



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

500/1,000

MISSION STATEMENT

The Florida State University College of Medicine will educate and develop exemplary physicians who practice patient-centered health care, discover and advance knowledge, and are responsive to community needs, especially through service to elder, rural, minority, and underserved populations.

On the cover: Why 500 and 1,000? The College of Medicine reached those important milestones in the fall of 2022. More than 1,000 of our alumni physicians are now in practice and more than 500 of them are in Florida.

DEAN'S MESSAGE



As we emerged from nearly three years of COVID and welcomed new medical students in May and PA students in August, the energy and enthusiasm among the students was palpable. I was reminded what I have loved most about my time as dean of this medical school.

With a new university president and provost well established by now, and my own time at the College of Medicine ending, this is a good time to reflect.

- 18 M.D. classes have graduated and we now have 1,721 alumni physicians. Sixty percent have completed their post-graduate training and are in practice, the majority of those in Florida. We also reached important milestones this fall: more than 1,000 alumni physicians in practice and more than 500 of them practicing in Florida (when I arrived in 2008 we had 14 alumni in practice).
- We graduated our fourth PA class in December and are at full enrollment of 180 – 60 students per class. Our PA alumni are doing well with full-time jobs and contributing to Florida's health-care workforce.
- More than 160 medical residents and 230 faculty participate in the nine residency programs we now sponsor from Tallahassee to Fort Myers. We continue to work with partners identifying needs for additional residency and fellowship programs.
- Based at the College of Medicine, Florida State's undergraduate Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences (IMS)

program has served more than 2,000 majors since it began in 2016. Providing mentorship and guidance across four years of study toward careers in health care, IMS is now the second-most popular major at FSU. We're seeing an increase in IMS majors applying to medical school here, where 14 have already enrolled.

- We're living our mission in many ways, including through FSU PrimaryHealth, opened in southwest Tallahassee in 2019 to provide clinical opportunities for our faculty and primary care for a medically underserved community. Along with FSU SeniorHealth and FSU BehavioralHealth (launched in 2020), we are truly responsive to community needs.
- Research funding has accelerated over the past five to eight years among both new recruits and established faculty. Our behavioral health and rural-focused research is playing an important role in our partnership with the University of Florida through the UF-FSU Clinical Translational Science Award. Total grant funding at our medical school exceeded \$140 million this past fiscal year, and our investigators have had remarkable success with funded grant submissions and large awards, despite a tight NIH budget.
- Our pipeline programs (SSTRIDE, Medical Honors Scholars, and Bridge) continue to serve us well as we remain one of the most diverse medical schools in the country for both African-American and Hispanic student percentages.
- I'm so proud of our alumni who are working and serving their communities throughout the nation. I continue to meet more and more who are back in their regional campuses and serving as faculty for the next

generation of students. We inducted eight PIMS and College of Medicine physicians into the FSU Medical Alumni Hall of Fame at our September alumni reunion in Orlando and plan to grow and develop more events like that one to bring our wonderful graduates together more often.

I've had an amazing time as dean for 14 years and have been blessed with great help and colleagues who made all of the above possible. On behalf of myself and my wife, Diane, I would like to thank all of you for your support, friendship and encouragement as we accomplished so much together.

It has been a joy to serve this mission-focused institution that will always be close to my heart. I look forward to the next exciting chapter for the FSU College of Medicine and will not be far away as we stay here in Tallahassee. Please enjoy this report that describes how far we've come in our first 22 years.

With great admiration and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Fogarty".

John P. Fogarty, M.D.
Dean



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QUICK FACTS

HOW WE'RE UNIQUE

- We're community-based. Instead of learning in an academic medical center, seeing only the sickest patients and learning largely from residents, our students learn one-on-one from community health-care providers in their offices, clinics and other outpatient settings, as well as in area hospitals. Those communities are all over the state, near our six regional campuses and our rural/clinical training sites.
- We're mission-driven. A large part of our mission (see inside front cover) is to serve the underserved. That starts with choosing the right students. Test scores matter, but so do other factors, such as where they grew up, what motivates them and how they've already served the community. We immerse them in a culture that values diversity, mutual respect, teamwork and open communication – and prepare them to become lifelong learners.
- We're focused on primary care. Through 2021, more than half of our M.D. alumni matched in one of these primary-care specialties: internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics or obstetrics-gynecology. Most of our alumni now practicing in Florida are in primary care, and a good percentage of those are in rural or other underserved settings, where recruiting new physicians can be a challenge.

ACADEMIC DEGREES

- M.D.
- Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences
- M.S. in Biomedical Sciences–Bridge to Clinical Medicine Major

- M.S. in Physician Assistant Practice
- B.S. in Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences

FACILITIES

- On the central campus, the College of Medicine's two buildings (including a research building) total 300,000 gross square feet.
- Adding in the leased or owned buildings at the regional campuses and the Immokalee rural training site brings the total to more than 376,000 square feet.
- A 10,000-square-foot primary-care health center (FSU PrimaryHealth) opened in 2019.

STUDENTS

- Medical students: 483
 - o 164 minorities underrepresented in medicine* (82 Hisp/Lat, 51 Black/AA, 31 two or more races)
 - o 223 minorities in all (including Asian)*
 - o 20 race/ethnicity unknown
 - o 45 from a rural background
 - o 69 first-generation college students
 - o 86 socioeconomic disadvantaged
 - o 283 women
 - o 199 men
 - o 1 other
 - o 483 Florida residents
- Bridge students: 13
 - o 11 minorities underrepresented in medicine*
 - o 10 women
 - o 3 men
- PA students: 142
 - o 41 minorities underrepresented in medicine*

- o 54 minorities in all (including Asian)*
- o 108 women
- o 34 men
- Ph.D. students: 48
 - o 20 minorities
 - o 32 women
 - o 16 men

(In addition, one student is pursuing an M.S. in biomedical sciences)

*(AMCAS – AAMC application)

M.D. ALUMNI

Total: 1,721. Of those graduates, 1,007 have completed residency and, in many cases, fellowship training and are now practicing physicians. Of the 1,007 in practice, 52% are practicing in Florida, and 54% of those are practicing primary care. (Learn more about the physicians we produce, starting on page 10)

FACULTY

- Full-time: 172
- Part-time: 3,989 (faculty members who teach in more than one program – for example, teaching M.D. students in addition to PA students or residents – are counted more than once)

REGIONAL CAMPUSES & TRAINING SITES

- Students spend the first half of their College of Medicine experience at the central campus in Tallahassee. Then they branch out across the state, working alongside and learning from community providers at one of the college's regional campuses or training sites.
 - o Daytona Beach Regional Campus
 - o Fort Pierce Regional Campus
 - o Orlando Regional Campus
 - o Pensacola Regional Campus
 - o Sarasota Regional Campus
 - o Tallahassee Regional Campuses
 - o Marianna Rural Program
 - o Immokalee Health Education Site
 - o Thomasville (Georgia) Program
- The college partners with more than 170 health-care organizations statewide and thousands of clinicians to provide clinical training to our students.
- See contact information for regional campuses on page 64.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

- Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine
- Biomedical Sciences
- Clinical Sciences
- Family Medicine and Rural Health
- Geriatrics

ACADEMIC CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

- Area Health Education Center
- Autism Institute
- Center for Behavioral Health Integration
- Center for Brain Repair
- Center for Child Stress & Health

- Center on Global Health
- Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and Law
- Center for Medicine and Public Health
- Center on Patient Safety
- Center for Rural Health Research and Policy
- Center for Strategic Public Health Preparedness
- Center for Translational Behavioral Science

RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

The College of Medicine sponsors the following residency programs:

- Emergency medicine at Sarasota Memorial Health Care System (27 residents).
- Family medicine at Lee Health in Fort Myers (24 residents).
- Family medicine at Winter Haven Hospital (11 residents).
- General surgery at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (12 residents).
- Internal medicine at Lee Health in Cape Coral (inaugural class of 12 residents arrived in June).
- Internal medicine at Sarasota Memorial (37 residents).
- Internal medicine at Tallahassee Memorial (29 residents).
- Psychiatry with TMH at Apalachee Center (new, seeking initial provisional accreditation from the ACGME).

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

- Family medicine global health at Lee Health (2 fellows).
- Hospice and palliative medicine at Sarasota Memorial (2 fellows)
- Dermatology Associates of Tallahassee (2 fellows).

BRIDGE TO CLINICAL MEDICINE PROGRAM

The Bridge program is designed to expand the pool of successful medical school applicants from medically underserved, rural and inner-city communities. It is a 12-month program that provides both education in medical knowledge and experiences in clinical practice.

SCHOOL OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PRACTICE

The PA program graduated its fourth class in December. The challenging 27-month program was designed to prepare graduates to practice medicine as part of the physician-PA team. The first class graduated in 2019 and the program reached full enrollment of 180 in 2021.

An important statement from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) is included with more information about the program on page 39 of this report.

INTERDISCIPLINARY MEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

This program, established in 2016 with the cooperation of six other FSU colleges, is designed for undergraduates interested in health-related careers. A rigorous science curriculum serves as its foundation, and students may select one of three interdisciplinary majors that fits their developing career goals.



MISSION SCORECARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES MISSION MANAGEMENT TOOL 2022
COMPARED TO ALL OTHER U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOLS (155 ACCREDITED SCHOOLS)

All measures are reported as a percentile ranking among U.S. and Canadian M.D. programs.

OUTCOMES



Percentile for practicing
in underserved area



Percentile for training
in family medicine



Percentile for
practicing in-state



Percentile for training
in primary care



Percentile for practicing
in primary care

DIVERSITY



Percentile for graduates
who are Black or
African-American



Percentile for
graduates who are
Hispanic, Latino or
Spanish



Percentile for
faculty who are
women



Percentile for faculty who are
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish; American
Indian or Alaska Native; Black or
African-American; or Native Hawaiian
or Other Pacific Islander

CLERKSHIPS



Quality of OB-GYN
clerkships



Quality of general
surgery clerkships



Quality of family
medicine clerkships



Quality of psychiatry
clerkships

SERVICE



In a loan forgiveness
program with a service
commitment



Field experience in
community health



Military service



Plan to care for the
medically underserved



Graduates who are prepared
to care for people of
different backgrounds



Experience in health
disparities



Experience in cultural
awareness/competence

MISSION SCORECARD

MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATION QUESTIONNAIRE 2022 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

FSU*	Other Schools	Question
93.5	91.5	I am confident I have acquired the skills required to begin a residency program.
94.4	94.2	I have the fundamental understanding of common conditions and their management encountered in the major clinical disciplines.
100.0	98.3	I have the communication skills necessary to interact with patients and health professionals.
96.3	95	I have basic skills in clinical decision-making and the application of evidence-based information to medical practice.
92.6	94.2	I have a fundamental understanding of the issues in social sciences of medicine.
99.1	98.1	I understand the ethical and professional values that are expected of the profession.
98.2	94.2	I believe I am adequately prepared to care for patients from different backgrounds.
92.5	82.1	I have the skills to apply the principles of high-value care (quality, safety, cost) in medical decision-making.
95.3	89.1	I have the skills to address the social determinants that differentially influence the health status of patients.
89.8	89.5	My knowledge or opinion was influenced or changed by becoming more aware of the perspectives of individuals from different backgrounds.
85.2	70.4	The diversity within my medical school enhanced my training and skills to work with individuals from different backgrounds.
81.6	71.1	My medical school has done a good job of fostering and nurturing my development as a person.
90.5	91.2	My medical school has done a good job of fostering and nurturing my development as a future physician.

