



FSU

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

# *Here, We Grow*

A REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

2023-2024

# A strong foundation for meeting the health care needs of Floridians

In June 2000, the governor of Florida signed into law legislation that created the first new allopathic medical school in the United States in more than 20 years – the Florida State University College of Medicine. The legislation was very prescriptive in that it outlined the core mission of the college, which follows:

## OUR MISSION

*The Florida State University College of Medicine will educate and develop exemplary physicians who practice patient-centered health care, discover and advance knowledge, and are responsive to community needs, especially through service to elder, rural, minority, and underserved populations.*

*This report is published by the Florida State University College of Medicine's Department of Public Affairs and Communications and designed by Creative Services.*

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*Cover Photo: Dr. Bryanna Harris Hipp being hooded by Dr. Mark Chaet, dean of the Orlando Regional Campus.*

*Photo by Colin Hackley for the FSU College of Medicine*





# Dean's Message

As dean of this outstanding college of medicine, I have a unique vantage point. I see the wonderful work that our students, faculty, alumni and staff accomplish. It is impressive and a challenge to distill into one annual report. Please know that listed on the following pages are just some of the recent successes our college has had since the publication of our last report.

I have been a part of this college for nearly 23 years — almost since the very beginning when, in 2000, the Florida Legislature established the Florida State University College of Medicine. Since then, I have watched it grow from the original graduating class of 27 in 2005 to the 110-plus we now graduate annually. In 2023, we saw our largest graduating class to date – 125. Those alumni, added to the 110 who graduated in May 2024, push the number of physician alumni to 1,956, with more than half living and working in the state of Florida, and most in primary care, which is at the heart of our mission.

Also central to our mission is the imperative to be responsive to community needs. To be successful, medical education must be nimble and grow to address an ever-changing landscape. How do we do this? One example is our Physician Assistant (PA) program, which accepted its first class of 40 students in 2017. Since then, 255 have graduated and are now helping to care for patients in the state of Florida and beyond. PAs play a vital role in the health care delivery system, particularly since there is a shortage of physicians in Florida and the entire country. In a March report, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) projects that the United States will have a shortage of 86,000 physicians by 2036.

Pathway programs have also been key to our success and growth. These programs ensure medical education is open to people from all walks of life — those from non-traditional or disadvantaged backgrounds who have the desire and aptitude to be outstanding health care providers. Examples include our Bridge to Clinical Medicine master's program, the USSTRIDE (Undergraduate Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity and Excellence) program for undergraduate students, as well as the SSTRIDE program available to students from designated middle and high schools. In addition, the most recent M.D. graduating class featured students from both our Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences and Honors Medical Scholars programs. Each of these opens the doors to medical education for promising students.

Just as there has been growth in our pathway programs, our Graduate Medical Education (GME) program continues to add value and educational opportunities throughout the state. Just a few months ago, GME added a Forensic Pathology Fellowship in Pensacola, in partnership with the District One Medical Examiner's Office. According to the National Association of Medical Examiners, there is an extreme shortage of these medical professionals, with only about 800 board-certified forensic pathologists working nationwide. In addition, we added a transitional year residency program at our BayCare Health System site in Winter Haven, and our newest residency program here in Tallahassee is a partnership in psychiatry with Apalachee Center and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (TMH).

Our Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Sciences continues to build on its solid reputation. In 2024, we admitted our largest class of 10 doctoral students. Each of our graduates contributes to the global strength of future scholars and scientific leaders and advances our understanding of some of the world's most complex health-related issues.

Although annual reports recognize and celebrate past accomplishments, we always have our eyes on the future. The years ahead are filled with promise and exciting new (and major!) initiatives for Florida State University and the College of Medicine. Working with TMH, the St. Joe Company, the Mayo Clinic in Florida and others, we are building FSU Health, a new health care ecosystem throughout North Florida. FSU Health will expand educational, clinical and research activities, and will include a new hospital, research facilities and medical office buildings in Panama City Beach, as well as a state-of-the-art academic health center in Tallahassee. Keep an eye out for us! You'll soon hear more about FSU Health, and I look forward to providing details in the months ahead.

Forging new partnerships to strengthen our educational programs and improve the student experience is paramount. I am pleased to report that in collaboration with the Mayo Clinic of Florida Division of Research, we created another research opportunity for our students. In addition to the summer research fellowships with our faculty at the central campus and the communities in and around our regional campuses, this provides a venue for our students to match with a Mayo Clinic mentor and receive hands-on experience conducting research projects. Focused areas of research include cardiology, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, nephrology, metabolism, pharmacology, radiology, and radiation oncology. Our first cohort of seven students arrived at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville this spring.

I am so proud of our students and alumni — and hope you join me in this sense of pride and accomplishment. Your support is vital to our success, whether it be through teaching and volunteering, in the form of a financial gift that helps us advance our mission, or simply telling your friends and neighbors about the impact we are having — you make a difference!

With Warm Regards,



Alma B. Littles, M.D.

Dean

Florida State University College of Medicine









*Ariadna Mercouffer embraces her partner after learning she matched in family medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.*

*Photo by Colin Hackley for the FSU College of Medicine*





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# QUICK FACTS

## *How We're Unique*

We're community-based. Instead of learning in an academic medical center, seeing only the sickest patients and learning largely from residents, our students learn one-on-one from community health care providers in their offices, clinics and other outpatient settings, as well as in area hospitals. Those communities are all over the state, near our six regional campuses and our rural/clinical training sites.

We're mission driven. A large part of our mission (see inside front cover) is to serve the underserved. That starts with choosing the right students. Test scores matter, but so do other factors, such as where they grew up, what motivates them and how they've already served in their community. We immerse them in a culture that values diversity, mutual respect, teamwork and open communication – and prepare them to become lifelong learners.

We're focused on primary care. Through 2024, more than half of our M.D. alumni matched in one of these primary-care specialties: internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics or obstetrics-gynecology. Most of our alumni now practicing in Florida are in primary care, and a good percentage of those are in rural or other underserved settings, where recruiting new physicians can be a challenge.

## **Academic Degrees**

- M.D.
- Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences
- M.S. in Biomedical Sciences – Bridge to Clinical Medicine
- M.S. in Physician Assistant Practice
- B.S. in Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences





## Students\*

### Medical Students: 491

- 16 from rural background
- 82 first-generation college students
- 138 socioeconomic disadvantaged
- 298 women
- 193 men
- 473 Florida residents

### Bridge students: 12

- 2 from rural background
- 7 first-generation college students
- 9 socioeconomic disadvantaged
- 8 women
- 4 men

### PA students: 178

- 10 from rural background
- 44 first-generation college students
- 39 socioeconomic disadvantaged
- 144 women
- 34 men

### Ph.D. students: 51

- 16 international students  
(representing 11 foreign countries)
- 35 U.S. citizens  
(28 from the Southeast,  
including 17 from Florida)
- 31 women
- 20 men

\*includes the M.D., Ph.D., Bridge, and PA students admitted in 2024.

## Faculty

- Full-time: 186
- Part-time: 2,994 (this includes residency, preceptor and clerkship faculty not employed by the college.)

## Facilities

- On the central campus, the College of Medicine's two buildings (including a research building) total 300,000 gross square feet.
- Adding in the leased or owned buildings at the regional campuses and the Immokalee rural training site brings the total to more than 376,000 square feet.
- A 10,000-square-foot primary-care health center (FSU PrimaryHealth™) opened in 2019.

## M.D. Alumni

Total: 1,953. Of those graduates, 1,078 have completed residency and, in many cases, fellowship training and are now practicing physicians. Of those in practice, 53% are in Florida, and 50% of those are practicing primary care.

