarship and patient care alike. The SON was also among the earliest schools to establish master's and doctoral programs in nursing, cementing research as a cornerstone of its mission.

Today, the SON enrolls more than 800 students annually and prepares team-oriented healthcare providers, researchers, educators, clinical leaders, and innovators equipped to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving healthcare environment. Programs emphasize scientific rigor, experiential learning, and innovation, including the use of artificial intelligence in education, research, and professional practice.

Research excellence is a defining strength. The SON consistently ranks among the top nursing schools nationally in NIH research funding and focuses its scholarship on addressing health disparities and improving outcomes across five core domains: cancer and palliative care, sexual health and HIV, cardiology, maternal and child health, and aging. Faculty, students, and staff conduct high-impact research across laboratories, communities, and health systems, supported by the Harriet J. Kitzman Center for Research Support.

Through its close integration with the University of Rochester and Medical Center, including nationally recognized institutes and clinical partners, the SON fosters transdisciplinary collaboration that accelerates the translation of discovery into practice. Groundbreaking contributions, from the Nurse-Family Partnership to advances in data science and health behavior, reflect a sustained legacy of innovation that continues to shape nursing science.

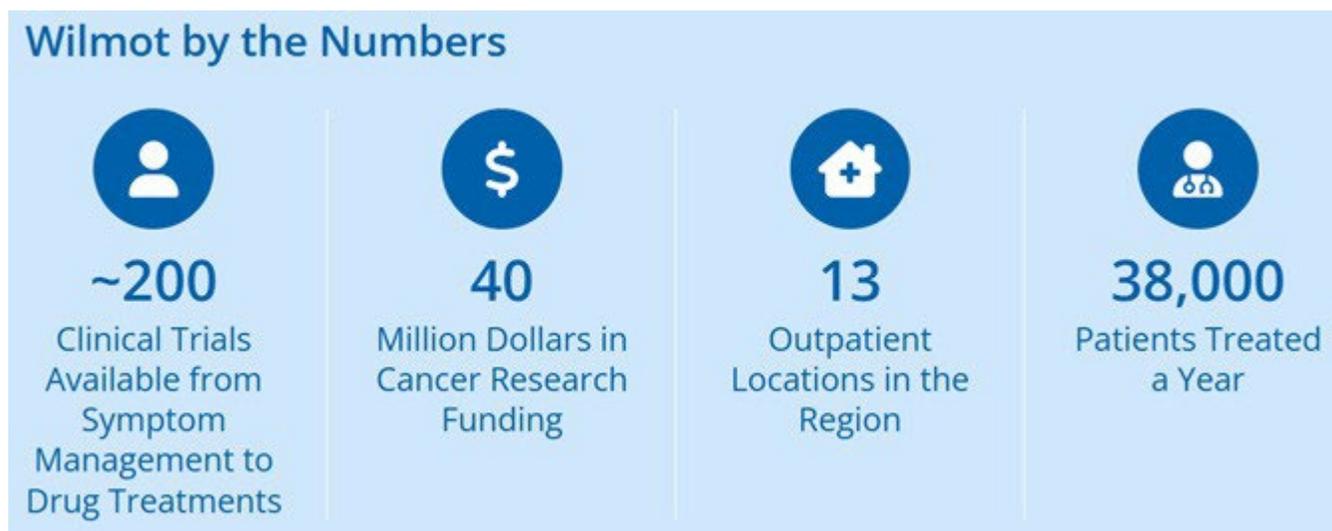
The SON is deeply committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. It has received the HEED Award for Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity for seven consecutive years, with 40% of students identifying as part of groups underrepresented in nursing. This commitment is reflected in a culture that prioritizes belonging, well-being, and professional growth.

In 2022, the SON marked a new era with the opening of a 22,000-square-foot state-of-the-art learning facility featuring advanced simulation, virtual reality, augmented reality, and experiential learning spaces. As an Apple Distinguished School and nationally recognized simulation center, it continues to lead in innovative teaching and learning.