According to the U.S. News & World Report Graduate Program Survey, the FSU College of Medicine ranks (among 123 medical schools who completed the survey)

13th
in diversity

13th
for percentage of graduates
providing direct patient care in
medically underserved areas

FACULTY PROVIDED EFFECTIVE TEACHING DURING THE CLERKSHIP*

Class	FSU	Other Schools
Family medicine	94.4	87
Internal medicine	95.3	92.9
Neurology	94.4	83.7
OB-GYN	93.6	77.4
Pediatrics	91.6	90.2
Psychiatry	92.6	88
Surgery	87	76.1

* Compared to graduates of all other U.S. medical schools, FSU students who answered “agree” or “strongly agree”.

** How well they prepared students for clinical clerkships and electives. Percent who rated “good” or “excellent”.



RATING SCIENCE COURSES BASIC TO MEDICINE**

Class	FSU	Other Schools
Biochemistry	84.4	66
Biostatistics and epidemiology	79.8	69.8
Genetics	83.8	72.6
Gross anatomy	97.1	85.9
Immunology	83.1	81.5
Introduction to clinical medicine/ intro to the patient	97.1	91.8
Microanatomy/histology	81.9	72.1
Microbiology	88.8	85.5
Neuroscience	84.1	83.7
Pathology	92.5	84.8
Pharmacology	93.4	81.2
Physiology	93.4	89.6
Behavioral science	93.4	88.5
Pathophysiology of disease	94.4	93.4
Emergency medicine	93.4	87.7
Family medicine	93.6	86.6
Internal medicine	89.8	91.4
Neurology	89.5	80.2
OB-GYN	92.6	78.8
Pediatrics	88.8	88.1
Psychiatry	96.3	88.7
Surgery	90.7	82.8





FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY LED THE WAY
IN CALLING FOR MORE PHYSICIANS

ALUMNI IMPACT

A thick, solid orange horizontal bar that extends from the right side of the text 'ALUMNI IMPACT' across the bottom of the slide.





Keeping the community healthy has taken on new meaning since early 2020, when a pandemic created daunting stressors on the people at the frontlines of our health-care system. The Florida State University College of Medicine was created in 2000 at a time when prescient planners of a new four-year program in Tallahassee were way ahead of the Association of American Medical Colleges and American Medical Association in predicting physician shortages.

The College of Medicine came about, in part, to produce more primary-care physicians and has been successful at doing so through 18 graduating classes.

The needs have never been greater.

FSU's medical school was the first to open in the U.S. in two decades. The AAMC and AMA were forced to look anew at the physician workforce after telling FSU there were more than enough doctors in this country. In 2006, an about-face led to a call from the AAMC for a 30% INCREASE in medical school enrollment.

Enrollment reached that goal, expanding from 16,488 medical students in 2002 (when FSU's inaugural class was completing its first year) to 21,622 students in 2018-19. Twenty-nine new accredited medical schools opened during that time, along with 17 new schools of osteopathic medicine.

Combined, the new schools and additional enrollment at existing programs increased enrollment by 52%. Yet the AAMC states there will be a shortage of 122,000 physicians by 2032, including up to 55,000 primary-care physicians.

As the numbers on these pages attest, the FSU College of Medicine has been a leader in producing not just a greater concentration of primary-care physicians, but physicians in other specialties where the needs are greatest.

ALUMNI

at a glance

1,007

Practicing Physicians

86TH

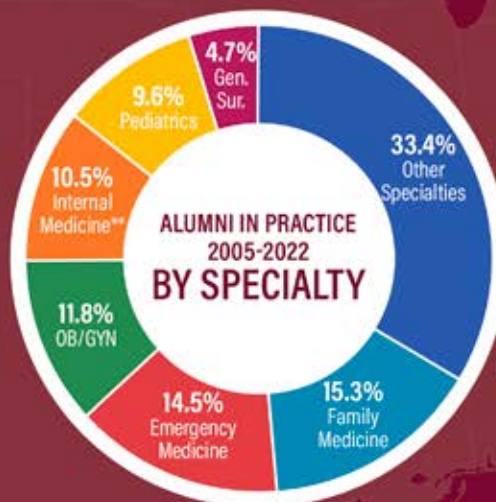
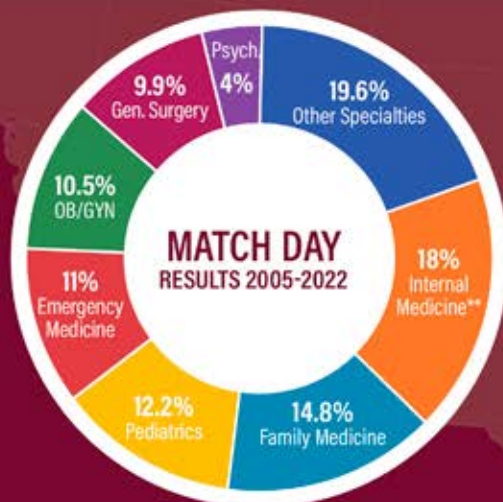
percentile nationally for alumni physicians practicing primary care¹

95TH

percentile nationally for practicing physicians in underserved areas (rural & urban)¹

83RD

percentile nationally for alumni practicing physicians in-state¹



Rank	State	No. of Practing Alumni
1	Florida	523
2	North Carolina	51
3	Georgia	48
4	California	35
5	Texas	34
6	Alabama	23
	South Carolina	23
7	New York	18
8	Pennsylvania	16
	Washington	16
9	Colorado	15
	Louisiana	15
	Virginia	15
10	Tennessee	14
11	Illinois	11
	Maryland	11
	Ohio	11
12	Michigan	8
	Missouri	8
13	Arizona	7
14	Massachusetts	6
	New Jersey	6
	Oregon	6
15	District of Columbia	5
	Indiana	5
16	Other*	33

*Not currently practicing and/or not currently in residency training

**Nationally, only about 20-25 percent of physicians who match in internal medicine go on to practice general internal medicine, according to the American College of Physicians. The rest subspecialize and do not practice in the primary care specialty of internal medicine. Of all College of Medicine alumni who matched in internal medicine (2005-2018) and have had time to complete that training, 50% are now practicing general internal medicine.

¹ According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

PRACTICING ALUMNI IN FLORIDA

► 52%

Of great significance toward addressing critical needs in Florida, **62.4%** of the alumni physicians practicing in the state are in a primary-care specialty. According to the Florida governor's physician workforce analysis from November, only **31.4%** of the state's licensed physicians are providing direct patient care in a primary-care specialty. By comparison, **51%** of FSU alumni physicians in Florida are providing care in those specialties.

14

FSU alumni are practicing in a county with fewer than 10 physicians¹

81

FSU alumni in a county that has between 10 and 25 physicians¹

121

Alumni physicians located in Panhandle between Perry and Pensacola

148

Alumni are on the College of Medicine Clinical Faculty

300

alumni physicians practicing in Florida are in one of our regional campus communities.

OTHER SPECIALTIES



5.6%
Anesthesiology



4.6%
General Surgery



3.2%
Orthopedic Surgery



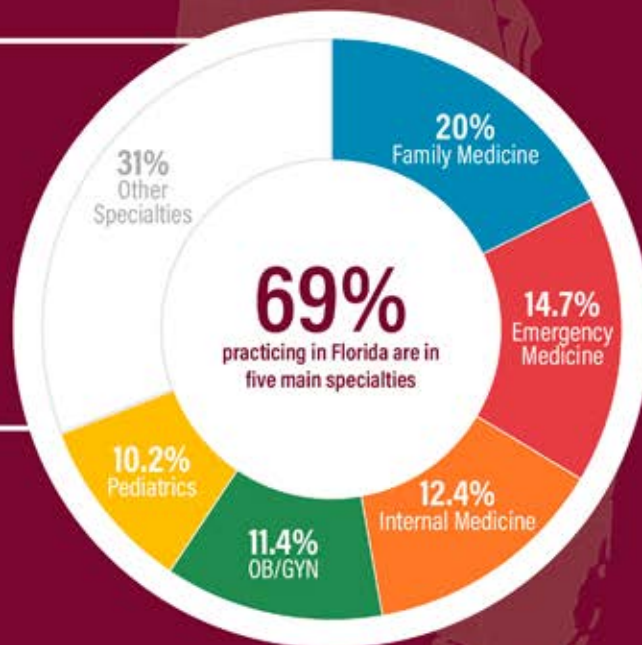
1.8%
Dermatology



1.6%
Psychiatry



13.4%
Other



¹ According to the governor's workforce analysis

“The regional campus model is genius. It’s just me and my attending for six weeks and it’s incredible. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve spoken to students from other med schools who have looked at me in awe because of the things I have gotten to do that they have not. Every externship I did, I shocked my attendings by my knowledge, hands-on experience, patient interactions, and usefulness that always exceeded my peers from other schools and often rivaled that of the interns.”

- Anonymous – Class of 2022 student comment from AAMC Graduation Questionnaire

CONSISTENT RESULTS: A CAMPUS COMPARISON

Breakdown of alumni results by FSU College of Medicine regional campus

	Daytona Beach	Fort Pierce	Orlando	Pensacola	Sarasota	Tallahassee
First students	2007	2007	2003	2003	2005	2003
Alumni	266	236	365	295	288	271
Percent in practice	55	53.2	61.5	65.5	57.2	62.1
Percent in residency or fellowship	45	45.8	38.5	34.2	42.8	37.9
Percent practicing in Florida and bordering counties	49.6	54.8	56.4	49.5	57.6	46.5
Percent practicing in the region	33	17.5	41.2	30	34.5	24.2
Percent who are College of Medicine faculty	17	12.7	19.3	23.3	14.5	53.4
Percent practicing primary care	49.6	47	35.5	48.4	48.3	63.7
Percent practicing emergency medicine or a surgical specialty	24.4	23.5	28.4	25.3	18.5	16

(M.D. ALUMNI 2005-2022)

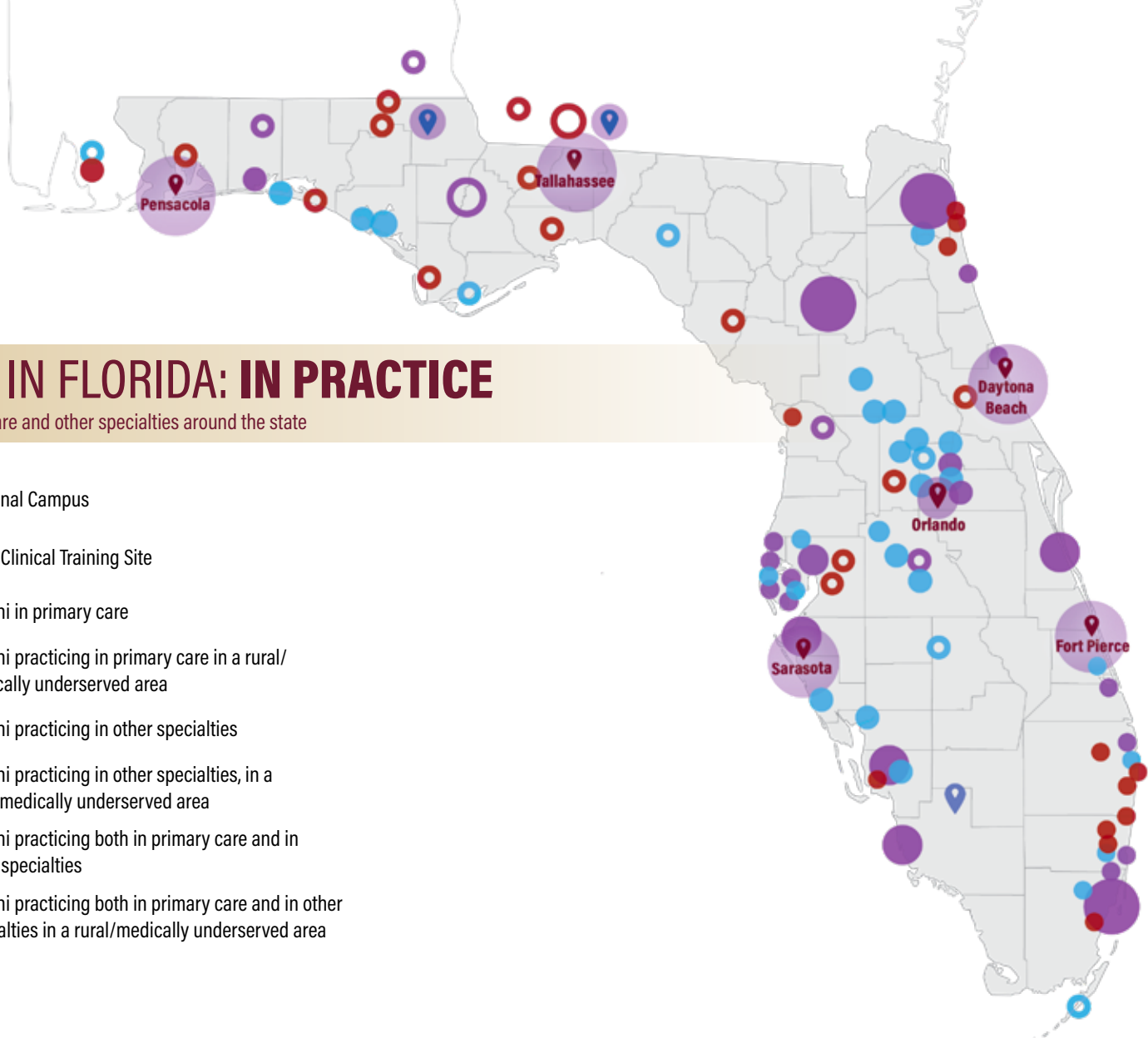


ALUMNI IN FLORIDA: LOCATION/ CITY

Cities in Florida where our alumni are practicing

-  Regional Campus
-  Rural Clinical Training Site
-  Rural/ Medically Underserved area