## Regional Campuses & Training Sites

Students spend the first half of their College of Medicine experience at the central campus in Tallahassee. Then they branch out across the state, working alongside and learning from community providers at one of the college's regional campuses or training sites.

- Daytona Beach Regional Campus
- Fort Pierce Regional Campus
- Orlando Regional Campus
- Pensacola Regional Campus
- Sarasota Regional Campus
- Tallahassee Regional Campus
- Marianna Rural Program
- Immokalee Health Education Site
- Thomasville (Georgia) Program

The college partners with more than 170 health care organizations statewide and thousands of clinicians to provide clinical training to our students.

## Academic Departments

- Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine
- Biomedical Sciences
- Clinical Sciences
- Family Medicine and Rural Health
- Geriatrics

## Academic Centers & Institutes

- Area Health Education Center
- Autism Institute
- Center for Behavioral Health Integration
- Center for Brain Repair
- Center for Child Stress & Health
- Center on Global Health
- Center for Medicine and Public Health Policy & Practice
- Center for Translational Behavioral Science
- Florida Blue Center for Rural Health Research and Policy
- Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases

## Residencies

The College of Medicine sponsors the following residency programs:

- Cape Coral - Internal Medicine
- Fort Myers - Family Medicine
- Sarasota - Emergency Medicine
- Sarasota - Internal Medicine
- Tallahassee - General Surgery
- Tallahassee - Internal Medicine
- Tallahassee - Psychiatry
- Winter Haven - Family Medicine
- Winter Haven - Transitional Year

## Fellowships

- Fort Myers - Global Health
- Pensacola - Forensic Pathology
- Sarasota - Hospice & Palliative Medicine
- Sarasota - Emergency Medical Services
- Tallahassee - Micrographic Surgery & Dermatologic Oncology

## Bridge To Clinical Medicine Program

The Bridge program is designed to expand the pool of successful medical school applicants from medically underserved, rural and inner-city communities. It is a 12-month program that provides both education in medical knowledge and experiences in clinical practice.

## Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences Program

This program, established in 2016 with the cooperation of six other FSU colleges, is designed for undergraduates interested in health-related careers. A rigorous science curriculum serves as its foundation, and students may select one of three interdisciplinary majors that fits their developing career goals.

## School Of Physician Assistant Practice\*

The PA program graduated its fourth class in December and currently has 255 alumni. The Challenging 27-month program was designed to prepare graduates to practice medicine as part of the physician-PA team. The first class graduated in 2019 and the program reached full enrollment of 180 in 2021. Based on latest information self-reported by 123 alumni, 82% practice in the state of Florida and 23% practice in primary care.

*\* An important statement from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) is included with more information about the program on page 52 of this report.*













*Here, We Grow*

# OUR MISSION

**IN THIS SECTION:**

*How we're growing: Our Mission Scorecard*

*Recent grads breaking down barriers*

*After 30 years, SSTRIDE continues to support aspiring physicians*

*GME programs: Addressing the physician workforce shortage*

*A firsthand look at rural health*

*Points of interest: How pathway programs make a difference*



# MISSION SCORECARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES (AAMC) MISSION MANAGEMENT TOOL 2023 COMPARED TO ALL OTHER U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOLS (155 ACCREDITED SCHOOLS)

All measures are reported as a percentile ranking among U.S. and Canadian M.D. programs.

## OUTCOMES



Percentile for practicing in underserved area



Percentile for training in family medicine



Percentile for practicing in-state



Percentile for training in primary care



Percentile for practicing in primary care

## DIVERSITY



Graduates who are Black or African-American



Graduates who are Hispanic, Latino or Spanish



Faculty who are women



Faculty who are Hispanic, Latino or Spanish; American Indian or Alaska Native; Black or African-American; or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

## CLERKSHIPS



Quality of OB-GYN clerkships



Quality of general surgery clerkships



Quality of family medicine clerkships



Quality of psychiatry clerkships

## SERVICE



In a loan forgiveness program with a service commitment



Field experience in community health



Military service



Plan to care for the medically underserved



Graduates who are prepared to care for people of different backgrounds



Experience in health disparities



Experience in cultural awareness/competence



MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATION QUESTIONNAIRE 2023 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

FSU*	Other Schools	Question
97	94	I am confident I have acquired the skills required to begin a residency program.
97	95	I have the fundamental understanding of common conditions and their management encountered in the major clinical disciplines.
99	99	I have the communication skills necessary to interact with patients and health professionals.
99	96	I have basic skills in clinical decision-making and the application of evidence-based information to medical practice.
99	96	I have a fundamental understanding of the issues in social sciences of medicine.
99	98	I understand the ethical and professional values that are expected of the profession.
99	97	I believe I am adequately prepared to care for patients from different backgrounds.
98	86	I have the skills to apply the principles of high-value care (quality, safety, cost) in medical decision-making.
99	92	I have the skills to address the social determinants that differentially influence the health status of patients.
90	90	My knowledge or opinion was influenced or changed by becoming more aware of the perspectives of individuals from different backgrounds.
83	75	The diversity within my medical school enhanced my training and skills to work with individuals from different backgrounds.
87	71	My medical school has done a good job of fostering and nurturing my development as a person.
95	92	My medical school has done a good job of fostering and nurturing my development as a future physician.

CLERKSHIP QUALITY\*

Class	FSU	Other Schools
Emergency medicine	98	89
Family medicine	94	86
Internal medicine	92	93
OB-GYN	90	80
Pediatrics	92	89
Psychiatry	93	89
Surgery	93	83

\* Compared to graduates of all other U.S. medical schools, FSU students who answered “agree” or “strongly agree”.

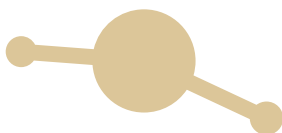




RATING SCIENCE COURSES BASIC TO MEDICINE\*\*

Class	FSU	Other Schools
Biochemistry	90	73
Biostatistics and epidemiology	90	74
Genetics	87	75
Gross anatomy	97	91
Immunology	94	85
Introduction to clinical medicine/intro to the patient	97	93
Microanatomy/histology	81	76
Microbiology	96	88
Neuroscience	99	88
Pathology	91	87
Pharmacology	97	87
Physiology	97	93
Behavioral science	96	91
Pathophysiology of disease	98	95

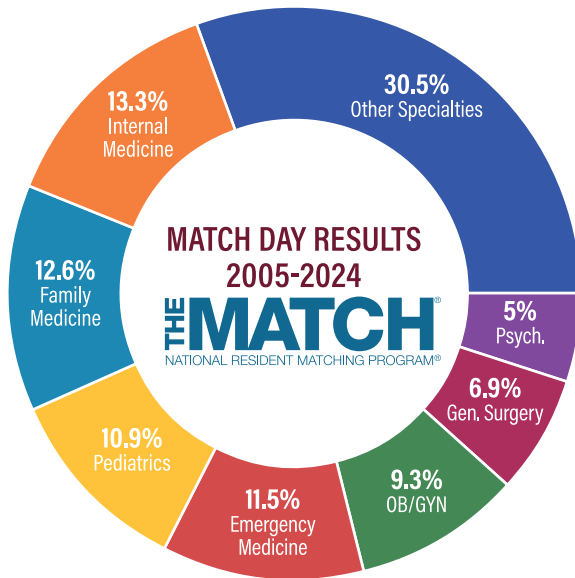
\*\* How well they prepared students for clinical clerkships and electives. Percent who rated “good” or “excellent”.