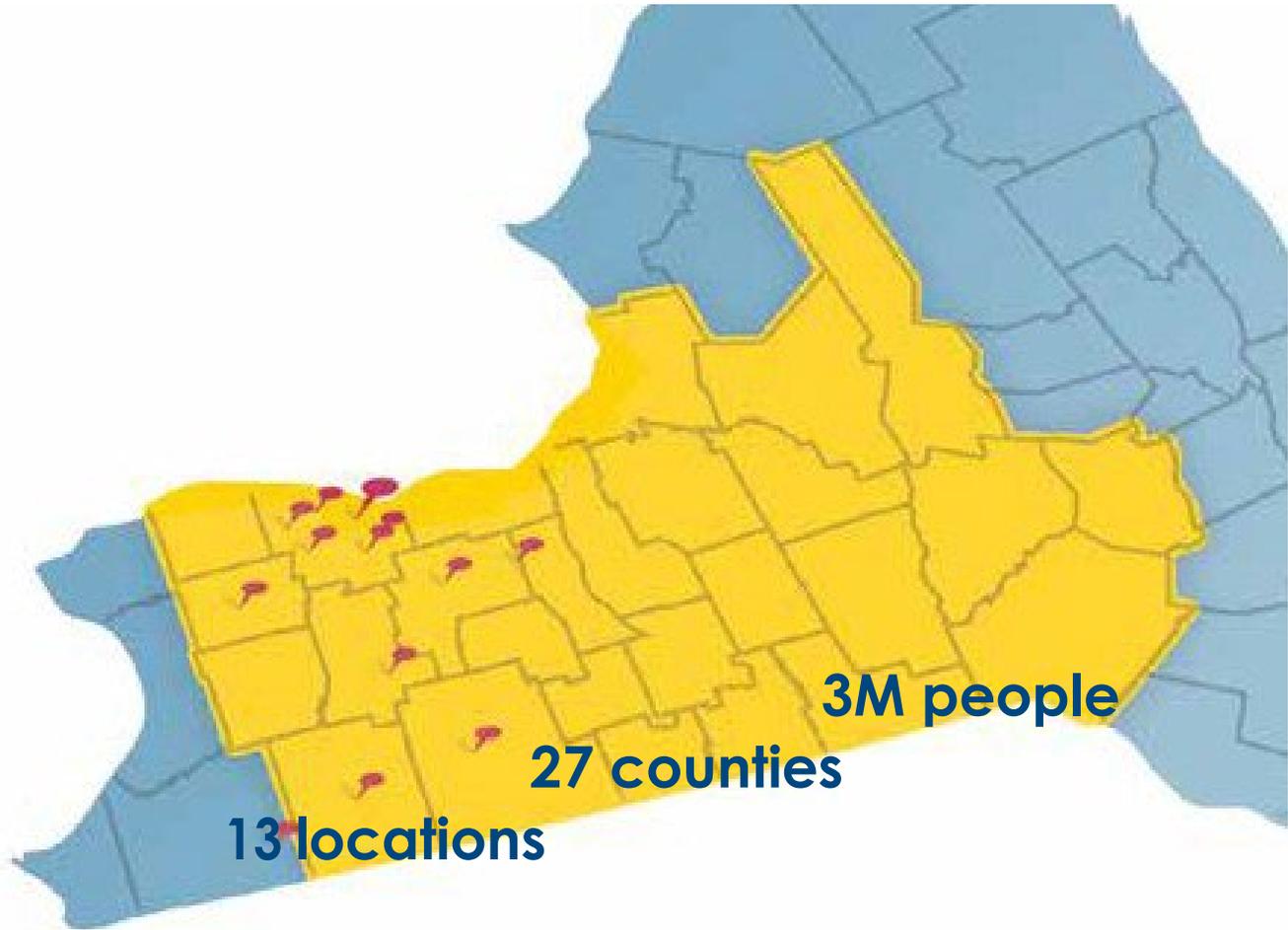
Guided by the 2030 Strategic Plan, the University of Rochester School of Nursing is focused on five goals and objectives: exceptional education, research excellence, people and culture, sustainable growth, and community collaborations. Building on nearly 100 years of leadership, the SON remains dedicated to transforming nursing and improving health for individuals, families, and communities.

WILMOT CANCER INSTITUTE

UR Medicine's Wilmot Cancer Institute (Wilmot) earned NCI Designation in 2025. It provides not only world-class cancer treatment and care but also conducts pivotal research with the goal of preventing and conquering cancer through innovation in science, patient care, education, and community outreach. Wilmot serves approximately 3 million people in western and central New York. Established in 1974, it has a long history of outstanding clinical care and research breakthroughs. Wilmot features an 87-bed flagship cancer center – a component of Strong Memorial Hospital, 13 outpatient locations, and one of the state's largest blood and marrow transplant programs. Wilmot is home to the region's first cancer survivorship clinic and one of the nation's first geriatric oncology clinics. Wilmot's 198 oncology physicians and 514 oncology nurses see more than 7,000 new cancer patients each year.