ALUMNI IN FLORIDA: IN PRACTICE

Alumni in primary care and other specialties around the state

-  Regional Campus
-  Rural Clinical Training Site
-  Alumni in primary care
-  Alumni practicing in primary care in a rural/medically underserved area
-  Alumni practicing in other specialties
-  Alumni practicing in other specialties, in a rural/medically underserved area
-  Alumni practicing both in primary care and in other specialties
-  Alumni practicing both in primary care and in other specialties in a rural/medically underserved area

A roadmap for FSU Health



Florida State University officials have been working to lay the groundwork for FSU Health, a health care ecosystem poised to transform health care delivery in North Florida.

“FSU Health will reshape patient care, education and research throughout Florida,” said FSU President Richard McCullough. “The Florida Panhandle is booming and the possibilities — and needs — in our region have never been greater. We are at a very exciting time as we lay the foundation for this monumental project.”

Over the past several years, Florida State University has been growing its health research portfolio while also pursuing partnerships with major health care systems throughout North Florida, including Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, Mayo Clinic and others. But the decision by the Florida Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis to award FSU \$125 million

to build the academic health center of the future kicked those efforts into high gear.

Over the summer, university leadership established formal working groups to identify opportunities and develop a road map to facilitate expansion of the FSU Health ecosystem, in research, education, clinical affairs and facilities. To facilitate this effort, the university partnered with the global consulting firm Guidehouse to systematically review research, education and clinical opportunities, with involvement of faculty, administration, and staff from across the campus.

The university has also started working with a design partner on the academic health center.

“This is the most ambitious intellectual project the university has ever taken on and will change the face of the university for the next 100 years,” said Provost Jim Clark. “We are taking a systematic approach to make sure that we get this right.”

When McCullough arrived at FSU in August 2021, he saw an opportunity for FSU to make an even bigger impact on the region, specifically in the Panhandle where there are fewer medical providers and treatment options. The university through its College of Medicine has a commitment to train primary care physicians who will help provide care to underserved populations. Through FSU Health, the university will build on that legacy by expanding its clinical research programs and exploring innovative digital health care solutions.

“The timing for this couldn’t be better,” Clark said. “A number of initiatives are gelling at just the right

time with the arrival of new faculty members and administrators who are committed to this project.”

Among the new hires is Vice President for Research Stacey Patterson as well as two new faculty members in the College of Nursing who will bring significant National Institutes of Health funding and new expertise to the university. The university is also wrapping up a search for a new dean for the College of Medicine.

While the university continues to work out the details of the Tallahassee Center, it is also actively working on FSU Health projects in Panama City. The Latitude Margaritaville Watersound, a 55 plus living community in Panama City, includes space for FSU Health.

McCullough, Clark and Patterson recently engaged in a weeklong tour throughout the Panhandle visiting health care professionals, entrepreneurs, educators, developers, the military and others interested in health care delivery. Discussing how FSU Health can help serve the needs of the Panhandle was a focal point for discussions.

“We have a real opportunity to create meaningful change for Panhandle residents who currently drive several hours to Tallahassee, Gainesville or Mobile for their medical needs,” Patterson said. “The FSU Health initiative can create better care options while also creating jobs, educational opportunities and a major expansion of research and development in the region.”

Editor’s note: this story was produced and distributed by the University News office in December 2022.





"FSU College of Medicine research has been on an upward trajectory that has been critical to the growth in overall research funding at the university...I think people are surprised when they see the trajectory our research funding is on in light of the way the medical school was designed and the legislative mandate that guides our funding. In fact, our research is mission-focused to improve the health care of the communities we serve and is aligned with where the National Institutes of Health see the trajectory of translational research."

– Jeffrey Joyce, senior associate dean for research and graduate programs

DISCOVERY





CTBS Science



'TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE': HOW IT'S CHANGING OUR RESEARCH LANDSCAPE

A big part of the mission of the FSU College of Medicine is improving the lives of people in the communities we serve. There is considerable research, discovery and team-based science directed toward improving the health of all people, at all ages. Translating the discovery of new therapies, interventions, and drugs into successful treatments to improve health is called “translational science.”

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health, has been awarding major grants for a decade with the mission to “transform the translational science process so that new treatments and cures for disease can be delivered to patients faster.”

These awards to major universities and research institutes, termed Clinical Translational Science Awards, support innovative approaches to training scientists at all levels to become translational scientists.

The College of Medicine has had a translational science partnership since 2009 with the University of Florida. Over the years, the partnership has evolved and grown and in 2019, the UF-FSU hub, one of only two Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) hubs in Florida, received a five-year, \$29 million award. Titled “Together: Transforming and Translating Discovery to improve Health,” it is one of 55 grants that have been awarded across the country to help speed up the process of transforming scientific discovery into patient care.

Since that grant was awarded, a multidisciplinary team directed by Jeffrey Joyce, senior associate dean

for research and graduate programs, supports multiple programs that have created a multi-college effort to increase translational science research. The College of Medicine has seen a corresponding increase in grant funding.

Though it's only one small portion of the College of Medicine's research portfolio, it is a significant one, and its focus aligns closely with our mission. As for the College of Medicine's portfolio? It has experienced unprecedented growth under Joyce's leadership, reaching \$144.1 million in active awards as of Jan. 1. That's almost \$20 million more than a year earlier, and about \$60 million more than five years ago.

“FSU College of Medicine research has been on an upward trajectory that has been critical to the growth in overall research funding at the university,” Joyce said. “I think people are surprised when they see the trajectory our research funding is on in light of the way the medical school was designed and the legislative mandate that guides our funding. In fact, our research is mission-focused to improve the health care of the communities we serve and is aligned with where the National Institutes of Health sees the trajectory of translational research.

“The size of our awards continues to increase, indicative of multi-investigator team science success in obtaining extramural funding.”

Under the CTSA grant, FSU has been able to focus its efforts in “translational science that engages communities in developing and testing biobehavioral interventions across the translational spectrum, to

address sociocultural determinants of health.”

An example of those efforts is the success of **Sylvie Naar**, Endowed Distinguished Professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine. Naar created and is director of the College of Medicine's Center for Translational Behavioral Science (CTBS). Her work illustrates how translational science is changing the research landscape at FSU.

The Center for Translational Behavioral Science

Naar, a world-renowned translational science researcher who came to FSU in 2018, leads an interdisciplinary team that includes FSU Assistant Vice President for Research and Academic Affairs **Norman Anderson** and College of Social Work Associate Professor **Carrie Pettus**. In fall 2021, they received the NIH Director's Transformative Research Award, a \$3.1 million grant to investigate racial inequities in the nation's health-care system. It was the first of its kind to be administered by the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, part of the NIH.

"The scientific literature has clearly established the existence of racial bias within the health-care system, so much so that it has recently been declared a public health emergency," Anderson said. "Yet, there are few, if any, successful approaches to addressing this bias. Our project might be among the first to design, from the ground up, interventions that might reduce racial bias in health care, especially at the system level."

The team is collaborating with patients, community members, health administrators, health-care providers and experts in the field to identify innovations and increase the likelihood of existing health systems and community partners adopting new evidence-based practices that could change the way health care is delivered. Their goal is to improve health outcomes among people who are marginalized and don't really show up for care.

"With everything that's been going on in the world, it's a recognition of the effects of racism on health and mortality, which is an affront to the social

structure of our society," Naar said. "Being awarded a grant to transform health-equity research by addressing racism was just overwhelming to me from the standpoint of recognizing we are taking meaningful steps as a society to actually do something about it."

Also late last year, Naar was awarded a \$6.5 million NIH grant to study how to prevent HIV spread in "emerging adults" ages 18-29. Members of this demographic experience significant changes in social roles, expectations and responsibilities that can leave them vulnerable to increased alcohol use and poor self-management of HIV infections. The virtual study will collect data via wrist sensors worn by participants, and interventions will be conducted through videoconferencing. One added benefit of the study being virtual is that participants can be recruited from rural as well as urban areas, where most study participants have been recruited in the past.

The Clinical Translational Behavioral Science Community Youth Board, created by Naar, helps recruit participants through social media and dating apps. Since its creation, the board has organized as a nonprofit, providing advisory services to FSU and outreach to youth across the state.

"Recruiting youth living with HIV [to participate] is not easy," Naar said. "Youth Board members can say, 'OK, Florida State's Dr. Naar is someone you can trust, you should consider enrolling in these studies.' That makes a big difference. That's a very different model of community engagement that we're rolling out with this grant."

The five-year grant, awarded by NIH's National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, also

involves researchers from the University of Florida, the University of Central Florida and Nova Southeastern University.

The CTBS mission – to promote public health and health equity by working with researchers, treatment providers and communities to develop interventions reaching diverse and underserved populations in local communities and beyond – dovetails with College of Medicine strategic initiatives.

Other funded research involving the CTBS involves using public libraries to become disaster 'resiliency hubs,' facilities tailored to support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and provide technical assistance before, during and after a disaster. Associate Professor **Scott M. Pickett** and Assistant Professor **Jessica De Leon** are working with an interdisciplinary team that includes faculty from the Colleges of Communication and Information, Social Sciences and Public Policy, and Social Work, and the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering.

The research focuses on Calhoun County in the Florida Panhandle, an area still reeling from Hurricane Michael's Category 5 wrath in 2018. A National Science Foundation grant for a little over \$581,000 awarded in December is funding the 12-month pilot project, and findings will be shared with all 67 Florida counties to address the resiliency gap rural citizens often experience in natural disasters.

"It's called SOLAR and it stands for Skills for Life Adjustment and Resilience," Pickett said. "SOLAR is a community-implemented intervention to help people recover from natural disaster-type traumas."

The SOLAR program recruits non-mental health

practitioners, in this case librarians, and trains them to deliver a therapeutic intervention and teach skills people can implement that will help foster recovery from the trauma.

“Public librarians are actually contractually obligated to assist with natural disaster recovery efforts. So, in some cases they don’t even evacuate because they have to be available and the libraries – in many cases – double as shelters,” Pickett said.

“One of the Calhoun County Public Libraries basically housed, sheltered and fed 144 people for about six weeks after Hurricane Michael,” he added. “It’s really unfortunate because a lot of people are still struggling with mental health kinds of outcomes and also with other stressors.”

