

Eight new physicians begin training at Lee Health's Family Medicine Residency Program

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Eight first-year family medicine residents started seeing patients as part of the Florida State University College of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health July 30. Based at Lee Memorial Hospital, the program was created to abate a national shortage of primary care physicians.

Lee Health welcomes Kathleen "Katie" Dixon from Lake Mary, Fla.; Jerry Lanza from Belize; Tatianna Pizzutto from Clearwater, Fla.; John Schmidt from Hattiesburg, Miss.; Miri Shlomi from Orange, Ohio; Diana Sitar from Las Vegas; Tyler Spradling from Fort Myers Beach, Fla.; and Renee Wong from Toronto, Canada

"This new class-the class of 2021-is academically strong and we are very excited to have them start their training with Lee Health," said Alfred Gitu, M.D., Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program. "We are proud to welcome these eight physicians who are passionate about their training and about this program."

Medical school graduates are required to complete residency training in their chosen specialty in order to become independently practicing physicians. Statistically, about 60 percent of residents will practice medicine in the same area in which they are trained.

The Lee Health program received more than 1,700 applications from U.S. medical students and physicians from around the world. This is the second class of eight residents to join the program since it was approved for expansion and received Continued Accreditation with a 10-year cycle (longest possible interval) from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

The Florida State University College of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health takes residents through 36 months of training, which is divided into four-week blocks. These rotations are completed at Lee Memorial Hospital, HealthPark Medical Center and Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, as well as several community physicians' offices.

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