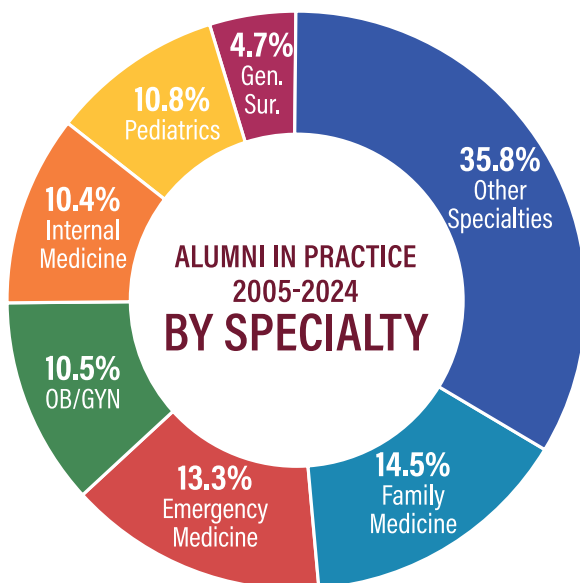


# M.D. ALUMNI AT A GLANCE



**86<sup>th</sup>**

percentile nationally for alumni practicing in primary care<sup>1</sup>



**98<sup>th</sup>**

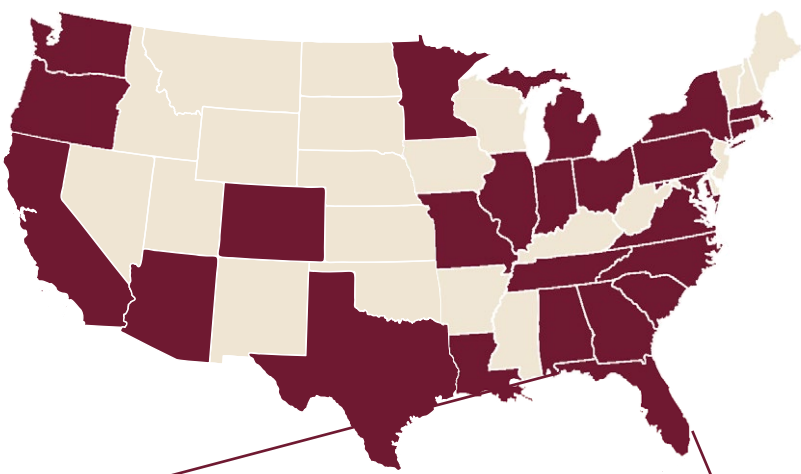
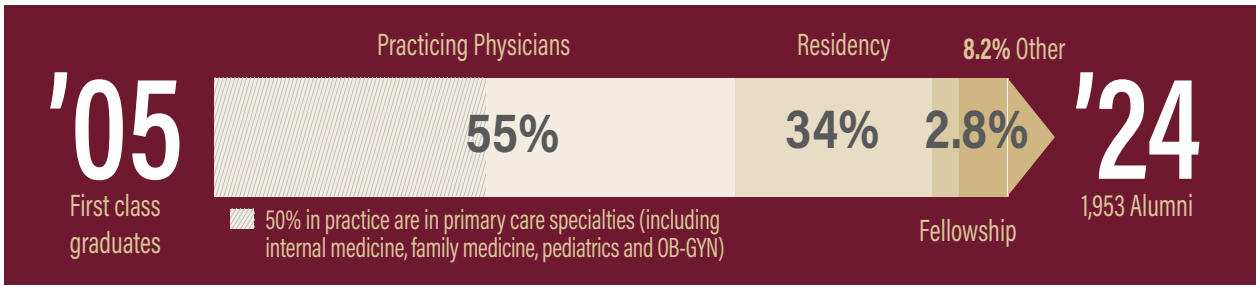
percentile nationally for practicing physicians in underserved areas (rural & urban)<sup>1</sup>

**86<sup>th</sup>**

percentile nationally for alumni practicing in-state<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).





PRACTICING ALUMNI  
IN FLORIDA **53%**

Rank	State	No. of Practing Alumni
1	Florida	566
2	North Carolina	58
3	Georgia	54
4	Texas	40
5	California	39
6	Alabama	28
7	South Carolina	27
8	Colorado	19
	Pennsylvania	19
	Tennessee	19
9	New York	18
	Virginia	18
10	Washington	15
11	Illinois	14
	Maryland	14
	Ohio	14
12	Louisiana	12
13	Arizona	7
	Massachusetts	7
	Missouri	7
	Oregon	7
14	Michigan	6
15	Connecticut	5
	Indiana	5
	Minnesota	5
16	Other	48



# MENTORED DOWN PATHWAYS TO ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

The M.D. Class of 2024 notched a significant achievement for the Florida State University College of Medicine with four graduates heading to residency programs in orthopedic surgery.

Decorian “Corey” North will continue his training at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala.; Nicholas “Nick” Thomas at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.; Barbara Pierre Louis at Yale University-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Conn.; and Matthew “Matt” Williamson at Orlando Health.

“While we are obviously proud of all our graduates, to have matched four in such a competitive specialty as orthopedic surgery is quite an accomplishment for each of them and for our College of Medicine,” Dean Alma Littles, M.D., said. “We know they will carry with them our mission of patient-centered health care and being responsive to community needs throughout their careers.”

Orthopedic surgery focuses on bones, joints, muscles, tendons, and ligaments.

The National Institutes of Health reported earlier this year that in 2022, 40% of applicants failed to match in orthopedic surgery, despite each having applied to an average of 72 programs. These were talented, dedicated applicants; there just aren’t enough residency slots available to train orthopedic surgeons to treat a growing, and graying, population.

Adding a layer of sheen to an already impressive feat, three of the four – North, Pierre Louis and Thomas – are from underserved, underrepresented communities and have overcome challenges many can only imagine. What made the difference for them? Pathway programs and mentoring.

“We can’t downplay the extreme hard work, resilience and grit these students have shown in matching in one of the most competitive specialties in medicine and doing it at some of the best programs in the country,” said Senior Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences Anthony Speights, M.D. “That’s impressive for all who achieve it, but matching three students from an underrepresented demographic into these orthopedic residencies reinforces how integral pathway programs and strong mentorship can be.”

By Audrey Post  
*FSU College of Medicine*



Click or scan the QR code to read more.







*From left, Nick Thomas, Barbara Pierre Louis and Corey North benefited from pathway programs and believe in “paying it forward.”*

*Photo by Bob Thomas, FSU College of Medicine*





# SSTRIDE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

## *Supporting aspiring physicians from underserved populations*

Thesla Berne-Anderson's family moved from the Bronx, New York, to the Virgin Islands when she was a child, hoping the climate would help doctors there heal her chronic breathing problems. Her successful treatment showed her what physicians can do and inspired her to become one herself.

Once in college, she excelled in her biology classes and her path seemed set — until she ran into organic chemistry and physics in her third year of studies. Ill-prepared and lacking a support network to help overcome the challenge, she realized she would not fulfill her dream of becoming a doctor. Changing her major, Berne-Anderson became a middle school

science teacher. As a person of faith, she knew she was meant to help others somehow.

Through destiny, perseverance, divine intervention or some combination, Berne-Anderson ultimately fulfilled her goal of helping the medically underserved in a manner she never could have envisioned — and for which hundreds of physicians and other health-care professionals are profoundly grateful.