Wilmot's 27-county catchment area is composed of a distinct population of more than 3 million people and, if it were its own state, it would have the second-highest overall incidence of cancer in the United States. It includes the highest per-capita Deaf population in the nation, which is confronted with a cancer incidence significantly higher than national averages due to a burgeoning aging population, an alarming smoking rate, and an abundance of predominantly poor urban and rural communities. As the busiest cancer center in the state outside of New York City, Wilmot's clinical volume enables robust clinical trials in both common and rare/complex cancers.



Wilmot achieves breakthrough discoveries and translates them into novel cancer treatments by bringing together experts from multiple backgrounds, perspectives, and disciplines. As part of the University of Rochester, Wilmot researchers thrive through ongoing collaboration across 20 academic departments and 30 clinical specialties. From basic science to clinical trials, collaboration among research programs and cancer specialties is facilitated by co-localization on one campus – which is large enough to attract a critical mass of researchers from around the world, yet just the right size for interactions to take place on a close, personal level.

Over the last 11 years, NIH funding at Wilmot has doubled. In 2025, Wilmot researchers received \$31.95 in cancer funding, \$28.82 in peer funding, and \$14.87 in NCI funding. Through NCI designation, Wilmot supports research through three well-funded cancer research programs—Cancer Prevention and Control, Cancer Microenvironment, and Genetics, Epigenetics, and Metabolism. Wilmot Cancer Institute received a landmark \$29 million grant from the National Cancer Institute—the largest single active grant at URM—designating its Cancer Control and Supportive Care program as a hub within the NCI’s National Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), supporting clinical studies across more than 1,000 affiliated oncology sites. As the largest cancer care provider in the state of New York outside of New York City, the future presents greater opportunity for expansion at Wilmot Cancer Institute. Over the next five years, URM will expand its commitment to the cancer enterprise by investing more than \$100 million and adding 100,000 square feet of research space.

See Appendix I for additional information on Wilmot Cancer Institute.

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER

One of the nation's leading academic medical centers, URM includes the University's biomedical research, teaching, patient care, and community outreach missions. The University of Rochester's clinical enterprise, UR Medicine, consists of eight hospitals located throughout the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions. The clinical enterprise includes over 1,400 beds, approximately 70,000 discharges, and 53,000 ambulatory surgeries yearly, in addition to 56,000 observation cases. Together, URM and UR Medicine affiliates employ more than 24,000 full- and part-time staff.

URM and UR Medicine have an integrated administrative structure, budget, and strategic plan. URM ranks among the top quarter of U.S. medical centers in federal research funding, has an overall budget of approximately \$6 billion, and accounts for over 85 percent of UR Medicine revenues. URM's mission is to be a home for healing, learning, research, and innovation committed to improving health and quality of life for its patients, families, and community.

URM continues to secure significant investment, including a \$12 million, five-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to support immune system research, building on a prior \$9 million grant and advancing real-time immune imaging across multiple disciplines. Together, these awards underscore URM's growing national prominence in federally funded research and its sustained ability to compete successfully for large-scale, high-impact grants.

See Appendix II for additional information on URM and the University of Rochester.



Position Summary

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Jean E. Johnson Endowed Chair in Nursing Oncology reports to the Senior Associate Dean, Research School of Nursing. Further, based on research expertise, the Chair will be a member of one of Wilmot's research programs.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Jean E. Johnson Endowed Chair in Nursing Oncology is expected to add significant strength in oncology nursing research. This individual will play a key role in creating a strong, collaborative, interdisciplinary research agenda within the SON and across academic units, including the Wilmot Cancer Institute.

The key requirement for this position is an outstanding record of research excellence and national prominence, ideally with a proven track record of securing NIH R-level funding (or equivalent) and a productive and sustained research focus in oncology. By joining Rochester's dynamic team of scientists and clinicians at the SON and Wilmot Cancer Institute, the appointed professor will contribute to the collective mission of pursuing excellence in clinical and scientific learning, discovery, and nursing care within an environment of diversity and inclusion.

In addition to maintaining their own research program, the successful candidate will play a pivotal role in cultivating oncology research, in and outside of nursing, through collaborative grants, infrastructure grants and mentoring. They will have the opportunity to contribute to the teaching mission of the SON, mentor students, fellows, and early career scientists, fostering their growth and development.

Rank of tenure-track Associate Professor or Professor, and tenure is dependent on the candidate's qualifications.