Assistant Professor **Julia Sheffler** is using another UF-FSU CTSA grant to develop interventions for elderly people at risk for Alzheimer’s. She’s developing ways to help them adhere to a keto diet, which can reduce the risk. Associate Professor of Behavioral Sciences **Nicole Ennis** received a \$356,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. The goal of the study – supported by the NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse – is to assess the effect of medical marijuana on response time, attention, and executive functions in people 50 and older. Ennis will complete the study in collaboration with Sherilene Classen, chair of Occupational Therapy in the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions. Ennis, who holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, and Classen are the multiple-principal investigators.



Behavior, personality and disease: finding links.

Professor of Geriatrics **Antonio Terracciano** published an article in *Biological Psychiatry* describing how changes in the brain associated with Alzheimer's disease are often visible early on in individuals with personality traits associated with the condition. That would be people who scored high in neuroticism (a predisposition for negative emotions) and low in conscientiousness (a tendency to be careful, organized, goal-directed and responsible).

Professor **Angelina Sutin** and Assistant Professor **Martina Luchetti** of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine and postdoctoral researcher **Damaris Aschwanden** were co-authors.

Terracciano is internationally recognized for expertise in the relationships between personality, health and aging. He was named a Fulbright Scholar in April 2020 and was invited to live, study and conduct research at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland. His fellowship research seeks to ascertain how maintaining physical activity, combined with strength and cognitive training, benefits older adults. The "Fulbright award to Finland" is a "reflection of your leadership and contributions to society," the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board told him. The 12-person selection board is appointed by the president and funded by Congress.

Luchetti and **Angelina Sutin** also published a comprehensive, nationwide study that looked at the effect of COVID-19 stay-at-home orders on feelings of loneliness. Researchers surveyed more than 2,000 people before and during stay-at-home orders and found that overall loneliness did not increase but instead, Americans showed resilience as people felt more supported by others than before the pandemic.

The findings were part of an even larger study looking at potential changes in the "big five" personality traits — extraversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness — as a result of the initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. Sutin and her team found stability in the personality traits despite lockdown measures.

Subsequent research into the same data set, the online Understanding America Study, showed that as the pandemic lingered, young adults appeared to experience personality changes. **Sutin, Luchetti, Terracciano, Aschwanden**, post-doctoral scholar **Amanda A. Sesker** and others found that young adults became moodier, more prone to stress, less cooperative and trusting, and less restrained and responsible. The oldest group of adults showed no statistically significant changes.

Sutin also was lead author on a study that showed a link between an individual's sense of purpose and improved memory, particularly the ability to recall vivid details. **Luchetti** and **Terracciano** were co-authors. The study, which focused on memories related to the Covid-19 pandemic, was published in the journal *Memory*. "Personal memories serve really important functions in everyday life," Sutin said. "They help us to set goals, control emotions and build intimacy with others. We also know people with a greater sense of purpose perform better on objective memory tests, like remembering a list of words. We were interested in whether purpose was also associated with the quality of memories of important personal experiences because such qualities may be one reason why purpose is associated with better mental and physical health."







Research that listens

Community engagement is a core tenet of translational science, in that research is enhanced when researchers engage and learn from the community where they work. **Joedrecka Brown Speights**, chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health, leads that team. It is unique in that it has both FSU faculty and a community advisory board, all leaders who are committed to ensuring that diversity and equity are the cornerstones of health care.

One of the major initiatives of the team is hosting an annual “Our Community, Our Health” event that features multiple speakers from the community and the universities. The event in 2020, titled “Covid-19 as a health disparity magnifier: the untold stories” featured a live discussion via Zoom about how health-care disparities and health delivery equity challenges in Leon and Gadsden counties were further magnified by the pandemic.

Building the next generation of researchers

Naar is also involved in two projects that help junior faculty launch their research careers. One is an interdisciplinary project funded by NIH to build a diverse community of early-career researchers committed to improving mental health and chronic disease prevention and management. FSU will use the \$12.8 million grant to create the FLORIDA-FIRST BRIGADE, designed to support new tenure-track assistant professors and build a research community committed to diversity and inclusive excellence by developing an innovative model to retool the processes for minority recruitment, advancement, and retention at FSU. Researchers from the College of Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Psychology will join Naar in leading the project.

The other is a program under the umbrella of the joint UF/FSU CTSA grant called the K Scholar program, which supports mentored career development for junior faculty beginning early-career translation-

al and/or clinical research. Part of the Training and Workforce Development Program, K Scholar is one of several teams that support career training in translational science and is led by Naar.

K Scholar includes 16 early-career scientists: eight from the College of Medicine; two from the College of Communication and Information; three from the College of Nursing; and one each from Education, Social Work and Computer Science. Their training includes preparing competitive proposals for external funding of their research, formal mentorship with experts in their field of interest, and formal coursework in responsible conduct of research, behavioral sciences, biostatistics and epidemiology.

Team Science trains the scholars in methodological strategies to enhance the collaborative impact of team-based research. Its impact is enhanced by providing workshops for graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and early to mid-stage career fac-

ulty. The medical student research program is led by **Suzanne Baker**, assistant dean for graduate programs and medical student research.

The Network for Clinical Research and Training is also supported by the CTSA. Based in Tallahassee, it has a second location at the medical school’s Orlando Regional Campus. The five-member team provides direct support for many aspects of clinical research, including clinical trial protocol development, human subjects research training, development of regulatory documents, clinical data acquisition, and data management and analysis.



Myocarditis Data Following COVID-19 Vaccine

D.S. , Hargrett J. Roberts, B.S. , Carter O'Leary, M.S. , Caporaso A. Patrick, B.S. , Timothy D. Gammage B.S. , Delaney J. Rabi, B.S. ,
Michael L. Swannick, M.D.
Florida State University College of Medicine

Intro

Results

Discussion

The laboratory and diagnostic findings results for the myocarditis patients were consistent and comparable before and after the vaccination period. There is no evidence of myocarditis in the myocardium. There is no evidence of myocarditis in the myocardium. There is no evidence of myocarditis in the myocardium.

Table 1. Summary of the myocarditis cases.

Case	Age	Sex	Onset	Duration	Location	Findings
1	21	M	10/10/20	10/10/20	Myocardium	Myocarditis
2	22	F	10/10/20	10/10/20	Myocardium	Myocarditis
3	23	M	10/10/20	10/10/20	Myocardium	Myocarditis
4	24	F	10/10/20	10/10/20	Myocardium	Myocarditis
5	25	M	10/10/20	10/10/20	Myocardium	Myocarditis

Table 2. Summary of the myocarditis cases.

Case	Age	Sex	Onset	Duration	Location	Findings
6	26	F	10/10/20	10/10/20	Myocardium	Myocarditis
7	27	M	10/10/20	10/10/20	Myocardium	Myocarditis
8	28	F	10/10/20	10/10/20	Myocardium	Myocarditis
9	29	M	10/10/20	10/10/20	Myocardium	Myocarditis

An analysis of the case reports demonstrated a consistently increasing pattern in that there are 40 reported to a medical facility with a chief complaint of acute onset chest pain following COVID-19 vaccination. A diagnosis of myocarditis was stated by laboratory and diagnostic findings results (1). However, such patient was reported to have a normal ECG (2). Within a week of onset presentation of symptoms, such patient achieved resolution and subsequent discharge.

While the pathogenesis of vaccine-induced myocarditis remains unknown, a few hypotheses of the etiology are proposed, such as immunomodulation, autoimmune-related cytokine release, or direct infection of the myocardium through the expression of viral proteins (3, 4, 5). Further studies need to be done to determine the exact mechanism.

Although the incidence of vaccine-induced myocarditis is low, it is a serious condition that can lead to death. The clinical presentation of vaccine-induced myocarditis is similar to that of viral myocarditis, with chest pain, shortness of breath, and fatigue. The diagnosis is made by laboratory and diagnostic findings results (6). The treatment is supportive care, and the prognosis is generally good (7). The incidence of vaccine-induced myocarditis is increasing, and it is important to be aware of the symptoms and seek medical attention if they occur.

This study is the first to report the incidence of vaccine-induced myocarditis in the United States. The results of this study are consistent with those of other studies, which have reported an increasing incidence of vaccine-induced myocarditis in the United States.

Natalia A. Carr
Student

Biomedical sciences research leads to promising discoveries

Sanjay Kumar, an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, made a novel discovery that could lead to effective therapies for temporal lobe epilepsy. Kumar and his team found that an amino acid produced by the brain – called D-serine – could play a crucial role in preventing a type of epileptic seizure. Such seizures can cause lasting damage in patients, including neuronal death and loss of neuron function. Kumar's research suggests that D-serine could block certain receptors in the brain that are responsible for temporal lobe epileptic seizures.

With help from Ph.D. candidates, a medical student and biomedical sciences faculty member **Branko Stefanovic**, Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences **Akash Gunjan** found a potential treatment option for keloids, a type of non-cancerous skin tumor that causes discomfort in patients and is notoriously difficult to treat. Keloids are normally removed surgically but regrow almost 100% of the time. The research team found that a single dose of low-energy radiation delivered just skin deep within three months of surgery is highly effective in preventing recurrence.

Through a partnership with the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, **Choogon Lee**, associate professor of biomedical sciences, and the research team received a \$500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop new drug-loadable and fully degradable bio-adhesives. Biomedical adhesives can be used to deliver drugs like antibiotics to localized areas. Newly developed adhesives are being sought out because existing adhesives have significant limitations, like poor wet adhesion and complex application methods.

Associate Professor **Jose Pinto** co-authored a study that identified new genetic variants that could cause heart disease in infants. Researchers looked at the role of a protein called troponin and how it works to regulate the heart's pumping of blood. Troponin has three parts that must interact and work in harmony to keep blood pumping properly. Pinto and his team found that certain interactions of troponin's components can decrease the force of the heartbeat. The discovery could lead to new treatments for people suffering from heart disease.

Associate Professor **Timothy Megraw** and his colleagues are making strides in understanding how information is organized and how it travels within a cell. Cellular information, molecules and organelles travel along microtubules, which work like highways or conveyor belts in cells. Megraw and his team uncovered new insights on how microtubules are assembled and organized. Proper assembly and trafficking within microtubules is vital for the transfer of collagen, a protein necessary for healthy function of internal organs. By studying this process, researchers can uncover more clues about how and why things go wrong in cellular processes that are unique to differentiated cell types.

Pradeep Bhide, the Jim and Betty Ann Rodgers Eminent Scholar Chair of Developmental Neuroscience, is studying the risks of nicotine exposure among pregnant women and the potential for adverse neurodevelopmental effects to be transmitted to future generations. Bhide and his team were awarded more than \$600,000 from the Florida Department of Health's James and Esther King Biomedical Re-

search Program to look at how nicotine can harm descendants in multiple generations beyond a pregnant mother and the child in her womb.

Trefoil Therapeutics, co-founded by Professor **Michael Blaber**, is beginning its first clinical trial using regenerative treatment for patients with corneal endothelial dystrophies. The therapy uses technology developed by Blaber and licensed by FSU.

Suo research enhances our understanding of how DNA repairs itself

Research led by Eminent Professor **Zucaï Suo** into how damaged DNA repairs itself has expanded our understanding of the process and may lead to new chemotherapy treatments for cancer and other disorders.

In one of the pathways involved in the repair process, called Base Excision Repair (BER), damaged DNA is removed and a combination of proteins and enzymes work together to create DNA and fill in and then seal the gaps. Suo's team discovered that BER has a built-in mechanism to increase its effectiveness; it just needs to be captured at a very precise point.

In BER, an enzyme called polymerase B (PolyB) fulfills two functions: It creates DNA and it initiates a

process to clean up leftover "chemical junk." Through five years of study, Suo's team learned that by capturing PolyB when it is naturally cross-linked with DNA, the enzyme will create new genetic material at a speed 17 times faster than when the two are not cross-linked. This suggests that the two functions of PolyB are interlocked, not independent, during BER.