In December 2023, many of them joined Anderson and the College of Medicine leadership team — including Dean Alma Littles, M.D., Senior Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences (IMS) Anthony Speights, M.D., and Associate IMS Dean Elizabeth Foster, Ph.D. — to celebrate 30 years of SSTRIDE, Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity and Excellence. One of several FSU outreach programs Anderson had a hand in creating, SSTRIDE's purpose is to help students from underserved populations overcome the kind of obstacles that derailed her plans to become a physician.





The SSTRIDE Alumni Leadership Conference in Orlando attracted alumni from throughout the country. They came to share their knowledge and expertise through continuing education seminars; form mentoring relationships with current medical students and undergraduate pre-medical students currently in SSTRIDE; pledge to help solidify SSTRIDE's foundation to ensure the program will continue; and reconnect with old friends they met through the program.

By Audrey Post  
FSU College of Medicine

*Brittany Foulkes Crenshaw, M.D. (internal medicine), far left, and Bernard Ashby, M.D. (vascular cardiology), second from left, facilitate a panel discussion about the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic at the 2023 SSTRIDE Leadership Development Conference. Panelists were, continuing from left, Haria Henry, M.D. (family medicine); Joshua Golden, DDS, MPH; Inaki Bent, D.O., MBA (primary care/internal medicine), and Kalonji Cole, M.D. (senior internal medicine resident). Crenshaw earned her M.D. at the FSU College of Medicine and Henry is now a Global Health Fellow at FSU in Fort Myers. The others earned their undergraduate degrees at FSU and participated in one or more of the College of Medicine's outreach programs: SSTRIDE, USSTRIDE, MAPS and the Bridge to Clinical Medicine.*

*Photo by FSU College of Medicine Creative Services*

*The success of  
SSTRIDE has  
been remarkable.*



Click or  
scan the  
QR code to  
read more.



# TACKLING FLORIDA'S PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

There is no easy solution to addressing the physician shortage in the state and nation. The only way to do it is through hard work — building exceptional medical education and pathway programs, recruiting the right students with the aptitude and passion to make a difference, and growing outstanding Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs to train more physicians.

Over the past two years, four new GME programs have been added under the auspices of the Florida State University (FSU) College of Medicine, and more are on the horizon.

“When I arrived at FSU in May 2022, my goal was to strategically expand our GME enterprise across the state to aid in meeting the critical physician workforce shortage,” said Bill Boyer, DHSC, associate dean of GME and Faculty Development and the college’s Designated Institutional Official. To do so, Boyer consulted with FSU’s health care partners to gain a better understanding of their service line needs.

“GME must align with our health care providers’ strategic goals and service line initiatives to be successful,” Boyer said. “GME is the main pathway for producing qualified physicians who can meet the health care needs of the population. It influences the supply, distribution and diversity of physicians across geographic regions, practice settings and specialties. It also affects the quality and innovation of health care delivery and the academic and research missions of medical schools and teaching hospitals.”

The population of Florida and the physician short-

age are growing at such a fast pace that they’ve drawn the attention of the Florida Legislature. In March, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law four bills, collectively known as Live Healthy. One key component of the legislation calls for the expansion of medical residency slots. Statistics show that there is a 75% retention rate for physicians who attend medical school and complete their residencies in Florida. Another incentive in the legislation is a bolstering of the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical and Dental Education (FRAME) loan forgiveness program.

When announcing the new legislation, Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples), president of the Florida Senate, said that Florida continues to attract families, businesses and seniors, adding, “These new Floridians are not bringing their health care providers with them. Live Healthy will grow the health care workforce we need to serve our communi-

*“GME is the main pathway for producing qualified physicians who can meet the health care needs of the population.”*



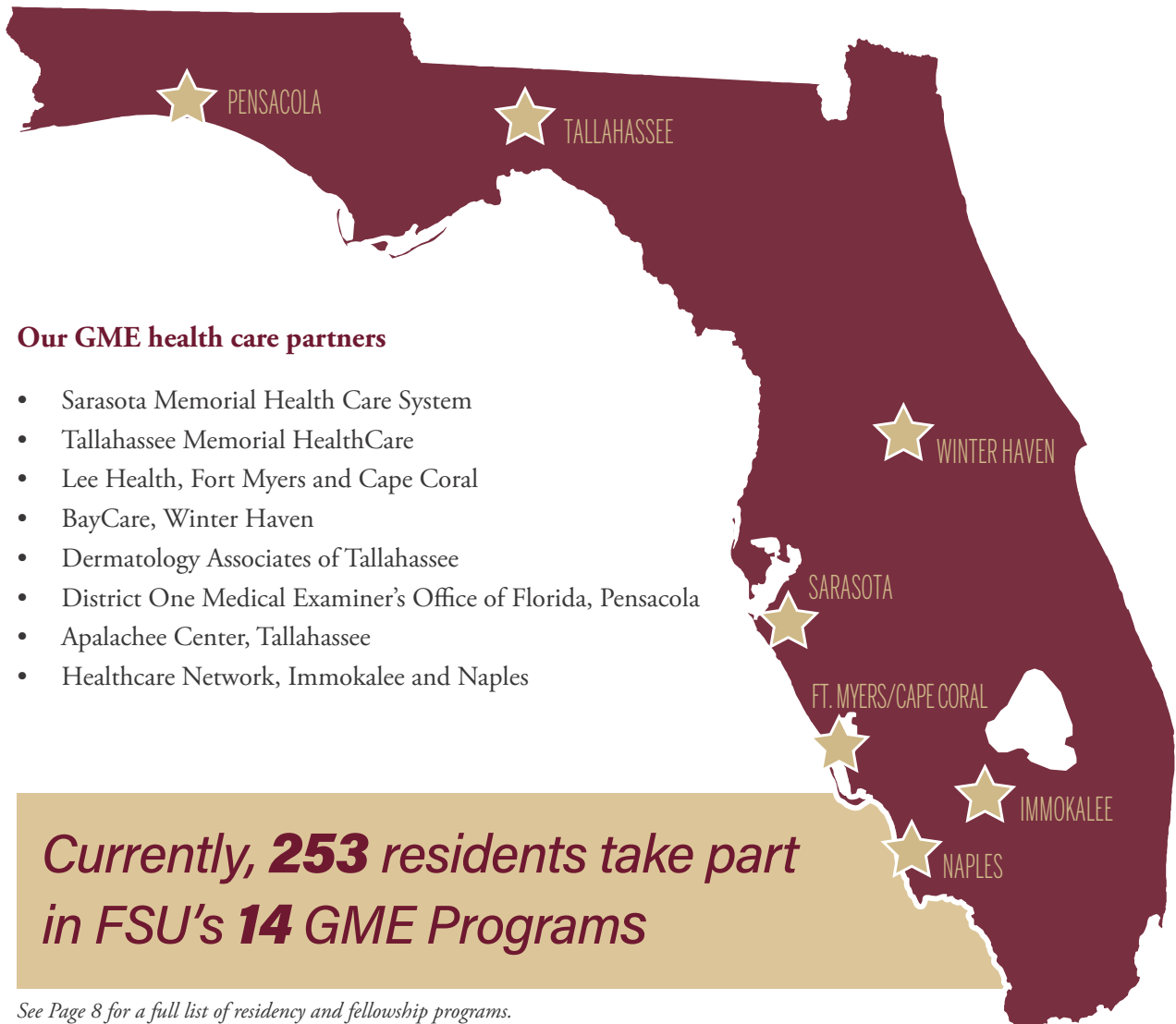
ties, increase access, and incentivize innovation, so Floridians can have more options and opportunities to live healthy.”

As for the legislation, Boyer said, “It earmarked millions of dollars to expand GME across the state of Florida and the College of Medicine is here to play a critical part in this workforce development effort.”

