

FSU offers 15-year-salute to Pensacola campus medical faculty | Guestview

Paul McLeod, Guest columnist

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(Photo: Steve Rine)

At the Florida State University College of Medicine's regional campuses across the state, 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. Here at the Pensacola Regional Campus, we have more than 260. 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.

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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 700 are now in practice, and more than 350 are practicing in Florida. In fact, statewide, more than 60 College of Medicine alumni are now part of our faculty.

As we celebrate the Pensacola Regional Campus' 15th anniversary, we toast all of the physicians who play such a key role in our students' success. Here's a fact that we can hardly believe ourselves: Forty-one Panhandle physicians who signed on with us at the very beginning are still on our faculty. We're so grateful for their dedication to our students that we're printing their names here:

William Belk, Crawford Cleveland, Jacobo Cruz, Patrick Dial, Felix Ermolenko, Narendra Gowda, John Grammer, Frank Greskovich III, Andrea Hackel, Manning Hanline Jr., Quetheline Helvetius-Lanza, Derek Jones, Jack Kotlarz, Kim Landry, John Lanza, Ludovic Lasquety, Quintin Law, Bach-Uyen Le Thi, Teresa Mahaffey, Peter Manis, Jennifer Miley, Dina Navarro, Luis Navas, Wendy Osban, Jill Prafke, Aref Rifai, Barry Ripps, Robert Rubey, John Salvaggio, C. David Smith, George Smith, Andy Somesan, Brian Sontag, Mounzer Soued, Marian Stewart, Kurt Stockamp, Kirby Turnage, John Tyson, John Van Ostenbridge, Anita Westafer, M. Andy White.

Those are 41 of the countless reasons that the Pensacola Regional Campus is lean, mean and proudly 15.

Paul McLeod, M.D., is dean of the FSU College of Medicine's Pensacola Regional Campus. Contact him at paul.mcleod@med.fsu.edu. To check the campus's complete list of faculty physicians, visit <http://fla.st/2GXsggL>

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