

## HIGHER EDUCATION

# FSU College of Medicine expands again

*Regional campus  
for third and fourth-  
year students opens  
in Sarasota*

**STEPHANIE EVANS**

*News Editor*



Florida State University's College of Medicine is in the process of expanding its campus. With its first class of nine students set to begin training in July, the College of Medicine's regional campus in Sarasota opened its doors to the public Wednesday for an open house.

The campus in Sarasota is FSU's fourth site for third and fourth year students to practice clinical training.

"I think it's a wonderful idea," Sarasota Regional Campus Dean Bruce H. Berg said regarding the opening of the campus. "We're going to be able to train more students and to return physicians back to the community."

Berg said the goal of the regional campuses, and the College of Medicine entirely, is to train doctors who will be able to work throughout Florida and give back to the community.

Established in 2000 by the Florida Legislature, the FSU College of Medicine seeks to educate physicians to serve the state's rural, geriatric, minority and other medically underserved populations. Students at the College of Medicine spend their first two years studying at the main campus in Tallahassee. The third and fourth years of medical school at FSU are spent at FSU's regional campuses, where students receive clinical training with private

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FSU's three other regional campuses are located in Tallahassee, Orlando and Pensacola. In the future, two more campuses will be added in Ft. Myers and Jacksonville. When the Legislature established the medical school, they specified where the regional medical schools would be located.

The regional campuses, with the exception of the one in Tallahassee, will eventually train 20 students in each of the third and fourth years, equaling 40 students a year. According to Nancy Kinnally, director of public information for the FSU College of Medicine, Tallahassee only has 10 students at its regional campus because of the location of the main campus of the school.

"We felt it would overtax the medical community," Kinnally said.

Kinnally said due to the fact that many people in the medical community in Tallahassee work with the first and second year students, having an additional 40 third and fourth year students to work with too, would be asking too much from the community.

The regional medical schools campuses currently work with between 150 and 200 physicians from the community. The Sarasota campus is expected to expand to include the same number of physicians in the coming years.

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As the College of Medicine increases in size, the regional campuses in Jacksonville and Ft. Myers will open. Kinnally said the school expects to be able to handle their students at the current four regional campuses for the next few years.

According to Berg, students are assigned to the regional campuses based on their stated preferences, however, not all

preferences can always be accommodated. Berg said he believes the third-year students beginning in July at Sarasota have already been notified of the location where they will be studying. Students generally spend their final two years of medical school at the same regional campuses. Students will be able to study internal medicine, family practice, gynecology, surgery, psychiatry,

geriatrics and pediatrics at the Sarasota campus.

Berg said while the bulk of the students' time will be spent in the community with the physicians, the school will be located at the

Weissgerber/Famiglio house, a historic building in Sarasota, where the medical students will be instructed in a traditional form about one day a week.

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