

ADDRESSING **FLORIDA'S** MEDICAL EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE NEEDS AUGUST 4-6, 2017



Often, when multiple medical schools are mentioned in the same conversation, the focus is on their competitiveness in terms of US News and World Report rankings, NIH research grant funding, the impressive board scores of their medical students or the latest cutting edge developments in patient care at their clinical facilities. But, Florida's medical school deans long ago recognized that they had a higher calling to patients, students, resident physicians and faculty throughout the state. In 2001, the Council of Florida Medical School Deans (Council) was formed, consisting of the deans of each of the state's colleges of medicine, and providing a forum for robust planning and visioning for the future of medical education and patient care throughout the state. The Council meets monthly via teleconference and once a year in person during legislative session to share the successes of the states' medical schools, residency programs and teaching hospitals/physicians/practices with legislators, administrators and regulators in Tallahassee.



The group, which includes other leaders from the medical schools in addition to the deans, met for the first time last year in conjunction with the Florida Medical Association at its annual meeting, allowing the leadership of the state's medical schools to meet with leadership of the FMA to share common goals regarding patient care, medical education and research. This forum also provides an opportunity for the deans and other leaders of the medical schools to interact with their students, residents and faculty who are also actively participating in the FMA's advocacy and educational programs.



This past weekend marked the second time the Council met in conjunction with the FMA meeting. Again, each of the state's 6 public and 3 private medical schools were in attendance. Among the topics discussed were Graduate Medical Education, Medical Student and Resident Well-Being and Pain Management and the Opioid Crisis.

The group also had the opportunity to participate as judges in the 2017 FMA David Paulus, M.D., Poster Symposium and meet with AMA President David Barbe, M.D., FMA President John Katopodis, M.D., and FOMA Representative Joshua Lenchus, D.O. The group also discussed areas of common interest with Florida Surgeon General Celeste Philip, M.D., and State Representative Gayle Harrell.



While Florida's medical schools are just as competitive as the rest of the nation, this cooperative network has allowed us to share ideas and best practices, recruit outstanding talent and pursue resources that benefit medical education and healthcare in the state as a whole, while enhancing programs at our individual institutions.

