

A MEDICAL HOME

FSU PrimaryHealth –
an opportunity to
practice what we teach



PLUS:

ALUMNI THRIVING IN FAST-GROWING PRACTICE

THE AGELESS ANATOMY INSTRUCTOR

As I start my 12th year here at the FSU College of Medicine, I'm reminded how fast time has flown and how rapidly we seem to move through our cycle of events. After our six regional campus graduation dinners in April and May and the graduation of our 15th class May 18, we welcomed the M.D. Class of 2023 on May 28. After the graduation dinners for our sponsored residency programs around the state were complete, in the last week of June we welcomed the new interns to their programs. In early August the M.D. Class of 2023 received their white coats, and in late August we welcomed our third class of PA students – our first “full enrollment” class. In December, our first PA class will graduate from their 27-month program. So our cycle, which used to be only medical students, now includes residents in our GME programs and PA students – adding up to events occurring at least every month.



We reached a milestone in our growth this May with the opening of FSU PrimaryHealth in southwest Tallahassee, adjacent to Sabal Palm Elementary. This FSU MED edition highlights the opening and the local community's response to this exciting venture. The project reflects years of preparation and planning to build a faculty practice for the college here in Tallahassee, and it gives us the chance to truly “live our mission” by providing primary care to a local community that has no options nearby. The community response has been wonderful to watch, and we created a community board to help us be responsive to their needs. We also see this as an opportunity to teach our students multidisciplinary care in actual clinical settings with other health professionals – and an opportunity to develop innovative approaches to health-care delivery, community and population health.

While we continue to be an innovative model for medical education without the typical academic medical center next door, we wanted to ensure that our clinical faculty get to practice what they teach: person-centered, interdisciplinary and evidence-based care. We want them to build relationships and engage with our local community, and help address the many unmet health-care needs. As our first generation of founding faculty has mostly retired, we want our new clinical faculty to stay up-to-date and model best practices for our students – which they can do at FSU PrimaryHealth. We are also closely integrating behavioral health with primary care in this setting, in cooperation with our colleagues across FSU.

These are exciting times for the College of Medicine – with active medical education innovations, residency development, maturation of the PA program and now a new clinical practice for our students and faculty. A great team did incredible work in planning and making this project a reality. It puts an exclamation point on this new chapter in our college's history.

Happy fall!

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A medical home*by Ron Hartung*

The College of Medicine's mission to be "responsive to community needs" and a teaching model espousing team-based medicine have come to life in a new primary-care health center in southwest Tallahassee. FSU PrimaryHealth is part medical practice and part classroom – just as it was intended.

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Alumni thriving in fast-growing practice*by Ron Hartung*

Adam Langley and Gary Visser were exercise physiology majors at Florida State, attended medical school together and graduated from the same residency program. Naturally, they decided to start a new medical practice – together.

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The ageless anatomy instructor*by Ron Hartung*

The first big hurdle for new medical students comes in the anatomy lab, where visions of practicing medicine meet the cold reality of a mentally, emotionally and physically demanding profession. No wonder FSU medical students take comfort in a kind, compassionate – and slightly older – anatomy professor who shares copious amounts of both wisdom and encouragement.

**on the cover**

FSU PrimaryHealth, the College of Medicine's new primary-care health center, provides an ideal opportunity for the clinical exam room to double as a classroom where M.D. and PA students can see what patient-centered care looks like. Joedrecka Brown Speights (seated, center) is one of many faculty physicians who teach while providing patient care.

Photo:
Colin Hackley

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"Every minute that I was captured, I thought about being a physician."

All in for Florida

Optimizing health outcomes for more than 21 million Florida residents is a common goal for Florida State University and the University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute. For good reason, they've teamed up to earn a five-year, \$29 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health.

The highly competitive grants support a nationwide network of more than 50 CTSA hubs that develop, demonstrate and disseminate advances in translational science, a field devoted to turning research discoveries into new approaches that improve health.

UF became the first state recipient of CTSA funding in 2009. A year later, a combination of CTSA and state funding created an opportunity for the FSU College of Medicine to join forces with UF in developing new capabilities for community-based clinical research.

Over the next five years, a third cycle of

Colin Hackley



Joyce

CTSA funding will allow FSU and UF to expand their collaboration, further developing and aligning expertise across the two universities to address complex health challenges in the communities they serve.

"The investment that Florida State University has made in translational research and our expertise in behavioral health interventions are important

to the health of our region and the state," said **Jeffrey Joyce**, senior associate dean for research and graduate programs at the FSU College of Medicine.

"With the UF-FSU CTSA, we are engaging many of our colleges in the effort to address mental health and health conditions such as HIV, which impact our rural communities and have not received the attention needed."

Tackling Florida's cancer disparities

A few Florida communities are reducing or eliminating some health disparities between black and white residents. **George Rust** wants to continue that lifesaving trend.

His current target is disparities involving breast and colorectal cancers. With a three-year Bankhead-Coley research grant from the Florida Department of Health, his team is using big-data analytics to produce user-friendly information for Florida communities.

These are two of the most screenable, treatable and curable cancers, says Rust, professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine. He wants to help communities determine what's keeping blacks from being screened, treated and/or cured as often as whites – and then encourage those communities to act.

"Let's say Community A has a big screening gap – we could say, 'There's your most strategic opportunity to save lives – if you could equalize those screening rates, this is how many lives

you could save,'" Rust said. "In a different community, where the screening rates are equal, we might be able to say, 'Here's where you need to focus your efforts. Maybe it's in partnership with hospitals and oncologists, to really make sure that the new lifesaving treatments are getting equally to everyone who needs them. And that's how many lives you could save if you did that.'"

He's collaborating with FSU's statistics and geography departments, as well as health services researchers in the College of Medicine. He's also hiring a Ph.D. computer-simulation-modeling researcher. **Penny Ralston**, dean emerita of the College of Human Sciences, is coordinating community engagement through the Health Equity Research Institute and its community partners across Florida.

"If we can develop a fairly accurate model of predicting what the death rates are for cancer, we can ask the computer questions such as:



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Rust

'What if we move the screening rate by this much?' 'What if we decrease the lag time in diagnosis by this much?' 'What if we increase the proportion of people that are going to a cancer center or getting the optimal cancer treatment?'"

It's like personalized medicine, he said – except this time the community is the patient.

Exploring loneliness, dementia and more



Colin Hackley

Sutin

When **Angelina Sutin** embarks on a study, publications around the world pay attention – because she explores the irresistible topic of how our personality affects our health and behavior.

In recent months, she made news with two published studies and one new grant.

One study, published in the *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, confirmed that loneliness increases your risk of dementia by 40 percent. “We are not the first people to show that loneliness is associated with increased risk of dementia,” said Sutin, principal investigator on the study. “But this is by far the largest sample yet, with a long follow-up. And the population was more diverse.” The good news, Sutin said, is that loneliness is a modifiable risk factor: “Just because you feel lonely now, you don’t always have to feel this way.” Among her co-authors were College of Medicine colleagues **Martina Luchetti** and **Antonio Terracciano**.

Another study – published in *Personality and Individual Differences*, co-written with Terracciano – found ways in which personality type can shape attitudes toward others’ body weight. They studied conscientiousness,

agreeableness, openness, neuroticism and extraversion. “Attitudes have broad-reaching consequences – for how the individual feels and responds to their body, for shaping children’s attitudes toward own bodies and the bodies of those around them, and for policy,” Sutin said. “If people hold negative attitudes toward obesity, that could shape the way that policies are made and implemented and perpetuate stigma toward obesity.”

A study that Sutin recently began aims to discover why people with Latino backgrounds have a 50 percent greater risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease than non-Latino whites. Principal investigator on a \$3.8 million grant from the National Institute on Aging, she’s studying midlife cognitive aging in Latinos, looking for predictors and mechanisms of decline. She’s partnering with researchers at the University of California at Davis, who’ve collected years’ worth of data on Latino families that they can analyze for clues.

Born after Michael

When Hurricane Michael ravaged the Florida Panhandle as a Category 5 storm in October 2018, the damage was painfully obvious. Thousands of toppled and mangled trees, severely damaged homes and traumatized residents bore witness.

But what about its long-term impact on pregnant women and their unborn children? Among the damage Michael caused was the loss of health-care facilities, physicians and other health-care workers who either left the region or were hindered by damaged infrastructure. That limited or eliminated opportunities for maternal health care in many areas.

Pregnant women remaining in heavily damaged areas faced other risks as well, including exposure to respiratory toxicants, such as carbon monoxide from the generators used to provide electricity during long power outages.

Carbon monoxide poisoning during pregnancy has been associated with fetal demise, severe neurological complications, intrauterine growth retardation, preterm delivery and birth defects.

The storm may have also increased exposure to algae blooms releasing neurotoxins and respiratory and digestive irritants.

Les Beitsch, chair of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine, is partnering with FSU Assistant Professor of Geography Christopher Uejio and researchers from Tulane University to learn more about Michael’s impacts on the children born in its wake. They’ve received a \$400,000 National Institutes of Health grant to study post-Michael birth outcomes in the Panhandle.

“We were ecstatic to learn we had successfully competed for this grant on our first attempt. NIH recognized that this sort of natural experiment presents rare opportunities to study the health impact of disasters on some of our most vulnerable residents,” Beitsch said.

“We already know stressors affect birth outcomes. But in this case the health-care infrastructure is also stressed. Several planned areas will present a research first impression, including the examination of carbon monoxide

and the use of generators on pregnant women and infants.

“Additionally, including harmful algal blooms allows yet another dimension for comparisons. We have assembled a really capable team, joining Tulane and colleagues across our university – once again underscoring that research and science, just like medicine, are team sports.”



Photo illustration/Ray Stanyard

A measure of hope

For the people – mostly young boys – who are diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, life is short. Usually between 20 and 30 years.

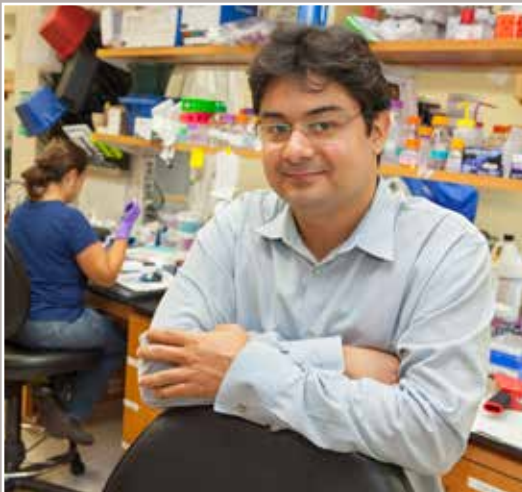
The most common lethal genetic disorder among children, DMD is caused by a mutation preventing the body from producing a protein crucial to the health of skeletal, respiratory and cardiac muscles. Advances in treatment have helped to prolong some patients' lifespans. However, as DMD patients age, their heart function declines dramatically.

In collaboration with scientists across the nation, researchers at Florida State University and the University of California, Los Angeles have found that increased levels of the protein sarcospan improve cardiac function in DMD patients by reinforcing cardiac cell membranes.

Confirming the protein's effectiveness required intricate cardiac measurements to determine that the cell membrane does benefit even when the heart is placed under stress.

Study co-author and FSU College of Medicine Associate Professor **Jose Pinto** helped to coordinate the measurements, along with FSU graduate student **Karissa Dieseldorff Jones** and University of Miami Miller School of Medicine research assistant Rosemeire Kanashiro-Takeuchi.

"My graduate student, Karissa, was instrumental in performing cardiac measurements and helping with membrane stability tests along with Dr. Kanashiro-Takeuchi," Pinto said. "We were honored to take part in this key pre-clinical study."



Pinto



Levenson

Concussion patients and ADHD – what we don't know

An estimated 6.1 million children are diagnosed with ADHD in the U.S. each year. It's not uncommon for physicians to recommend sports and recreation as a healthy outlet for channeling their excess energy.

Yet sports-related concussions also are a risk, and little is known about how such injuries might impact a child with ADHD compared with others.

Cathy Levenson, professor of biomedical sciences and neuroscience, is seeking to answer that question.

She received funding from Harvard University's Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital to better understand the neurobiological interaction of ADHD and concussions. The hospital's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program works with people who have sustained traumatic brain injuries and supports related research.

