

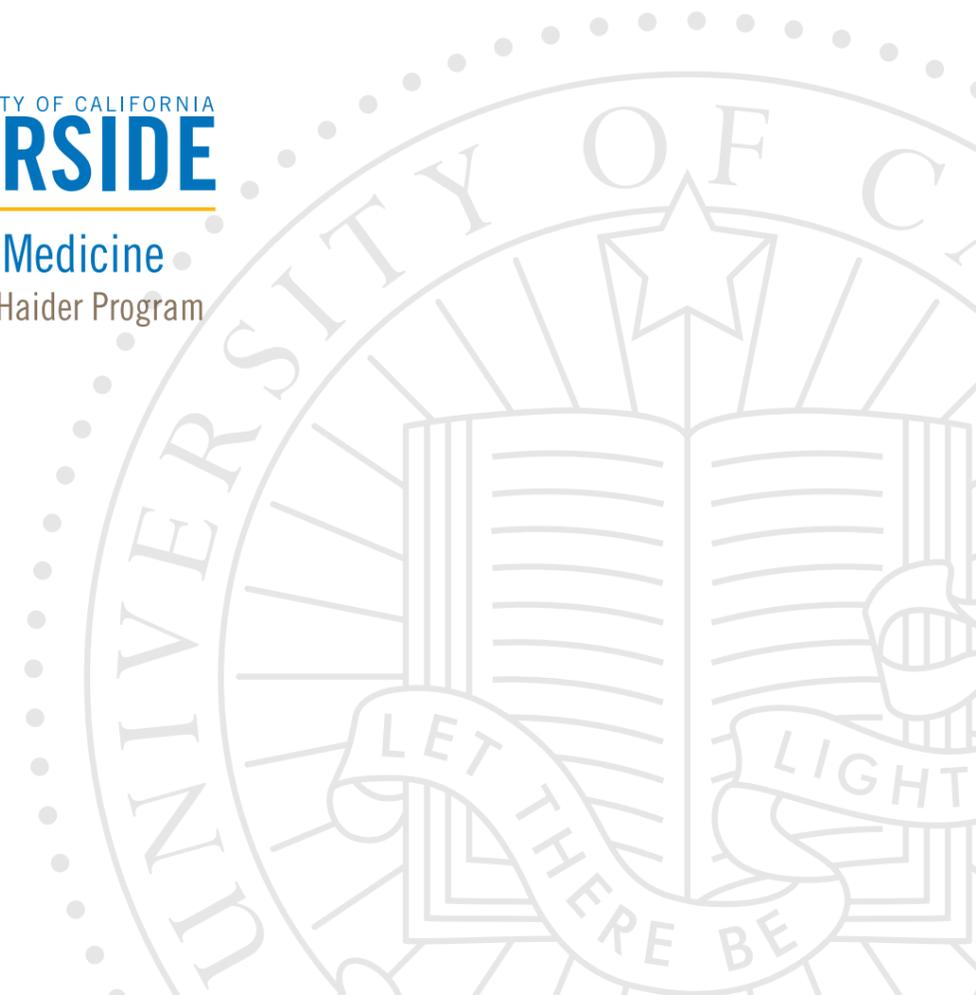


# Supporting the Future of Medicine

The Thomas Haider Program at the University of California, Riverside



**UC** UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA **RIVERSIDE**  
School of Medicine  
The Thomas Haider Program



# An Abiding Gift

Generations of patients will benefit from the foresight of a visionary couple whose philanthropy has led to a unique program supporting extraordinary students at UC Riverside's community-based medical school serving Inland Southern California.



# Igniting the Dream of a Medical School

With their visionary and generous initial gift in 1997, Dr. Thomas Haider and Mrs. Salma Haider lit the kindling of a dream to establish a community-based medical school at the University of California, Riverside.

Long dedicated to providing the opportunity of medical education to students from underserved backgrounds, Dr. and Mrs. Haider's foundational support of the UCR/UCLA Thomas Haider Program in Biomedical Sciences paved the way for our full, four-year medical school at UCR. This innovative medical school remains aligned with their vision and our commitment to educate a physician workforce for Inland Southern California.