According to Boyer, “On the immediate horizon, GME is closing in on adding another health care partner to be announced in July 2024, adding an

additional four programs and 84 residents. By 2027, our GME enterprise goal is to reach 35 programs and over 500 residents and fellows. It’s an ambitious goal that requires strong collaboration and orchestration with our health care partners and the ACGME, but it can be done with a focused effort and drive to succeed.”

By Patrick Crowley  
FSU College of Medicine



**Our GME health care partners**

- Sarasota Memorial Health Care System
- Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare
- Lee Health, Fort Myers and Cape Coral
- BayCare, Winter Haven
- Dermatology Associates of Tallahassee
- District One Medical Examiner’s Office of Florida, Pensacola
- Apalachee Center, Tallahassee
- Healthcare Network, Immokalee and Naples

**Currently, 253 residents take part in FSU’s 14 GME Programs**

See Page 8 for a full list of residency and fellowship programs.

# EXPOSURE TO RURAL HEALTH CARE IS AN ‘EYE-OPENING’ EXPERIENCE

There’s nothing like real-world, hands-on experience, and the rural tour for first-year students at the College of Medicine is no exception. After four years of virtual learning, the in-person rural tour is back — and it is being met with rave reviews from students and faculty alike.

This program cuts to the core of the college’s mission, which focuses on providing patient-centered care to everyone, but with emphasis on underserved populations including elder, rural, and minority communities. Getting the new class of medical students out for a first-hand look at rural communities has been a key part of their orientation for almost 15 years.

“For students from urban areas, it’s an eye-opening experience,” said Associate Professor Kerwyn Flowers, D.O., director of rural medical education as well as director of clinical programs. “For students from rural areas who already are familiar with the need, it’s a chance to see how other communities are trying to bridge the gap.”

The tour was first begun in 2010 as the Rural Education Orientation Program (REOP). In 2014, as part of the college’s curriculum redesign, REOP was renamed the Rural Learning Experience (RuLE).

“In 2018, we added students from our newly formed Physician Assistant Program and our undergraduate Honors Medical Scholars Program, taking the

number of students participating to about 185 each year,” said Anthony Speights, M.D., senior associate dean for interdisciplinary medical sciences.

Between 2014 and 2019, the last year the tour was conducted before this year’s resumption, students traveled to communities in Calhoun, Gadsden, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Suwanee, Taylor and Wakulla counties in Florida and Decatur, Grady and Thomas counties in Georgia.

Speights also set about making sure the rural tour will continue in perpetuity.

The Florida Blue Foundation had previously funded it, and Speights applied to the foundation on behalf of the College of Medicine for a five-year, \$500,000 grant, which was awarded in 2023. A portion will be used to create an endowment to pay for the annual learning excursion.

By Audrey Post  
FSU College of Medicine







# PATHWAY PROGRAMS MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT

Finding, recruiting and retaining exceptional students who have the desire and aptitude to pursue a degree in health care — particularly those from rural and underserved areas — is the goal of our pathway programs. Since their inception, thousands of students have been served, with many going on to pursue successful careers in their chosen professions.

## SSTRIDE

**Students Served: 2,758**  
(1994 through summer 2023)

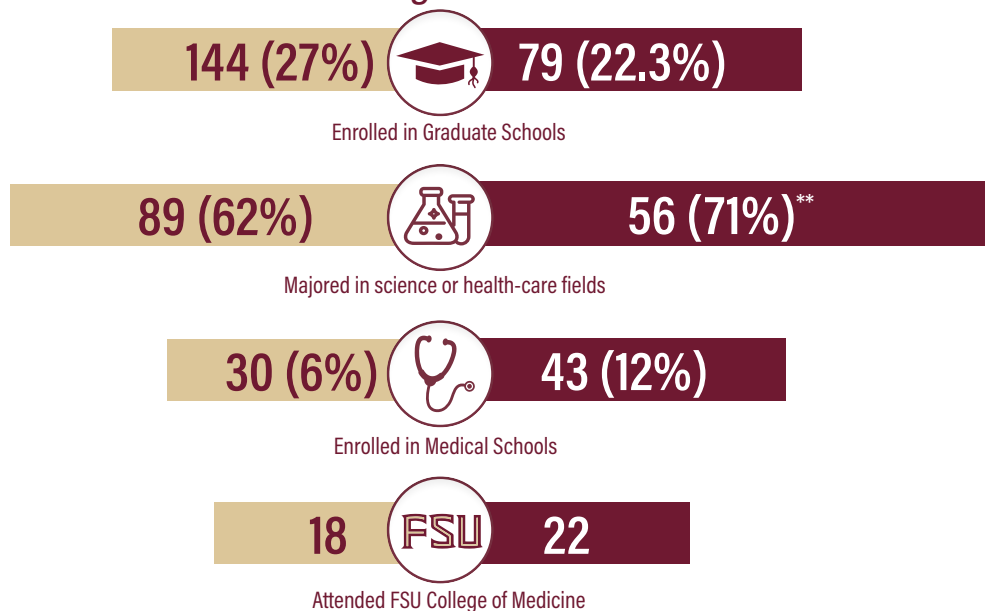
The SSTRIDE Program is offered to students from designated middle and high schools in Florida. Of the students served, 1,455 voluntarily provided information about their college careers, with 1,385 (95.2%) reporting enrolling in college and 533 graduating from college as of summer 2023.

## Summer Institute

**Students Served: 880**  
(2008 through summer 2023)

The Summer Institute is a weeklong, residential program designed for high school sophomores and juniors committed to pursuing a career in the medical field. Of the 574 students tracked, 100% graduated from high school, with 571 (99.5%) entering college (188 choosing FSU). By summer 2023, 354 earned a college degree.

### Post-College Outcomes\*



\*Of those tracked for post-college information

\*\*One enrolled in FSU College of Medicine Bridge program and one in the FSU College of Medicine Physician Assistant program as of Fall 2023.

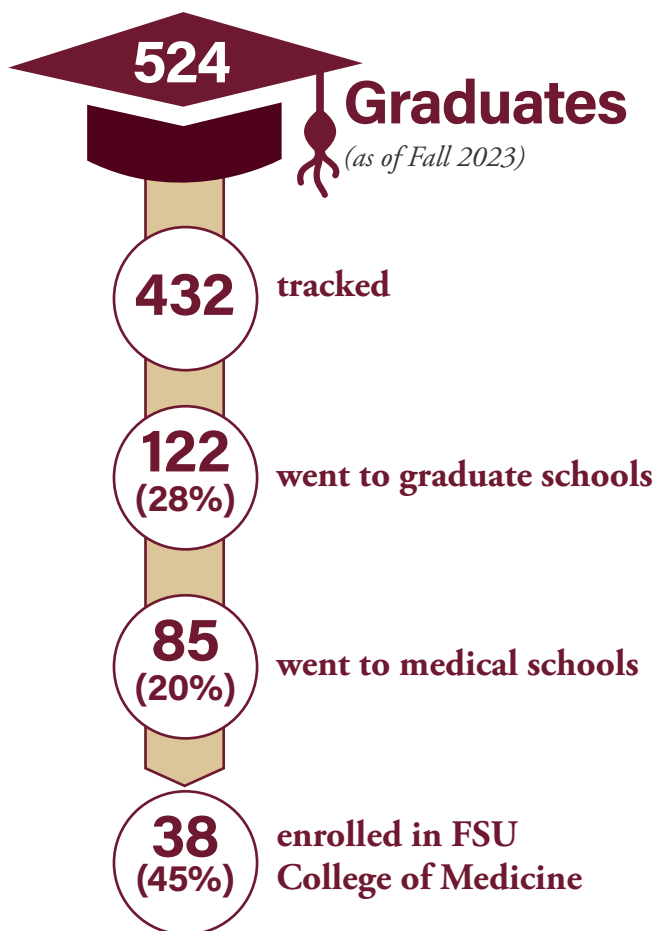


# Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences (IMS)

**Students Served: 3,049**

*(2016 through summer 2023)*

The IMS Bachelor of Science Degree Program educates students who aspire to enter a health profession. Students may pursue individual specialized and pre-professional interests with any of the three major options — Clinical Professions Major, Community Patient Care Major, or Health Management, Policy and Information Major — to help prepare for entry into professional training programs or become part of the health care workforce.