Levenson teamed with **Pradeep Bhide**, the Jim and Betty Ann Rodgers Eminent Scholar Chair of Developmental Neuroscience, to produce a high-fidelity model of both repetitive concussion and ADHD in a single brain – in mice.

With an effective model in place, Levenson and her team are able to observe molecular responses in the brains of mice who have both ADHD and a brain

injury. But making such observations at the level required by her study isn't possible with ordinary MRI technology.

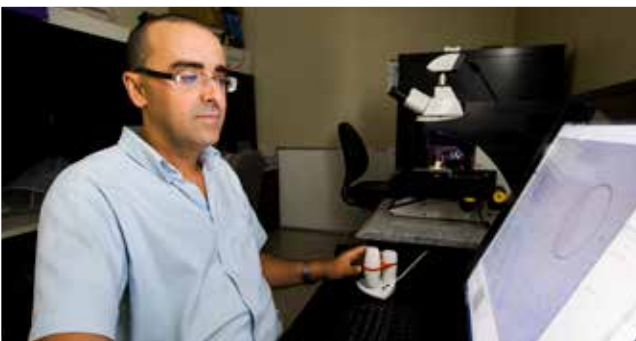
Fortunately, Levenson has access to the world's strongest MRI just a short drive from her College of Medicine lab. The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory gives her the opportunity to run tissue scans with extraordinary levels of sensitivity, revealing metabolic markers, blood flow deficits, white matter integrity and other important indicators of brain injury.

"Without the facilities at the MagLab, this work would not be possible," Levenson said. "It's the ultra-high field strengths that enable us to make these kinds of measurements. Our hope is that if we can learn the system at these high fields, then we may learn how to better apply them clinically."

And that, Levenson says, is the goal: to make discoveries that clinicians can leverage to improve the lives of concussion patients with ADHD.

"Ultimately, it's about treatment, management and having the best outcomes possible," she said. "With this repetitive concussion model combined with the ADHD model and the power of the magnets at the MagLab, we're hoping we can pinpoint some areas of the brain that we can target."

Low-dose ketamine treats depression, but is it safe?



Colin Hackley

Kabbaj

Earlier this year, people with depression and anxiety received welcome news when the Food and Drug Administration approved a fast-acting nasal spray called esketamine. But farther down in the *New York Times* story was this sentence:

“It contains an active portion of the ketamine molecule, whose antidepressant properties are not well understood yet.”

Among the researchers working to understand those properties are **Mohamed Kabbaj** and his Department of Biomedical Sciences assistants.

Ketamine is a fast-acting substitute for people who get no depression relief from Prozac-type medicines. Some have called it a wonder drug, but the National Institutes of Health still wonders exactly how it works. It has awarded Kabbaj nearly \$2 million. Over the next five years, he will investigate whether ketamine is addictive when administered in low doses; how it affects females and males differently; and how it interacts with alcohol.

“Hopefully, by the end of these five years we’ll

have more information for psychiatrists to decide whether ketamine can be safely prescribed for suicidal patients and for patients who do not respond to classic antidepressant treatment,” he said.

Ketamine was developed in the 1960s as an anesthetic to replace PCP, which gave patients hallucinations and other so-called “dissociative effects.” In the last decade, psychiatrists discovered that ketamine in low doses also worked remarkably fast to relieve the symptoms of depression and reverse thoughts of suicide.

“Clinics have popped up around the country treating depression and bipolar disorder with repeated infusions of ketamine,” Kabbaj said. “But no studies have been done to look into the safety of these treatments.”

A step closer for victims of spinal cord injury

In *Nature Neuroscience*, Professor of Biomedical Sciences **Yi Ren** came closer to explaining why so much of the damage caused by a severe spinal cord injury takes place long after the initial trauma.

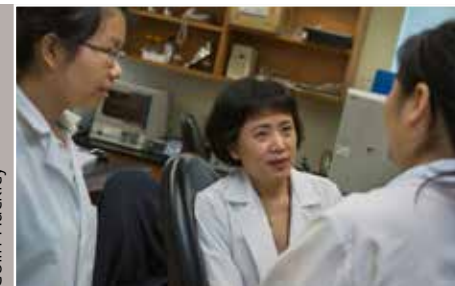
One of the body’s own natural immune system responses may be to blame.

“Uncontrolled inflammation is one of the most important pathological events in the secondary injury cascade,” Ren said. “It persists for a long

period of time following a spinal cord injury.”

Ren’s lab found that the body’s effort to clear debris at the site of the injury inadvertently stimulates fibrotic components, leading to the buildup of scar tissue and chronic inflammation. Her finding is important in helping scientists solve the critical problem of figuring out how to promote neural regeneration during the healing process.

Ren hopes that this explanation of the



Colin Hackley

Ren

mechanisms involved in clearing debris from the injury site will lead researchers toward new ways for accident victims to regain lost functional ability without many of the unwanted side effects.

Taking out the trash – and other cancer news

All cells – even the ones with cancer – need a way to throw out the trash (otherwise known as protein waste). It’s part of the cell survival process.

But how, exactly, does this process work?

“Typically, proteins inside the cell are produced to fulfill a certain function, and once that function is fulfilled, they are no longer needed and need to be removed,”

said Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences **Robert Tomko Jr.**



Tomko Jr.

Proteasomes – tiny structures within a cell that dispose of the waste – are the answer.

“They’re kind of like the cell’s recycling center for proteins,” Tomko said. They also may be the answer for new clues about cancer treatment.

In *Cell Reports*, Tomko published a groundbreaking study in which he and his team focused on the signaling mechanisms involved in proteasome assembly. His work is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Because cancer cells produce large amounts of damaged proteins, they compensate

by overproducing proteasome assembly chaperones, which build more proteasomes to meet the cancer cells’ needs. These fleets of diligent proteasome cleanup crews keep the cancer cells from self-destructing and allow them to propagate more effectively.

By understanding signaling mechanisms that activate proteasome assembly, Tomko hopes to also find ways to interfere with that signal. An obvious advantage would be if such interference condemned a cancer cell to die at the hands of its own toxic proteins.

Leah Genn's eye-opening summer

Before second-year med student **Leah Genn** left the College of Medicine for a 10-week summer research fellowship in Baltimore, she admitted she had far too many interests. She hoped the experience would help narrow her focus in the field of medicine.

"As of right now, I'm most interested in pursuing a career in maternal health, either through specializing in family medicine or OB-GYN," Genn said before she left for the esteemed CDC-funded Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Initiatives for Student Engagement (RISE) Fellowship Program in May.

But what she found was that her variety of experiences in research, service-learning and public health – including two years as a community health and malaria prevention volunteer in the Peace Corps – provided just the right foundation.

"This fellowship has taught me that my various

interests and passions are actually an asset, not a liability, to the public health field," she said.

Genn was paired with mentor Olufunke Pickering, senior medical director at the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Baltimore City Health Department.

Her summer project fell under the B'more for Healthy Babies initiative, which helps combat black-white disparities in infant mortality. Baltimore's black babies are nine times more likely than its white babies to die before their first birthday.

"I expected that I would come into a setting and complete a small research study ... and I probably would have been content with that," she said. "But this program and my mentors

have gone above and beyond. I've had the chance to attend meetings where representatives from hospitals, public assistance programs, the health department and nonprofits identify where the system fell short and determine how

to improve linkage and access to care in order to prevent future deaths. My program has done an incredible job making us aware of the context in which we are working."

As of 2017, B'more for Healthy Babies had reduced overall infant mortality by 36% and the black-white disparity

by 38%. Genn's research was focused specifically on B'more Fit for Healthy Babies, a weekly exercise and nutrition class designed to help reduce postpartum weight retention among mothers receiving public assistance.



Genn

Filling the gaps in geriatric care

As more and more older adults call the Sunshine State home, the need for geriatricians is growing faster than the workforce. As of 2017 Florida had only 404 geriatricians, or roughly one for every 10,000 people over 65.

With a new \$3.75 million grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, the College of Medicine is taking a collaborative approach to strengthening Florida's ability to care for older patients.

"We're not going to be adequately prepared to meet the needs of our older patients in Florida with anything less than a comprehensive approach," said **Paul Katz**, chair of the college's Department of Geriatrics. "There are many gaps in care. You have to identify those gaps and the dearth of resources in Florida – especially rural areas of Florida, which our projects focus on."

The grant funds statewide partnerships and a series of projects focused on giving a wide range of health-care professionals the necessary training and resources.

The goal is to better equip the workforce to address the often complex health-care needs of older adults. Many efforts focus on preventing falls, reducing the number of medications, making sure those meds don't conflict with each other, and communicating effectively with older patients and their families.

The new five-year grant is part of HRSA's national Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP). The Department of Geriatrics received its first grant from the program in 2015, totaling \$3 million after an extension.

As a geriatrician and an educator, **Lisa Granville**, associate chair of the Department of Geriatrics and co-principal investigator of GWEP, knows the importance of incorporating key, geriatric-care strategies into practice and

training. "Many look at the complexities of geriatrics and feel overwhelmed," she said. "Our goal is to provide strategies that feel simple,

focus on high-yield areas and empower people to take action toward providing older adults with the best care possible."

The College of Medicine's North and Central Florida GWEP will highlight interprofessional care and a holistic approach to looking after older adults. That means a broad definition of the health-care workforce to include everyone from home health workers to faith-based caregivers,

PAs, nurses, physicians, health educators, and assisted-living residents and their families.

GWEP's projects also focus on maximizing patient and family engagement and integrating primary care and geriatrics.





Colin Hackley

Muszynski

Saluting Muszynski's research role

When **Michael Muszynski** stepped down in May as dean of the Orlando Regional Campus, he won high praise for his 15 years of mentoring third- and fourth-year students. But long before he became a campus dean, he was a respected researcher in pediatric infectious diseases.

Even though Muszynski rose to become associate dean for clinical research, at least one key figure at the College of Medicine thinks he

doesn't get the credit he deserves for the school's research growth. That person is **Myra Hurt**, who helped establish not only the research program but the college itself.

As Muszynski prepared to retire in May, complete with his Professor Emeritus plaque, Hurt compiled her list of his greatest contributions to the College of Medicine's research record. Among them:

- Muszynski was one of the college's most vocal and visible supporters of research and worked tirelessly to promote research opportunities for medical students at the regional campuses across the state.
 - For his final five years, he led the college's Research Advisory Committee process to ensure that research involving human subjects was "ethical, squeaky-clean and followed sound scientific principles."
 - He played a vital role in launching the Network for Clinical Research and Training and the college's two pilot studies with the University of Florida on sports-related concussions and adolescent health risk assessments.
- "Creating and building a research network is really difficult – sometimes akin to walking through molasses," Muszynski once wrote. "There are remarkably gifted community faculty, research staff and leaders ... who made it happen."
- They wouldn't have gotten nearly as far as they did, Hurt said, without Muszynski.

Coaching parents on early development – and early warning signs

Despite decades of work by **Amy Wetherby's** team to detect autism spectrum disorder sooner, it's still often detected too late. One problem, this director of the Autism Institute has discovered, is that almost nobody wants to be the bad guy who tells parents that their child might have autism.

"Nobody wants to diagnose," she says impatiently. "This is why the average age of diagnosis is 4 years! But we *know* how to pick it up early.

"Think about childhood leukemia. Imagine if I said to you, 'Average age of diagnosis is 4 years, but we know how to detect it by 1½.' That would be considered alarming. Why is it not alarming that we're not picking up autism earlier?"

Yet she doesn't give up. Earlier this year, her team unveiled its latest creation: a website called Baby Navigator.

"Baby Navigator is for parents to easily access the online resources that we've developed," Wetherby said. "It has two purposes: to provide information on early development, and to provide information about early signs of autism

spectrum disorder."

Using Baby Navigator, parents can start interventions right away at home to support the growth of their child's social communication skills. They can learn what to look for.

Baby Navigator reflects the National Institutes of Health-funded research that Wetherby's team has done on early detection of autism. It also incorporates the online courses and tools developed with funding from the Florida Legislature. And thanks to an anonymous donor, much of that information is becoming available on various PBS stations. Parents can access photo

illustrations, video clips and a screening tool for children 9-18 months of age, and register for parenting classes, all online for free.

Wetherby's favorite part of Baby Navigator is the new Autism Navigator Lookbook – 16 Early Signs of Autism by 16 Months. It's loaded with photos so everyone can see what to look for in toddlers.

