



Rendering of intersection of Bison and California

The future of health starts here

Healthcare is about to get a whole lot smarter.

The University of California, Irvine is breaking ground on a landmark project designed to redefine medical research, education and patient care by shifting the focus from treating diseases to avoiding them.

The epicenter for this integrative approach will be a 9-acre, \$185 million building complex at the corner of Bison and California avenues anchored by a new five-floor Susan and Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences and a four-floor Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing.

It's Western-meets-Eastern medicine, backed by scientific research and 21st-century technology.

As Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California noted, "One of the root causes of our country's healthcare challenges is our failure to focus on prevention and well-being. We need to do better at preventing diseases rather than just treating them. UC Irvine is making much-needed investments in this area."

Indeed, the project – which will include a Zen garden, a 200-yard wellness walk and an array of cutting-edge classrooms, labs and collaborative spaces intended to spur innovation and discovery – promises to be a national showcase for integrative health. The site will also house the Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute and includes room for a proposed School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences building.

"UCI is doing something no one else in the country has done," said Dr. Steve Goldstein, vice chancellor for health affairs. "We are pioneering an educational and healthcare delivery model that enables us to teach and practice without the restrictions of silos. Our students, scientists and practitioners work across disciplines with open minds, studying and learning about all forms of prevention and healing, exploiting technological advances, and adopting complementary and conventional practices that provide cutting-edge care that's patient-centered, science-based, transdisciplinary and team-delivered."

The new project fortifies UCI's already stellar health programs, which include Orange County's only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center (part of the University of California consortium with more than 1,000 clinical trials and 8 million patients), a prestigious stem cell research center, a precision medicine center, a vaccine center, and the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

As the first university-based health sciences enterprise to incorporate integrative health research, teaching and patient care across its schools and programs, UCI aims to "set a standard that, over time, other medical centers in the U.S. can follow," said Chancellor Howard Gillman.

In a nutshell, integrative health involves analyzing multiple aspects of a patient's life – from genetics to emotions to environment – and formulating individualized wellness strategies.

The key is to look at patients holistically. By analyzing what's in a person's cells, organs, lifestyle and physical environment, it's possible to thwart



Rendering of patient arrival at the Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute

genetic predispositions to diabetes, high blood pressure and other diseases. For instance, if you have the gene for a certain kind of cancer, you could turn the gene off by altering your behavior, modifying your diet, managing stress and limiting your exposure to environmental factors such as pollution.

Integrative health's emphasis on prevention is also a way to curb rising healthcare costs. "It's the difference between a \$30 nutrition class and a \$100,000 heart bypass operation," said Dr. Shaista Malik, a cardiologist who directs the Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute.

The Susan and Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences consists of the School of Medicine, the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing, the Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute, the proposed School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (currently the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences) and the proposed School of Population Health (currently the Program in Public Health).

Major gifts from Susan and Henry Samueli and Sue and Bill Gross will support this project. In 2016, the William and Sue Gross Family Foundation committed \$40 million to UCI to establish a nursing school and assist in constructing a new building to house it. The following year, the Samuelis donated \$200 million to build a first-of-its-kind college of health sciences focused on interdisciplinary integrative health. The far-reaching gift – one of the largest ever to a single public university – positions UCI as a bold new leader in population health, patient care, and health-related education and research.

See the full story at cohs.uci.edu.