Since opening its doors in 1955, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University has graduated over 9000 alumni who have gone on to become among the nation’s foremost clinicians, biomedical scientists and medical educators.

Thanks to its distinguished and talented faculty, Einstein has always been at the forefront of medical education, and was one of the first major medical schools to integrate bedside experience with learning, bringing first-year students into contact with patients and linking classroom study to case experience.

In 2009, the creation of the Ruth L. Gottesman Clinical Skills Center represented a significant advance in Einstein’s ability to meet the educational needs of its medical students, providing a rich and supportive environment to learn, practice and receive feedback on the clinical skills so essential to the practice of medicine.

Now, new trends in medical education and changing accreditation standards have led Einstein to re-examine how faculty teach, and how students learn.

To meet these changing needs, Albert Einstein College of Medicine is creating a new Education Center that will transform the educational experiences of its students while still upholding the values and traditions of excellence and humanism it was built upon.

Representing the most important development in medical education at the College of Medicine since Einstein’s founding, the new Education Center will greatly enhance the experience of the next generations of students, as Einstein continues to produce physicians that are caring, compassionate and collaborative while delivering cutting edge medical care and improving the lives of people around the world.
In 2010, the Carnegie Foundation called for medical education reform, recommending the creation of more flexible teaching methods that embrace individual strengths and foster adaptive and life-long learning in order to create physicians who have strong communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively.

Additionally, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the organization that accredits medical schools, is now requiring that all medical education programs foster active learning and independent study, to encourage and create communities of scholars.

It has been shown that students learn best when solving problems and exchanging ideas. Education is optimized when delivered in an environment that embraces hands-on techniques, on-line tools, technology, and even social media. Students are also more comfortable in informal and smaller, more intimate settings.

Responding to these shifts in medical education will require Einstein to create flexible, innovative and technology-enabled learning spaces that will allow for innovative approaches for teaching and evaluating student competencies.

Thanks to its distinguished and talented faculty, Einstein has always been at the forefront of medical education.
Starting in December 2012, faculty, students and administrators examined the space at Einstein dedicated to education and discussed the school's needs, based on current and future trends in teaching, assessment and accreditation.

Einstein’s decades-old lecture halls are not flexible, nor do they foster team-based learning. Technology that would support group discussions and problem solving is not in place.

At the same time, journals and textbooks are now available on-line and older editions can be scanned for electronic access, significantly reducing the need for space for such publications in the library.

Since space defines how one teaches and how students learn, all involved agreed that it was time to make changes.

It was determined that space in the upper and lower library stacks area in the Forchheimer Building, as well as the auditorium on the second floor of the Van Etten Building, could be dramatically reconfigured. These spaces, along with the relocation of the Anatomy Laboratory from Forchheimer to Van Etten, and the development of a new Simulation Center in Van Etten, will provide thousands of square feet that will form the basis for a new Education Center that would meet the needs of students and teachers.
Each unique space will foster interactive techniques that promote learning, and will be flexible and technology-rich:

• **Large Group Active Learning Studio**  
  Located in what were the lower stacks of Forchheimer, this state-of-the-art space will be able to accommodate an entire medical school class and up to 20 faculty members, to allow the class to engage in a variety of “flipped classroom” experiences including team-based interactive large group exercises. The room will be furnished with round tables, each seating six, so students may work together for problem solving in small groups. Sound-proof partitions enable this to take place, and state-of-the-art technology will allow for distance-learning and web-based testing.

• **Small Group Active Learning Studios**  
  These studios will be configured in the upper stacks area of Forchheimer to accommodate the increasing need for more interactive and small group teaching methods for both the graduate and medical school. This space will foster collaborative, project-based, problem-based and team-based learning, and work by learning communities. These rooms will be equipped with technology and moveable furniture to facilitate both room-to-room interaction and distance learning.

• **Theater-based Learning Studio**  
  An exciting opportunity exists to transform a theater-style auditorium in Van Etten, long unused, by installing unique rotating chairs and tables that will allow for both large-group lectures and small group interactive group learning and problem solving. The auditorium will be equipped with technology that allows for communication among all groups and the faculty member, and will also function as a site for on-line testing and faculty development programs.
• **Creation of a Simulation Center in Van Etten**
  Prompted by the patient safety and competency assessment movements, there has been a rapidly increasing integration of technically sophisticated mannequins and task trainers into medical education for the use of both teaching and assessment of clinical skills. There is a growing literature demonstrating that the practice of high risk skills on these computerized mannequins that can appear to blink, sweat and breathe create enough realism or fidelity that the skills demonstrated in these scenarios carry over to real clinical situations. Most importantly, it has been shown to lead to clinical improvement in trainees performance both in procedures (i.e. laparoscopic and endoscopic sinus surgery) as well as in team based acute care interventions (i.e. acute cardiac and respiratory resuscitation). With this valuable resource we can ensure that Einstein students will be best prepared for the clinical scenarios they will encounter.

• **Creation of an Anatomic and Surgical Skills Learning Center**
  Einstein’s Anatomy Laboratory will be expanded to allow for an integration of anatomy, histology, pathology, and radiology training. This new Anatomic and Surgical Skills Learning Center will provide significant clinical relevance and will be relocated from Forchheimer to Van Etten, where it will be in close proximity to the Clinical Skills Center and Simulation Center.
The development and creation of education space can be prohibitively expensive if entirely new physical structures are required; some institutions have spent $50 million or more to build such edifices.

Since Einstein has the ability to repurpose existing space, and use its own cost-effective Facilities Management and Engineering team, Einstein’s new Education Center can be created in a far more reasonable way.

As a result, Einstein will need to raise approximately $20 million in order to create the Education Center and provide for its continued operation and maintenance, specifically for:

- Capital funds to reconfigure space in both Forchheimer and Van Etten;
- Purchase and maintenance of technology, furniture and supplies;
- Recruitment and retention of specialized personnel to manage these spaces and their equipment.

Investments in the Education Center will enable Einstein to deliver cutting-edge medical education as students acquire the knowledge and skills needed for effective interaction with patients and the healthcare systems of tomorrow.

The Education Center is the most important development in medical education since Einstein’s founding, and philanthropic support will be crucial for its success.

Friends and alumni are urged to consider generously supporting this significant project. Attractive naming opportunities are available, commensurate with generosity, along with other meaningful ways to recognize and commemorate your gifts and pledges.

For more information, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement, at 718.430.2371 or institutionaladvancement@einstein.yu.edu.
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