Twenty years after their founding support, in 2017, the Haiders saw their dream realized through the inaugural graduating class at the UCR School of Medicine – a major milestone in their remarkable legacy.

We hope you enjoy this commemorative book that traces the Haiders' foresight and support of medical education at UCR.

**Kim A. Wilcox, PhD**

Chancellor





## Leading the Way: Dr. Thomas Haider and Mrs. Salma Haider

It is impossible to overstate the role that Dr. and Mrs. Haider have played in the development of the physician training programs at the University of California, Riverside.

Hundreds of physicians and thousands of their patients have benefited from their devotion and generosity. Though the Haider family are neither alumni of UCR nor natives of the Inland Southern California region, they have been philanthropic visionaries who are committed to providing an opportunity for education to underserved individuals.

Dr. Haider is a world-renowned spinal surgeon who has developed and patented surgical instrumentation for use in spinal surgery. He founded the Haider Spine Center, located in Riverside, and he is chief of the spine division at Riverside University Health System - Medical Center.

Dr. and Mrs. Haider are co-founders of the Children's Spine Foundation, a charity that works to secure intervention and treatment of spinal disorders in children whose families would not otherwise have the

financial means to do so. In 1997, the Haider family threw their support behind UCR's Biomedical Science Program, which was subsequently renamed the UCR/UCLA Thomas Haider Program in Biomedical Sciences in his honor. In addition, the couple established the Salma Haider Endowed Chair in Biomedical Sciences.

In 1997, Dr. Haider became part of UCR's clinical faculty and in 1999 he was named chairman of the school's Biomedical Advisory Board. He also served a key role on the admissions committee, helping to usher in a diverse group of medical students who might have otherwise been overlooked.

At the same time, the Haider family were fervent supporters of the concept of a full-fledged medical school at UC Riverside, encouraging

others to believe the biomedical sciences program could serve as the foundation for a medical school.

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*/// I immediately felt welcomed to be a part of this community."*

*— Dr. Thomas Haider*

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Dr. Haider's commitment to UCR extends far beyond his initial support. He donated the royalties from his patented Haider/UCR Pedicle Instrumentation, surgical instrumentation for use in spinal surgery, to the university in support of the School of Medicine and, in the summer of 2014, became chair of the UCR Foundation Board of Trustees.

"Riverside is a very tightly knit community. People who are here want to support it; they have a sense of ownership, just like I do," Haider told the UCR Magazine in the fall of 2014. "If you play a role in that, you will feel that sense of accomplishment. Everything that you do will make a big difference."

In October 2012, the Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Salma Haider Donor Wall was dedicated in the lobby of the School of Medicine Education Building. The inscription on the wall reads "Every Gift Tells A Story," and for the Haider family that story is one of kindness, benevolence, and devotion to the people of Inland Southern California.

# Leading through Example and Energy

In UCR's long history of medical education, the support of Dr. Thomas Haider and Mrs. Salma Haider stands out as a pivotal mile marker in the journey to establish the UCR School of Medicine, which opened in 2013.

Not only did they provide philanthropic support to UCR's then-partnership with UCLA, they remained steadfast supporters as the program reshaped its mission to better respond to community needs. As the UCR campus planned and established a fully independent medical school, the Haideres remained committed to the medical school's mission – to train a diverse physician workforce and to develop research and clinical programs to serve the people of the Inland Empire. I am so gratified by the Haideres' continued involvement and support.

Through the Thomas Haider Program at the UCR School of Medicine, we are proud to maintain the original charter of the two-year program to recruit, admit, and support students who are from UCR. This is a key strategy of ours to expand and diversify our region's physician workforce – a distinctive mission that harmonizes with the service-minded vision of Dr. and Mrs. Haider.

This commemorative book celebrates the Haideres' leadership and the fulfillment of UCR's aspiration to build a medical school for Inland Southern California.