**112** students majored in health care or medical programs



\* 14 in FSU College of Medicine Physician Assistant program

\*\* 1 active in the FSU College of Medicine Bridge program as of summer 2023

# USSTRIDE

**Students Served: 838**

(1994 through summer 2023)

Undergraduate SSTRIDE or USSTRIDE is the college component of the FSU College of Medicine outreach programs and serves as an extension of the pre-college program. USSTRIDE is open to Florida State University, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee State College, post-baccalaureate students, and SSTRIDE Connect students. Premedical students interested in applying to our medical school and working in rural or underserved communities are invited to apply and participate in USSTRIDE.



687 participants tracked post-college

**52.1%**  
Attended Medical Schools  
(358/687 Students)

**215** Attended  
FSU College of Medicine



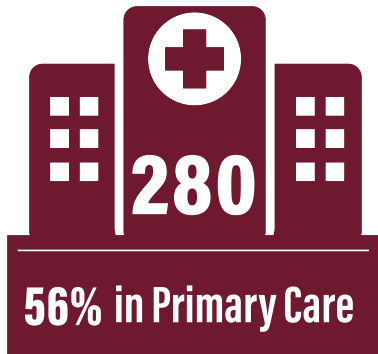
**23.3%**

Attended Graduate Schools  
(160/687 Students)  
*1 active in Bridge program;  
7 in PA program*

**80.0%**

Chose STEM-related majors  
in graduate schools  
(128/160 Students)

**Matched In Residency**



**40.2%**  
Practice in  
Underserved Areas

**In a Practice**



**45.6%**  
Practice in  
Florida

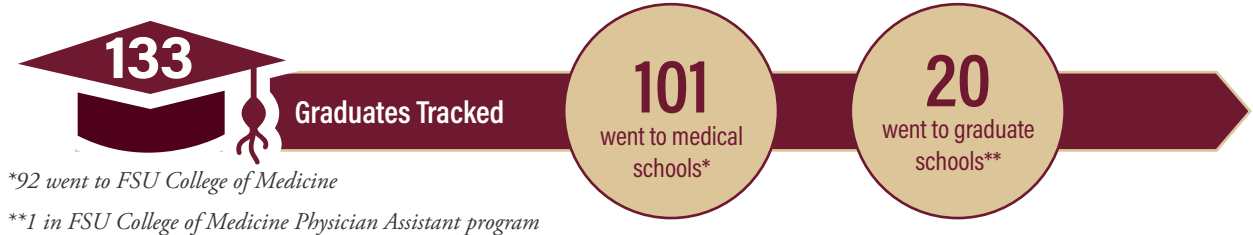


# Honors Medical Scholars (HMS)

**Students Served: 171**

(2006 through summer 2023)

The College of Medicine has joined forces with the FSU Honors Program to create a professional-track program available on a highly competitive basis to a small number of motivated first-year students in each incoming undergraduate Honors class.

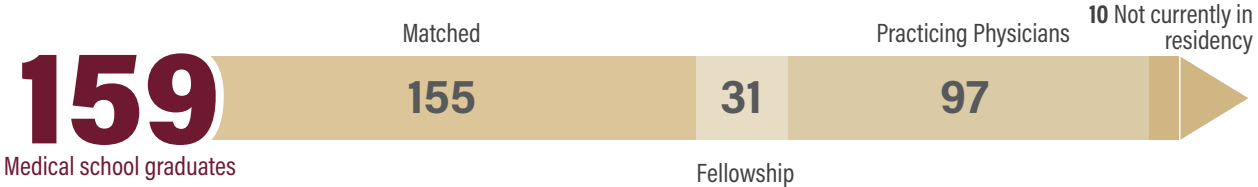


# Bridge Program Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences

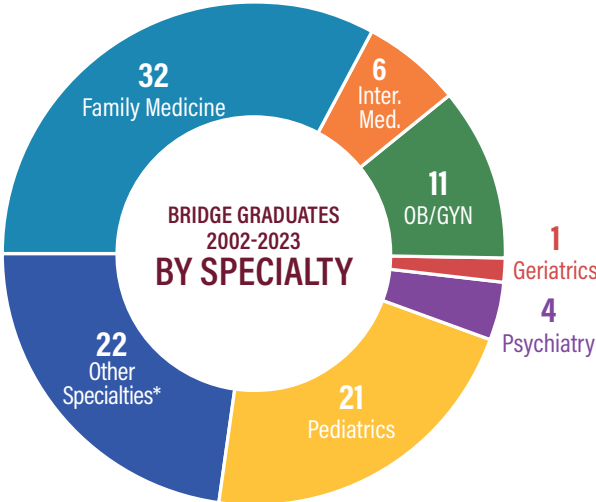
**Students Served: 227**

(2001 through summer 2023)

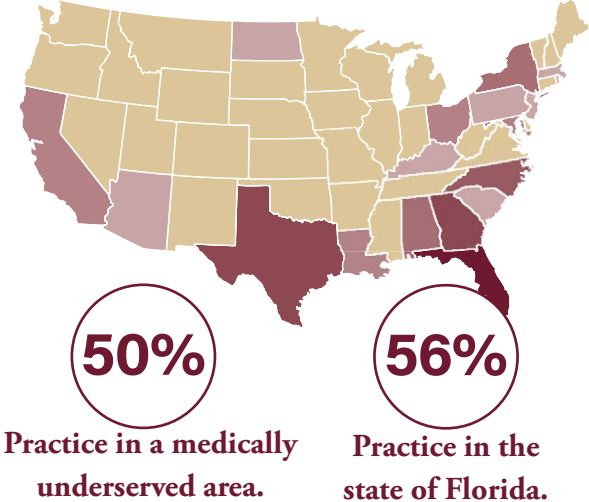
A year-long, postgraduate program providing select undergraduate students from medically underserved backgrounds a track to prepare for a medical education. This chart looks at graduates of the Bridge program who also went on to graduate from medical schools.



What They Practice



Where They Practice







*Here, We Grow*

**OUR  
RESEARCH**

**IN THIS SECTION:**

*New institute provides hope for children with rare diseases*

*\$1.44 million grant advances PTSD research*

*Stressors on child health*

*Points of interest: Research expenditures and scholarly output*

# FOR THE LIFE OF A CHILD:

## *Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases provides hope*

The newly created Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases (IPRD) positions the Florida State University College of Medicine to have a transformative impact while offering hope to children and their families searching for answers.

“The goals are big, very bold and courageous,” said IPRD Director Pradeep Bhide, Ph.D., the College of Medicine’s Jim and Betty Ann Rodgers Eminent Scholar Chair of Developmental Neuroscience.

