

# 'Denim and Diamonds' event marks FSU College of Medicine's 10th anniversary

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Photo: MaryAnn Ketcham/For Luminaries)

The Fort Pierce Regional Campus of the Florida State University College of Medicine recently celebrated its 10th anniversary at a “Denim and Diamonds” event at Tradition Town Hall.

The campus provides clinical education for its third- and fourth-year medical students through the help of local physicians and community partners. Since 2007, 147 students have worked with over 250 physicians in the Treasure Coast area and then completed residencies to become doctors in internal medicine, family medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology, psychiatry, emergency medicine and other specialties.

Two of those graduates have returned to work in this area and were present with other alumni at the celebration: Arif Ishmael, M.D., a gastroenterologist with Martin Health System; and Jeremy Jones, M.D., a hematologist/oncologist with Hematology Oncology Associates of the Treasure Coast. They spoke of their experiences here and how those connections – and their fondness for the Treasure Coast – brought them back to help fulfill the College of Medicine’s mission.



Faculty award winners, from left: Dr. Diego Maldonado and Dr. Moti Ramgopal. (Photo: MaryAnn Ketcham/For Luminaries)

John Fogarty, M.D., dean of the college, and Juliette Lomax-Homier, M.D., dean of the Fort Pierce campus, spoke of the successes the campus has had over the 10 years and thanked the hospitals and other health-care facilities for their support.

Four \$5,000 scholarships were presented, sponsored by Indian River Medical Center, the Martin Health System Medical Executive Committee (in memory of Robert H. Pare Sr., M.D.), the Fort Pierce campus and one anonymous donor.

Bud and Marjie Jordan presented a new, \$25,000 endowed scholarship in honor of the OB-GYN clerkship director for the campus, Heidi McNaney-Flint, M.D.

Several faculty members received recognition for 10 years of teaching.

Two faculty members received special awards.

- Guardian of the Mission is for a physician whose activities have furthered the college’s mission to “educate and develop exemplary physicians who practice patient-centered health care, discover and advance knowledge and are responsive to community needs, especially through service to elder, rural, minority and underserved populations.” That award went to Moti Ramgopal, M.D., at Associates in Infectious Disease and the Midway Immunology and Research Center.
- Outstanding Community Faculty Educator is for exemplary achievement in meeting student educational needs, working collaboratively, and demonstrating both dedication to the curriculum principles and enthusiasm for teaching. That award went to Diego Maldonado, M.D., internal medicine hospitalist at Indian River Medical Center.

Dozens of sponsors participated. Guests enjoyed a buffet, a silent auction with lively bidding, and dancing.



**Class of 2010 alumni: Dr. L. Cordero Floyd, left, Dr. Alison Tam, and Dr. Arif Ishmael. (Photo: MaryAnn Ketcham/For Luminaries)**



**Class of 2011 alumni: Dr. Jeremy Jones, left, Dr. Cianna Pender, and Dr. Jackson Hatfield. (Photo: MaryAnn Ketcham/For Luminaries)**

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