"We have new milestones we want to teach everybody that are much more precise," she said. "They're about social communication growth. We have pictures. We have videos. We've taken our growth charts down to 6 months. We're trying to lead the nation."



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Faculty milestones



Flowers



Foster



Laywell



Meek

- **Kerwyn Flowers** is the new director of rural medical education. Most recently she was an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health. She succeeds **Anthony Speights**, who can now devote full attention to his other roles, including director of the Bridge Program and (here's a promotion) associate dean of Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences. He succeeds **Helen Livingston** (story, page 9).
- **Liz Foster** is the new assistant dean of the Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences program. Most recently she was director of IMS pre-health academic programming.
- **Eric Laywell** is the new assistant dean for admissions. He's also an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and director of the anatomy lab. He succeeds **Graham Patrick**, who is approaching retirement but is continuing to teach this fall.
- **Joan Meek** is the new dean of the Orlando Regional Campus. She also serves as associate dean for graduate medical education. She succeeds **Michael Muszynski**, who is now a Professor Emeritus and is featured on page 7.

Bridge builder

Anthony Speights has taken on major roles – associate dean of Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences *and* director of the College of Medicine's Bridge Program. The one-year master's program provides promising but disadvantaged students with a bridge to medical school or another career in health care. In August, Bridge was honored by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine as a 2019 Inspiring Program in STEM.

"This award is being presented as a tribute to people and programs that encourage and inspire a new generation of young people to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, and math," wrote Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of *INSIGHT Into Diversity*. "Your award-winning program continues to make a significant difference through mentoring and teaching, research, and other efforts worthy of this national recognition."

Speights, who grew up in a small town and whose parents never got to college, relates to these students.

"In high school and through undergrad," he said, "everything is about 'Every man for himself.' You have to be the best in order to succeed – or you just get left behind. So we bring them into Bridge and the first thing I say is: 'OK, everything that you think you know about the education process, you have to forget now. Because this is all about learning how to work together ... to depend on each other ... to trust each other ... to be vulnerable – and to be all right being wrong in front of each other."

"Because medicine really is one of those careers where it is impossible to know everything that there is to know."

Speights said the Bridge staff goes to great lengths to ensure that it admits students who fit the program – "because we are going to put forth every effort to make sure that we bring everybody along.... I love this group. I love what this program does. And I feel like I'm home."

Colin Hackley

Anthony Speights with then-medical student Martine Sainvilus (M.D., '19). She got her start in medical school through the Bridge program and is now in her first year with the Orlando Health Pediatrics Residency Program.





Senior Associate Dean Alma Littles in front of the College of Medicine's tribute to Elizabeth Blackwell at the main entrance.

From AMWA to Alma

One hundred sixty years after Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to graduate from medical school in the U.S., no one laughs at women applicants anymore. Here at the College of Medicine, female students nearly

always outnumber males – and female leaders excel.

In fact, Senior Associate Dean **Alma Littles** recently was named a national role model. In July she received the Elizabeth Blackwell Award from the American Medical

Women's Association. The award goes annually to the woman physician who has made the most outstanding contribution to the cause of women in medicine.

"In an age where women are still not achieving the same level of success and attaining leadership roles in academic institutions, Dr. Alma Littles has achieved this as a minority woman, trailblazing the way for others to follow," wrote her nominator, **Suzanne Harrison**, a College of Medicine faculty member and past president of AMWA. Harrison noted "the tremendous impact [Littles] has had on medical education and the advancement of women in medicine within her sphere of influence."

As senior associate dean for medical education and academic affairs, Littles has overall

responsibility for overseeing the design, development, implementation and evaluation of the medical student curriculum.

Before joining the faculty here, she directed the Family Practice Residency Program at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. She earned her M.D. at the University of Florida College of Medicine and practiced family medicine in her rural hometown of Quincy.

Littles is former president of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians and past chair of the American Medical Association's Academic Physicians Section. She was the Florida Family Physician of the Year and one of *Black Health* magazine's Top 15 Most Influential African-American Medical Educators, among many other honors. Elizabeth Blackwell would be proud.



Livingston with graduating Bridge students in 2013

Helen Livingston, 'substitute mom'

Years from now, when students encounter **Helen Livingston's** name and wonder who she was, there will be clues.

On the wall in the Bridge

Program office hangs a plaque honoring Livingston and her late husband for their generous donations. The Bridge Program, which reaches into rural communities

to find diamond-in-the-rough future physicians, was one of Livingston's babies. That plaque reads:

"**Myra Hurt**, the guiding spirit behind this College of Medicine, always said that it wouldn't have succeeded without Helen Livingston. If Myra provided the inspiration, Helen provided the perspiration – expertly filling in the essential details that bring a curriculum, program or college to life. But Helen did much more. From 1996 onward – for students in ... Bridge and more – she was not just a dean but a substitute mom ... she helped transform academic pipelines into lifelines."

Also, tucked away in the college's 2013 annual report is the answer Livingston gave when asked what she looked for in prospective Bridge students:

"When many of these students graduated from high school, they had no idea they were even going to college, much less medical school. They had a very bumpy ride. But if you really look at their progress, you'll see that somewhere around their junior or senior year of college, they woke up. And they suddenly started making nothing but A's and B's. That's the student you can do something with. They have the work ethic and the education, and they can overcome obstacles."

In June, she retired as associate dean of the college's Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences division. But those pipelines are still filled with Livingston kids.

Teaching innovation to improve lives



Rodriguez

Pritchard

Encouraging future scientists and innovators is part of the job for College of Medicine research faculty members **Cesar Rodriguez** and **Emily Pritchard**. Their efforts are being rewarded.

A team of students they advise in the Biomedical Entrepreneurship Mentorship program at the College of Medicine won a \$10,000 grand prize in the FSU InNOLEvation® Challenge competition in April before advancing to the final round of the Atlantic Coast Conference InVenture Prize competition.

Competing as InnoHealth Diagnostics, the team developed an innovative DNA-based diagnostic tool to help safeguard people from tropical diseases, specifically the tropical parasitic disease schistosomiasis. Also known as “snail fever,” it’s blamed for causing more than 200,000 deaths a year. An estimated 260 million people have been infected worldwide.

In Nigeria alone, 100 million people are at risk of infection, and 30 million are suffering from the disease. It is typically spread by contact with contaminated river water, and without treatment snail fever can cause stomach ulcers, bladder cancer and other serious health problems.

“InnoHealth demonstrates the effectiveness of interdisciplinary teamwork to achieve broad health impacts,” said Pritchard, who holds a doctorate in biomedical engineering. She and

Rodriguez, an M.D. who is the College of Medicine’s entrepreneur-in-residence, taught a class in biomedical engineering at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering where the students developed the idea as part of a class project.

“This technology began with human-centered design in engineering,” Pritchard said. “Through mentorship at the College of Medicine and the Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship, it has been refined and focused to reach those affected by this parasitic disease.”

Team members Nkechi Emetuche, Clarens Jarbath, Jack Robbins and Angela Udongwo hope their technology will lower the rate of schistosomiasis to less than 1 percent in Kano State, Nigeria. They plan to eventually market their product in other countries.

‘Leadership comes from within’

Leadership in Medicine is not like most student organizations at the College of Medicine. Actually, it’s not technically an organization or club at all, but an academic curriculum developed by students and completed alongside coursework.

Its student founders were **Keith Kincaid**, **Stephanie Tran**, **Devan Patel** and **Farnoosh Shariati**, who received a grant from the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society to create and develop the formalized leadership training program in 2017. New classes of students continue to fine-tune it.

“It’s not just student-run, it’s student-created, student-developed and student-led. It’s really quite amazing,” said **Christopher Mulrooney**, assistant dean and LIM’s faculty advisor.

Eight third-year students were the first to formally apply to become members of Leadership in Medicine and complete its existing curriculum, but they too continue to build and expand the program to include a roadmap for all four years of medical school.

LIM’s curriculum is largely focused on

studying leadership principles like advocating for others, collaboration, creative problem-solving, fostering independence in others, managing change and more through workshops and roundtable discussions.

Members are also paired with mentors working in areas like health policy, academic medicine, community medicine and executive medicine. Mentors have included Temple Robinson, CEO of Bond Community Health Center, and the Florida surgeon general.

“LIM has been a huge commitment from Day One, which has been a blessing and a challenge,” said third-year student **Nikki Clark**. “It requires more of your attention than you want to give it sometimes, but I’ve learned that’s what helps you grow as a leader. Nothing in life happens at the opportune moment, and LIM has helped me practice for that.”

The students hope LIM will become a formally recognized certification program or distinction upon graduation. But while it’s still in its infancy, Mulrooney said, students benefit not just from

being in the program but from creating it.

“To see them rise to the occasion and grow has been very impressive,” he said. “What that says to me is leadership comes from within. Certainly we can fine-tune it, but these students really have an innate desire to be leaders.”



Clark



Colin Hackley

He was there in the beginning

When former Florida State President **Sandy D'Alemberte** was invited to describe the creation of a new medical school at Florida State during the College of Medicine's 10th-anniversary celebration, he didn't do it alone.

"I'd love to claim the vision [for this medical school], but the truth is it wasn't really mine," D'Alemberte told a captive audience. "Instead I'll save my voice and take the advice that was given in Alice in Wonderland: Start at the beginning, go to the end, and then stop."

One by one, he called individuals to the lectern who played important roles in the creation of the first new medical school to open in the U.S. in more than 20 years. Many of them had no idea they were being called into *his* presentation.

But that was classic D'Alemberte, whose genius came clothed in a servant's humility. He wasn't about to stand alone and describe how the medical school cleared major obstacles to

its creation. No matter that as FSU president (and an accomplished trial attorney) at the time, he played arguably the most critical part: using his powerful litigation skills to coax aside the biggest roadblocks.

D'Alemberte died May 20 at age 85, leaving behind a remarkable legacy, including the creation – and accreditation – of the Florida State University College of Medicine.

"Two decades later, we are realizing the benefit of his leadership with over 700 graduates practicing and caring in areas and specialties where there is a clear need," said College of Medicine Dean **John P. Fogarty**. "We are forever in his debt."

Experience D'Alemberte's inimitable style from his 2009 Grand Rounds presentation and his 10th-anniversary talks here (med.fsu.edu/Sandy) and more about his legacy here (med.fsu.edu/tribute).

Ray Stanyard

Remembering Kathy Lee

Kathy Lee, 65, who served as psychiatry education director and taught second-year students in the medicine and behavior course, died June 1 in Tallahassee.

Before joining the College of Medicine faculty in 2006, she worked as a forensic psychiatrist and served as clinical director for the New York State Prison System, with responsibility for mental health services provided to more than 9,000 inmates by a team of more than 150 psychiatrists. Among the prisoners she personally treated were Mark David Chapman, who shot and killed John Lennon, and serial killer David Berkowitz.

She is survived by her physician-husband, William Lee, and three daughters. Two are College of Medicine alumni – **Hanna** (M.D., '16) and **Ilisa** (M.D., '17). Her youngest, **Inga**, is a member of the medical school's Honors Medical Scholars Society.





Colin Hackley

PRIMARY CARE IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD

FSU PrimaryHealth is a new 'medical home' in southwest Tallahassee – and an unprecedented classroom

BY RON HARTUNG

Picture where you get your health care. Probably the nurses' station is over here, the doctor's private office is over there, the PA is down the hall and the

behavior specialist is across town, just like the social worker.

That scenario doesn't match the mental picture that College of Medicine faculty members create when they tell students that medicine is a team sport.

But now, just three miles from the College of Medicine's central campus, there's a place where FSU M.D. and PA students can see their own faculty members practice what they teach. A place where patient-centered care is the norm, where many patients live only minutes away, where few had a primary-care doctor until now, and where the members of the medical team literally work side by side in a wide-open space dubbed The Island.

It's called FSU PrimaryHealth. It opened its doors May 13 at Roberts Avenue and Eisenhower Street, catty-corner from Sabal Palm Elementary School, in a part of town that welcomed it with open arms.

"We're excited for our budding relationship with the College of Medicine," said Monet Moore, a resident of nearby Providence neighborhood and a member of the FSU

PrimaryHealth community advisory board. "We hope that what we have started developing just grows."

Although only a year elapsed between groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting, Dean John P. Fogarty says this project was years in the making.