**Deborah Deas, MD, MPH**

The Mark and Pam Rubin Dean  
CEO, Clinical Affairs





## In His Own Words: **Providing for a Bright Future**

An Interview with Dr. Thomas Haider, by UCR  
Medical Student and Haider Scholar Chade Aribó:

### **Could you share what attracted you to UCR?**

What has always inspired me about UCR is its spirit of community and sense of service. It has always been more than a school; it's an integral part of the Inland Empire's cultural and educational tapestry. The students and faculty here impact their region in a way I have not seen at many other universities.

When I became involved with the biomedical science program, I knew that if we built a school of medicine, as difficult as that would be, UCR's spirit of community and sense of service would find a powerful means to impact the public health of Riverside and allow generations of physicians instilled with the values of UCR to enter the field.

### **What was your inspiration in supporting the (now) Thomas Haider Program at the UCR School of Medicine?**

It was to support exceptional students with aspirations of becoming physicians from underserved backgrounds. I decided to contribute to UCR, and have dedicated my support every year since, to the Haider Program at the UCR School of Medicine. I see gifted students who have overcome enormous obstacles while never giving up on their dream to become a doctor. These are the kinds of people our society needs as physicians, and they inspire me every year.

### **What gives you the greatest fulfillment from your involvement with UCR and the School of Medicine?**

Getting to know these exceptionally talented, aspiring physicians from the moment they put on their white coats for the first time at UCR's White Coat Ceremony. It's a powerful ceremony signifying that their hard work and resilience has paid off.

### **What hardships did you experience as a student or entrepreneur that motivates you toward our goal?**

As a student without any physicians in my family, I did not have anyone to guide me in the medical school process. It was a difficult journey, and I had to learn largely on my own. That experience motivates me every time I meet a new cohort of aspiring physicians at UCR.

### **Have you had any pleasant surprises – unexpected interest, positive feedback – from your association with UCR and the School of Medicine?**

It's always wonderful to run into former students who are now fully practicing physicians. Seeing how well they do — and the impact they have on the community — reinforces my commitment to the program and the university.

### **What are your hopes for the future?**

My hope is that in 20 years, the healthcare in our community will be as good as any place in the world. And not only quality of medicine, but the quality of physicians - connecting with the patients, caring for the patients. I believe that UCR is the place, and School of Medicine is the program by which we can do that.

# Our History

The UCR/UCLA Program in Biomedical Sciences was established in 1974 with a dual goal of recruiting outstanding students to UC Riverside and increasing the number of medical students entering clinical training at UCLA.

Between its inception and the opening of the UCR School of Medicine in 2013, approximately 850 students went through the program, which was renamed the UCR/UCLA Thomas Haider Program in Biomedical Sciences in 1997.

The success of the Haider Program served as the foundation for the development of the UCR School of Medicine. In 2003, then-Chancellor France A. Córdova brought together a blue-ribbon panel to begin the planning process for a four-year medical school. In July 2008, the UC Regents approved UCR's proposal for a school of medicine.

In October 2012, the UCR School of Medicine received accreditation and recruited for the inaugural class of 2013. A class of 50 students arrived in August 2013, beginning their path toward becoming physicians. In June 2017, the school graduated its first class of medical students and secured full accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME).



1974

### UCR / UCLA Program in Biomedical Sciences Launched

Students in the program complete their undergraduate work and the first two years of their medical education at UC Riverside, then transfer to UCLA for their third and fourth years, earning their M.D. from the David Geffen School of Medicine.

1997

### Biomedical Sciences Program is Renamed

In recognition for the support given by Dr. Thomas Haider and Mrs. Salma Haider, the program is renamed The UCR/UCLA Thomas Haider Program in Biomedical Sciences. The couple also establish the Salma Haider Endowed Chair in Biomedical Sciences, with Dr. Craig V. Byus receiving the initial appointment.

