



Upstate Medical Alumni

College of Medicine



Dear Fellow Alumni:

This message marks my first as the newly elected leader of the Upstate Medical Alumni Association. This is truly an honor for me. I am a second-generation alumnus and also a second-generation board member, following my father, Charles B. Ryan, MD '46, who served on the Alumni Association board for many years.

As you all well know, we face some challenging economic times. Because of your support and the competent leadership of Upstate Medical University President David R. Smith, MD, our institution is on solid footing as we move into the future. Thanks to your generosity, contributions to the Alumni Association continue to increase. I cannot thank you enough for your continued support during this period of financial uncertainty.

This past academic year proved to be a very exciting time for the Alumni Association and the College of Medicine at Upstate Medical University. Our annual campaign saw a 12-percent increase in dollars raised from 2007. In nearly two years, we have added 30 new scholarships to our endowment from individual donors. While that's wonderful news, the costs for students seeking and completing their medical education have risen dramatically. Tuition is now \$18,800 per year; 90 percent of Upstate medical students have student loans, with the average debt upon graduation at more than \$120,000. The need to help deserving students through our support each year has never been more vital.

None of this would be possible without the loyalty of our alumni throughout the world. You are truly making a difference. I am privileged to serve our beloved Medical Alumni Association, a group dedicated to making an impact on Upstate Medical University and the College of Medicine.

Again thank you for this tremendous honor. I ask only for your continued commitment to ensure educational excellence for Upstate students, now and in the future.

Charles J. Ryan, III, MD '82
President, Medical Alumni Association