

## A Doctors Day salute to FSU's medical faculty

Sandeep Rahangdale, M.D., Special to the Democrat Published 1:14 p.m. ET March 26, 2018



(Photo: COLIN HACKLEY/FSU)

Next time you're in your doctor's waiting room, check out the walls. You might see a framed certificate proclaiming that your doctor is also a teacher.

That means she was outstanding enough for us to invite her to join the Florida State faculty. It also means her medical knowledge is up-to-date – because inserting an always-questioning medical student into your practice keeps you on your toes.

National Doctors Day is Friday, March 30. No one appreciates this community's physician/teachers more than we do at the Tallahassee campus of the Florida State University College of Medicine. This medical school wouldn't exist without them – because it's built on their shoulders.

We have a full-time faculty of about 150 M.D.s and Ph.D.s at Florida State's main campus, and they do most of the teaching during the first and second years. Then they confidently hand off our students to doctors who didn't necessarily set out to become teachers.

At our six regional campuses across the state, and our three clinical training sites in Marianna, Thomasville (Georgia) and Immokalee, our third- and fourth-year students immerse themselves in community medicine. In effect, they become your doctor's apprentice – and part of your medical team. Along the way, with careful supervision, they experience firsthand the life of a community physician.

That sounds like a lot of work for the mentor. Why would your doctor sign up?

That question haunted the creators of this medical school nearly 20 years ago. They knew this student-centered, one-on-one, hands-on approach made perfect sense on paper – but what if the community's physicians didn't buy in to hours of extra effort with

minimal financial compensation?

As it turned out, they jumped at the chance. Around the state we have more than 2,600 part-time faculty members ready to mentor our students in family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics-gynecology, pediatrics, emergency medicine, general surgery, geriatrics and psychiatry.

At the Tallahassee Regional Campus (including the Marianna and Thomasville sites), we have 480. Mentoring energizes them, they say, and makes them better physicians. And because the stable of teachers is so large, no single physician needs to take on too great a load.

How well are these teachers doing? Our students are meeting or exceeding national averages in standardized exams, and are annually being accepted into prestigious residency programs across the country. Nearly 600 are now in practice, and more than 300 are practicing in Florida. In fact, statewide, more than 60 College of Medicine alumni are now part of our faculty.

Friday, on National Doctors Day, we will toast them and all of the physicians who play such a key role in our students' success.

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