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*“ We need quality physicians that will actually spend time with their patients, who will connect with their patients.”*

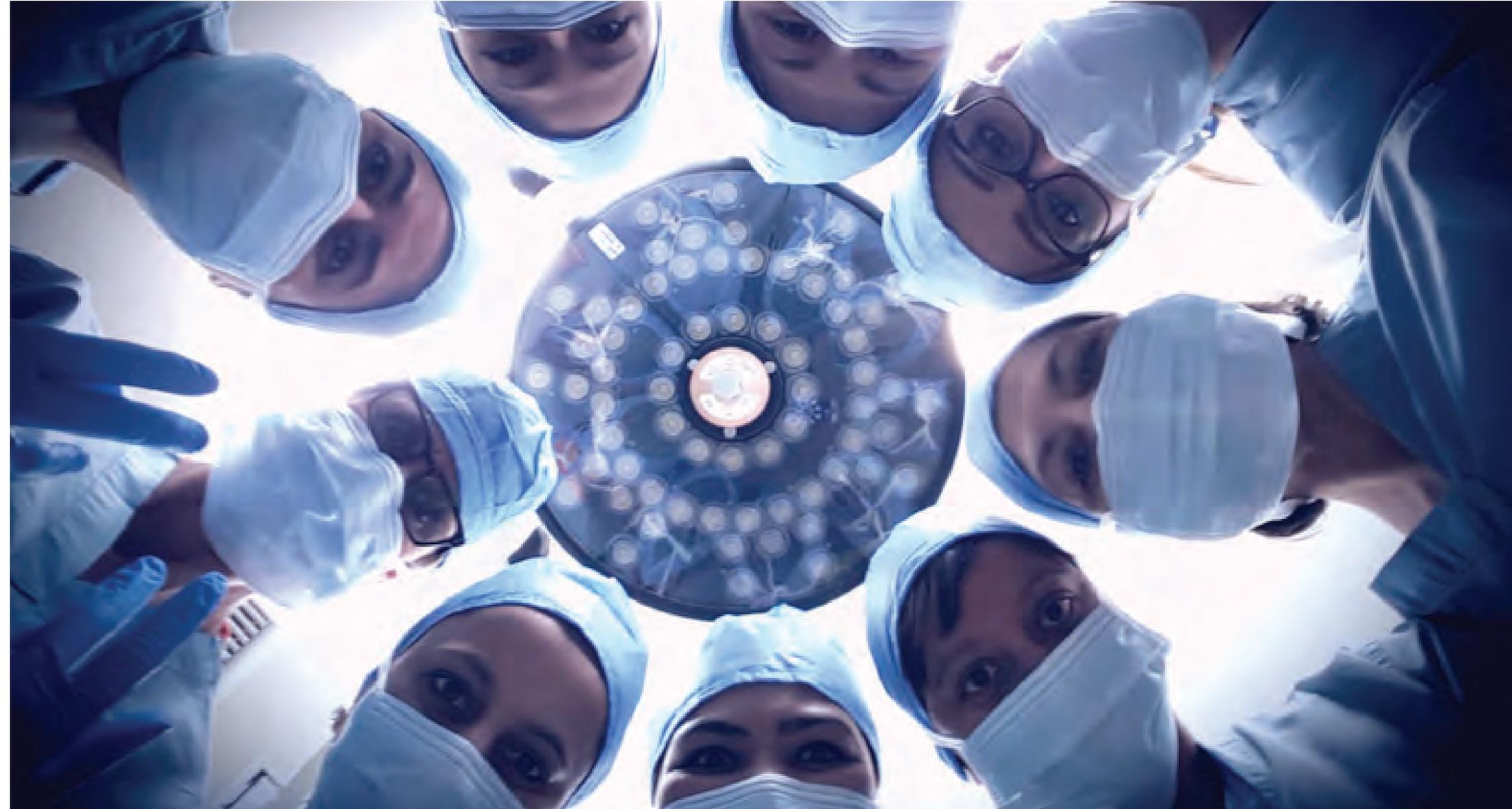
*— Dr. Thomas Haider*

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2002

### Structural and Curricular Changes to the Program

The J. W. Vines Medical Society, the Inland Empire affiliate of the National Medical Association, lobby the California State Legislature to mandate structural and curricular changes to the Haider Program. These critical changes stimulate the creation of a community-oriented mission statement for the restructured program: to train a culturally diverse physician workforce, and create clinical and research programs to serve the population of Inland Southern California.



