A great university for medicine and biomedical science deserves an innovative space to educate those who will care for tomorrow’s patients and make discoveries we can only imagine today.

**NOW, THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HAS SUCH A BUILDING.**

Thirty-five years after it opened, our Taubman Health Sciences Library has emerged from a metamorphosis – transformed from a book-centered storehouse of knowledge to a light-filled, dynamic learning space for future physicians, scientists and health professionals.

The reopening coincides with a new medical student curriculum that takes full advantage of the digital revolution in generating, storing and accessing medical and scientific knowledge.

That same revolution drives the new library space, designed to help U-M informationists work with students and faculty from U-M’s entire health and life science community.

Advanced technology abounds in the five-floor facility. But so does a commitment to small-group learning and skill development, and to cooperative training across the biomedical and health professions.

The building stands on the site where U-M’s second hospital began taking patients in 1891 – one year after the Medical School adopted a then-revolutionary four-year curriculum.

That was then. This is now. Come inside the new, improved Taubman Health Sciences Library and see the future.
During the 18-month construction of the $55 million project, student learning spaces and offices for education and library services were relocated to University Hospital South, the former home of C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital. Now, that space can return to other use.

The building encompasses 137,000 gross square feet, 6,000 of which were added to the existing building during renovation.

The renovation used 1,700 tons of concrete, strengthened by 48 tons of steel rebar.

The project was designed by TMP Architecture and Ballinger Architecture and Engineering, and constructed by the Christman Company with many Michigan-based subcontractors and suppliers.
More than 67 miles of data cable and 2,011 data jacks were installed in the renovation.

Nearly 18,000 square feet of low-e glass wall on all sides of the building bring natural illumination in an energy-efficient way.

The building is eligible for LEED Gold certification due to special lighting, climate control and other features. During construction, 1,780 tons of material were recycled instead of landfilled.
A GREAT SPACE BEARING A GREAT NAME.

Though he did not live to see its completion, the man whose name is on the building truly believed in the goals of the renovation.

A. Alfred Taubman, one of U-M’s most generous benefactors, originally gave the naming gift for what was then the Taubman Medical Library in 1977. Using his architectural experience, he provided valuable input to the renovation planning. His dedication to U-M, its science and its students will reverberate for generations to come.
For the hundreds of students working toward master’s and doctoral degrees at the Medical School, and our nearly 1,000 biomedical postdoctoral fellows, this floor includes lecture, study, advising and gathering spaces, as well as training program offices.

This level, and the one above, opens onto a courtyard that provides an outdoor link to laboratory buildings. Indoor connectors to MedSci II on this level, and the two above, provide a gateway to the rest of the medical campus. There’s also a large suite for Medical School IT support (shown).
The hands-on skills of a doctor don’t happen by chance. They’re taught by experienced faculty, and practiced and evaluated through encounters with “standardized patients” – trained medical actors.

This floor contains the Clinical Skills Suite – 30 realistic patient care rooms where students can hone these skills, use simulated medical technology, practice for interaction with actual patients and receive feedback from faculty.

This level also includes three connected classrooms that can vary in size and accommodate learners from other U-M health sciences schools, and a lounge for medical students’ “patients.” Doors open onto a small plaza below street level.

LEVEL 3: CLINICAL SKILLS SUITE
As you approach the main entrance from Catherine Street, you immediately feel the building’s new spirit and purpose, and the sense of openness created by its new all-glass exterior.

Entering on level 4, you find yourself on a wide, tiled “Main Street” corridor, flanked by a welcoming café and seating area, and a grand light-filled staircase. This same central path runs through the heart of the building’s other levels, offering easy access and spaces to rest, read and reflect.

Just beyond the main entrance: the inviting library space that’s open to all, with priority for health sciences students. Today’s library can be anywhere, yet there is still a desire for a physical location that facilitates collaboration, study and learning.
This library intentionally includes plentiful study space and though the library’s resources are now primarily digital, the library team’s 150-year tradition of information expertise and collaboration remains the same. Specialized librarians called informationists teach, consult and collaborate with faculty and students via online chat, text and email, as well as working with them in classrooms, offices and laboratories.

Also here: the Anatomage Table, an anatomy visualization system that creates a virtual operating table or hospital bed with a digital “patient” on it. Via its giant touch screen interface, users can manipulate detailed, three-dimensional male and female body images, and even digitally remove layers of skin and muscles for a clearer view of underlying structures.

**Where did the books go?**

Once, this building had several floors full of books and journals – one of the nation’s largest holdings of medical tomes. Today, most students, faculty and clinicians prefer digital access to these materials.

Before the renovation began, most of the library’s 518,942 print volumes went to an offsite location. They remain there, but can be brought back to campus on request. Old and rare books in the health sciences collection, including medical books from as far back as the 15th century, now reside with the U-M Library’s other special collections in the Hatcher Graduate Library.
On this floor, rows of bookshelves have given way to some of the 21st century’s most advanced learning technology, as well as classrooms and small-group rooms.

Today’s medical learning uses many digital tools, from virtual anatomy and teleconferences to on-demand lectures and computer-based testing. This level supports all of that and more with high-definition displays, banks of dedicated computers and other “wired” features – as well as a “Help Me Now” information technology support desk.

Mobile technology – or perhaps a break from screen time – will reign in the large, light-filled quiet study room open to all students studying health and biomedical fields at U-M.
This level will be a home away from home for the more than 700 U-M students studying toward an M.D. or combined medical and graduate degree.

Similar to the level below, it features a wide array of rooms where pairs, trios or groups of students can gather to discuss and solve problems – including interprofessional teams from across the health professions and biomedical sciences. Many rooms here and on other levels have specially coated “whiteboard” walls and tables to write on.

The centerpiece of this level is the large Medical Student Lounge, where coffee and meals can be shared, leisure time enjoyed and activities joined.