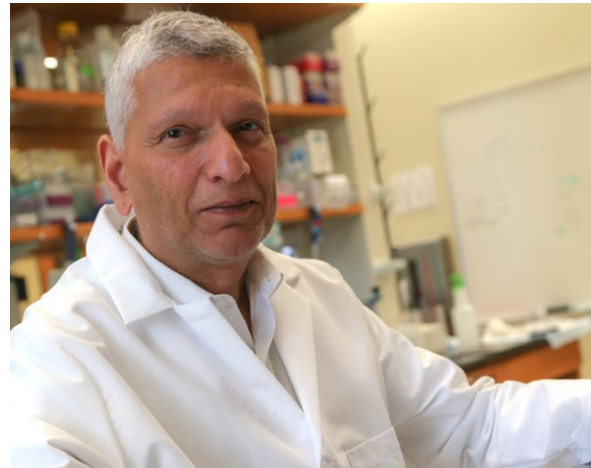
Florida Rep. Adam Anderson (R-Palm Harbor) publicly announced the institute’s launch on Feb. 1 during Florida State University Day at the Capitol, along with a \$1 million grant for initial funding. In June, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis approved an additional \$5 million for the institute from the state budget.

Anderson, an FSU alumnus, initially approached university leaders with the idea of starting the institute in 2023. His advocacy on behalf of the 350 million people worldwide with known rare diseases, including 30 million in the United States — half of whom are children — has a personal connection.

Anderson and his wife Brianne’s son, Andrew, was diagnosed with Tay-Sachs disease in 2016 and died in 2019. The rare and fatal genetic disorder causes nerve damage in a child’s brain and spinal cord. According to National Institutes of Health data, it affects 1 in every 320,000 babies born in the US.

Tay-Sachs is one of approximately 7,000 known rare diseases.

“In many ways, he (Anderson) is the engine that is driving this,” said Bhide, who developed a five-year



plan for the institute that is broad in scope, lending itself to interdisciplinary contributions throughout the university and beyond.

FSU President Richard McCullough, Provost Jim Clark and Vice President for Research Stacey Patterson have thrown their full support behind the institute, which through the use of the initial seed money — and the promise of more to come thanks to the backing of Gov. DeSantis and the legislature — is already funding 13 projects. Those projects include research being conducted by FSU’s College of Arts & Sciences and the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, in addition to the College of Medicine.

“We have met many times ... where we’ve said we want to do this and they’ve said, ‘Ok, what do you need?’” Bhide said of the university administration. “There’s a lot of excitement, because (IPRD) fits with the FSU Health goals.”

That support included \$2.5 million in matching funds, a portion of which Bhide said has been invested in the purchase of a new DNA sequencer



*“The goals are big, very bold and courageous”*



Click or scan the QR code to read more.



with a price tag of more than \$1 million. The sequencer is essential for genetic research. Bhide said the balance of those funds will be used to build a genomics diagnostic facility, where the storage of genetic material and testing will take place. The genomics lab is one of four components of the institute.

A master’s program in genetic counseling, biomedical research and a pediatric clinic comprise the remaining components, collectively bringing together scientists, educators and clinicians.

By Bob Thomas  
FSU College of Medicine







Click or  
scan the  
QR code to  
read more.





# PTSD RESEARCH GETS BOOST WITH \$1.44 MILLION GRANT

A Florida State University team investigating how to use brain stimulation technology to treat psychiatric conditions has been awarded a \$1.44 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to further its research, particularly as it relates to the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) is a medical procedure that uses magnetic fields to stimulate nerve cells in the brain. An electromagnetic coil is placed against the scalp and creates magnetic pulses that reach the brain surface. Its use has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treatment-resistant depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, anxious depression, migraines and to assist with smoking cessation. But Dr. Andrew Kozel has been looking at how it can be further applied to treat other conditions.

“Depression and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) share some overlapping symptoms and patients often suffer from both conditions,” said Kozel, director of the FSU Neuromodulation Lab, which is part of the College of Medicine, as well as the Mina Jo Powell Endowed Chair in Neurological Sciences at the college. “TMS is a promising potential therapy for PTSD, and the technology developed in this project will help advance research and clinical practice for PTSD, depression and other brain-based disorders.”

Kozel’s study focuses on the personalization of TMS treatment in an effort to significantly improve clinical outcomes.

By Audrey Post  
FSU College of Medicine



FSU Neuromodulation Lab team members working on research funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, from left, Co-Director Kevin Johnson, Ph.D.; Research Assistant Megan Senda; and Professor F. Andrew Kozel, M.D. To Dr. Kozel’s right are staff members of the FSU Neuromodulation™ clinical practice, Medical Assistant Mariah Jensen, CCMA, and Office Manager Catherine Moore.

Photo by FSU College of Medicine Creative Services

# GETTING TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

*Investigators study chemical and psychological stressors on children*



Javier Rosado, Ph.D.



Gregg Stanwood, Ph.D.

Two College of Medicine associate professors, Javier Rosado, Ph.D., and Gregg Stanwood, Ph.D., landed a four-year, \$1.9 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to study the cumulative consequences of both chemical and psychosocial stressors on child health.

They and their team have created the Bioecological Center for Rural Children's Health (BeRCH), which includes the college's Immokalee Health Education Site in Collier County and involves nine FSU colleges and 17 faculty researchers. The Immokalee Site includes a medical clinic that serves southwest Florida agricultural workers who previously had limited access to health care.

"We're recruiting pregnant women who are associated directly with agriculture, working in fields and packing houses," said Stanwood, who studies the developmental origins of brain disorders and is particularly interested in how chemical and psychosocial stressors interact during critical windows of development to negatively impact health, "and we will be following them and their children as long as we can. We're already working on a follow-up grant."

Rosado, a licensed psychologist who specializes in pediatric psychology with a particular interest in toxic stress and childhood trauma, said the research will yield data that will help the team assess real-life threats to children's health that exist in the community, and "more importantly, it will help us to understand how those threats interact and what are the cumulative health consequences."

"BeRCH aligns with the College of Medicine's mission in two key ways: addressing the needs of underserved populations, specifically rural agricultural worker families, a historically marginalized group," Rosado said, "and it adopts a patient-centered approach, actively engaging the community through a participatory framework."

