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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NEVADA MEDICAL EDUCATION RECEIVES INCREASED FUNDING FOR JOINT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE/ TEACHING HOSPITAL PROGRAMS**

University Medical Center's (UMC) Board of Trustees today approved a 1998-1999 budget of \$7,676,904 – a 14% increase over the previous year --for its joint teaching programs with the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Since the School of Medicine and UMC affiliated in 1978, UMC's support for both undergraduate and graduate medical education in southern Nevada has shown continuous growth. Today, there are medical training programs in internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery, and family medicine. The UMC budget allocates resources for faculty and resident salaries and operational expenses.

"Teaching hospitals like UMC (recently named a top-100 hospital in a national survey) provide much more than just the broad range of health services to a community," says Robert M. Daugherty, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., dean of the School of Medicine. "They are responsible for providing an environment in which highly specialized patient care and clinical research can flourish."

Upon completion of medical school, physicians continue their medical education by completing at least three years of training in residency programs such as the one offered by UMC and the School of Medicine.

## **School of Medicine Budget Approved – 2**

Prior to residency training, medical students complete four years of medical school. The “hands-on” clinical education of medical students in Nevada consists of clerkships at UMC and other hospitals and clinical settings. Here, medical students spend a fixed amount of time under the supervision of faculty and residents in various specialties.

“Residents contribute substantially to the education of medical students, and their presence is often critical to the success of undergraduate programs,” according to Dean Daugherty, who also serves as chairman of the Association of American Medical Colleges’ Council of Deans.

In addition to its education and research missions, UMC first and foremost, provides patient care. It is a referral institution -- providing tertiary care to statewide and regional populations -- as well as a community service institution. By providing care for patients from all economic and social backgrounds, it also allows students and residents to experience the common medical situations they will come to see in their future practices.

Because of their research activities, teaching hospitals house the newest and most advanced services and facilities, exemplified by the School of Medicine’s division of Trauma Surgery at UMC.

“As the only Trauma Center in southern Nevada, we are committed to providing ongoing education, prevention, and research activities at the community hospital and regional level -- targeting the lay public, as well as medical communities and pre-hospital providers,” senior associate dean David V. Schapira explains.

“Through our joint efforts, the Trauma Center has become one of the select few premier sites for the treatment of patients requiring trauma services,” agrees William Hale, UMC’s chief executive officer.

**School of Medicine Budget Approved - 3**

With residents and supervising physicians available around-the-clock, UMC often cares for southern Nevada's sickest patients. By bringing together seriously ill patients and research-oriented faculty physicians, the University of Nevada School of Medicine/UMC affiliation offer a natural setting and countless opportunities for the advancement and early application of medical knowledge, Dean Daugherty adds.

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