

SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU to Begin Move to New Building

Officials at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine have signed an interagency agreement that will provide \$600,000 in funds for operations of SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU. The one-time funds cover the remainder of the current fiscal year that ends in June 2010.

The Governor's office has allocated \$600,000 from the FY10 budget for operations of the building. An intergovernmental agreement is expected to be completed soon that will allow the institute to move into the facility.

Later this month, SIU staff will begin the move into the building, located at 315 W. Carpenter Street in Springfield. The goal is to have patient clinics moved by early summer. Many of the School's multi-disciplinary cancer clinics, now located in various hospital buildings, will move to the new building along with clinical trials and outreach services.

Nearly three dozen physician specialists will be based in the building. More than 20 support staff will provide services in the building.

SIU's three-story cancer treatment and research center began when the Illinois Legislature awarded planning money in 2001 and followed with funds for construction of the building in 2005. Although it was completed at the end of the summer in 2008, the building has been vacant. Funds for subsequent years of operations must be approved in future state budgets.

The mission of the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU is to serve the people of central and southern Illinois by addressing their present and future cancer care needs through medical education, biomedical research and patient service. Its Web site is www.siumed.edu/cancer and its main phone number is 217-545-6000.