"It's an opportunity to teach our students multidisciplinary care in actual clinical settings with other health professionals and develop innovative approaches to community health," Fogarty told the College of Medicine family in 2017, before the site in southwest Tallahassee had been chosen. "We want our faculty to stay up-to-date and help us offset some of their salaries through clinical revenues, much as traditional medical schools do. We want to let our clinical faculty practice the person-centered,

interdisciplinary, evidence-based care that they teach."

Now, five days a week, three or four at a time, his faculty members are indeed seeing patients. Most of those patients were "underserved" – until now.

"We've seen asthmatics, diabetics, depression cases and people who have multiple medical issues," said Sherri Swilley, interim practice manager. "They're happy with the care they're getting."

'ALL IN ONE PLACE'

At both the groundbreaking and the ribbon-cutting, a who's who of civic and school officials applauded the new center. Without good health, they said, kids can't learn and adults can't prosper. In June, Sabal Palm became a



Tents were up for FSU PrimaryHealth's ribbon-cutting and open house in May.

Joedrecka Brown Speights, M.D., right, with second-year student Shelby De Cardenas, center, and medical assistant Taylor Brown

Mark Bauer

FALL '19



Tracey Hellgren, M.D., checks medical information in The Island.

Community Partnership School – with the College of Medicine as a key partner.

“We are very excited about the opportunity to have our parents, students, grandparents, aunts, uncles, everyone in this community have direct access to health care,” Sabal Palm Principal Anicia Robinson said at the groundbreaking. “And it’s in their own backyard.”

The center takes all major insurance. It’s not a free clinic, although it does have a sliding fee scale based on income. And it’s not an emergency room. Its creators want patients to think of it as a “medical home” that can handle 80 to 90 percent of their medical needs. For the rest, it will connect patients with other specialists and then coordinate care with that office.

The 10,000-square-foot building has 17 exam rooms, two procedure rooms, a children’s waiting room and even a community room complete with a kitchenette – which can accommodate neighborhood meetings, healthy-cooking classes and much more. That room symbolizes the center’s concern with the whole community.

“The health of people is driven more by what happens between the doctor’s visits than at the doctor’s visits,” said Daniel Van Durme, medical director at FSU PrimaryHealth, senior associate dean for clinical and community affairs, and a

prime mover behind this project. He has done everything from knocking on neighborhood doors, to meeting regularly with community reps, to choosing who would wield the jumbo scissors at the ribbon-cutting. Now he’s seeing patients there, too.

Even though Providence, Mabry Manor, Seminole Manor and The Meadows are its target communities, FSU PrimaryHealth welcomes patients from all over.

“People in Jefferson County and Wakulla County say, ‘I need a primary-care doc. I’ve got XYZ insurance, and the docs nearby don’t take it,’” Van Durme said. “West of here, out Highway 20, it’s 35 miles before you find the next physician. We’ve reached out to people in Fort Braden as well.”

Swiley, the unflappable interim practice manager who discovered a broken water main just in time to keep it from washing out the open house, has helped launch clinics at the University of Florida and elsewhere. She says she’s never seen this big a response.

“As soon as those two phone lines were turned on here, calls were coming in one after another,” she said. “The outpouring of people really wanting to be seen here was overwhelming.”

Things got so busy that two second-year medical students were hired to help out this summer. Austin Clark was mostly at the front desk, getting a new perspective on health insurance, medical record transfers and the desperation of people unable to obtain health care. Fellow student Shelby De Cardenas did whatever was needed, from loading medications onto the emergency-resuscitation “crash cart” to assembling the teaching skeleton model that now inhabits The Island.

The faculty decided to wait until the fall semester, after the dust had settled, before plugging M.D. and PA students into a clinical role.

“As FSU PrimaryHealth evolves, physician assistant students will have the opportunity to further their education by seeing patients under the supervision of the staff,” said John Bastin, clinical education director in the college’s School of Physician Assistant Practice. “This will give them a head start on working side by side with the medical students. In addition, they will have the opportunity to emulate the college’s mission by delivering much-needed health care to the residents of Tallahassee.”



Daniel Van Durme, M.D., in a College of Medicine classroom

PATIENTS AND ALUMNI

Students will see patients like these, who were there one morning in late June:

- Vicki Mock, who moved from California in May. Like many others, she'd been unsuccessfully calling around in search of an available primary-care provider. She was thrilled to register with FSU PrimaryHealth.
- Edward Johnson, an FSU grounds employee who came in after reading a campus flyer. "I work for the university, and it's been great," he said. "Seems like everything FSU touches turns to gold."
- Michele Hood, who was there to see her doctor of 30 years, Tracey Hellgren – formerly with Patients First, now an FSU PrimaryHealth provider. "She's seen me from single college student to married woman with an 11-year-old," Hood said. "She knows my history. She knows the things that I've gone through health-wise. I just trust her."

That kind of connection is what newer physician Shermeeka Hogans-Mathews looks forward to establishing with patients.

"Here, I have the chance to plant the seed, water it and watch it grow," she said. "To help empower my patients to be healthier, happier people."

Hogans-Mathews and Mary Norton are both College of Medicine alumnae, fairly new faculty members and FSU PrimaryHealth providers. They love the camaraderie and teamwork – and the emphasis on emotional as well as physical health.

"Your behavioral health is part of your overall health status," Van Durme said. "So rather than the artificial separation of 'Here's where your mental-health needs are addressed' and 'Here's where the rest of your health needs are addressed,' it's all in one place."

For example, if Norton is seeing an asthmatic pediatric patient whose complications are stressing out the parents, she can do more than merely recommend they see a behavior specialist or social worker. She can turn to one of her colleagues there in The Island and ask her to come down the hallway and meet the family.

"If the parents need care, there are tons of wonderful providers here," said Norton, who graduated in 2013. "That's what this place really offers – making sure the family system thrives."

Hogans-Mathews, from the Class of 2015, also gets a lot of behavioral-care patients, because that's one of her areas of concentration within family medicine.

"Knowing that I have a partnership here and that we have social worker Cori McGooden and others is very encouraging," she said. "We have the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. And having behavioral care integrated into primary care also helps to erase its stigma."

Hogans-Mathews estimates half of her patients have come from the adjoining neighborhoods. Over and over she has heard stories like: "I've been looking for a primary-care doctor and nobody could take me for months, and then I heard about you guys."

"The patients are coming," she said. "They're spreading the news, and I'm just happy to be a part of it."

POSITIVE ATTITUDE

The arrival of the health center doesn't change the College of Medicine's reliance on thousands of community physicians around the state – the "clerkship faculty" members who provide the lion's share of students' clinical training in Years 3 and 4. And as Fogarty has told physicians in Tallahassee, FSU PrimaryHealth has no intention of stealing their patients.

"We made it very clear that we were going to provide primary care, not specialty care," he said. "We were looking for a place where there was a need, and where we wouldn't be in competition."

Fogarty said FSU PrimaryHealth was designed not just for patients, and not just for students, but also for his full-time faculty members at the central campus. They keep getting more numerous – and younger.

"Many of our original faculty were 'seasoned' and didn't have much need to practice clinical medicine," he said. "They'd already had years and years in practice. But as we were recruiting our next generation of faculty, I wanted them to look more like the students than like me. I wanted role models who recently had walked in the students' shoes. The last thing that young faculty members want is to lose their clinical skills. FSU PrimaryHealth provides a way for them to sharpen their skills, to be clinical role models for our first- and second-year students and to serve a medically underserved community."

Hogans-Mathews also appreciates the diversity at FSU PrimaryHealth.

"It's probably one of the most diverse provider groups that you'll see in Tallahassee for primary care," she said. "Not just a diverse group, but a group that shares a good camaraderie and positive attitude. I just feel like every time I come here, I'm uplifted."

For more information, visit med.fsu.edu/health



Shermeeka Hogans-Mathews, M.D., consults with a patient.

Colin Hackley

FALL '19

CLASSMATES, DOCTORS, BUSINESS PARTNERS

Alumni Adam Langley and Gary Visser did their homework, took side jobs and made a leap of faith to start their now-thriving practice in Ocoee

BY RON HARTUNG



O

COEE – Before you can heal patients, you have to find patients. How does that work if you’ve just opened your own practice?

Back in 2012, Adam Langley and Gary Visser tried

everything to make themselves more visible among patients and fellow physicians. They advertised in magazines. They sent out mailers. They joined boards. They went to fall festivals and other community events.

Then they realized what actually works.

“Sometime in the first three months after we opened, we had a 20-year-old come in,” Visser said. “She was sick. I saw her one morning, and in the afternoon I saw her other five family members. I thought: ‘This one person brought me *five* referrals, and 10,000 mailers brought me *one!*’ After six months, we stopped advertising. We focused our efforts on creating a great experience for the patient, instead of paying for an ad.”

That word-of-mouth revelation is just one of the lessons these two Class of 2007 alumni have learned. Though mostly self-taught on the business side of medicine, they’re clearly quick learners. In March, their PremierMED Family & Sports Medicine in Ocoee – just west of Orlando – appeared on the Seminole 100 list, compiled annually by FSU’s Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship. It recognizes the fastest-growing U.S. businesses

owned by Florida State alumni.

As their practice has grown, though, they’ve tried not to let it get out of hand.

“Very often we see in medicine that the immediate family of the physician suffers,” Langley said. “Medical practice will always take more than you can give. At some point, you have to take care of yourself and those you love. Because that’s what keeps you going. That’s what we’re really about.”

The easygoing partners seem to complement each other well. According to Visser, he is more analytical and Langley more creative.

“I find Adam has unique ideas that can kind of take us outside of the box,” Visser said.

Langley replied: “He’s attentive to details, which is very useful when it comes to examining contracts, financial statements and keeping on our budget. I tend to want to jump right in, and he helps figure out the details and if it’s possible.”



Photos by Colin Hackley



PUTTING PATIENTS AT EASE

In silvery scrubs reminiscent of “Star Trek,” the docs look like jocks. In fact, they are. Langley is a surfer, Visser a former decathlete. And as they walk each patient out to the front desk, it’s as if they’re talking to a pal. This is the kind of patient-friendly atmosphere they’ve had in mind since early med school.

“We were both exercise physiology majors,” Langley said. “We cared a lot about staying active and being physically fit. But we knew the experience that we wanted patients to have was going to be more customer-focused. We evaluated the best customer-service companies, like Disney and the Ritz-Carlton, to see what they did, and thought: Why can’t we do that in a medical practice?”

For starters, they didn’t want their office to feel like a clinic.

“We did the beachy-spa theme with grays, light blues and whites,” Visser said. “We put up some shiplap, oars and plantation shutters.” And even though it violated the designer’s color scheme, they hung framed FSU jerseys.

GETTING STARTED

Both did their family medicine residency training at USF’s Morton Plant Mease Family Medicine Program, in Clearwater. After three years, Visser stayed on for a fellowship in sports medicine. Langley worked a year with Suncoast Hospice.

“We were ready to start a practice, but we had no clue what we were doing,” Visser said. “We figured the safest route would be to try to partner with a hospital.”

They negotiated with an Orlando hospital to help them build a new practice.

“There’s a lot of planning, and it takes time to start a practice, so during that time we worked in the emergency room,” Visser said. “But the process was taking longer than expected with the hospital, so we decided, after a year, to say: ‘Hey, we’re going to go try it on our own.’”

Off they went. They had a business plan, Langley said, and that’s what banks need to see.

“They want numbers,” Visser added. “‘What’s your three-year pro forma or estimates?’ ‘How much do we give you?’ ‘What’s the money going toward?’”

Their answers included a lot of guesswork, Visser laughed, “but I will say we were pretty close.”

“Each practice has certain expenses that recur each month,” Langley said. “Everything from biomedical waste to keeping the power on to salaries.”

“We were lucky enough to be introduced to an OB-GYN provider who had just started to practice, and she connected us with a lot of stuff, like IT people,” Visser said. “A health-care attorney friend connected us with an insurance contractor after we tried to do it ourselves.” Several faculty members provided good advice, as well. “We got as much data as we could,

Visser





Langley

put together a three-year plan and gave it to the bank, and they wanted to give us money!”

“When we started,” Langley said, “what we wanted from the bank is about half of what we received. So, because there are two of us, and our budget required a salary for two docs, we learned very quickly that if we didn’t moonlight” – that is, work extra M.D. jobs – “we wouldn’t survive. At one point, we ended up working at six different locations.”

In fact, they still do a bit of moonlighting.

“We started a practice almost right out of residency, so we didn’t have time to save,” Visser said. “We tried partnering with a hospital and then went to the bank. If we were to do it again, I would probably take out the minimum from the bank and moonlight sooner than we did to reduce debt.

