Message from the Dean

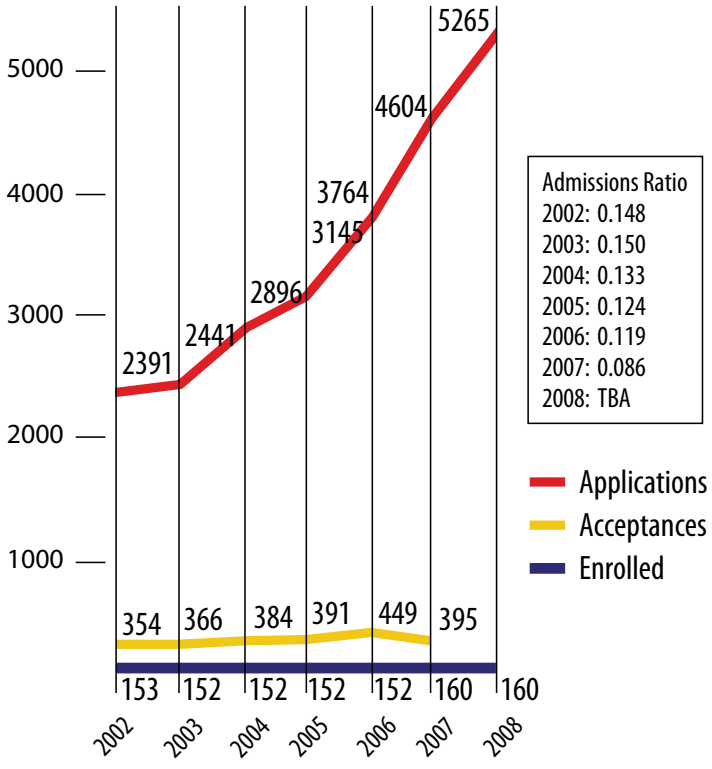
At no point in the year am I more excited about the College's educational mission than when we greet the entering students each August. I am continually impressed by the remarkable young women and men we attract to Upstate. They reflect a wealth of diverse backgrounds, interests, and goals for their careers in medicine, and enrich the College with their enthusiasm and intelligence. Our growing programs in community health, global health, and health care policy, for example, are driven to no small extent by the deep concern of our students for these issues.

Upstate's College of Medicine is becoming progressively more selective. While we have managed to increase the size of our entering class so far only from 152 to 160, the size of the applicant pool is burgeoning. The Class of 2012 was selected from an applicant pool in 2008 more than twice as large as the pool in 2002. (For reference, the number of applicants in 2002 was only slightly larger than the number in 1988.) Nationwide, the applicant pool grew by only 25 percent during that time so our growth far outpaces the national trend.

Part of this growth reflects an increased number of applications from outside New York state. But much of it, I believe, reflects Upstate's growing national reputation. Our faculty continue to expand the frontiers of medical knowledge and bring glory to Upstate in the pages of major medical journals and meetings. Our graduates are among the leaders on campuses and in medical communities across the state and the country. The new educational, clinical, and research facilities on campus are but the beginning of a new phase of growth and excitement that will expand our excellence further.

Approximately 41 percent of the applicants accepted to the College of Medicine enroll at Upstate. We know one major factor that leads many accepted candidates to attend other schools is cost. Our in-State tuition of $18,800 is much more than what many alumni remember paying not that many years ago, but still only half of the tuition at most private medical schools. But private schools often have a huge advantage in scholarship endowment, and often, paradoxically, a private school may offer a scholarship large enough to make their net cost less than ours. The generosity of alumni, particularly in supporting need-based scholarships, will play a critical role in allowing Upstate to offer assistance and reduce the debt burden of today's students.

The educational opportunity that Upstate offers its students is second to none, which is why it increasingly attracts a remarkably talented and inquisitive class.

Steven J. Scheinman, MD

SUNY Upstate College of Medicine Application Growth