

Southwest Florida hospitals get resident names for 'Match Day'

Liz Freeman, Naples Daily News Published 1:31 p.m. ET March 19, 2019 | Updated 3:51 p.m. ET March 19, 2019

CONNECT | TWEET | LINKEDIN | COMMENT | EMAIL | MORE



Buy Photo

Residents come together for a group photo after the white coat ceremony on Monday, June 26, 2017, at the Telford Center Auditorium at NCH Baker Hospital Downtown. (Photo: Katie Klann/Naples Daily News)

Two Southwest Florida hospital systems with residency programs learned the names of their incoming residents for the start of their three-year training programs.

The NCH Healthcare System is welcoming 12 new residents, and eight residents will start with the Lee Health System in Lee County.

Medical school graduates are required to complete residency training in their specialty to become independently practicing physicians.

Both residency programs at NCH and Lee Health are for primary care fields. In addition to the hospitals being teaching facilities, the residency programs were developed to address an ongoing shortage of primary care physicians in the region.

CONSIDER SUBSCRIBING TODAY: [Help support local journalism](#)

The physicians often establish practices in the communities where they complete their residencies.

Lee Health began its residency program in 2012, and 12 physicians who completed their training at Lee Health have stayed in the area. That's out of 18 program graduates.

NCH began its internal medicine residency program in 2017. This year's incoming

group will arrive June 24, said Dr. Charles Graeber, program director.

“More than 3,000 qualified applicants were seeking one of the 12 positions available,” he said in a news release. “I am delighted with our new residents as they are talented, diverse and have already established a legacy of teamwork and compassion in their prior training.”

When they arrive, the residency program will be complete, with 36 residents and three chief residents, he said.

Dr. Cesar DeLeon, president of the Collier County Medical Society, said the medical community benefits from having a residency program, and those benefits get passed on to patients.

More: [Braden Hospital officials celebrate project with community](#)

More: [Collier 2nd, Lee 11th in Florida county health rankings for 2019](#)

To prepare to work with the residents, teaching physicians need to improve their knowledge about the latest tests, treatments and protocols to relay to the residents; there is an increase in medical lectures that are available to all doctors; and established physicians serve as role models, DeLeon said.

“The hope (is) that these new doctors will decide to stay in town after their graduation and continue making our town one of the top places to live,” he said.

Lee Health’s residency program is based at Lee Memorial Hospital near downtown Fort Myers. It operates with Florida State University’s College of Medicine in Tallahassee. Orientation starts June 24.

“We are very proud of the strong interest in our program as proven by the number of applications received,” Dr. Alfred Gitu, program director for Lee Health’s residency program, said in a news release. “We’ve matched with eight outstanding candidates this year as our program continues to grow with residents who are dedicated, compassionate and academically accomplished.”

More: [Americans travel an average of 34 minutes to access medical services, study shows](#)

More: [NCH Healthcare System and Lee Health make HealthGrades’ list of America’s best hospitals](#)

The names of NCH’s new residents and their medical schools are: Catherine Daly, New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine; Lawrence DeBellis, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, New York; Elena Douglas, Medical College of Wisconsin; Kyle Grant, Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine, California; Kelsey Jacobson, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; Emily Kassar, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine; Kelsey Lee, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine; Brandon Patri, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; Nicole Saccone, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; Anshika Singh, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College, India; Carla Williams, St. George’s University, Grenada, West Indies; and Christopher Yanichko, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The names of the Lee Health residents, their hometowns and where they earned their medical degrees are: Gabriela Aviles, Miami, Tulane University School of Medicine; Brandon Bentley, Orlando, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Buffalo; Silvio Caswell, Bunnlevel, North Carolina, Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine, Lillington, North Carolina; Christopher Galletti, Tallahassee, Florida State University School of Medicine; Moises Perez, Miami, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Erie, Pennsylvania; Jordan Reid, Bonita Springs, American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, Coral Gables, Florida; Tiffany Smith-Sutton, West Palm Beach, Florida State University; and DeLayna Sterling, Punta Gorda, St. George’s University School of Medicine, Grenada, West Indies.