“When we started we had five patients a week for a few weeks, and we hadn’t gotten on insurance plans. I mean, we were making nothing for the first few months. Going through those tough times and learning on the go gave us some great knowledge not taught in medical school or residency.

“We’ve been open for six years now and just expanded into a new building with five full-time providers. We’re happy where we are right now and look forward to continuing to grow.”

MORE LESSONS LEARNED

- Promote yourself, they advise. Let’s say you’re moonlighting at an urgent-care clinic. Maybe you’re seeing patients who need to monitor chronic health conditions – and who don’t have a primary-care physician. So refer them to a good one: you. “Come see me at my regular office,” you can tell them.
- Be creative. “We have what’s called a hybrid model,” Visser said. “We take insurance, and then we have a separate concierge practice. Patients can pay a membership fee for that, and they get access to us – like our cellphone, same-day appointments, stuff like that. The medicine is the same for every patient, but concierge patients get a little more access and availability.” It’s more personalized, Langley said: “A lot of patients like to be able to text or email us, just to put their minds at ease. It doesn’t always require a visit. The nice thing, though, is it allows a little bit of breathing room on the main side of our practice to not see as many patients.” So they and their three fellow providers can average about 15 patients a day, rather than 25.
- Don’t be afraid of making mistakes. “We were young and had time and just made mistakes – that was kind of our thing,” Visser said. “So we made mistakes, learned, moved on. Made more mistakes, moved on. We kept doing that till we figured it out. But I like now that I know these things, so if I want to hire somebody and they’re doing something, I can see if they’re doing it the right way.”
- Adapt, rather than grumble about new rules and regulations. “Right now,” Visser said, “to start a practice, you’re going to have to partner in these large groups to keep track of data for Medicare, for all the health insurance plans, because most of our payments are going to be based on the data we’re collecting: Are people getting their colonoscopies? Are their sugars good? Are their blood pressures good? That’s going to dictate whether our rates go up, down, stay the same. We have to collect that data somehow, and we have to submit it somehow. We’ve partnered with some systems that do data collection for us. We pay a small fee, but it’s definitely worth it. If you can’t figure out how to change with the market, you’re going to get paid less. You’re going to see more patients, you’re going to get more stressed out, and you’re going to burn out. We don’t want that.”



A person wearing a purple lab coat and glasses is seen from the side, looking down at a spiral-bound notebook. The background is blurred.

THE ELDER STATESMAN OF THE ANATOMY LAB

BY RON HARTUNG

James Ellsworth Cavanagh is as far from the stereotype of the puffed-up surgeon as you can imagine, yet surgery was his profession for more than 40 years.

When he retired, he wanted to do more than just play tennis,

photograph birds or visit his grandchildren.

So on his last day at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, he called up Florida State University. There was no medical school yet, but there was a program that provided a first year of medical education. He asked whether it could use his help.

That was 1997. In the 22 years since, Cavanagh has been an unpaid, unpretentious, unimaginably popular teacher of anatomy at FSU. He's a favorite of first-year students and teaching assistants. He has never asked for perks, apart from a parking space. And he has no plans to stop volunteering his services.

"Being with younger people is what keeps me going," Cavanagh says. "It's inspiring to me."

Class of 2021 teaching assistant Joey Knipe says Cavanagh passes along his passion for medicine by being personable with each student.

"I will never forget the time before my first anatomy lab as a TA when I was anxiously

looking over my notes for the dissection that day, only to look over and see Dr. Cavanagh studying the names and faces of the first-year students," Knipe says. "He demonstrated to me that in order to be an effective teacher and clinician, it is not only important to have sufficient knowledge, but also the motivation to personally connect with others."

Cavanagh's pedigree is top-notch: B.A. from Dartmouth, M.D. from Harvard, Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery. He has M.D. genes. His father, who started out as a banker in Plattsburgh, New York, eventually became an obstetrician – and was activated in the Army Air Corps in the summer of 1941.

"They assigned him to Tallahassee's Dale Mabry Field," Cavanagh says. "They had drafted almost all of the local obstetricians, so the townspeople went out to the air base and said, 'Look, we don't really have an obstetrician around here. Can you help us?'"

Cavanagh's dad ended up delivering about a thousand babies during World War II. And, for a time, Tallahassee became home. Cavanagh attended Leon High School during the war. He headed back to the Northeast for college, med school and residency. He got married, moved to New Hampshire and for 14 years performed surgery at Portsmouth Hospital. Then came a big change.

"I got a divorce," he says. "Actually, I got dumped, to tell you the truth." What to do



next? “I had learned that my favorite classmate at Leon High School was divorced. So in 1976 I came down to talk to her.” He stayed, and they were married. For the next 21 years, he practiced at Tallahassee Memorial – before making the post-retirement leap to the College of Medicine’s anatomy lab.

Eric Laywell, the lab’s director, marvels at Cavanagh’s energy and dedication.

“We have practical exams down in the lab, and they’re pretty intense,” says Laywell, an associate professor. “It takes all day because the students have to go through in separate groups. Dr. Cavanagh sits there the entire time, in that cold anatomy lab. He’s there more than I am. He loves to be there.

“He also still interviews for the admissions committee – and does great interviews. He’s incredibly sharp.”

When asked, Cavanagh politely declined to divulge his age to *FSU MED*.

“I don’t know his age,” Laywell says. “There’s speculation about that every year. Somewhere between 80 and 100, that’s all I can say!”

When Laywell calls Cavanagh “old-school,” he means it as a compliment.

“He’s done everything,” Laywell says.

“Abdominal surgery, chest surgery, head surgery. I get the impression that that’s just what it was like back in the day. They didn’t have such segregated subspecialties. It’s an interesting slice of history to have him in the class, and I think the students appreciate that. They know that it’s not like that anymore.

“No matter what you’re doing, he has a clinical story that he can tell about that part of the body.”

Here’s one of the stories: “One day when I was practicing in Portsmouth, I had to do an epidural hematoma in an 8-year-old girl who had fallen down some concrete stairs. We had neurosurgeons on call, but I couldn’t find them Saturday at noon. She was getting worse. So I called my medical school neurosurgeon. Got his nurse. She said, ‘He’s on vacation – but I’ll give you his number.’ So I called him up. He said, ‘OK, you’re going to have to do it. Why don’t you go get ready, put the patient to sleep, call me up and we’ll go through it together?’ The nurse held the phone. It took 30 or 40 minutes, and it was successful. If I hadn’t reached the neurosurgeon on the phone, I would’ve done the surgery by myself. I think I could’ve done it. I had two months of neurosurgery when I was an intern.”

Then there’s the story about a woman who’d

been in a car crash and damaged her liver: “Her liver had lots of lacerations. My partner and I worked on her. Every time we’d pack the wound with sponges and pull them out, she’d start bleeding like mad. I said, ‘I’m going to go sit down and think about this.’ And I looked up on the wall, and there was this corset that they have for broken ribs. And so I said, ‘OK, we’re going to pull all of the packing and all of the sponges out, sew her up real fast and put the corset on her.’ And it worked.”

There’s also a story about how he became a surgeon in the first place: “My father was an obstetrician-gynecologist. He was out every night – so I did NOT want to be an obstetrician! I didn’t like surgery, either, because the surgeons were so arrogant. So I decided to be an academic gynecologist. I was accepted by this group in Boston. They told me that I had to take two years of surgery and then do the gynecology. While I was taking surgery, this professor – who was really humanistic, and I liked him a lot – came down and became chief of the service. I said, ‘Well, you know, this isn’t so bad after all.’ So I stuck it out and stayed in surgery.

“I think if I had it to do over again, I’d probably become a family physician.”



James Cavanagh says he’s the young resident on the right in this old photo taken in the Dartmouth ICU.



Forged by the sea

Stephenie Scully (M.D., '10) left Florida State for an internship year in family medicine at nearby Naval Hospital Pensacola. A year later her career took an unexpected turn.

"I deployed with the Marines as a general medical officer and that's when I discovered that treating depression, anxiety and PTSD was very rewarding," Scully said. "After my tour with them I switched to psychiatry."

Today Scully is the psychiatrist for Naval Special Warfare on the West Coast. She's stationed at Naval Medical Center San Diego, where she is assistant director of the outpatient department. When the Navy began its new Mental Health Operational Outreach Division – MHOOD – it turned to Scully to oversee development and create standard operating procedures.

"The Navy, like most places in our country, is struggling to keep up with the demand for mental health care," Scully said. "We have tried to get very creative in order to get our service members access as quickly as possible while delivering safe patient care."

MHOOD offers walk-in, same-day mental health services for active-duty service members and partners with other health-care resources such as the Navy's fleet and family service centers.

"It's so unique, in fact, that this element of collaboration has captured the attention of high-ranking officials," Scully said. A few Navy admirals have been among those requesting tours to learn more about what MHOOD offers.

Recently, a Navy fleet chief unaffiliated with Scully's unit posted a video on Reddit praising MHOOD's services and encouraging military members to utilize them.

"A fleet chief endorsing a specific medical program is relatively rare and a good sign that we are achieving our intended effect," Scully said. "It's been very encouraging to know that our efforts are making a difference."

Scully, who was "stationed" at the Pensacola Regional Campus for her third and fourth years of medical school, offered some unsolicited praise of her own: "My educational experience at FSU COM was phenomenal and the foundation for all I've been able to do in Navy medicine."

FSU Medical Alumni Board

Tanya Anim (M.D., '10) was elected chair of the FSU Medical Alumni Board during the spring meeting. Anim, a family physician with the FSU College of Medicine-Lee Health Family Medicine Residency Program in Fort Myers, is the second College of Medicine alumna to lead the board.

The spring elections also included officers **Richard Sheridan, M.D.** (PIMS '76), chair-elect; **Ric Adkins, M.D.** (PIMS '81), treasurer; **Marlisha Edwards** (M.D., '11), secretary; **Rudy Hehn, M.D.** (PIMS '78), Elected Director 1; and **Charles Ritchie** (M.D., '08), Elected Director 2.

Board members include:

Mike Sweeney, M.D. (PIMS '75), past chair; **Christie Alexander** (M.D., '05), past chair; **Floyd Jaggears, M.D.** (PIMS '83), immediate past chair; **Gary Dana, M.D.** (PIMS '89); **Paul Deci, M.D.** (PIMS '83); **Matthew Lee** (M.D., '06); **Stephanie Lee** (M.D., '06); **Joda Lynn** (M.D., '05); **Ric Newman, M.D.** (PIMS '83); **Shannon Price** (M.D., '06); **Sandeep Rahangdale, M.D.**, regional campus designee; **David Rice, M.D.** (PIMS '95); **Sarah Ritchie** (M.D., '08); **Edward St. Mary, M.D.** (PIMS '79); **Cody VanLandingham** (M.D., '08); **Scott Warren, M.D.** (PIMS '83); **Mike Weiss, M.D.** (PIMS '91); **Lauren Hemstreet**, student rep, PA Class of 2020; **JP Megna**, student rep, M.D. Class of 2021; **Abigail Schirmer**, student rep, M.D. Class of 2022; and **Morrisa Taylor**, student rep, M.D. Class of 2020; **Dominique Williams, M.D.** Class of 2023; and **Madeleine Zeichner**, PA Class of 2019.

Interested in serving or have questions about the board's role? Contact us at alumni@med.fsu.edu.



Alumna Tanya Anim



Robert L. Brown Sr.

Alumni of distinction

Every year, the College of Medicine recognizes Distinguished Alumni Award winners during the White Coat Ceremony, holding up their work as an example to the newest class of medical students.

We encourage you to nominate those PIMS or College of Medicine alumni who you believe deserve this honor. Nominations are presented to the FSU Medical Alumni Board, which selects the winners during its spring meeting.

Send your nomination letter to FSU Medical Alumni, 1115 W. Call St., Tallahassee, FL 32306-4300; or attach your nomination letter in an email to alumni@med.fsu.edu.

This year's honorees are **Robert L. Brown Sr., M.D.** (PIMS '81), who is being honored posthumously, and **Kerry Bachista** (M.D., '05), a member of the College of Medicine's inaugural class.

Brown is being recognized for his work as a family physician in an impoverished and medically underserved neighborhood in Jacksonville before his death in 2005 at age 55. He grew up as one of 10 children on his father's farm in Quitman, Georgia, earned a degree in zoology at Fort Valley State College in 1972 and then joined the Army.

