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NEWS

## Health Matters: What is a Resident Physician?

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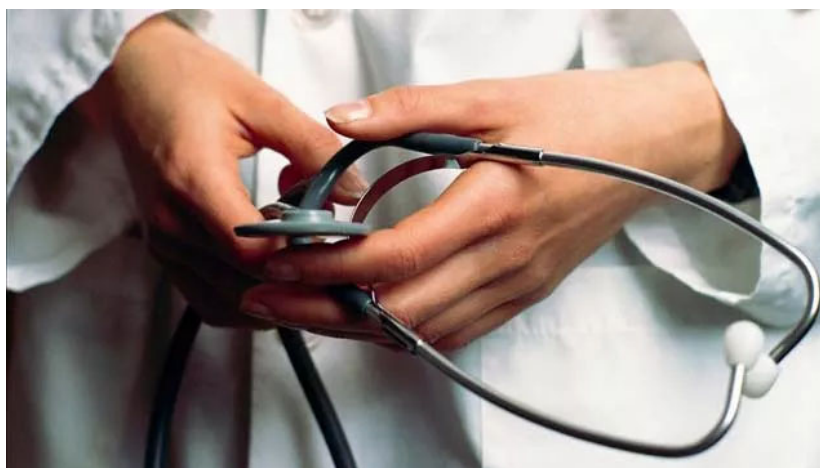


Photo Credit: Courtesy - Broder Medicine

They're scattered throughout hospitals and medical offices. "Our residents see patients both in our clinic as well as the inpatient setting in the hospital. They have an attending that works with them that sort of oversees that care," explained Dr. Alfred Gitu, program director and associate clinical professor of family medicine at Lee Health.

Resident physicians have already completed four years of medical school but need hands-on training focusing on their medical specialty. "All doctors have to go through a residency program. It's a unique opportunity for them to be mentored and to go through an apprenticeship in their specialty," said Dr. Gitu.

Supervised by faculty physicians, residents are required to complete medical training as part of their education. "They are very capable physicians. I, as a supervising faculty physician, learn a lot from the residents. I think that's one of the things I love most about practicing and teaching in this environment," said Dr. James Breen, a faculty physician with Lee Health.

In partnership with Florida State University, Lee Health offers a family medicine residency program to graduating medical students attracting new doctors across the country. "The kind of care that they offer, even though, of course they are training, is exceptional care because number one they are the cutting edge of what's happening and what's new and what's the latest, but it's also going through several minds where different people are discussing and deciding whether this is the best care for this patient," said Dr. Gitu.

Collaborating with other residents and working under the supervision of senior physicians, the program offers new doctors the opportunity to receive training. "For many of our patients who have very complex medical and social situations to have that level of oversight in all aspects of their care is wonderful," said Dr. Breen.

A program geared towards the education and care of both patients and physicians.