The research improves understanding of cellular genomic stability, drug efficacy and drug resistance. The NIH-funded study was published in the Proceedings of the *National Academy of Sciences*.

Kabbaj team studying effects of isolation, partner separation



Biomedical Sciences Professor **Mohamed Kabbaj** and **Zuoxin Wang**, distinguished research professor of neuroscience in Psychology, received a \$3 million grant in March to continue their study of prairie voles, one of the few mammalian species that are monogamous. That makes the small rodents excellent models for studying the effects of acute and social isolation, as well as partner separation. Like humans, they can display anxiety and depression-like behaviors.

Previous research by Kabbaj and Wang, as well as others, established that voles develop strong social bonds with their partners and set a great foundation for some of the mechanisms and brain structures implicated in pair bonding. This study will examine it in the context of brain circuitry. "We're interested in seeing what happens when you break the bonds and remove one partner," Kabbaj said, "how it affects the

health of the surviving partner in terms of mood, anxiety and depression."

They will examine the circuitry and the role of oxytocin in mediating the effects of the separation by either activating the hormone and neurotransmitter or inhibiting it in three groups of voles: isolated voles, voles whose life partners have been removed, and voles who share space with a friend of the same sex.

"We're also going to bring the partners back together, to see if they can recover," Kabbaj said.

The research is expected to shed more light on what is wrong in humans who suffer from partner loss and how targeting their brain circuitry could remediate some of the effects.

Wang seeks to pinpoint exact moment neurodevelopmental disorder begins

Biomedical Sciences Associate Professor **Yuan Wang** was awarded a \$2 million, five-year NIH grant to identify the origin of the synaptic dysfunction responsible for a variety of neurodevelopmental conditions, including ADHD, autism and cerebral palsy.

Wang's research has focused on brain development and regulation. This study will attempt to pinpoint the exact moment *in utero* when brain development changes, which could open the door to intervention strategies to potentially lessen or prevent the dysfunction – and the subsequent genetic disorder.

The team, which includes Northeast Ohio Medical University researchers, will study endbulb synapses in chickens, which are specialized terminals between the ear and the brain and the first of the synapses in the brain receiving the signal from the ear. This model is widely used to study the anatomy and physiology of auditory processing at discrete periods of development.

"The chicken is actually a classical animal model for studying brain development," she said. "We can actually follow the individual cells, how they grow, how they form connectivity with other cells, right in front of our eyes."

Autism Institute continues to lead in ASD research

Distinguished Research Professor **Amy Wetherby** continues to bring in grants for research to the College of Medicine's Autism Institute, most recently as the lead institution in a collaboration among three prestigious universities that netted FSU \$11.3 million of a total \$17.6 million grant over five years.

Partnering with researchers from Emory University and the University of California Los Angeles, Wetherby's team is working to demonstrate the effectiveness of Early Social Interaction (ESI) using mobile coaching to improve outcomes for toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, along with illumination of health-care disparities and civil injustices, underscores the challenge of inequalities faced by minority and low-resource communities. Documenting the therapeutic value of ESI using mobile technology to teach parents in natural environments will offer a community-viable and affordable treatment. Maximizing the use of mobile technology in community-based services will make the treatment ready for immediate, rapid, scalable and sustainable use across the United States that can lead to transformative changes in healthcare services for toddlers with autism and their families.

Wetherby also made news recently when a study she led illustrated how infants with ASD were already exhibiting fewer social-communication skills at 9 months old. Her study was

published in *Child Development*.

It has been difficult to identify early points of divergence in pre-linguistic infants, but by examining early social, communication and play skills including eye gaze, facial expression, gestures and sounds, the team identified a critical three-month developmental window before the child's first birthday. Very early intervention during this window may help shift developmental trajectories for infants with ASD.

The work was supported by grants from several institutions, including the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Communication Disorders, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of South Carolina.



GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AT FLORIDA STATE



Boyer



Meek



Littles

The College of Medicine's graduate medical education program continues to expand and enjoy success through progress with program accreditation and the graduation of residents and fellows, many of whom are choosing to remain in Florida to practice.

William C. Boyer, D.H.Sc., replaced **Joan Meek, M.D.**, as associate dean of graduate medical education and designated institutional official in May. He previously served as the chief academic officer and designated institutional official for Crozer Health, a four-hospital system in Philadelphia.

Under the direction of Meek, Acting DIO **Alma Littles, M.D.**, and Boyer, seven of the college's nine sponsored graduate programs all achieved or maintained continued accreditation status. The other two are new programs both successful in achieving initial accreditation: the internal medicine residency program with Lee Health in Cape Coral and the hospice and palliative care fellowship at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

Other recent noteworthy developments in graduate medical education at Florida State:

- Florida State University received a 10-year institutional accreditation Jan. 18 from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), a distinction indicating it is approved to continue administering GME programs through 2030.
- The family medicine residency program at Lee Health in Fort Myers expanded its number of approved residency slots from 24 to 27.
- Ninety-one residents or fellows completed FSU programs over the last two years and all found positions – either in fellowships or practice. Twenty-three are now practicing with FSU affiliate hospitals and 69% have remained in Florida.
- Both the family medicine residency at Lee Health and the internal medicine residency at Sarasota Memo-

rial had 100% pass rates for residents on their specialty board exams.

- As with FSU College of Medicine enrollment, FSU GME programs continue to attract a diverse community of residents. Of 142 currently enrolled, 17% are Hispanic and 11% are Black/African American.
- FSU has taken additional steps to address wellness among its residents, fellows and GME faculty, including the initiation of the Mayo Well-Being Index Survey. FSU residency programs ranked in the top tier nationally with 81% participation on the initial rollout. The index focuses on six main dimensions of wellness and makes resources available to assist, where needed. The survey was administered twice during the past year, addressing and measuring the dimensions of meaningful work, severe fatigue, quality of life, likelihood of burnout, work-life integration and suicidal ideation.
- As of June 30, Dermatology Associates of Tallahassee transferred its residency program to HCA of North Florida but continues to have FSU College of Medicine as the academic sponsor for its micrographic surgery and dermatologic oncology fellowship program.

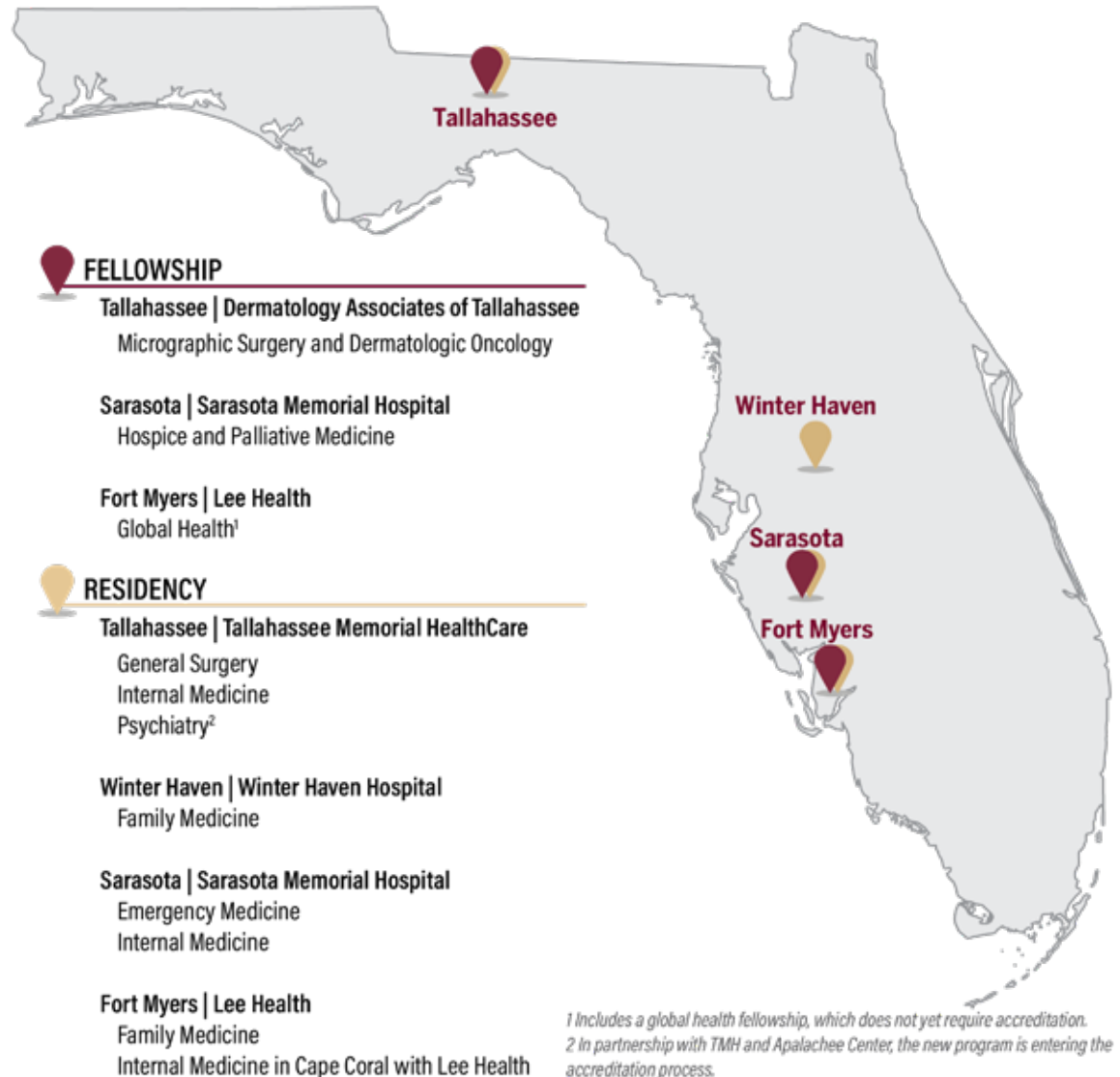
Program Quality Survey

The college's GME programs also received favorable feedback through the annual ACGME Resident/Fellow and Faculty Survey, which monitors graduate medical clinical education and screens for early warning of potential non-compliance with ACGME accreditation requirements. Residents and faculty of all ACGME accredited programs are expected to complete the survey, which is a key performance indicator for program quality and compliance with the working and learning environment requirements and for FSU College of Medicine institutional performance. The survey covers clinical experience and education, faculty teaching and supervision, evaluation, educational content, diversity and inclusion, resources, patient safety and teamwork and professionalism.

FSU had a 98% response rate from residents and 88% reported positive or very positive evaluations of the program – above the national mean for ACGME approved residency programs. In addition, 85% reported they 'probably' or 'definitely would' choose the same program again (also above the national mean).

The family medicine residency program at Winter Haven, under the leadership of program director **Dr. Nate Falk**, had 100% of respondents report 'very positive' evaluation of the program and 100% as "definitely would" choose the program again.

Institutionally, FSU College of Medicine outperformed the national percentage and means for compliance in all eight categories. In the faculty survey, FSU had a 97% response rate and outperformed the national percentage and means across all eight categories, as well.



Meeting mental health needs – where patients are most receptive



Reyes

When **Elena Reyes** arrived in Southwest Florida in 2012, she asked a local hospital about the dearth of clinical psychologists.

Directing the College of Medicine's efforts in Immokalee, and through her engagement with the school's family medicine residency at Lee Health in Fort Myers, Reyes quickly assessed the need, and as quickly proposed a solution.

"My recommendation was that we do this as integrated care – a cutting edge approach where you're introducing a psychologist inside of a primary care setting and they're working as a team for chronic disease management apart from the traditional approach to mental health," said Reyes, a clinical psychologist who specializes in pediatric psychology and Latino mental health and integrated care.

