

yourhealth *presents*

# The Annual Physician & Health Care Directory

Local health care professionals and facilities, from A to Z

**Plus**

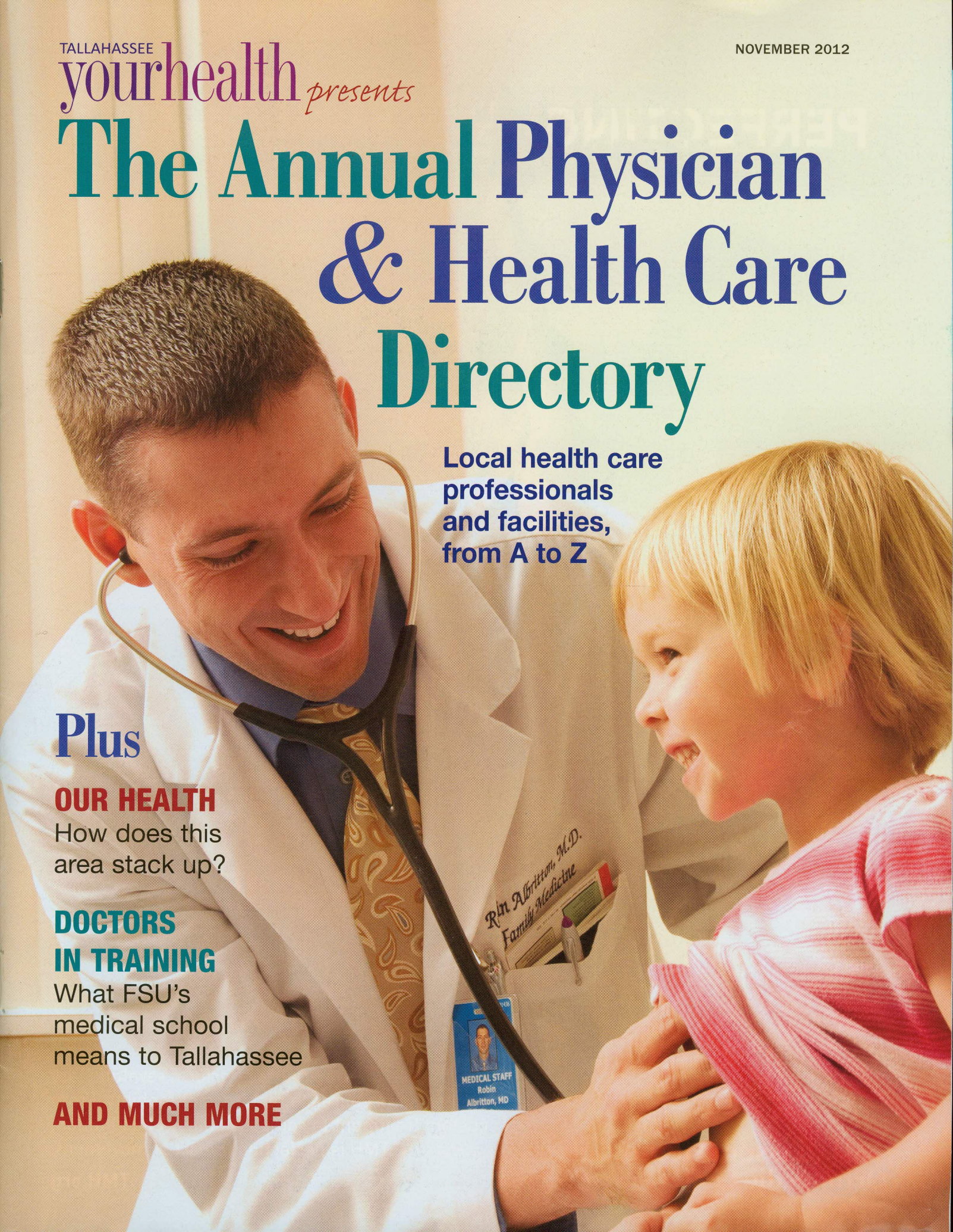
**OUR HEALTH**

How does this area stack up?