July 2003

### Haider Program Mission Reshaped

In partnership with community leaders in medicine, business, education, and philanthropy, the Haider Program's mission is restructured to emphasize preparing students for distinguished medical careers serving the health care needs of the underserved, inland, and rural populations. Elements of the program are revised to broaden student access and success, including allowing students from any major on campus who complete at least two years of their undergraduate training at UCR to apply for admission to the medical phase of the program.

August 2003

### Byus Named Interim Dean

Dr. Craig V. Byus, professor of biomedical sciences and biochemistry at UCR, is appointed interim dean and program director of the Haider Program, and interim associate dean for the UCR/UCLA Program in Biomedical Sciences at The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

November 2003

### Blue Ribbon Panel Established

Chancellor France A. Córdova appoints a blue-ribbon panel of renowned academics and education leaders to advise the campus on expanding medical education and health science research, and begin planning for a four-year medical school in response to forecasts of a severe physician shortage in the rapidly growing and ethnically diverse Inland Southern California region.



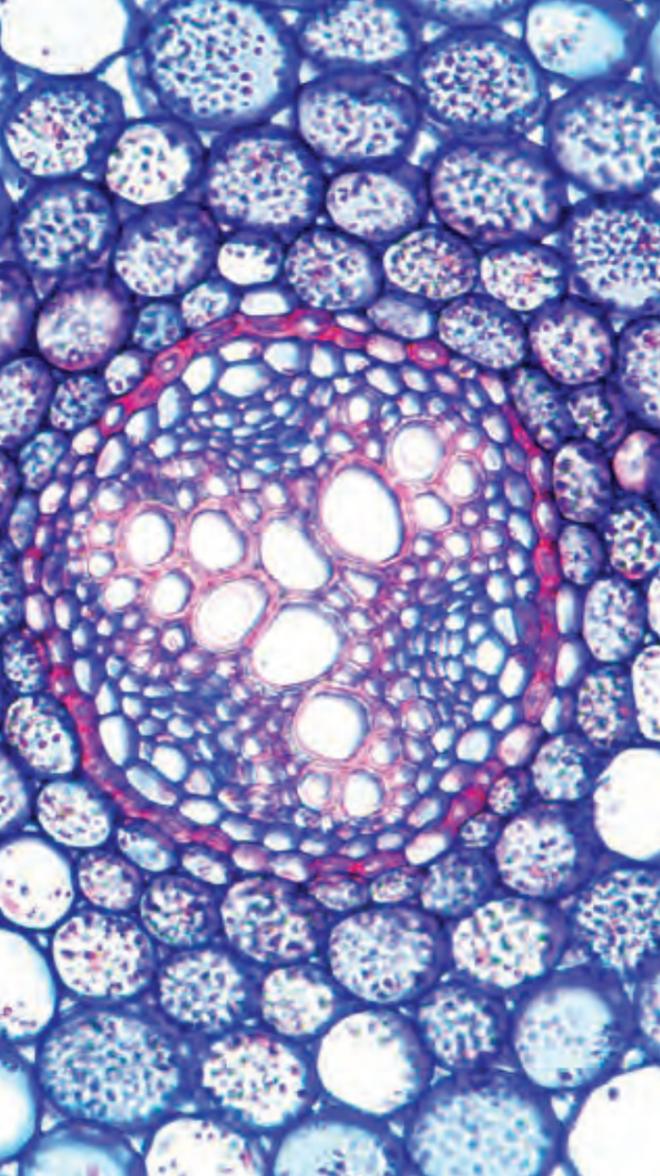
Dr. Thomas Haider was among the first few individuals who believed that UCR should have a stand-alone medical school. He could (and did) speak at length to anyone who wished to hear about the value of a UCR School of Medicine to the community, both for the local physicians as well as for patients. I know of no one who believed more in the quality of UCR's faculty and students and the quality and dedication of the physicians in the community, than Thomas Haider.