"This is called population health – you're trying to take care of a community and you're trying to not go into that model of fee-for-service, but rather a psychologist is part of the primary-care team and your return on investment comes out in the long run when you have less kids with asthma who have an attack because of their anxiety and it's exacerbated to the point of going to the emergency department, or the diabetic whose condition is out of control because they have not been managing it properly."

A decade later, the outlook is better.

With generous financial support from the Naples

Children's Education Foundation, Reyes developed a clinical health psychology fellowship program. She recruited bilingual postdoc clinical psychologists and implemented a two-year training program at the Isabel Collier Read Medical Center, the College of Medicine's training site in Southwest Florida. Fellows are placed either at the Lee Health System in Fort Myers, or at the Healthcare Network in Immokalee. The program is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers.

Of the first 21 fellows accepted into the program, 19 have completed it. Thirteen remained in Southwest Florida to practice in integrated care and three others are practicing elsewhere in Florida. Three have joined the College of Medicine faculty in Southwest Florida and serve patients in integrated care. Six fellows are currently enrolled in the training program.

When Reyes arrived as the College of Medicine's

regional director for Southwest Florida, there was no such thing as having a psychologist available to work with patients who went for a primary care appointment. Today, it's common practice in an area that, not unlike many parts of Florida, has a glaring need for more mental health services.

About 80% of patients in any setting who are referred to a psychiatrist or psychologist outside the practice do not follow through with an appointment. The stigma, the unfamiliarity, the uncertainty all factor in. It's especially true in the migrant farmworker community of Immokalee, but having a psychologist as part of the primary-care team is making a difference.

"We know that this model of integrated care works well with the underserved populations that are less likely to go and seek help from the psychiatrist or psychologist," Reyes said. "They know and trust the primary care providers."



A family physician can introduce a psychologist into the visit using a “warm handoff,” bringing the doctor into the exam room for an introduction.

Clinical Associate Professor **Javier Rosado** often is that doctor, saying hello and providing a quick assessment before walking the patient to the counter to set an appointment.

“When it happens like this, it is no longer a scary three-headed monster to see a psychologist or psychiatrist,” Reyes said. “It’s someone that works with your primary-care provider and it’s a clinic you’re familiar with, so they will come back.”

About 80% of patients in Immokalee do come back.

“It’s not psychoanalysis on a couch for the rest of your life. It’s short-term functional care, about 4-6 sessions, and it’s primary care,” Reyes said. “Today you might come because your kids are having problems at school, next week you might come because you’re getting a divorce and your kids are having a hard time adjusting through it, so it’s part of your health-care experience.”

About 35 FSU medical students complete clinical rotations in Immokalee each year, as well, giving them an opportunity to learn about the integrated care model. The hope, Reyes said, is that with familiarity, those future physicians will seek to implement the model in their future practices.

“It’s teaching them what we know medicine is about these days, which is the intersection between behavior and traditional medicine,” Reyes said.

FSU College of Medicine Clinical Health Psychology Fellowship

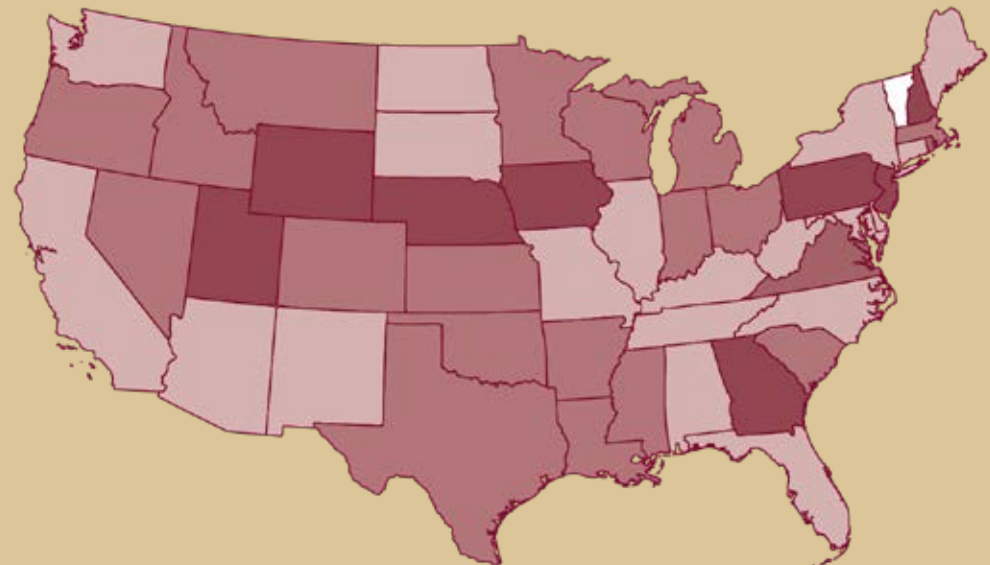
19
Graduates

13
Practicing psychology
in SW Florida

16
Practicing in
Florida

Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)*

Data not available
 <25%
 25%- <40%
 40%+



**Source: Kaiser Family Foundation's State Health Facts 2021*

PA ALUMNI EXCEL AS SMITH ASSUMES LEADERSHIP ON A PERMANENT BASIS



Smith

Associate Dean Ben Smith, who served as interim director of the Florida State University School of Physician Assistant Practice starting in January, was named director in late November.

College of Medicine Dean John P. Fogarty cited Smith's quiet, steady and skilled leadership through a difficult year as the school continued to address accreditation challenges.

"It is a privilege to be asked to serve as the program director of the FSU PA program," Smith said. "Working with talented and passionate students, staff and faculty colleagues is tremendously motivating as we look to the future, which includes delivering optimal health care to our neighbors in the state, the nation and the world."

He joined the faculty in 2016, as the PA program was being created, and has served in numerous roles, including teaching faculty, director of didactic education, and associate program director.

"As the program is still young in its development and history, it is awesome to recognize the reach and potential of current students and alumni," said Smith, who plans to build on the early successes. "Much good has been accomplished to date. My hope is that we will maintain a broad vision of the positive influence that will be realized.

"Success will occur as we continue to work together with a mission-driven focus, aware of growth and learning opportunities."

As enrollment in the program grew to capacity (180), it also attracted increasing interest from applicants. In August, the 60 students admitted (from among nearly 1,700 applicants), entered with the highest GPA for math and science and the highest average quantitative Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score of any of the program's five previous classes.

Smith estimated that 70% of FSU PA graduates are practicing in Florida, and 32% are practicing in a primary care specialty. Nationally, about 24% of PAs are practicing primary care, according to the 2021 National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

The number of FSU-produced PAs practicing in Florida should continue to increase. Florida residents constitute 97% of the newest class, increasing the likelihood they'll one day practice in Florida.

The program also seeks students likely to one day practice in communities where access to care is an issue.

Nationally, the NCCPA says 3.3% of PAs are Black/African-American, 6.2% are Asian and 6.8% are Hispanic.

FSU's four-year minority enrollment percentages are Hispanic (16.6%), Asian (7.5%) and Black/African American (6.7%).

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' occupational outlook handbook projects employment for PAs to grow 28% by 2031, more than five times faster than any other health-care occupation.

Increased demand for health-care services, especially for elderly, underserved and rural populations, is at the root of the need for more PAs, who can provide some of the same services as physicians after completing their training in a fraction of the time it takes to produce a practicing M.D.

FSU PA alumni are demonstrating the program's success in another way, as well: 98% (138 of 140 graduates through the first three classes) have passed the required Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE).

At its September 2022 meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) extended Accreditation-Probation status for the Florida State University School of Physician Assistant Practice program sponsored by Florida State University until its next review in September 2024.

Probation accreditation is a temporary accreditation status initially of not less than two years. However, that period may be extended by the ARC-PA for up to an additional two years if the ARC-PA finds that the program is making substantial progress toward meeting all applicable standards but requires additional time to come into full compliance. Probation accreditation status is granted, at the sole discretion of the ARC-PA, when a program holding an accreditation status of Accreditation - Provisional or Accreditation - Continued does not, in the judgment of the ARC-PA, meet the Standards or when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.

Once placed on probation, a program that fails to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and is subject to having its accreditation withdrawn.

Specific questions regarding the Program and its plans should be directed to the Program Director and/or the appropriate institutional official(s).

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-florida-state-university/>.





"Our singular focus is to find ways to increase our impact, so that we continue to send the communities we serve the diverse pool of physicians and health-care workers they need."

– Anthony Speights, senior associate dean for Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences

PIPELINE PROGRAMS



PHYSICIANS FOR A DIVERSE POPULATION

The College of Medicine recently raised a fifth banner in its atrium, formally acknowledging the addition of a fifth pillar to the school's strategic plan. Joining the four original banners is one representing Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

These tenets have been engrained in the college's mission from the outset – a commitment to be responsive to community needs. Pipeline programs designed to address diversity, equity and inclusion have been vital to the college's success in attracting medical students with a greater likelihood of one day serving in minority and underserved communities – including rural areas – where physician shortages are the norm.

Current enrollment figures illustrate the influence of pipeline programs like SSTRIDE, USSTRIDE and the Bridge to Clinical Medicine master's program.

More than 28% of the M.D. program's current 483 students are from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine (URM). That includes 82 Hispanic/Latino and 51 Black/African-American students. Forty-five currently enrolled students identify as rural.

Those are more than numbers. They represent future physicians with a greater likelihood of choosing to one day take care of patients in areas with a great need. The Association of American Medical Colleges recently compared FSU to the other 154 member schools in many areas, giving those programs an opportunity to see how they compare. The AAMC found that FSU is in the 95th percentile for alumni practicing in an underserved area.

URM enrollment has increased at medical schools

nationwide, with FSU's College of Medicine continuing to outperform the national average. Minority students constitute 32% of the classes of 2024 and 2025, compared to 19.6% nationally.

The College of Medicine's enrollment also includes 69 students who are the first in their families to attend college, and 86 who are from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds.

"Our division is focused on increasing diversity within, not only our medical school, but in all aspects of healthcare," said **Dr. Anthony Speights**, senior associate dean for Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences and director of the Bridge to Clinical Medicine program. "When you look at what our pipeline students have been able to accomplish over the last two decades, it truly shows the impact that student support and mentorship can have.

"Our singular focus is to find ways to increase our impact, so that we continue to send the communities we serve the diverse pool of physicians and health-care workers they need."

The College of Medicine is among the top 3% nationally for graduation of Black/African American students and the top 9% for Hispanic, Latino and Spanish students, according to the AAMC.

In 2022, *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine presented FSU with its Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award for a sixth consecutive time. The award recognizes health professions schools that demonstrate outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. In 2021, it also recognized FSU's Undergraduate Science Stu-

dents Together Reaching Instructional Diversity and Excellence program (USSTRIDE) as recipient of the Inspiring Programs in STEM Award.

"This medical school was founded with a mission of producing future physicians who would help meet the health-care needs in communities that have traditionally struggled to have adequate access to care," College of Medicine Dean **John P. Fogarty** said. "We are proud that this award continues to affirm that we are true to that mission, and we are succeeding in producing the physicians Florida — as well as the rest of the U.S. — needs most. We are very pleased that we have produced numerous alumni who now practice in rural parts of the state, especially in Northwest Florida."

And proud to raise another banner.





MATCH DAY 2022

2022

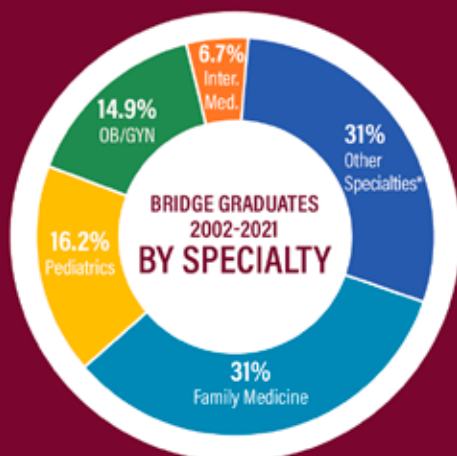
BRIDGE TO CLINICAL MEDICINE

Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences

A year-long, postgraduate program providing select undergraduate students from medically underserved backgrounds a track to prepare for a medical education. This chart looks at graduates of the Bridge program who also went on to graduate from the FSU College of Medicine.

