

For Immediate Release

University of Illinois College of Engineering Dean sees Socially Responsible Engineering at work at Avicenna Community Health Center

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Last Sunday afternoon University of Illinois College of Engineering Dean Ilesanmi Adesida accompanied by his wife Dr. Patience Adesida of Women’s Medical Center, Champaign visited Avicenna Community Health Center (ACHC). ACHC is a social entrepreneurial endeavor of Irfan Ahmad, the Executive Director at the University of Illinois Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology and a research faculty at the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Ahmad, the founder and president of Avicenna, helped launch this clinic in 2009 along with his UI colleagues and students, including those from the College of Engineering, UI alumni, and members of Urbana-Champaign community.



“I must commend the foresight and hard work that has gone into the planning and operation of the Center. Getting physicians and other healthcare providers, students and other volunteers involved in providing free healthcare service to the uninsured residents of our community is laudable” said Adesida.



Dean Adesida further added, “I am happy that our students are participating in this endeavor, including with the deployment of open source electronic medical records. I hope that we can be of greater service to the Center and similar organizations as we move into the future.”

“Actually, it is quite inspirational, particularly to see our student volunteers from across the campus, realizing their role as future leaders in taking head-on one of the major challenges of our times- access to healthcare, and volunteering at Avicenna and other free clinics in helping address healthcare disparities in our community, which according to some estimates has 19,000 of its residents without health insurance, and unfortunately these numbers continue to grow”, said Ahmad.

“I had interest in biomedical devices, and Avicenna has provided me with an opportunity to work with patients, and some of the most talented physicians, and scientists and engineers; this is absolutely great”, said Taejin Lance Min, a graduate student in physics at the College of Engineering.

“It was a moving experience for me, which is bound to have profound impact on how I would practice medicine” said Marium Khan, graduate student in the College of Applied Health Sciences, and who also was among the first batch of Avicenna interns as an undergraduate student, and now serves as Avicenna’s Internship Coordinator; “in fact, we are getting considerable number of requests from campus community to volunteer at Avicenna” said Khan.

Students in the LINC class had a first-hand experience, working with Avicenna team last spring semester, and are now looking forward to working with Avicenna during Fall 2011. Bruce Litchfield is the coordinator of the Learning in Community Program, and also is a professor of agricultural engineering, and assistant dean at the College of Engineering.

Earlier on June 19, UI President Michael Hogan and staff visited Avicenna, and President Hogan [blogged](#) about it, as he got a first-hand look at the free clinic, which he termed as “a model of compassion and interfaith harmony”. Avicenna team will be recognized for its contributions at the President’s House on November 8, 2012.

For more information please contact: Adil Haider, Avicenna
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About Avicenna Community Health Center

Avicenna named after the 10th century physician and physicist- *Ibn Sina*; is a not-for-profit entity, which provides culturally competent high quality preventive and curative healthcare services to the uninsured residents of Champaign County in an interfaith academia-community partnership. Avicenna shares clinic space with the Champaign County Christian Clinic. www.avicennahealth.org