He served for many years as a member of the medical admissions committee, and contributed a much-needed understanding of what it took to be a practicing physician in the Inland Empire. He also had a practical understanding of the pressures of being an immigrant and the difficulties of succeeding with English as a second language. We all learned a great deal from him during these meetings and his insights greatly strengthened the decisions of the committee.

There are, in my opinion, many individuals through the years that have made exceptional and important contributions to the UCR School of Medicine. However, there are only a handful of people whose contributions were so significant that without them there would be no UCR School of Medicine.... Thomas and Salma Haider are two of these individuals.

**Craig V. Byus, PhD**

Former Dean and Program Director of the Thomas Haider Program in Biomedical Sciences



### November 2006

#### Regents Approve Proposal

The UC Board of Regents approves the proposal for the creation of a school of medicine at UC Riverside, and authorizes UCR to proceed with final planning for the school, including drafting of a proposed curriculum.

### October 2007

#### Final Medical School Proposal Developed

Dr. Phyllis A. Guze, executive director of medical school planning, leads the planning effort to develop the final medical school proposal. The effort features 80 faculty, staff, campus administrators, alumni, and medical and community leaders participating in six work groups and a business modeling team.

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*/// Dr. Thomas Haaider's greatest contribution has been one of 'inspiration'. He has inspired faculty, chancellors, deans, students, community physicians, and state and local government officials to believe in UCR and to believe in the value that a new medical school could bring to Inland Empire health care — and to believe that if we all worked hard and long enough that it would become a reality."*

— Dr. Craig Byus

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### October 2009

#### Olds Appointed Founding Dean

Dr. G. Richard Olds, an internationally recognized tropical disease authority and former chair of the Department of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, is named founding dean of the UCR School of Medicine and vice chancellor of health affairs.

### Spring 2012

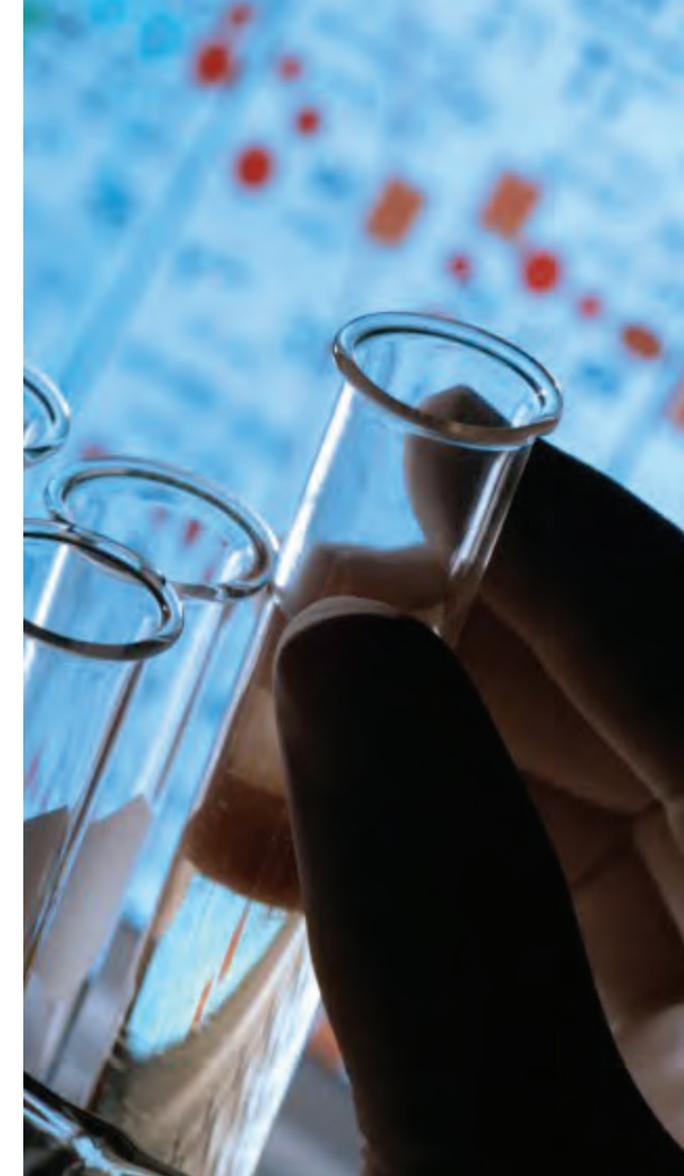
#### School of Medicine Education Building Opened

