
UB Medical School belongs downtown

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The welcome announcement of an accelerated plan to move the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (SMBS) downtown, a move long under consideration, has already produced negative reaction by those determined to preserve the status quo (“UB science faculty do more than teach medical students,” May 4 letter). However, while in 1954 the research facilities on the Main Street Campus may have been “beautiful” and “new,” almost 60 years later they are neither, and most of the other non-medical faculty with whom SMBS faculty could “meet and socialize” have long since moved off-site to the Amherst Campus.

The Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus is becoming a major nexus of local biomedical research with the forthcoming Clinical and Translational Research Center, Global Vascular Institute and potential relocation of Children’s Hospital joining, among others, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the Hauptman-Woodward Institute and UB’s own Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences.

As an SMBS basic science researcher already located on the downtown campus, I can attest to the value both of modern facilities with cutting-edge laboratories and equipment and of proximity to my clinical colleagues. Far from suffering for it, the many graduate and undergraduate students currently taking classes and conducting research downtown benefit greatly from the opportunity.

Relocating the Medical School downtown will allow all of our medical students, graduate and undergraduate, to partake of these advantages and will bring together our fragmented biomedical community into a central, modern and competitive research, training and clinical care environment.

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