He entered the PIMS program in 1980, by

which time he and his wife, Gloria, had four children. He said in a 2003 interview that he vowed to give back to the community because without community support he would not have gotten through medical school while raising a family.

Brown served as medical director of the Soutel Family Practice Center in Jacksonville, where he was credited with helping to bring a Winn-Dixie grocery store to the neighborhood. The nearest grocery at that time was several miles away – long before the coining of the term “food desert.”

Brown owned property across the street from his office. He leased it to Winn-Dixie and the store opened in 1996. Every year he organized a community appreciation day in the store's parking lot, which included free health screenings.

Bachista was one of 30 students admitted for the first class of the new FSU College of Medicine. He and classmate Alex Ho started

the Emergency Medicine Interest Group and both today are emergency medicine physicians – Bachista in the Jacksonville area and Ho in Tallahassee.

Bachista was nominated for the award by Andrew Kropp (M.D., '19), who had reached out to see whether Bachista was willing to answer some questions about life as a medical director in emergency medicine. Kropp was doing a visiting rotation with the University of Florida Emergency Medicine Residency Program in Jacksonville.

The result was a 12-hour ride-along, and insight into Bachista's contributions as a physician, mentor, teacher and confidant for patients, medical residents and paramedics. He serves as medical director of St. Johns County Fire Rescue, responsible for its work across an 822-square-mile area. In 2018, Bachista was named statewide winner of the Raymond H. Alexander, M.D., EMS Medical Director of the Year Award.



Kerry Bachista

Share your news

Enjoy reading about your classmates and other FSU medical alumni? Let us share your news in a future *FSU MED*. Send your news to alumni@med.fsu.edu.

You can also be assured of receiving *FSU MED*, the med school's e-newsletter and invitations to reunions and other alumni gatherings by making sure we have your updated contact information. Visit med.fsu.edu/alumnifriends > Our Alumni > Update Your Profile

And now here's some news from us: **Shelby Young** (whose contact information you've already seen) has joined the College of Medicine as alumni relations and events manager. Shelby, who has a degree in mathematics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and once taught middle school mathematics, earned her master's in higher education at FSU. She previously served as assistant director at the FSU Career Center.

You'll be hearing more from her in the future, but please don't hesitate to get in touch and say hello.

Now we look forward to hearing from *you!*



Young



Allison

From the NIH to Texas

Robert Allison (M.D., '06), once a rising star at the National Institutes of Health – where he had recently been appointed chief of the Infectious Diseases Section and associate director for research for the Department of Transfusion Medicine – opted in March for a Texas two-step.

He accepted an offer to become chief medical officer for Sendero Health, a community-based nonprofit health maintenance organization owned by the Travis County (Texas) Health District. Sendero is dedicated to improving the health of the community by providing affordable, quality health care coverage, especially for Travis County residents with low incomes.

"I was planning to make a transition from NIH back to the front lines of public health in poor countries to improve health for the most vulnerable populations," Allison said in a company news release. "However, the U.S. also has millions of people who are sick and lack access to quality health care. As I contemplated Sendero's approach and the opportunity to join the leadership team, I knew I wanted to help them achieve their mission.

"As chief medical officer, I have the opportunity to make a significant impact on the health of both individual patients and the broader community. By focusing on preventive medicine and social determinants of health and ensuring that the highest quality care is delivered to those who need it most in Central Texas, we will make a difference."

The 21st day of September

If you miss the Jacksonville gathering (and even if you don't!), join us for the Fall Alumni Tailgate on Sept. 21 before Florida State takes on Louisville. Atlantic Coast Conference television partners will determine the game's kickoff time in September.

The alumni tailgate, including current medical students, faculty and administration, will start four hours before game time. In the event of a noon game, the tailgate will start at 10 a.m.

Check for the latest details at med.fsu.edu/alumnifriends or contact Shelby Young at shelby.young@med.fsu.edu or (850) 645-9428.



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Or contact alumni@med.fsu.edu

2006

Robert Allison, M.D., was named chief medical officer at Sendero Health in Austin, Texas. (See: "From the NIH to Texas," page 26.)

2007

Adam Langley, M.D., and **Gary Visser, M.D.**, were honored for their medical entrepreneurship because theirs is one of the fastest-growing businesses owned by FSU alumni. (See: "Classmates, doctors, business partners," page 16.)

Beau Toskich Jr., M.D., is an interventional radiologist at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville and has been extended a visiting professorship to discuss the management of liver cancer at the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain.

2008

Jessica Suber, M.D., is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Southern Ohio Medical Center.

2009

Maureen Payant McKenna, M.D., and **Theresa Payant McKenna, M.D.**, completed an additional residency in emergency medicine at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. They are now practicing emergency physicians at Tennova Healthcare in Clarksville, Tennessee.

2010

Tanya Anim, M.D., is now practicing as a family physician with the FSU College of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health in Fort Myers. Anim also was named chair of FSU Medical Alumni in March.

Leroy Cordero Floyd III, M.D., is now the director of hospital medicine at Garnet Health in Middletown, New York.

Nicole McCoy, M.D., completed an additional residency in anesthesiology and perioperative medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is now a pediatric anesthesia fellow at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville.

2011

Rachel Bixler, M.D., won two 2018 Best of the Forgotten Coast Awards as she was voted Best General Practice Doctor and Best Family Physician Office by residents of Mexico Beach, Gulf and Franklin counties in Florida. She is a family medicine doctor with Sacred Heart Medical Group.

David Cangemi, M.D., completed a gastroenterology fellowship at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He has now returned to practice at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville.

Andrew Cooke, M.D., is practicing at Lake Allergy, Asthma and Immunology in Tavares, Florida. He also is a member of the Daytona Beach Regional Campus clerkship faculty.

Komal D'Souza, M.D., is a palliative care physician at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital in Lake Forest, Illinois.

Christopher Dixon, M.D., is a maternal-fetal medicine faculty member with Orlando Health-Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies.

Matthew Frankel, M.D., is a diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and is practicing with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Lecanto, Florida.

Ashley Lucke, M.D., completed a neonatology fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, and is now a fetal neurology fellow at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Eric Martinez, M.D., completed a fellowship in abdominal transplant surgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison. He is now an abdominal transplant surgeon at Baylor Scott & White Transplant Services in Dallas.

Nicole Meisner, M.D., moved to Northern California and is currently practicing at the Salinas Valley Medical Clinic.

David Nigen, M.D., completed a sports medicine fellowship at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. He is now an assistant attending orthopedic surgeon at New York Presbyterian Hospital, and a clinical instructor in orthopedic surgery at Weill Cornell Medical Center in Astoria, New York.

Kelli (Murphy) Randell, M.D., is an internal medicine specialist at Naval Hospital Oak Harbor in Washington.

Lauren Smith, M.D., began a hospice and palliative medicine fellowship at the University of Washington and welcomed her second child, Ruth.

David Snipelisky, M.D., completed an additional fellowship in advanced heart failure and transplantation at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He is now a board-certified cardiovascular surgeon with WellStar Medical Group in Marietta, Georgia.

Brad Stephan, M.D., completed a fellowship with the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery in Chicago. He recently founded Stephan Surgical Arts in Tampa, where he is a cosmetic and general surgeon.

2012

David Alvarez, M.D., completed a hand fellowship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He has returned to practice with Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic as a hand and upper-extremity surgeon.

Sarah (Mike) Alvarez, M.D., has returned to practice in Florida with North Florida Pediatrics in Tallahassee.

Stefani Ashby, M.D., completed a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at UF Health Jacksonville. She is now a pediatric emergency medicine specialist at Baptist Health in Jacksonville.

Daniel Christian, M.D., is now practicing at Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, Rhode Island, as a general, minimally invasive and bariatric surgeon.

Casey Cosgrove, M.D., completed a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He is now an assistant professor at The Ohio State University/James Cancer Hospital.

Jiwon (Park) Crowley, M.D., completed her residency in general surgery at UC Davis School of Medicine. She has begun an independent plastic surgery residency at UC San Diego.

Bryan Garcia, M.D., recently accepted a faculty position in the Division of Pulmonary Critical Care at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Benjamin Greif, M.D., completed his general surgery residency at the University of Oklahoma. He is now a general surgeon at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Paul McLendon, M.D., completed a fellowship in shoulder and elbow surgery at the Florida Orthopaedic Institute. He is now practicing as an orthopedic surgeon at Riverside Doctors' Hospital Williamsburg in Virginia.

Shelley Murphy, M.D., is an attending physician and assistant clinical professor at UT Erlanger, T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Alok Nath Pandya, M.D., completed a fellowship in pulmonary critical care medicine at Temple. He is now a pulmonologist at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia.

Chetan Patel, M.D., completed his fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has returned to Central Florida as a general surgeon at Oviedo Medical Center.

Amol Purandare, M.D., completed a pediatric infectious disease fellowship at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. He's now practicing at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.

2013

Ahkeel Allen, M.D., completed his general surgery residency at Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia. He is now a surgical oncology breast fellow at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

Mary-Margaret Allen, M.D., completed a surgical pathology fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and is now in practice with Mease Pathology Associates in Dunedin.

Jesse Boodoo, M.D., completed a rheumatology fellowship at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He has returned to practice at the Sarasota Arthritis Center.

Christina Brown, M.D., completed a fellowship in pediatric anesthesiology at Oregon Health & Science University. She is now practicing at the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain.

Marc Cillo, M.D., recently completed a fellowship in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, where he is now an assistant professor of medicine.

Erica Delbecq, M.D., is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and a pediatric hospitalist at Texas Children's Hospital. She is also a clinical instructor of medicine and an adult hospitalist at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Patrick Gill, M.D., is an internal medicine physician in the outpatient faculty practice at Orlando Health, where he is working with the Orlando Health residents.

Alexa Kaminski, M.D., completed her fellowship in obstetric anesthesiology at UT Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, where she is now an assistant professor of anesthesiology and pain management.

Brittany McCreery, M.D., has been selected to join the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Board of Directors.

Babak Missaghi, M.D., is an emergency physician at Harbor UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, California.

Maria Rucinski, M.D., is practicing as an emergency physician with Emergency Resources Group in Jacksonville.

Collin Tully, M.D., completed his general surgery residency at Northeast Ohio Medical University in Youngstown. He is now a general surgeon at AdventHealth in Winter Garden.

Brittany Warren, M.D., completed a surgical critical care fellowship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and is now in practice at AdventHealth in Orlando.

Leah Williams, M.D., completed the Emergency Medicine/Family Medicine Residency Program at Louisiana State University Health Science Center in Shreveport. She is now an emergency physician at Tulane Medical Center-New Orleans Hospital & ER in Louisiana.

Kathryn Winn, M.D., is currently working as an adjunct faculty neonatologist at Wake Forest Baptist and will begin working as an attending neonatologist at Winnie Palmer Hospital in Orlando in September.

2014

Samuel Borrelli, M.D., completed his internal medicine residency at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. He has returned to Florida to practice as an internist with Inpatient Consultants of Team Health in Tampa.

Kevin Carnevale Jr., M.D., completed his OB-GYN residency at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California. He is now an OB-GYN at Nellis Air Force Base Medical Center in Nevada.

Alick Drummond, M.D., is now board-certified in pediatrics and is a general pediatrician at St. Petersburg Pediatrics in Florida.

Joshua Ellis, M.D., is a pediatrician with the U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Alicia Evans, M.D., is a family physician at Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Nathalie Gutierrez Prieto, M.D., is an OB-GYN at Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies in Orlando.

Angela Guzman, M.D., completed her final year of residency at Orlando Health as chief resident. She is now an OB-GYN with Women's Care Florida in Orlando.

Brittany Lamb, M.D., is an emergency medicine attending physician in northern Virginia, working in two free-standing ERs, a pediatric ER and a hospital-attached ER.

Judy Lin, M.D., completed her pediatrics residency at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. She is now practicing as a pediatrician at Kaiser Permanente San Leandro Medical Center in California.

Megan McDowell, M.D., completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at USF College of Medicine in Tampa. She is now practicing at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Jason Pesqueira, M.D., completed his family medicine residency program at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, where he is now working as a family physician.

James Pilkington, M.D., is a practicing urologist with Heart of Florida Physician Group in Lake Wales and Davenport.

Colin Swigler, M.D., is a fellow in Hand and Upper Extremity Orthopedics at UF Health in Gainesville.