The School of Medicine opens in a newly renovated building. The inaugural Education Building is located in the former Statistics Computer Building on the east side of campus, across from the Raymond L. Orbach Science Library.

### October 2012

#### UCR School of Medicine Granted Preliminary Accreditation

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) grants the UCR School of Medicine preliminary accreditation, making it the sixth medical school in the UC system and the first to open in the state of California in more than 40 years.



December 2012 / June 2013

## State Funding Approved

In December 2012 State Senator Richard Roth (D-Riverside) and Assemblyman Jose Medina (D-Riverside) introduce measures to appropriate \$15 million per year in state funds for the UCR School of Medicine. The following year, the California State Legislature adopts the 2013-14 state budget, including funding for the UCR School of Medicine as part of the UC's annual base budget.

August 2013

## The First Class

A cohort of 50 students is welcomed as the inaugural class of the UCR School of Medicine in the traditional white coat ceremony.

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*“ It has been a dream of mine to return to UCR as a medical student in order to serve the underserved.”*

*— Haider Scholar*

September 2015

## Schiller Named Interim Dean

Dr. Neal L. Schiller, senior associate dean for student affairs at the UCR School of Medicine, is named interim dean. A veteran of UCR, Schiller has been a part of UCR's Division of Biomedical Sciences and Medical Education Program for more than three decades. He continued to hold the Salma Haider Endowed Chair in Biomedical Sciences and oversee the Haider Program.



Dr. and Mrs. Haider have continuously stressed the importance of recruiting local students to matriculate to UCR both as undergraduates and as medical students, and to publicize broadly the Haider advantage – the selective matriculation of 24 UCR alumni into the UCR School of Medicine.

Their commitment to this mission was manifested by their generous support for the medical school and its students, and me personally as the Salma Haider Endowed Chair holder for the past 5 years. As they shared their personal vision with us, it was an unwavering resolve to showcase UCR and the UCR School of Medicine as the preeminent educational mecca for those committed to practicing in our local physician-shortage community. They led this drive to excellence and preeminence by personal example and by their generosity.

The UCR School of Medicine owes Dr. and Mrs. Haider our lasting appreciation for their passionate lobbying on behalf of the school, its faculty and staff, and most importantly, its students. Thank you!

**Neal L. Schiller, PhD**

Distinguished Teaching Professor, Emeritus  
Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Emeritus  
UCR School of Medicine

May 2016

## Deas Appointed Dean

Dr. Deborah Deas, a nationally recognized leader in adolescent substance abuse treatment, anxiety disorders and depression, and former interim dean of the College of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina, is appointed the Mark and Pam Rubin Dean of the School of Medicine and CEO for Clinical Affairs.

June 2017

## First Graduation and Full Accreditation

One day after receiving notification from the LCME of the school receiving full accreditation, the inaugural graduating class of 40 students receive their degrees and recite the Hippocratic Oath at the UCR School of Medicine's first Commencement Ceremony.

August 2018

## The Growth Continues

A cohort of 70 students becomes the school's sixth class, and brings the total enrollment to more than 250 students.

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*/// Thank you for setting an example for all of us by being active in the community and giving back – something I plan to do as a physician."*

*— Haider Scholar*

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## Our Mission

The mission of the UCR School of Medicine is to improve the health of the people of California and, especially, to serve Inland Southern California by training a diverse workforce of physicians and by developing innovative research and health care delivery programs that will improve the health of the medically underserved in the region and become models to be emulated throughout the state and nation.

## Our Values

Inclusion

Integrity

Innovation

Excellence

Accountability

Respect