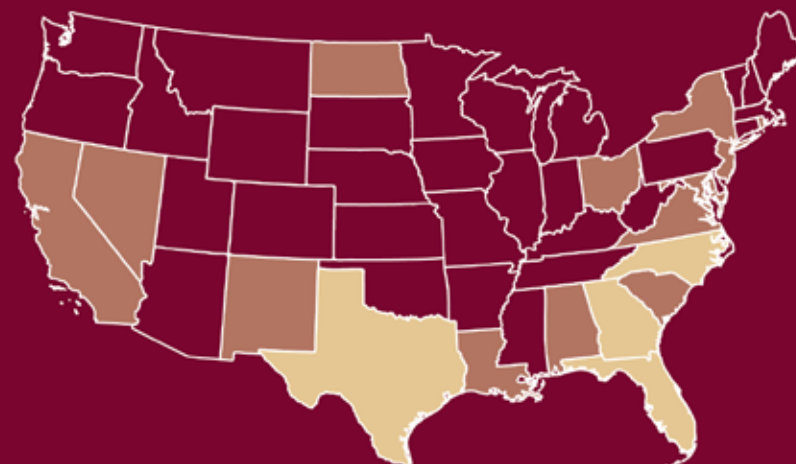


WHAT THEY PRACTICE



*Other specialties include: anesthesiology, breast surgery oncology, cardiology, colon & rectal surgery, critical care, dermatology, emergency medicine, endocrinology, gastroenterology, geriatrics, hand & upper extremity orthopedics, neurology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology, plastic surgery, primary care, psychiatry, radiology-diagnostic, and sports medicine.

WHERE THEY PRACTICE



PANDEMIC SPURS CHANGE AND GROWTH IN SSTRIDE PROGRAMS

The COVID pandemic reinforced the need for flexibility in the College of Medicine's efforts to educate students who represent Florida's rich diversity.

Jodi Truel, the southern region director for SSTRIDE (Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity and Excellence), has embraced technology's role in expanding the program's reach in Collier and Sarasota counties.

"Before, when we had a guest speaker, they'd come to the classroom and speak with 15 or 20 students," Truel said. "Now, with Zoom, we can invite them to be a guest speaker...so they can be on a call with 200 students."

The virtual meetings brought in a biological anthropologist from Canada, enabled small-group mentoring and tutoring for middle and high schoolers, and even allowed for students to participate in engaging activities such as dissections.

"It's made us think outside the box and learn how

to use technology to our advantage," Truel said. "We've not only morphed our programming because of COVID, we've literally started a new program."

The pre-med mentoring and academic enrichment program at Booker High School – with the highest percentage of Black and Hispanic students in Sarasota County – meets virtually, twice a week. College of Medicine Bridge to Clinical Medicine master's program students serve as facilitators and USSTRIDE students as mentors and tutors.

At Immokalee High, SSTRIDE's pre-med mentoring and tutoring program puts College of Medicine Honors Medical Scholars from Tallahassee in front of 3-5 students at a time in small-group mentoring via Zoom after school.

The programs have been funded through five-year gifts of \$500,000 from both the Naples Children and Education Foundation (NCEF) in Collier County

and the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation in Sarasota County.

SSTRIDE's mission – to identify students with an interest in pursuing careers in science, engineering, mathematics, health and medicine and provide support services for them to develop the tools necessary for success in their chosen fields – continues to succeed.

Since SSTRIDE began in 1994, 97 percent of the participants tracked have gone on to attend college, with 64 percent enrolled in science, engineering, mathematics or health majors – an 8% increase over five years.

SSTRIDE students who enroll in college are graduating at a rate of 78 percent, and 36 percent of those graduates have attended graduate school. That includes 17 who went on to medical school, 11 at FSU's College of Medicine.



Learning from our alumni

Adding an enrichment program at Booker High to the existing programs at McIntosh Middle and Sarasota High was a natural expansion of SSTRIDE.

Booker is Sarasota County's only low-income and predominantly minority high school, with 71% of its 1,304 students either Black, Hispanic or multi-racial, according to National Center for Education Statistics for the 2020-21 school year.

College of Medicine alumnus **Rashad J. Sullivan** (M.D., '13) was one of the first guests to make a virtual visit with Booker SSTRIDE students. Sullivan, who recently completed an orthopedic surgery fellowship in Tampa, went through the SSTRIDE and Bridge programs at FSU.

"He had the same background as our students," Truel said. "He's a minority, he grew up low-income, he actually was incarcerated...when he was younger. The students saw it as so powerful that they grew up in the same neighborhood he did and he had all these struggles that were stacked against him, but he still made it all the way through."

As keynote speaker during an October 2021 SSTRIDE alumni virtual reunion, Sullivan credited "God's grace and the open hearts of a lot of people" for his success.

"We are here tonight to celebrate one of the most significant contributions to my success story," Sullivan told the audience of nearly 150. "SSTRIDE changed my life."

He shared a similar message with Booker students.

"It's kind of that reiteration that we're telling the students, 'You can do it even though your parents can't send you to college and pay for it,'" Truel said. "We're telling them that, but this is a person that's lived it. They're not just living through adversity. They've had SSTRIDE help get them to the final destination."





SSTRIDE QUICK FACTS

Since the SSTRIDE program began in 1994, the College of Medicine has been able to track 986 participants to measure outcomes and determine if the program is meeting its goals. Here are some things we've learned:

96.6%

enrolled in college

89.9%

shared information about
college major

64.4%

chose a science, math or
health-related major

358

tracked through completion of their
college undergraduate experience

280

graduated

100

attended graduate school

58

majored in science or health-
care fields

17

were accepted into medical school

11

of the 17 went to
FSU College of
Medicine

USSTRIDE QUICK FACTS

The College of Medicine also has been able to track 480 participants in the university-level SSTRIDE program (USSTRIDE). The program accepts a total of 50 college students a year from FSU, Florida A&M University and Tallahassee Community College, as well as students who have graduated from college and are interested in applying to medical school, and those who are working in rural, minority or medically underserved communities. USSTRIDE students receive an intensive clinical training experience, an externship, an opportunity to be employed in a physician's office or clinic for uninsured patients, and serve as mentors for SSTRIDE students.

480 participants

tracked through 2019

60%

went on to attend
medical school

60.7%

attended Florida State
University College of
Medicine

22.9%

attended graduate
school

93.7%

chose science, math or a
major related to health-
care in graduate school

206 participants

who were tracked through the
completion of medical school

61.2%

were accepted into a
primary-care residency
program

111 participants

who became practicing
physicians were tracked

41.4%

practicing in
underserved areas

45%

practicing in Florida



The friends of the College of Medicine have continued to provide generous support enhancing our ability to provide a first-class medical education. With our sincere appreciation, here is a partial listing of gift-makers and pledgers through Sept. 12, 2022. Donors help provide support for student tuition, for pipeline programs that increase the diversity of our student body, for essential research that leads to a healthier community, for our six regional campuses, and for various programs that enrich our students' experience. We are grateful for all gifts, large and small.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS



VAN VESSEM SCHOLARSHIPS ADDRESS HEALTH-CARE NEEDS



Dr. Nancy Van Vessem in 2013 at the College of Medicine.

A Florida Panhandle native who aspires to serve patients in rural communities like his hometown of Hosford (pop. 704), Jimmy Brown (M.D., '21) is the embodiment of the Nancy Van Vessem, M.D. Memorial Scholarship.

In 2021 he became the first College of Medicine student to receive the scholarship. Three current students (John Parker, Jodi Wilson and Sean Wimberley) received the scholarship in 2022.

Recipients are selected based on their desire and commitment to practice internal medicine or outpatient geriatrics in Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Jefferson, Calhoun, Liberty or Franklin counties, equivalent to the number of years they receive the scholarship.

The scholarship is valued at \$40,000 annually in honor of Dr. Nancy Van Vessem, who was the chief medical officer at Capital Health Plan when she lost her life during a mass shooting in Tallahassee in 2018.

"We all knew Nancy as a relentless fighter who was focused on improving health and wellness in her community," said John Hogan, president and CEO of Capital Health Plan. "She was a champion for quality and affordable health care for all, bringing national recognition to CHP for those efforts."

Van Vessem, an internist who served as CHP's CMO for more than 20 years, was one of the College of Medicine's first clerkship directors in internal medicine.

"Dr. Van Vessem dedicated more than 20 years of her career to improving health care in Tallahassee and the surrounding area," said Brown, who is in his second year with the FSU College of Medicine Internal Medicine Residency Program at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

"I was eager to apply for this scholarship when I found out it was intended to further her life's work. My career goals fit in perfectly with Dr. Van Vessem's mission. By easing my student debt, this scholarship will make it far easier to pursue a primary-care career in the Panhandle."

Ultimately, the objective is to provide two scholarships to students in each incoming M.D. class in a strategic effort to address the growing shortage of internal medicine and geriatric care physicians in the Big Bend.

DANCE MARATHON: A VIRTUAL SUCCESS

For more than two years, FSU students have embraced the challenge of holding Dance Marathon and the associated, year-round fundraising elements amid the uncertainty of a worldwide pandemic.

In 2021, they went hybrid, staging online gatherings and “dance in place” components everywhere from parking lots to the front lawns of sorority row. The largest student-led fundraiser on the FSU campus returned to its natural element at the Donald Tucker Civic Center for 2022.

The result? More than 1,800 students raised nearly \$1.5 million in 2021 and followed by exceeding that total in 2022.

“More than \$3 million raised over two years during the associated restrictions of a pandemic. It’s truly amazing,” said College of Medicine Dean John P. Fogarty.

The funds go to the UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital, which is the affiliated Children’s Miracle Network Hospital for the North Florida region.

About half of the total comes back to the FSU College of Medicine to be invested in pediatric services benefiting children in and around Tallahassee.

Not only did the participants adhere to CDC and Florida State University social distance and mask guidelines, but in 2021 endured a mid-event overhaul of the schedule due to torrential rain.

“We wanted to keep the traditions that make Dance Marathon at FSU what it is, but we also knew that it was important to create new and creative ways to reach people that we may not have been able to reach if we were inside the [Tucker] Center all weekend,” said Madison Faller, the 2021 executive director. “Raising awareness for the cause was kept at the forefront.”

Participating organizations – fraternities, sororities, clubs, etc. – hosted marathons at either their own or rented venues, where organizers provided Zoom programming with live entertainment, DJs and inspiring stories from participating Miracle

Families. There was a drive-in “Carchella” event in the Tucker Center parking lot and blocks of time were reserved for organizations to gather, masked and socially distanced, at intramural fields adjacent to CollegeTown, where they danced to live entertainment.

The marathon continued through the night and culminated with a return to the Tucker Center parking lot for closing ceremonies and a late Sunday afternoon drive-in reveal of the final total amount raised.

In 2022, Dance Marathon at FSU was back indoors for the first time in two years and with a theme of “No Matter What,” raised \$1.55 million.

The funds support the College of Medicine’s school-based primary care clinic in Gadsden County, pediatric care provided at FSU PrimaryHealth and the pediatric intensive care unit at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, among other projects.



INSPIRING FUTURE PHYSICIANS WHO SERVE



Nadine “Baby Pearl” Acloque

Around the same time the FSU College of Medicine was created to develop more physicians for medically underserved communities, **Nadine “Baby Pearl” Acloque** was helping Bobby Bowden recruit football players to Florida State University.

She was a Garnet and Gold Girl who served as a recruiting hostess for FSU football and basketball, where her personality and smile helped her quickly become friends with nearly everyone she met. Her brother, **Dr. Gerard Acloque**, describes her as “the superstar” of a large and “very close” family.