David Swoboda, M.D., completed a hematology/oncology fellowship at Georgetown University Medical Center and is now in an additional fellowship at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa.

Samantha (Rupert) Swords, M.D., is now practicing as a family physician with the UPMC Medical Education Program in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Trung Tran, M.D., has begun an endocrinology and metabolic disorders fellowship program at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans.

James Westbrook, M.D., is stationed at NATO Base Sigonella in Sicily, Italy, and practicing as a family physician.

Ryan Williamson, M.D., completed a neurology residency at Georgetown University Medical Center. He is now a staff neurologist at Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

2015

Justin Beyer, M.D., is practicing emergency medicine with EMPros in Flagler, Volusia and Brevard counties.

Georgia Christakis, M.D., completed her pediatrics residency at New York Medical College at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla. She is now a global health pediatric fellow at Boston Children's Hospital.

Tyler Cobb, M.D., and **Laura McLaughlin, M.D.**, recently married in Estes Park, Colorado.

David Deray, M.D., is board-certified in pediatrics and is currently a pediatrician at Blue Fish Pediatrics at Sienna Plantation in Missouri City, Texas.

Kristen Deray, M.D., is now board-certified in pediatrics. She is an infectious-disease fellow at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

Joshua Gordon, M.D., is an emergency medical services fellow at UF Health-Shands in Gainesville.

Brian Hassani, M.D., completed an emergency medicine residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is now a practicing emergency physician at Baptist Health Center in Birmingham.

Jason Hinton, M.D., was named chief resident of radiation oncology at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

Ryan Howard, M.D., completed his family medicine residency at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he was recognized for completing the 200-hour Integrative Medicine in Residency curriculum provided by the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine. He received the Medical Legal Partnership Advocacy Award for outstanding performance and dedication to patient well-being. He is now practicing as a board-certified adult hospitalist with Kaweah Delta Health Care in Visalia, California. He also mentors residents at the Family Medicine Residency Program at Kaweah Delta Healthcare District.

Kyle Iketani, M.D., completed his residency in emergency medicine at UF Health. He is now an emergency physician with North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville.

Amanda (Morden) Kovacich, M.D., is a fellow in pulmonary diseases and critical care at UNC School of Medicine in Chapel Hill.

Sudeep Kuchibhotla, M.D., is a cardiology fellow at the Texas Heart Institute in Houston, where he completed a yearlong research fellowship working toward the development of stem cell therapies for cardiovascular diseases. He also celebrated his marriage in June to Neethi Srinivasan.

Laura McLaughlin, M.D. (See class note for classmate Tyler Cobb, above.)

Tiana Monostory, M.D., completed her residency in pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University Medical Center in Cleveland. She is a pediatric emergency medicine fellow at the University of Utah School of Medicine.

Amanda Murray, M.D., completed her residency in pediatrics at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. She is now practicing as a pediatrician at Dothan Pediatric Clinic in Alabama.

Patrick Murray, M.D., is a primary-care sports medicine fellow at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Keniel Pierre, M.D., is chief resident of the University of South Alabama Internal Medicine Residency Program. He received the Victor Benator Award for overall best resident, as well as the Denzil Les Sockwell Memorial Humanitarian Award, after raising over \$2,000 for the Feeding the Gulf Coast Backpack Program. He also married in June.

Tyler Reinthaler, M.D., completed his family medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian Shadyside, where he is now practicing as a family physician.

Sarah-Ashley Robbins, M.D., completed her residency in family medicine at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver. She is now a practicing family physician with SCL Health Medical Group-Cherry Creek in Denver.

Jonathan Salud, M.D., completed an internal medicine residency at Emory University School of Medicine. He is now practicing as an internist with Kaiser Permanente in Puyallup, Washington, where he also serves as clinical faculty in hospital medicine for the University of Washington.

Natalie Voithofer, M.D., completed her family medicine residency at East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie, Louisiana. She is now practicing as a family physician at Ochsner Health Center – Baptist Napoleon Medical Plaza in New Orleans.

Day Zayas Maldonado, M.D., completed her emergency medicine residency at Florida Hospital in Orlando. She is now practicing with Florida Emergency Physicians in Maitland.

2016

Daniel Bernabe, M.D., began working as a primary-care doctor at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Physician Partners SouthWood.

Cesar Garcia-Canet, M.D., MPH, received the 2018 Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award, nominated by the medical students at Mercer University School of Medicine.

Tiffany Lambrou, M.D., completed her residency in internal medicine at UF Health and is now a gastroenterology fellow at Temple University in Philadelphia.

2017

Mayuri Joshi, M.D., is the new chief resident for her internal medicine residency program at Orlando Health.

Edson Mwakyanjala, M.D., has been named chief resident for internal medicine at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville for the 2020-2021 academic year.

PIMS 1974

Abi Rayner, M.D., is board-certified (vocational registration) and self-employed, practicing as a locum tenens in rural hospitals throughout New Zealand. She completed a fellowship in a new specialty in New Zealand – rural hospital medicine.

Bruce Slater, M.D., MPH, is a board-certified internist. He previously served in the National Health Service Corps in a rural New Mexico underserved area; was the physician to Peace Corps volunteers in West and later East Africa; taught and practiced medicine and clinical informatics at the University of Wisconsin; became board-certified in clinical informatics; served as chief medical information officer at a teaching hospital in Madison, Wisconsin; worked for an EHR vendor; and consulted in informatics at Cleveland Clinic. He is now retired and became a certified master naturalist. He enjoys hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains with his wife.

PIMS 1983

Paul Deci, M.D., is the Psychiatry Residency Program director and clinical professor of psychiatry at Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine/Psychiatry Residency Program. He also serves as the VA site director at the Orlando VA Medical Center and is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

Clifton Craig Wyrosdick, M.D., died in February in Pace, Florida, where he had practiced as a family physician for more than 27 years.

PIMS 1986

Kim Landry, M.D., is the chief medical officer for Lifeguard Ambulance Service in Bay and Santa Rosa counties. He is also the medical director for Leon County Emergency Medical Services and the Tallahassee Fire Department, and serves as a physician with Excalibur Telemedical Services in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

PIMS 1995

Shelly Holmström, M.D., has been promoted to professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of the South in Seawee, Tennessee. She also was elected vice chair of District XII of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.





CLASS OF 2019

RESIDENCY MATCH

INTERNAL MEDICINE (24)

Nadia Akhiyat, M.D., Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education (Minnesota)

Amy Amornmarn, M.D., Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (North Carolina)

Roddy Bernard, M.D., UF Health Shands Hospital, Gainesville (Florida)

Jackson Brown, M.D., UF Health Shands Hospital, Gainesville (Florida)

Alan Chan, M.D., Boston University Medical Center (Massachusetts)

Eric Crespo, M.D., Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (North Carolina)

Adam Danley, M.D., University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago (Illinois)

Prajwal Dara, M.D., University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine (Florida)

Gabriel DeCarvalho, M.D., Orlando Health (Florida)

Boris Faynberg, M.D., Brookwood Baptist Health (Alabama)

Bryno Gay, M.D., Orlando Health (Florida)

Mollika Hossain, M.D., Citrus Memorial Hospital (Florida)

Alexandra Johnston, M.D., Naval Medical Center San Diego (California)

Ishaan Madhok, M.D., UF Health Shands Hospital, Gainesville (Florida)

Megan Opferman, M.D., Orlando Health (Florida)

Rachel Pelt, M.D., University of Tennessee College of Medicine-Saint Thomas Hospitals (Tennessee)

David Powers, M.D., MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (Washington, D.C.)

Carly Rabinowitz, M.D., UF Health Jacksonville (Florida)

Elier Rodriguez, M.D., Florida State University College of Medicine-Sarasota Memorial HealthCare (Florida)



Chanlir Segarra, M.D., University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine (Florida)

Farnoosh Shariati, M.D., Ochsner Health System (Louisiana)

Adhish Singh, M.D., Methodist Health System-Methodist Dallas Medical Center (Texas)

Travis Thompson, M.D., University of Miami Miller School of Medicine at Holy Cross Hospital (Florida)

Jason Waldman, M.D., University of Nevada-Las Vegas School of Medicine (Nevada)

FAMILY MEDICINE (18)

Michael Babcock, M.D., Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education (Minnesota)

Ricardo Bailey, M.D., Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (Florida)

Jared Barber, M.D., Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (Florida)

Saira Bari, M.D., Atlanta Medical Center (Georgia)

Samuel Cook, M.D., Ventura County Medical Center (California)

Zedeena Fisher, M.D., Bayfront Health St. Petersburg (Florida)

Christopher Galletti, M.D., Florida State University College of Medicine-Lee Health (Florida)

Elizabeth Ichite, M.D., Carolinas Medical Center (North Carolina)

Breanna (Jameson) Walters, M.D., Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (Florida)

Ashley Kreher, M.D., Jackson Memorial Hospital/Jackson Health System (Florida)

Jack Larsen, M.D., East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine (Tennessee)

Meghan (Novotny) Lewis, M.D., Eglin Air Force Base (Florida)

Acton Pifer, M.D., Swedish Medical Center (Washington)

Amber (Thomas) Pitman, M.D., UF Health Shands Hospital, Gainesville (Florida)

Ryan Riggs, M.D., Trident Medical Center (South Carolina)

Stephanie Rolon Rodriguez, M.D., University of Utah Health Affiliate Network (Utah)

Ludonir Sebastiany, M.D., Community Health of South Florida, Miami (Florida)

Tiffany Smith-Sutton, M.D., Florida State University College of Medicine-Lee Health (Florida)

OBSTETRICS- GYNECOLOGY (9)

Elizabeth (Ball) Wilkinson, M.D., UF Health Shands Hospital, Gainesville (Florida)

Karisa Brown, M.D., LSU Health Shreveport (Louisiana)

Shelbi Brown, M.D., University of Kentucky College of Medicine (Kentucky)

Emily Deibert, M.D., Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (North Carolina)

Stephanie Figueira, M.D., Emory University School of Medicine (Georgia)

Kevin List, M.D., Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell (New York)

Oluremi Omotayo, M.D., Louisiana State University School of Medicine (Louisiana)

Thomas Paterniti, M.D., Medical College of Georgia (Georgia)

Sarah Schaet, M.D., Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (Virginia)

PEDIATRICS (9)

Bianca Alvarez, M.D., University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine (Florida)

Amy Bearison, M.D., Louisiana State University School of Medicine (Louisiana)

Kenneth Delgado, M.D., Memorial Healthcare System (Florida)

Caroline Jackson, M.D., University of Louisville School of Medicine (Kentucky)

Conor Malloy, M.D., University of Kentucky College of Medicine (Kentucky)

Sarah Ruiz, M.D., Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell (New York)

Martine Sainvilus, M.D., Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children (Florida)

Erica (Heinrichs) Steele, M.D., University of Virginia School of Medicine (Virginia)

Jessica Warrick-Imrisek, M.D., UF Health Jacksonville (Florida)

ANESTHESIOLOGY (8)

Kyle Batton, M.D., New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center (New York)

Wyndham Bonett, M.D., University of Alabama Medical Center at Birmingham (Alabama)

Stuart Brown, M.D., Louisiana State University School of Medicine (Louisiana)

Karolain Garcia, M.D., UF Health Shands Hospital, Gainesville (Florida)

Marckenley Isaac, M.D., Drexel University College of Medicine/Hahnemann University Hospital (Pennsylvania)

Lindsey Laux, M.D., Jackson Memorial Hospital/Jackson Health System (Florida)

Megan McClain, M.D., University of Maryland Medical Center (Maryland)

Jennifer Riche, M.D., University of Rochester-Strong Memorial Hospital (New York)

EMERGENCY MEDICINE (8)

Bryce Bergeron, M.D., Orlando Health (Florida)

Elizabeth Calhoun, M.D., Florida Atlantic University Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine (Florida)



Andrea Comiskey, M.D., University of Cincinnati Medical Center (Ohio)

Seth Fielding, M.D., Palmetto Health Richland Hospital (South Carolina)

Charlie Ingram, M.D., Cooper Medical School of Rowan University/Cooper University Hospital (New Jersey)

Mark Kastner, M.D., Carolinas Medical Center (North Carolina)

Alexis Kimmel, M.D., University of Cincinnati Medical Center (Ohio)

