

UNMC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



**Honoring Our Past...
Inventing the Future**

More than 130 years ago vaccines and antibiotics didn't exist. Disease was devastating. Typhoid, cholera, tuberculosis and whooping cough killed entire families. A simple infection also could be fatal.

It was a time of restricted medical options.

"There was a lot less a doctor could do; they lacked hospitals, clinical services and the technologically advanced tools of today," said Robert Wigton, M.D., associate dean for the College of Medicine and UNMC's resident historian.

It was in this environment that a group of doctors

gathered in Omaha in 1869 with a vision of opening a medical school.

Despite many failures, the Nebraska School of Medicine Preparatory finally opened its doors in 1881. This humble beginning 125 years ago led to what is now the UNMC College of Medicine.

Today, UNMC has graduated 18,925 students since its early beginnings and continues to uphold the long-standing tradition of medical education through the dedication of students, teachers and health care professionals.

"Medical schools maintain high standards and UNMC is no different," Dr. Wigton said. "Nearly half the health care workers practicing in Nebraska were educated at UNMC."

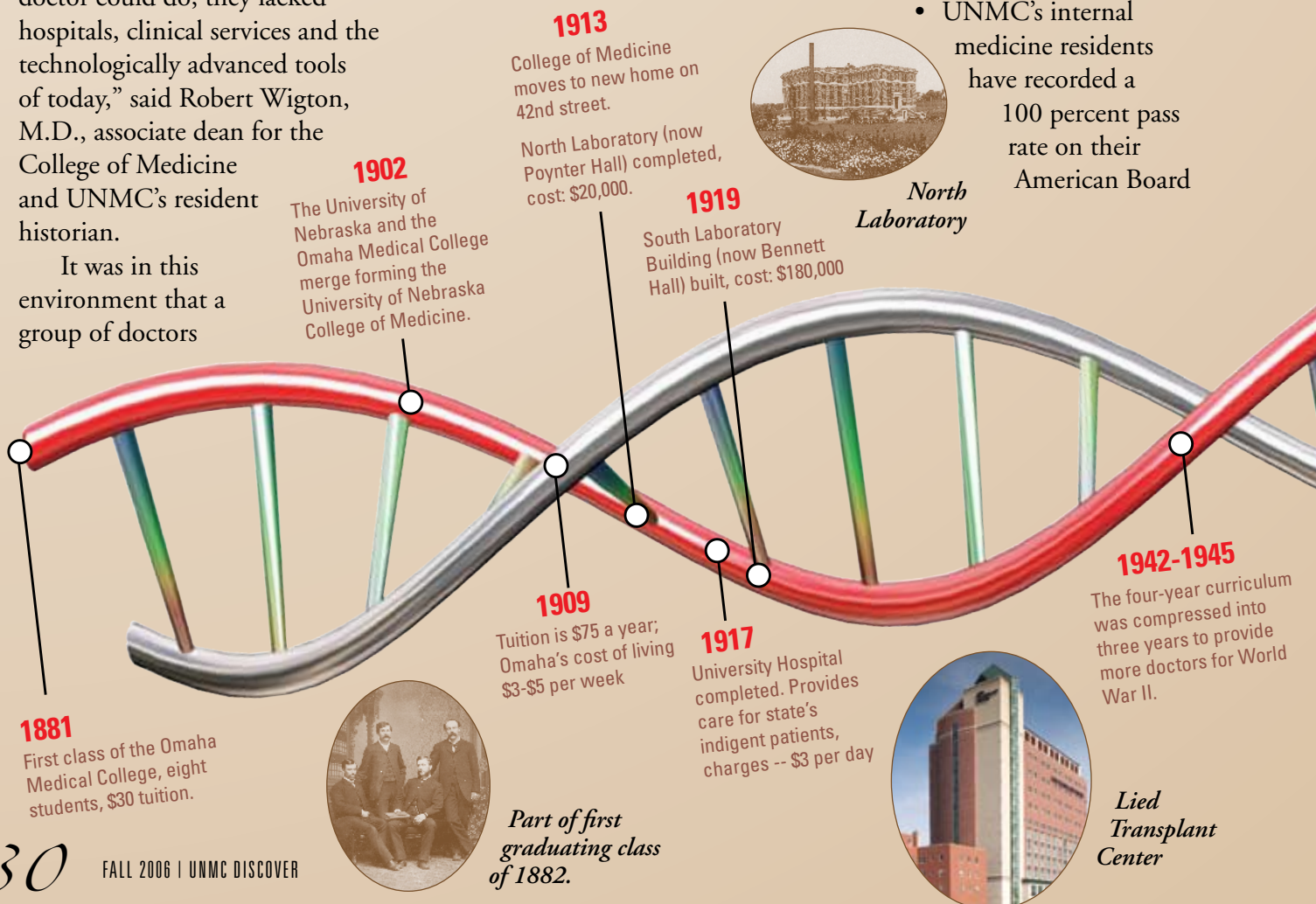
As the college celebrates its progress over the past 125 years, John Gollan, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the College of Medicine, also is looking ahead.

"We want to become nationally competitive by enhancing and expanding the educational environment, increasing our prominence as a research health sciences center and developing new technologies to advance health education," he said.

UNMC already shines in many areas:

- U.S. News & World Report's academic rankings place the College of Medicine's primary care program 11th out of approximately 140 medical schools and its rural health medicine program ninth out of approximately 125 schools.

- UNMC's internal medicine residents have recorded a 100 percent pass rate on their American Board



of Internal Medicine (ABIM) certification examinations for eight consecutive years. The string – which places the UNMC program in the top 1 percent to 2 percent of programs in the nation – involves 109 residents.

- The College of Medicine received \$47 million in research funding for fiscal year 2005-2006, a 165 percent increase over the past 10 years.
- The updated gross anatomy and virtual microscopy labs feature 30 projection screens that are linked to computers, allowing students an instantaneous view of photos or text.

From humble beginnings to a technologically advanced medical center, UNMC's leaders will continue the tradition of innovation with the new Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education, which is under construction. The new home of the College of Medicine will combine the "old" belief of face-to-face interaction with "new" technological advances, such as simulated learning and virtual laboratories.

Together with UNMC's current curriculum, which was implemented in 1992, faculty members emphasize active learning, small group discussions, early clinical exposure and problem solving.

This fall at their annual reunion, College

of Medicine alumni will celebrate the college's quasiquintennial with a reception at Omaha's Durham Western Heritage Museum, where they also will debut a special exhibit in honor of the 125th anniversary. The exhibit will be on display through April 29, 2007.

"We are indebted to the many men and women who have come before us and built this college into what it is today," Dr. Gollan said. "We will build upon their foundation to provide the highest quality patient care and education, to conduct the most innovative research and to serve our communities."

