

# Former FSU star Myron Rolle, now a doctor, part of global disaster response team in Bahamas

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Myron Rolle has heard the stories from family members and friends in the Bahamas.

He has seen the images that have emerged from the Abacos and other Bahamian islands that were devastated by Hurricane Dorian.

On Wednesday, Rolle – the former Florida State football star and future neurosurgeon - is expected to see the destruction firsthand as a team member of the Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Global Health (CGH) Office of Global Disaster Response (GDR).

The 10-person team was scheduled to arrive in the Bahamas Wednesday to provide support of residents affected by the Category 5 storm.

"I am anxious and excited to help and make an impact," Rolle said in a telephone interview with the Tallahassee Democrat earlier this week.

"People have been displaced, it has been difficult getting resources, food, proper medications, basic necessities. We will assist with medical needs – physical exams, assessments, treatments, administering IVs - whatever we can do in our scope of practice, we will do it there. I am really motivated to help because those people are hurting.

"I am hurting."



**Boston College quarterback Matt Ryan, left, congratulates Florida State's Myron Rolle after FSU defeated Boston College 27-17 in 2007. (Photo: The Associated Press)**

Rolle, 32, a third-year MGH neurosurgery resident, was born in the United States. However, his parents and three of his four brothers were born and raised in the Bahamas. And Rolle, a Bahamian American, has always thought of the Bahamas as his second home.

Rolle said his parents were stateside when Dorian ravaged the northern Bahamas. He said other family members – aunts, uncles and cousins – in the Bahamas were out of harm's way and safe.

Still, Rolle has heard from Bahamian friends who were impacted by a storm that left death and destruction in its wake. Rescue and recovery work continue, according to officials.

Rolle is hopeful his connections, friendships and familiarity with the Bahamas help make an impact. Rolle said Dr. Delon Brennen, of the country's Ministry of Health, is his cousin and a "hero to me."

"Being plugged and already having that connection will, I am hopeful, help us make an effective impact," Rolle said.

Rolle has maintained a presence in the Bahamas with youth programs and camps. He has also hosted the Myron L. Rolle Foundation's Wellness and Leadership Academy, Bahamas edition. His oldest brothers — Marchant, Marvis and Mordecai — were born in the Bahamas.

Rolle played three seasons at FSU (2006-08), was a Rhodes Scholar and a sixth-round selection of the Tennessee Titans in 2010.

He played three years in the NFL, graduated from FSU's College of Medicine in 2017 and was matched to a neurosurgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Rolle credited the medical school, department of neurosurgery and others for giving him the opportunity to help those in need in the Bahamas.

"It's really amazing, their support and encouragement, and I am so proud to be part of this team," Rolle said. "I know the property damage in the Bahamas has been bad, devastating. People don't know where to turn.

"I can't wait to get there to help."