**DOCTORS IN TRAINING**

What FSU's medical school means to Tallahassee

**AND MUCH MORE**



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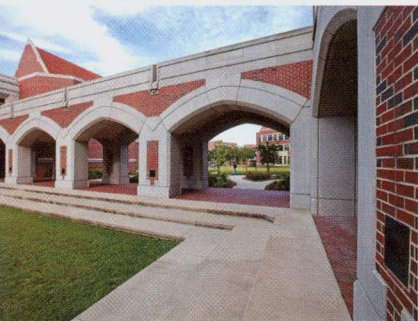


PHOTO BY COLIN HACKLEY/FSU

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TALLHASSEE DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO

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### ABOUT THE COVER

This photo could be said to tell the story of the FSU College of Medicine, which seeks out bright would-be physicians in rural areas, in the hope that they'll return to practice in those same areas. The doctor is Robin Albritton, Class of 2007. He grew up in Marianna; came to medical school at FSU; did his family medicine residency at TMH, where the photo was taken; then in 2011 returned to Marianna to practice medicine. The child pictured was the daughter of a college employee.

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Ray Stanyard/  
FSU College of Medicine

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# Doctors made here

FSU's College of Medicine stands as both a health-care resource and an economic engine for the Big Bend

BY CANDICE GRAUSE

One billion dollars. That is the estimated amount that Florida State University's College of Medicine put back into the local and state economies in the first 10 years of its existence. That's a big number, but big numbers are routine these days for the thriving medical college tucked away here in Tallahassee. For example, in the 2009-10 academic year, the college received about \$39 million in public funds and demonstrated an economic impact of \$161 million. That's an unprecedented 410 percent return on investment to taxpayers.

With this kind of success, it is hard to believe the state-of-the-art facility now standing sentinel at the northeast corner of FSU's main campus was considered a folly when it was first proposed. The school's founders had envisioned a medical college that did things differently – they wanted a “community-based” medical school

that would produce primary care physicians in a real world environment. However, popular opinion was that we didn't need primary care physicians, we needed specialists, so in February of 1999 FSU presented a study to the Board of Regents with documentation that not only would these doctors be needed, 150 additional medical students would have to be produced each year in Flor-



FSU PHOTO LAB

ida alone. The college was established the next year.

Today, even the Association of American Medical Colleges backedtracked on their original assertion there would one day be an excess of physi-

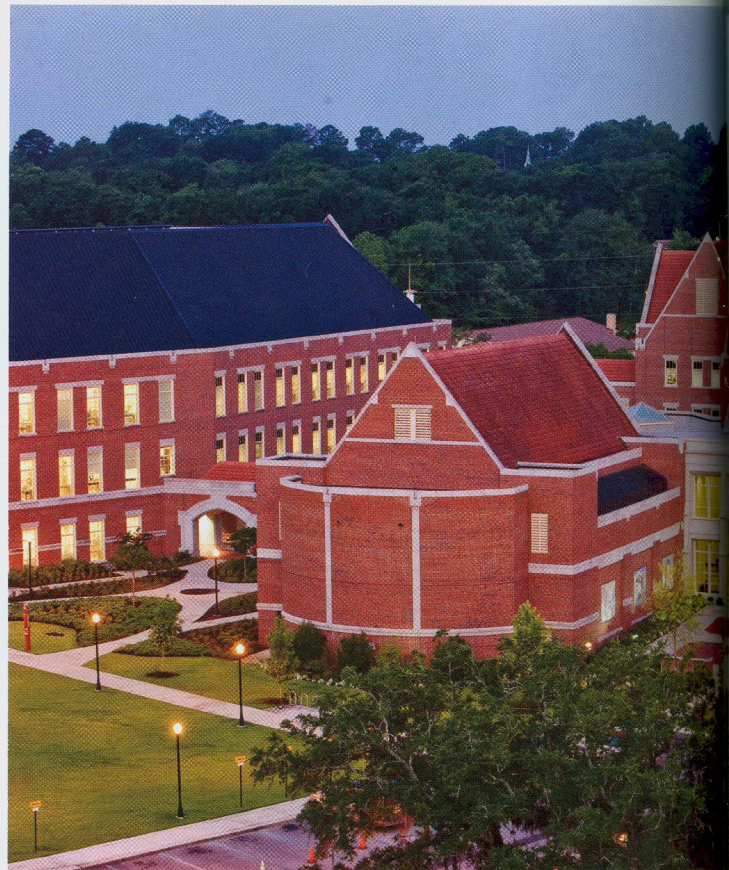


PHOTO BY RAY STANYARD

**Below, members of the Class of 2015 attend the ceremony where they receive their white coats, after their first semester at FSU's College of Medicine.**