Nadine went on to become a registered nurse spe-



(l-r): Jim McNeill, Dr. Gerard Acloque; scholarship recipients Frederline Jean Philippe, Kristin Fleming and Alicie Raymond; and Dr. Anthony Speights.

cializing in cardiac care, while her brother went to medical school. Two kids living the American dream from a Haitian family that migrated to the U.S. in the 1970s, settling in South Florida before Nadine enrolled as a student at FSU and Gerard enrolled at Florida A&M University.

Gerard now supports the FSU College of Medicine mission – and his sister’s memory. Inspired by the influence she had on others, he and the Acloque family created the Nadine L. Acloque “Baby Pearl” Scholarship Endowment as a lasting tribute to her vision of commitment to education and community service in health-care sciences and medicine.

Nadine Acloque died suddenly from a heart attack at age 27 in 2008.

“Nadine had a magnetic personality that made her the life of the party – always,” Gerard Acloque said. “She really thrived at Florida State and in everything she did.”

The scholarship endowment began with support for three FSU students majoring in Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences (IMS), one of the feeder programs that helps the College of Medicine produce more physicians who will choose to practice in underserved areas. One additional IMS student will be selected each fall and spring semester.

“Overall, females, and in particular minority fe-

males make up a very small percentage of health-care providers, and often students feel their dedication and hard work is overlooked,” said **Dr. Anthony Speights**, senior associate dean for Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences. “The aim of this scholarship is to shed light on African-American women who are making a difference in the FSU community through academics and service to their community.”

Gerard Acloque is CEO and founder of Florida Concierge Medicine & Wellness, which provides direct primary care in South Florida. He hopes the scholarship will inspire minority students with the potential for medical school.

Like Nadine, his story is one that resonates.

“My desire is to grow minority interest in medicine,” he said. “I want to be someone they can look at as an example of what is possible.”

If you are interested in contributing to this endowed scholarship fund, or wish to support other efforts to produce more physicians who will practice in areas of greatest need, please contact Jim McNeill, assistant dean for development: jim.mcneill@med.fsu.edu (850) 644-4389.

TOPPLING BARRIERS FOR FUTURE PHYSICIANS

The Karen Toffler Charitable Trust already supported College of Medicine neuroscientists through the Toffler Scholar Program. In September, the trust extended its support to future physicians with a strong history of providing care for medically underserved populations.

The Bridge Program at Florida State is designed to identify and prepare candidates from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine for admission to medical school (see page 45). The masters-level program has produced nearly 200 FSU medical students since inception in 2001, and to date more than 72% of Bridge/College of Medicine alumni have matched into primary-care residency programs.

Nearly half of Bridge participants that are now in practice are working in a medically underserved area, where recruiting physicians can be a challenge.

Many Bridge students come from disadvantaged backgrounds. One impediment to choosing primary-care specialties is the weight of educational debt, which can lead graduates toward higher-paying specialties.

“This support will decrease the overall debt load of Bridge students in hopes that it will reinforce their desire to work in an underserved community,” said Dr. Anthony Speights, senior associate dean for Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences and director of the Bridge to Clinical Medicine Master’s Program.

The College of Medicine’s mission to be responsive to community needs is closely tied to producing more primary-care physicians, and more doctors willing to serve in the areas and communities with the greatest needs.

Often, those communities are in rural areas or communities with many Black or Hispanic residents lacking adequate access to medical care. The College of Medicine has been successful in identifying and graduating such physicians, in part because of financial support from organizations such as the Karen Toffler Charitable Trust.

OUR BUD IN FORT PIERCE



FSU graduate, businessman and philanthropist Bud Jordan, whose generosity supported growth and development of the College of Medicine's Fort Pierce Regional campus, died Nov. 14, 2021, at age 86.

Those who knew him described Jordan as gregarious and hilarious. By no coincidence, perhaps, he served as a clown and juggler in the FSU Flying High Circus on the way to obtaining his accounting degree in 1957.

He paid his way through college by selling shaved ice on Marianna street corners, became a home builder in Atlanta, and invented and distributed cleaning products to pay his way through stock brokerage school in New York.

Once certified, he and his longtime wife, Marjie, settled on Martin County as he embarked on a new career as a stockbroker. He spent 50 years as an investment manager in Stuart before retiring at age 85.

The College of Medicine opened a regional campus nearby in 2007 and Jordan, an FSU Golden Chief and football fanatic, was there to support the effort in numerous ways.

He became one of the campus's first community board members while his wife directed the Women's Center of Stuart, one of Florida's first licensed birthing centers. He provided the first lead gift of \$20,000 to support the regional campus. Together they presented the campus with a \$25,000 donation to fund the Dr. Heidi McNaney-Flint endowed scholarship to assist graduating Fort Pierce campus students who matched in obstetrics and gynecology.

In 2020, Jordan surprised his wife with an additional \$50,000 gift to fund the Marjorie N. Jordan Maternity/Obstetrical Care Endowment Fund, earmarked for medical students who train and have an interest in practicing in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties.

The Jordans belonged to the Vires, Artes, Mores Society at Florida State, which recognizes million-dollar donors. In addition to the College of Medicine, they supported the College of Business, Seminole Boosters, the FSU Flying High Circus and other programs.

CMS AND OUR STUDENTS – A LOVE STORY

Even physicians know we need more physicians. It's a big reason the Capital Medical Society Foundation has contributed nearly \$800,000 in scholarship support to deserving College of Medicine students over the years.

That money comes from local physicians who are CMS members and who donate to the foundation. Many of those physicians also teach our students during clinical preceptorships and clerkships, so they have a chance to personally witness the caliber and character of the future physicians who may practice alongside them one day.

CMS Foundation considers the practice vision of scholarship applicants before selecting the winners, looking for individuals with a propensity for taking care of patients in North Florida (and maybe Tallahassee) one day.

CMS Foundation selected nine students to receive scholarships totaling \$50,000 in 2022 and recognized them at a special event in October. The CMS Foundation scholarship committee awarded an additional \$1,000 from the Anesthesiology Associates of Tallahassee Scholarship Fund to siblings Braden and Rachel Cathey, along with an additional \$1,000 to Tripp Taylor III, from the newly established Charles D. "Pedro" William, M.D. Scholarship Fund.

Considering that the average FSU College of Medicine medical student graduates with more than \$180,000 in educational debt, scholarship support from the CMS Foundation and other individuals and organizations is a blessing.



CMS scholarship recipients (l-r): Braden Cathey, Rachel Cathey, Charles Maggitas, Macauley Mascarenhas, Christian Cunningham, Timar Mascio, Ashley Desinor, Tripp Taylor III (not pictured: Austin Countess)

“Attending medical school is a very expensive proposition these days. My fellow physicians are pleased and proud to help support medical students, who have not only a financial need, but a desire to stay in Florida and practice medicine in Florida,” said Dr. Frank Walker, CMS Foundation scholarship committee chair.

HONORING AN EARLY ADVOCATE

When retired Tallahassee surgeon Ray Bellamy was invited for a recognition ceremony at the College of Medicine, he didn't realize he'd be part of an impromptu history lesson.

Not many people remember how precarious the college's accreditation process had become in the early years of its development. Nor did many outside the college's leadership recognize the magnitude of Dr. Bellamy's behind-the-scenes contributions.

A few dozen friends and supporters heard the full story during the ceremony held in his honor (and to his surprise).

Myra Hurt, professor *emeritus* at the College of Medicine and the school's initial acting dean, told the crowd how eager the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) had been at that time to deny the medical school's accreditation. "They were looking for an excuse," Hurt said.

And they almost found it when FSU accepted a large donation from a group interested in opening a "school of chiropractic medicine" within the FSU College of Medicine.

"They flat out told me, 'Myra, if you do this, we will kill your accreditation,'" Hurt said.

Bellamy, outraged at the idea, rallied other Tallahassee physicians and began to strategically lobby against the proposal. He led a systematic submission of letters-to-the-editor pointing out the folly of asking a medical school (especially a new one struggling to gain full accreditation for the first time) to align itself with a chiropractic school.

Ultimately, Bellamy's efforts prevailed. The plan was scrapped, the large donation was returned, and the FSU College of Medicine overcame the last of the obstacles blocking its path to accreditation. The rest, of course, is history.

College of Medicine Dean John P. Fogarty thanked Bellamy and his son, Dr. David Bellamy, for their generous support over the years. After speeches by Hurt, Bellamy and his son, the college unveiled a

Dr. David Bellamy (left) and his father, Dr. Ray Bellamy.

storyboard plaque permanently affixed in the atrium that tells the story of Bellamy's contributions.

Well, not the entire story. You had to be there for that.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!

\$100,000 OR MORE

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Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation
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Florida Blue Foundation
W. Russell and Eugenia M. Morcom
Naples Children & Education Foundation Inc.
Orlando Health
Desmond Schatz
Southeastern HealthCare Foundation Inc. (Dance Marathon at FSU)

\$25,000 - \$99,999.99

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\$5,000 - \$24,999.99

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Florida Autism License Plate Fund

Florida Eye & Laser Institute
Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center
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DEAN'S MESSAGE



Early in my career as a family physician I was faced with a difficult decision. My childhood dream of caring for patients in my hometown of Quincy had been realized, and I was experiencing the daily fulfillment that drew me to becoming a community physician in the first place.

Then I was asked to lead the family medicine residency program at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, where I had received my own specialty training just a few years earlier. While the need for care in my hometown was great, I had to ask myself where I could make the greatest impact.

Ultimately, developing more family physicians with the residency program was a way to ensure care for more patients in more places and would include as a bonus the satisfaction that comes with teaching.

That decision set me on a path toward a lifetime of involvement in medical education – something I've never regretted.

So when Florida State University President Richard McCullough and Provost Jim Clark asked me to become interim dean of this medical school, I was delighted.

As I've often said, the words in this medical school's mission statement about being responsive to community needs, especially in medically underserved communities, feel as if they were written for me.

Yet the challenges for health care in my hometown, in Tallahassee, across Florida and throughout the world

are more complex than ever. We didn't need a pandemic to make us realize that our approach to health care must rapidly evolve to keep pace with the demands.

It's also true that our College of Medicine faces new challenges as we seek to grow our clinical practices consistent with our mission and in a way that will support that mission. We've made remarkable strides in the growth of our research potential and it's no coincidence that excellence in behavioral health discovery has led the way.

As President McCullough has noted, Florida's growth in the Panhandle brings with it a significant need for leadership in health care, and FSU Health is poised to provide it.

In Tallahassee, the Legislature has made a \$125 million investment for Floridians in the form of a new FSU Health academic research building, where discovery and teaching will thrive, and the future of this medical school will begin to emerge.

In my new role I am uniquely positioned to ensure our strong medical education program continues to succeed and that the mission this school was founded upon serves as the foundation for growth in other areas.

As Dr. Fogarty pointed out in the dean's message to open this report, there's a lot for us to be proud of. I'm confident telling you as we close out this report that there are many great accomplishments to come for this medical school.

I have been excited to hear from so many alumni offering their encouragement and support. I knew them as students, and now get to witness the contributions they are making in communities throughout Florida and the U.S.

They remind me of that difficult choice I faced. While I still live in Quincy, I've never regretted becoming a medical educator. To now lead this medical school where I've worked in many roles for the last 20 years is the realization of another dream.

Your support is vital, whether it be through teaching and volunteering, in the form of a financial gift that helps us produce more of the doctors Florida needs, or simply telling your friends and neighbors about the impact we are having.

We're in this together, and I'm grateful for this opportunity to be your new interim dean.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alma Little, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "A" and "L".

Alma Little, M.D.

Interim Dean

Florida State University College of Medicine

Dr. Little was founding chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health. She served as senior associate dean for academic affairs and medical education prior to becoming interim dean, effective Feb. 1.





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