Andrew Kropp, M.D., University of Connecticut School of Medicine (Connecticut)

GENERAL SURGERY (8)

Sara Ardila, M.D., Orlando Health (Florida)

Daniel Farinas Lugo, M.D., AdventHealth Orlando (Florida)

Claren Harper, M.D., Brookwood Baptist Health (Alabama)

Nima Khosravani, M.D., The University of Miami/JFK Medical Center Palm Beach Regional Graduate Medical Education Consortium (Florida)

Maria Raye Anne Ng, M.D., The University of New Mexico School of Medicine (New Mexico)

Cory Nonnemacher, M.D., Medical Center of Central Georgia-Mercer University School of Medicine (Georgia)

Clayton Rooks, M.D., University of Mississippi Medical Center (Mississippi)

Olivia Tighe, M.D., David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base (California)

PSYCHIATRY (6)

Anna (Fulghum) Ehrhardt, M.D., Medical University of South Carolina (South Carolina)

Kevin Hill, M.D., Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Massachusetts)

Benjamin Jacobi, M.D., University of Connecticut School of Medicine (Connecticut)

Kristen Laster, M.D., Baylor College of Medicine in Houston (Texas)

Ioannis Malidelis, M.D., Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center (Ohio)

Megan Stockamp, M.D., University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine (Florida)

DERMATOLOGY (4)

Nicolas Aguila, M.D., Stony Brook Teaching Hospital (New York) (Transitional: Brandon (Florida) Regional Hospital)

Hana Ahmed, M.D., University of Alabama Medical Center at Birmingham (Alabama) (Transitional: Broward (Florida) Health Medical Center)

David Aung-Din, M.D., University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine (Transitional: Brandon Regional Hospital) (Florida)

Brandon Cardon, M.D., University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine (Transitional: Brandon Regional Hospital) (Florida)

MEDICINE-PRIMARY (4)

Stefano Leitner, M.D., George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences (Washington, D.C.)

Shawn McCullough, M.D., Alameda Health System-Highland Hospital (California)

Tucker Retherford, M.D., University of Kentucky College of Medicine (Kentucky)

Amit Tolani, M.D., Virginia Mason Medical Center (Washington)

PATHOLOGY (2)

Stephanie Hurwitz, M.D., Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania)

Matthew Vega, M.D., Rush University Medical Center (Illinois)

SURGERY-PRELIMINARY (2)

Samantha Cleveland, M.D., Orlando Health (Florida)

Ryan Suits, M.D., Florida State University College of Medicine-Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (Florida)

MILITARY TRANSITION YEAR

Michael Rizzo, M.D., Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (Virginia)

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY (1)

Ryan Diaz, M.D., LSU Health Shreveport (Louisiana)

OPHTHALMOLOGY (1)

Nickolas Garson, M.D., UF Health Shands Hospital, Gainesville (Transitional: Blake Medical Center) (Florida)

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY (1)

Collin Lamba, M.D., The Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine (West Virginia)

OTOLARYNGOLOGY (1)

Brittany Tanner, M.D., University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago (Illinois)

PLASTIC SURGERY- INTEGRATED (1)

Lee Weber, M.D., Jackson Memorial Hospital/Jackson Health System (Florida)

PSYCHIATRY-RESEARCH (1)

Timothy Walsh, M.D., University of Washington (Washington)



Faculty member, war hero

To viewers of the Ken Burns/Lynn Novick documentary on the Vietnam War, Hal Kushner's face became familiar. He served in the 1st Squadron, 9th U.S. Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division, and he was interviewed extensively for that film. The clerkship faculty member from the Daytona Beach Regional Campus was honored in May by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery with its first Distinguished Member Award. Here are excerpts from Col Kushner's remarks that evening.

I am a small-town ophthalmologist. But before that, I was an Army flight surgeon for a very famous, highly decorated unit. I was the only survivor of a nonsurvivable helicopter crash. And I was seriously wounded in the crash with three broken bones, a bullet wound and burns. Then three days after the crash I was shot again while being captured. My captivity lasted 65 months, 5½ years, 1,932 days.... My daughter was 3½ when I left, and when I came back she was in the fifth grade.... My son was born four months after I was captured.... I met him a week before his fifth birthday.

The first 3½ years of my captivity were spent in the mountainous jungles of South Vietnam, where every day saw a struggle for survival against a merciless enemy: starvation, disease and the elements. We were shackled, beaten and starved. Half of us died. Ten very good American soldiers and Marines died in my arms. Three crew members on my aircraft died beside

me. Conditions were extremely harsh, with minimal food, no shoes, no clothing, no blankets, no medicine, no soap, no toothpaste, no tobacco, no nothin'. The hardest part for me was watching our once-strong comrades waste away and die, and then eulogizing them and burying their poor starved corpses.

Then, with only 12 survivors out of 27, our captors decided to move us to North Vietnam. We walked ... 560 miles in 57 days, often shackled, to Hanoi and to jail. In jail we were six to a cell, sleeping on a wooden pallet, and eating two meals of a thin pumpkin soup, a small piece of bread and two cups of water per day. There was a bucket in the cell for a latrine. One man got out once a day to empty the bucket. It was brutal and cruel, but it was better than the jungle.

Every minute that I was captured, I thought about being a physician. One of my fellow prisoners later wrote, "Capt. Kushner never gave up his will to practice medicine. In the end, he would just hold dying prisoners in his arms and comfort them as they passed to the other side." Another wrote: "Kushner never quit, always trying to motivate us to keep fighting, keep trying."...

I never forget I'm here because of my comrades. We helped and supported each other. None of us would be alive if it weren't for all of us.... I owe my fellow soldiers my life. So I thank them for helping me to live to this day and be recognized by you.



Hal Kushner, M.D., pictured with students from the Classes of 2018 and 2019

Florida State University College of Medicine Partners

As a community-based medical school, the FSU College of Medicine provides clinical training at regional medical school campuses around the state through affiliations with local physicians, ambulatory care facilities and hospitals. The medical school is proud to recognize its partner institutions and organizations.

RAY STANFORD



1 Daytona Beach Campus

AdventHealth Central Florida North Region
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Children's Medical Services-Flagler/Volusia
Department of Health in Flagler County
Department of Health in Volusia County
Florida Health Care Plans
Halifax Health
Lake Mary Surgery Center
Maitland Surgery Center
North Florida Regional Healthcare
North Florida Surgeons
Parrish Medical Center
Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare
Surgery Center of Volusia County
Twin Lakes Surgical Center
Volusia County Medical Society

2 Fort Pierce Campus

21st Century Oncology
Blue Water Surgery Center
Children's Medical Services-Southeast Region
Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital
Cleveland Clinic Martin Health
Department of Health in Brevard County
Department of Health in Indian River County
Department of Health in St. Lucie County
Encompass Health Hospital-Martin Health
Florida Community Health Center
Fresenius Medical Care North America
Grove Place Surgery Center
HANDS Clinic of St. Lucie County
Heart & Family Health Institute
Holmes Regional Medical Center
Indian River County Medical Society
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center
Lawnwood Surgical Specialists
Martin County Medical Society
New Horizons of the Treasure Coast
PATCHES Prescribed Pediatric Care
Port St. Lucie Hospital
Raulerson Hospital
Sandy Pines Hospital
St. Lucie Medical Center
St. Lucie Surgery Center
St. Lucie/Okeechobee Medical Society
Steward Medical Group
Steward Sebastian River Medical Center
Surgery Center of Fort Pierce
Surgery Center of Okeechobee
Surgical Center of the Treasure Coast
The Surgery Center at Jensen Beach
Tradition Surgery Center
Treasure Coast Anesthesia Group
Treasure Coast Center for Surgery
Treasure Coast Community Health
Treasure Coast Hospice
Treasure Coast Surgical Specialists
Vero Beach ASC

VNA of the Treasure Coast
Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

3 Orlando Campus

AdventHealth Orlando
Alliance Surgical Center
Bayfront Health Seven Rivers
Central Florida Regional Hospital
Citrus Memorial Hospital
Community Health Centers
Department of Health in Seminole County
Downtown Surgery Center
Florida Wellcare Alliance
Health First Medical Group
Heart of Florida Health Center
Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center
Lake Mary Family Physicians
Maitland Surgery Center
Nemours Children's Clinic
North Seminole Family Practice-Lake Forest
Orange County Medical Examiner's Office
Orange County Medical Society
Orlando Center for Outpatient Surgery
Orlando Health
Orlando Health UF Health Cancer Center
Oviedo Medical Center
Physicians' Surgical Care Center
South Lake Hospital
St. Cloud Regional Medical Center
Surgical Specialty Group of Oviedo

4 Pensacola Campus

Baptist Health Care
Children's Medical Services-Northwest Region
Clearway Pain Solutions Institute
Community Health Northwest Florida
Cornerstone Surgicare
Covenant Hospice
Department of Health in Escambia County
Department of Health in Santa Rosa County
EmCare
Escambia County EMS
Escambia County Medical Society
Fairhope Pediatrics
Haven of Our Lady of Peace
Lakeview Center
Naval Hospital Pensacola
Nemours Children's Clinic
North Okaloosa Medical Center
Sacred Heart Health System
Santa Rosa Medical Center
South Baldwin Regional Medical Center
West Florida Hospital
West Florida Medical Group

5 Sarasota Campus

Bay Pines VA Healthcare System
Bayfront Medical Center
Cape Surgery Center

Department of Health in DeSoto County
Department of Health in Sarasota County
DeSoto Memorial Hospital (Arcadia)
Doctors Hospital of Sarasota
Doctors Same Day Surgery Center
GulfCoast Surgery Center
Hawthorne Village of Sarasota
Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital
Lakewood Ranch Medical Center
Manatee Memorial Hospital
Manatee Physician Alliance
Pines of Sarasota
Planned Parenthood
Sarasota County Medical Society
Sarasota Memorial Health Care System
Venice Regional Bayfront Health

6 Tallahassee Campus

Advent Christian Village
Apalachee Center
Archbold Medical Center (Thomasville, Ga.)
Big Bend Hospice
Bond Community Health Center
Capital Health Plan
Capital Medical Society
Capital Regional Medical Center
Capital Regional Surgical Associates
Centre Pointe Health & Rehabilitation
Children's Medical Services-Big Bend Region
Department of Health in Gadsden County (Quincy)
Department of Health in Jackson County
Department of Health in Leon County
Department of Health in Walton County
Doctors' Memorial Hospital (Perry)
Emerald Coast Behavioral
Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Tallahassee
Florida State Hospital
FSU Health and Wellness
Kindred at Home
Life Care Centers of America (Thomasville, Ga.)
Memorial Hospital and Manor (Bainbridge, Ga.)
Neighborhood Medical Center
Patients First
Pediatric Medical Group of Florida
Red Hills Surgical Center
Refuge House
Southwest Public Health District 8, Unit 2 (Thomasville, Ga.)
St. Augustine Plantation Assisted Living and Memory Care
Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare
Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic
Tallahassee Outpatient Surgery Center
Tallahassee Plastic Surgery Clinic
Tallahassee VA Clinic
Westminster Oaks
Wiregrass Clinic

★ Rural Medicine

Calhoun-Liberty Hospital
Department of Health in Collier County (Immokalee)
Doctors Memorial Hospital (Bonifay)
Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida (Immokalee)
Heartland Health Care Center (Fort Myers)
Jackson Hospital (Marianna)
Northwest Florida Community Hospital (Chipley)

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Dermatology Residency Program at Dermatology Associates (Tallahassee)
Emergency Medicine Residency Program at Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health (Fort Myers)
Family Medicine Residency Program at Winter Haven Hospital
General Surgery Residency Program at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare
Internal Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health
Internal Medicine Residency Program at Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Internal Medicine Residency Program at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare
Procedural Dermatology Fellowship Program at Dermatology Associates (Tallahassee)

Family Medicine Residency Program Affiliations

AdventHealth Orlando
Bayfront Health (St. Petersburg)
Halifax Health (Daytona Beach)
Mayo Clinic (Jacksonville)
Morton Plant Mease (Clearwater)
North Florida Regional Medical Center (Gainesville)
St. Vincent's Medical Center (Jacksonville)
Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare



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END NOTE



Colin Hackley

HOLD ON A MINUTE: First-year physician assistant student Scott Stearns seems to grasp an important lesson – earning the patient’s trust. Stearns was one of 50 PA students working with standardized patients (junior division) as part of a recent exercise in developing clinical skills.