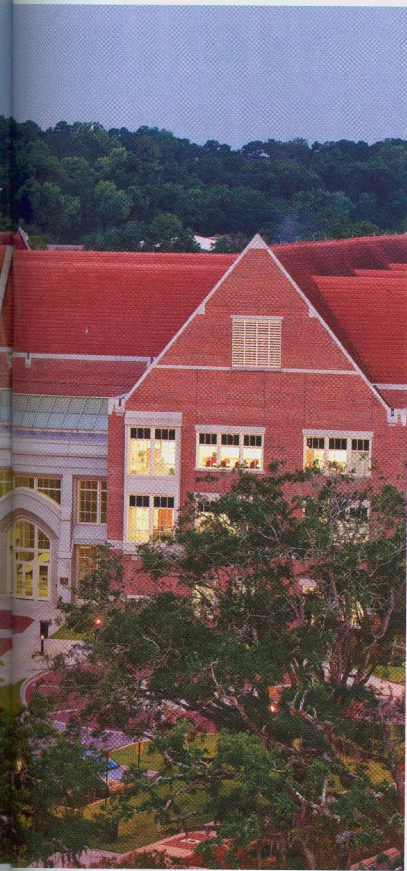
of Medicine, with its visionary leaders and dedicated instructors, was created to meet that need. Dr. John Fogarty, who has been the dean of the College of Medicine since 2008 and has seen it come into its own as a renowned institution, makes it simple. “We train docs that are going to serve rural areas, docs that are going to serve the underserved, docs that are going to serve the under-represented minorities.”

And train they do, starting from the ground up. Unlike most medical schools, many of the College of Medicine's students are recruited in middle or high school from both urban and rural, underserved areas through innovative pipeline programs. Students are handpicked for these programs, and for good reason.

“All the data in the last

icians, stating in 2006, “It is now evident that those predictions were in error.” In actuality, there has been an exponential rise in demand, especially from geriatric patients and rural markets.

Fortunately, the College



several years has suggested that the best way to get doctors out into underserved areas is to recruit them from those areas,” said Forgarty, stating that the college’s programs, like Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity and Education (SSTRIDE), work off this premise in giving promising students a chance to show their full potential. SSTRIDE has seen 98 percent of its high school seniors entering college, many matriculating to medical school. And just as the research has suggested, when these students have completed their medical training, many return to their hometowns to give back to their own communities.

Even more unique than its recruiting is the college’s learning model. While most medical students usually only

receive instruction from residents in an austere academic facility, a College of Medicine student spends a good share of time in community clinics and offices learning one-on-one with physicians while treating real patients.

Now the director of Patients First here in Tallahassee and a full-time faculty member, Dr. Christie Sain was in the original graduating class back in 2005. “I think we floored a lot of people when we first went out and did our residency interviews and those people got to know what we as students were learning. We all got placed; most of us got our first pick,” she said. “The biggest strength of the college is the hands-on learning from the very beginning. It matures you as a student doctor quicker.”

This innovative curriculum has produced what Dean Fogarty refers to as an anomaly. “We have captured a new oxymoron called ‘happy medical students.’” Apparently, >>>



COLIN HACKLEY

**Dr. Suzanne Harrison allows then-first-year student Sara Ghayouri to practice medical basics on her.**

## Where the grads go

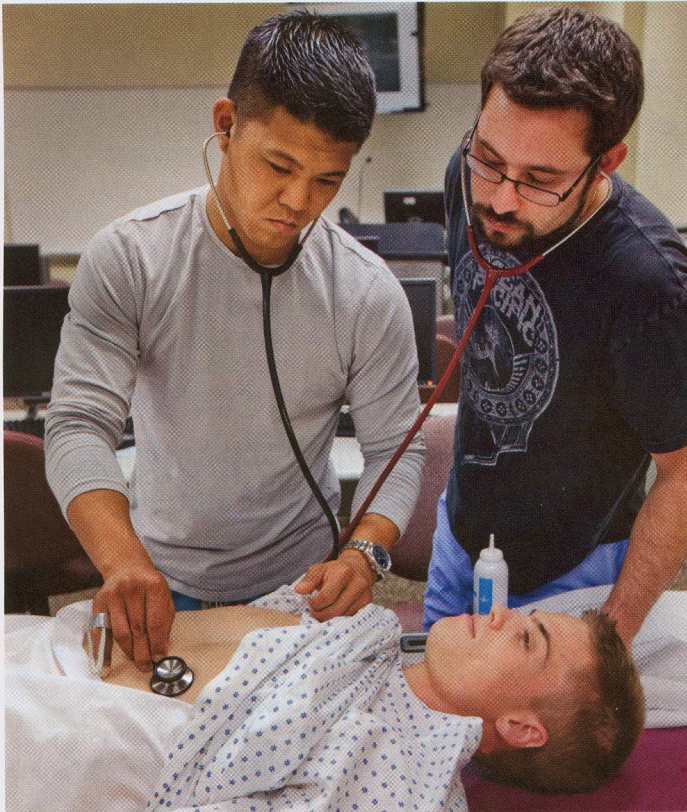
Here’s how the numbers break down for graduates of the FSU College of Medicine:

- **450** total graduates
- **74** percent now in residency
- **85** grads are practicing physicians
- **66** percent of those are primary care physicians
- **51** grads, or 60 percent, are practicing in Florida
- **8** of those 51 are practicing in rural areas of Florida
- **13** grads have returned as faculty to the college

## Where the teachers practice

(From the 2011 Annual Report)

- John Agens, MD** – The Transition Center (geriatrics)
- Jonathan Appelbaum, MD** – Jefferson County Health Department and Bond Community Health Center
- Maggie Blackburn, MD** – Gadsden County School-based Health Centers
- John Blackmon, MD** – Digestive Disease Clinic
- Ken Brummel-Smith, MD** – Geriatric Assessment Center at Westminster Oaks and The Transition Center (geriatrics)
- Kendall Campbell, MD** – Neighborhood Health Services
- Robert Campbell, MD** – Madison County Health Department
- Jose Diaz, MD** – Digestive Disease Clinic
- John P. Fogarty, MD** – Neighborhood Health Services
- John Giannini, MD** – Southern Medical Group
- Meredith Goodwin, MD** – Thagard Student Health Center
- Suzanne Harrison, MD** – Thagard Student Health Center and Refuge House
- Susan LaJoie, ARNP** – Gadsden County school-based health centers
- Kathy Lee, MD** – Colonials Management Group (psychiatric services)
- Jacqueline Lloyd, MD** – Medical director, RiverChase Care Center
- Karen Myers, ARNP** – Patients First
- Kristin Parsley, MD** – TMH Genetics Clinic
- Alice Pomidor, MD** – TMH Wound Healing Center
- Stephen Quintero, MD** – Medical director, The Transition Center
- Jose E. Rodriguez, MD** – Neighborhood Health Services
- Curtis Stine, MD** – Thagard Student Health Center
- Niharika Suchak, MD** – TMH Transition Center (geriatrics)
- Daniel Van Durme, MD** – Madison County Health Department



COLIN HACKLEY

College of Medicine Teaching assistant Alex Robelo, right, coaches John Hahn as he practices on classmate Brian Gordon.

hands-on work starting in the first year under talented faculty in a realistic and rewarding environment is indeed very attractive for students because after only a decade in existence the college reached full enrollment. Last year they received more than 4,000 applications for the M.D. class of 2015 alone. They are now top ranked for producing primary care and family physicians, and notably for graduating African-American and Hispanic physicians.

Beyond academics, the college now boasts 138 full-time and 2,097 part-time faculty, six regional campuses, two rural training sites, one clinical training site, agreements with 46 hospitals representing more than 8,000 beds, and affiliations with 45 county health departments, clinic and similar organizations. The combined effort has produced a research program that currently represents 18 percent of FSU's portfolio and is expected to grow up to five times in the next ten years, as well as an estimated economic impact of \$160 million with each successive year of full-capacity operation, \$100 million of that in Tallahassee.

With that kind of influence, FSU's College of Medicine could reinvent Tallahassee from a government or college town to a medical town. However, with Dean Fogarty at the helm, the college is not likely to lose sight of its focus anytime soon. "We are relentless in pursuing

our results. Our mission from the very beginning was to create the kind of doctors Florida needs. We're testing and proving it really works," said Dean Fogarty. "We started out with an educational focus and that's where we're going to stay."

## Beyond MDs

No matter the area of practice, that local health professional may have been educated in Tallahassee. Here are some of the health-related areas of study offered at area institutions:

### FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Biomedical Sciences  
Biomedical Engineering  
Food and Nutrition  
Nursing

### FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Cardiopulmonary Sciences  
Health Care Management  
Health Administration  
Health Information Management  
Health Sciences  
Occupational Therapy  
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Physical Therapy  
Nursing

### TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dental Assisting  
Dental Hygiene  
Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Technology  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Health Information Technology  
Nursing (R.N.)  
Paramedic  
Pharmacy Technician  
Radiologic Technology  
Respiratory Care

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