Candidate Qualifications

EDUCATION/CERTIFICATION

- Ph.D. or equivalent research-focused doctorate.
- Registered Nurse.
- Eligible for nursing licensure in the State of New York.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- A leader who deeply values research, excels at facilitating and engaging faculty in research activities, demonstrates a history of research collaboration and mentoring, and holds a distinguished national and international academic reputation.
- Has a passion for excellence: Believes in exceptional research, education, clinical practice, and service to the community.
- History of sustained extramurally NIH R-level funded research (or equivalent) in oncology nursing as a principal investigator.
- Qualified for appointment to the faculty of the SON at the rank of tenure track Associate Professor or Professor.
- Passionate about teaching excellence.
- Prior leadership experience preferred.
- Builder and strategic thinker.
- Innovative, creative, and visionary leader.
- Honest and open communicator.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Enjoys mentoring faculty and students.
- Promotes diversity and inclusion in the workplace.
- A strong track record of integrity and capacity to build teams.

The Community

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Rochester is the seat of Monroe County, New York. Situated east of Buffalo, west of Syracuse, and northwest of New York City, it is at the center of a large metropolitan area that encompasses and extends beyond Monroe County to include the counties of Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, and Wayne. This area, which is part of the Western New York region, has a population of approximately 1,700,000. The City of Rochester has a population of approximately 210,000, making it New York's fourth most populous city after New York City and Buffalo. Located on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, where the Great Lakes meet the vineyard-dotted Finger Lakes, Rochester provides easy access to a wealth of four-season outdoor recreation.

Rochester became America's first 19th-century "boomtown" and rose to prominence initially as the site of many flour mills located on the Genesee River, then a major manufacturing hub.

Today, it is an international center of higher education as well as medical and technological development. The region is known for many acclaimed universities and several of them (notably the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology) are nationally renowned for their research programs. In addition, Rochester continues to be the site of many important inventions and innovations in consumer products. The Rochester metropolitan area is the second-largest regional economy in New York State, after the New York City metropolitan area.

Its lively "knowledge economy" draws its strengths from established companies (e.g., Xerox, Bausch and Lomb, Eastman Kodak) and their many small business spin-offs, including growing telecommunications, biotechnology, and information technology enterprises. In recent years, the University of Rochester has become the largest employer in the Rochester area and the seventh-largest employer in New York State.

Rochester consistently receives high rankings nationally as a "most livable city" for overall quality of life and as among the very best places to raise a family. The region has outstanding, highly ranked public and private schools, with a relatively modest cost of living and a stable, affordable housing market. Home to the renowned Eastman School of Music, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival (among the nation's most popular and respected), Rochester enjoys economic stability and a level of arts, culture, sports, and dining comparable to that of many larger cities.

For more information about living in Rochester, see www.visitrochester.com.



Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV/resume and a letter of interest. Review of applications has begun and will continue until the position is filled.

Please direct all applications, nominations, and inquiries to the WittKieffer consultants assisting University of Rochester Medical Center with this recruitment (listed below), preferably via e-mail, to apenley@wittkieffer.com.

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COMPENSATION RANGE

The pay range for this 9-month academic role is dependent on the rank of Associate or Full Professor, with a range of \$125,000-\$200,000. The referenced pay range represents the University's good faith and reasonable estimate of the base range of compensation for this position. Individual salaries will be determined within the job's salary range and established based on (but not limited to) market data, experience, and expertise of the individual, and with consideration to related position salaries.

University of Rochester Medical Center values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity for all persons regardless of age, color, disability, ethnicity, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other status protected by law.

The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from University of Rochester Medical Center documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.

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Appendix I

WILMOT CANCER INSTITUTE

WILMOT ACCREDITATIONS AND RECOGNITION

The Wilmot Cancer Institute holds accreditations including:

- American College of Surgeons (ACS) Comprehensive Cancer Center Accreditation: Recognized for its high-quality cancer care across multiple specialties.
- Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) Certification: Acknowledgment of meeting high standards in cancer care administration.
- American College of Radiology (ACR) Accreditation for Radiation Oncology: Accreditation for radiation oncology services across its locations.
- American College of Surgeons National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers: Accreditation for its Comprehensive Breast Care program.
- Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) Accreditation for Blood and Marrow Transplant Program: Recognized for its adult and pediatric blood and marrow transplant services.
- Magnet Designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center: Recognition for high standards of nursing care as part of the University of Rochester Medical Center.

