

# FSU College of Medicine graduates celebrate Match Day

**Byron Dobson**, Democrat senior writer 7:39 p.m. ET March 17, 2017

*Fifty-one percent of FSU COM grads will begin residencies in primary care; nine at TMH*



*(Photo: COLIN HACKLEY, FSU College Of Medicine)*

Thirty-four percent of the 118 graduates in Florida State College of Medicine's graduating class Friday were matched with residency programs in the state.

FSU's College of Medicine conducted its Match Day ceremony at Ruby Diamond Auditorium, as similar events were held across the country. It marks the transition from medical school to residencies.

Fifty-one percent of the graduates were matched with residencies in primary care, including obstetrics/gynecology, family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine.

Dean John Fogarty said he was pleased to see seven place in psychiatry, where there is a shortage nationally and locally.

"Psychiatry is a shortage specialty," Fogarty said. "We are very pleased that our students are doing well."

Nine students matched in Tallahassee, including seven with residency programs sponsored by the College of Medicine. Three each matched with the general surgery and internal medicine programs at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, and one matched in dermatology with Dermatology Associates.

The two other students matching in Tallahassee did so with TMH's family medicine residency program, according to the college.

Of the 40 students staying in Florida, eight matched with programs sponsored by the FSU College of Medicine. Seven are in Tallahassee and one in family medicine at Lee Health in Fort Myers.

Others were accepted to residencies affiliated with Hofstra, Cornell, the University of North Carolina, Emory and elsewhere.

"We are pleased that eight of our graduates matched in residency programs that we've started in the past six years," Fogarty said. "We'll continue to build capacity so that more of our graduates are able to stay in Florida in the future."

The National Resident Matching Program said this year's residency match was expected to be the largest in history. FSU said 109 of the 118 graduates participated in the NRMP match.

Fogarty is a believer in the system.

"It allows all of the graduating medical students an equitable chance across the country," he said. "Otherwise, program directors would match their favorites."

"They will most likely get their specialty choice," he said of graduates. "They don't always know where they are going."

While Fogarty said most of the residency programs are not in rural areas of Florida – a critical practice area for the college – he finds many chose to return to Florida to practice.

"We're matching twice the national average (of doctors practicing in underserved communities)," he said.

Former Seminole football All-American Myron Rolle, who earned his undergraduate degree in 2 ½ years and named a Rhodes Scholar, was among those learning his next destination.

He was matched with Harvard Medical School's neurosurgery program at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"It was a fantastic feeling to know I would be spending the next seven years in neurosurgery there," Rolle, 30, said following the ceremony. He was constantly surrounded by family and fans seeking photos.

"It was my first choice," he said of Harvard.



**Lindsay Gardner-Walden learns she is headed for residency at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville during the Florida State University College of Medicine Match Day ceremony. (Photo: COLIN HACKLEY/FSU College of Medicine)**

Lindsay Gardner-Walden, 34, is headed to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. It, too, was her first choice.

“I’m excited to be able to go home,” she said. “I didn’t know until this morning.”

Gardner-Walden will practice internal medicine. She is considering a further specialty in hematology/oncology.



**Blake Davis, right, proposes to his girlfriend, Whitney Davis, during the Florida State University College of Medicine Match Day ceremony. (Photo: COLIN HACKLEY/FSU College of Medicine)**

Blake Davis, who was matched at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare for general surgery, used the occasion to recognize his first love, Whitney Davis, who starts medical school at FSU this summer.

He had two notices in his envelope, which Whitney opened on stage. One announced his residency. The other simply said, “Turn Around.”

Whitney turned around to find Blake proposing on one knee. The crowd erupted in applause. She said yes.

“We met at the College of Medicine, that’s why I chose this day,” Blake said. “The College of Medicine means so much to both of us.”

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