According to the US News and World Report Cancer Scorecard, Wilmot was rated as “excellent” in discharging patients to home; “very high” in the volume of high-risk patients treated; and “high performing” in leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma; colon cancer surgery; lung cancer surgery; and prostate cancer surgery. Wilmot was rated as “excellent” for the use of advanced technologies and for patient services.

RESEARCH - WILMOT

For half a century, Wilmot research has led to paradigm-shifting discoveries and changes in national oncology standards of care. From the science behind the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, to pioneering cancer-control techniques, groundbreaking hematological-disease research, and novel approaches to pancreatic cancer, Wilmot scientists have been at the forefront of some of the most significant cancer-related breakthroughs.

Wilmot research has one ultimate goal: to improve patient outcomes by converting scientific discoveries into transformational clinical therapies. Wilmot’s research strategic priorities in the upcoming years are to:

- Expand developmental therapeutics capabilities.
- Advance and accelerate innovative cellular and molecular research.
- Broaden transdisciplinary research and high-impact interventional treatment trials.

Wilmot is a leader in cancer research with the following accolades:

- Wilmot Cancer Institute scientists aided in two of the top five cancer discoveries of the past 50 years, as cited by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO): Contributions to the HPV cervical cancer vaccine, and pioneering work toward anti-nausea therapies to help patients tolerate chemotherapy.
- Wilmot is at the epicenter of cancer control research, as one of two U.S. hubs for the National Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP).
- Wilmot is a trailblazer in aging and cancer research, helping write the evidence-based guidelines for managing older patients taking chemotherapy and starting one of the nation's first geriatric oncology clinics.

In 2024, Wilmot researchers had \$31.95M in cancer funding, \$28.82M in peer funding and \$14.87M in NCI funding.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/cancer-institute>



Appendix II

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

The University of Rochester (UR), led by President Sarah Mangelsdorf, Ph.D., is comprised of seven schools, including: the School of Medicine and Dentistry, School of Nursing, Simon Business School, Warner School of Education, Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences, and the Eastman School of Music, as well as other organizational units such as the Goergen Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence and the Laboratory for Laser Energetics. With over 3,900 full- and part-time faculty members and instructional staff, the University offers more than 200 academic majors and is home to over 12,000 students.

Learning at UR is on a very personal scale; it is among the most collegial of the top research universities and it emphasizes collaborative interactions. The motto of the University, *Meliora* (“ever better”), captures the continuous progress that has defined UR since its founding in 1850. While the University is one of the smallest Carnegie “very high research activity” research universities, it has over \$438 million in annual funding, and several departments have ranked among the best in their fields.

For more information, please visit: www.rochester.edu/academics.



URMC ACHIEVEMENTS

Stand-out accomplishments of URMC include:

- A vaccine URMC scientists created against *Haemophilus influenzae type b* (Hib) has virtually wiped out a leading cause of meningitis in preschoolers. Scientists then used the same approach to create a vaccine that prevents infection by pneumococcal bacteria, which cause meningitis, ear infections, pneumonia, and other maladies.
- In addition to the Hib vaccine, URMC was among the groups that contributed knowledge needed to develop the HPV vaccine, approved for the prevention of cervical cancer as well as head and neck cancer.
- UR cardiologists helped revolutionize the treatment of heart disease worldwide by showing an implantable cardiac defibrillator significantly reduces death rates in certain groups of patients.
- Strong Memorial Hospital was among the first 2% of U.S. hospitals to be recognized as a Nursing Magnet Hospital—an international quality nursing designation.
- URMC was among the first hospitals in the U.S. to employ nurse practitioners in the acute care setting. The URMC model integrating nurse practitioners in the care team is recognized as a best practice model. URMC established the Respiratory Pathogens Research Center, supported in its initial year by a \$4.7 million award from the federal government, with potential further funding for seven years.
- Pursuing Excellence in Clinical Learning Environments is a notable accomplishment for graduate medical education at URMC, as one of only eight physician training grounds in the U.S. selected by ACGME to lead a four-year, nationwide effort to improve residency training for physicians. URMC was selected for this program due to its unique proposal to integrate residents into an existing quality and safety improvement model, which has shown to be highly successful in improving patient outcomes.
- The UR Health Sciences Center for Computational Innovation is a \$100 million partnership between the university and IBM, the centerpiece of which will be an array of IBM Blue Gene/Q supercomputers with the capacity to analyze huge amounts of information quickly—a crucial ability at a time when biomedical research generates unprecedented amounts of data. New York State awarded the university \$5 million for the initiative, to create one of the most powerful computer systems dedicated to health research in the world.

For more information, please visit: www.urmc.rochester.edu.

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