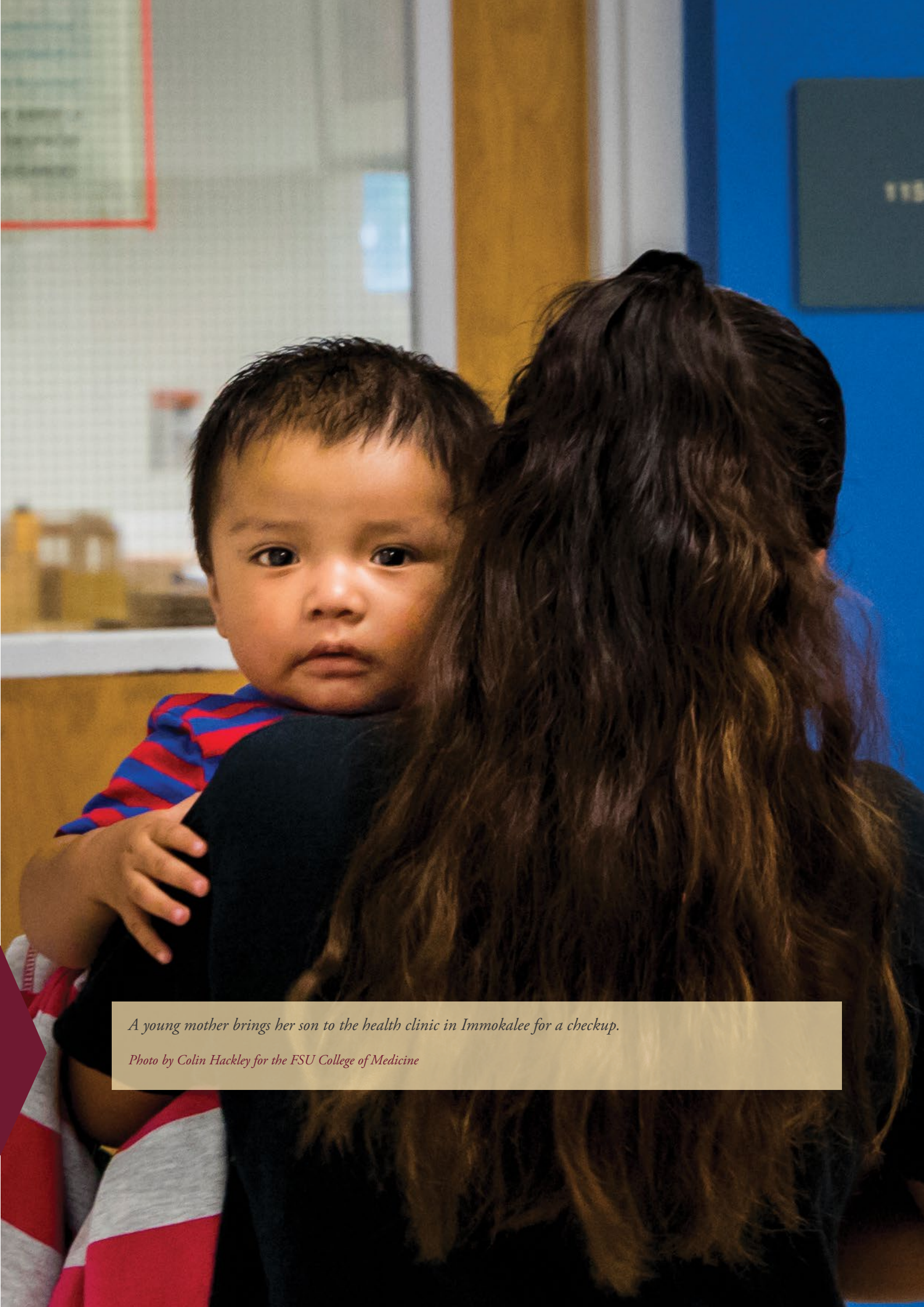
By Audrey Post  
FSU College of Medicine



Click or scan the QR code to read more.







*A young mother brings her son to the health clinic in Immokalee for a checkup.*

*Photo by Colin Hackley for the FSU College of Medicine*

## Advancing knowledge for the benefit of humankind

Our College of Medicine continues to lead the way in groundbreaking research, with opportunities for both faculty and students. We have a strong interdisciplinary research culture that encompasses the spectrum from basic molecular processes to the study of ourselves and how we interact with communities. The College of Medicine is the home for several interdisciplinary translational research centers and institutes, core facilities that support investigators across the university, and hosts the University of Florida-Florida State University Clinical Translational Science Award.

### Research Expenditures

# \$126,754,283

FY 2019 – 2023

### Faculty Principal Investigators FY23

53

Unique faculty submitting proposals to external funders

25

Unique faculty receiving awards from external funders





# TOP 5 NEW AWARDS, FY23



**Heather Flynn, Ph.D.,**  
Florida Department of Health, Behavioral Health Integration in Primary Care & Behavioral Health Organizations-CMCAI

**\$2.36 million**



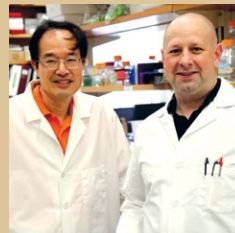
**Angelina Sutin, Ph.D.,**  
NIH, Prenatal and Early Life Antecedents of Personality: An Intergenerational Lifespan Approach

**\$2.23 million**



**Judy Delp, Ph.D.,**  
NIH, Role of Adiponectin in Reversal of Age-related Vascular Dysfunction

**\$1.89 million**



**Robert Tomko, Ph.D., Zucui Suo, Ph.D.,**  
NIH, Investigation of the proteasome assembly landscape

**\$1.72 million**



**Amy Wetherby, Ph.D.,**  
Florida Department of Education, CARD FY 22-23

**\$1.56 million**

## New NIH Awards FY23

**\$2.23 million** – Angelina Sutin, Ph.D., Prenatal and Early Life Antecedents of Personality: An Intergenerational Lifespan Approach

**\$1.89 million** – Judy Delp, Ph.D., Role of Adiponectin in Reversal of Age-related Vascular Dysfunction

**\$1.72 million** – Robert Tomko, Ph.D., Zucui Suo, Ph.D., Investigation of the proteasome assembly landscape

**\$1.20 million** – Robert Tomko, Ph.D., Engagement and Communication Between Proteasomal Subcomplexes

**\$635,773** – Ivan Balan, Ph.D., Integration of Electronic SBI(RT) into an HIV Test

**\$457,596** – Mary Gerend, Ph.D., Mechanisms Explaining the Link Between Weight Discrimination and Poor Cardiovascular Health

**\$250,000** – Sylvie Naar, Ph.D., Understanding the impact of racism — a social determinant of health — on the scope of the co-occurrence of mental health and cardiometabolic challenges in high disparity racial/ethnic minority populations

**\$8,191** – Michelle Arbeitman, Ph.D., Genes underlying reproductive behavior physiology and neuronal development

# SHARING INFORMATION AND ADVANCING SCIENCE

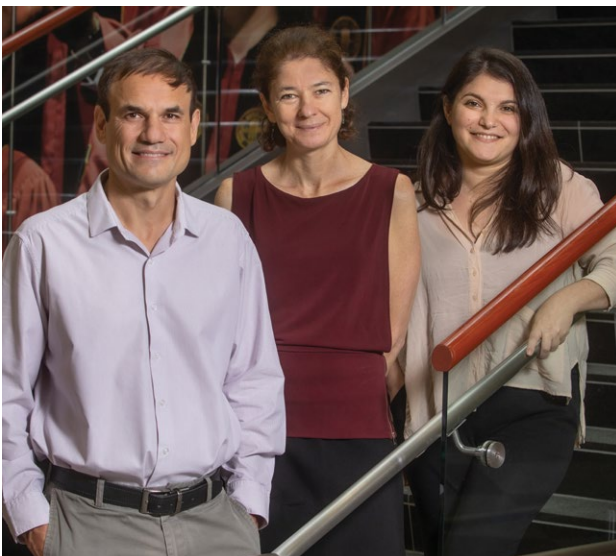
*Scholarly Output from College of Medicine  
(2022-2023)*

**577**

Total Published Work

**3,231**

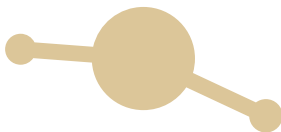
Total Citations



## Top 5 published authors

- 73** **Angelina Sutin, Ph.D.**  
Professor, Behavioral Sciences & Social  
Medicine
- 69** **Antonio Terracciano, Ph.D.**  
Professor, Geriatrics
- 51** **Martina Luchetti, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor, Behavioral Sciences &  
Social Medicine
- 51** **Yannick Stephan, Ph.D.**  
Researcher (courtesy appointment),  
Geriatrics
- 35** **Damaris Aschwanden, Ph.D.**  
Post-Doctoral Researcher, Geriatrics

*Note: Information sourced via SciVal. Publication types include articles, reviews, chapters, notes, editorials, letters, books, conference papers, data papers and erratum.*







Pho Nguyen  
PhD Student  
Department of Health, Behavior, and Society  
Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Johns Hopkins University

Alma B. Larkin, M.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Health, Behavior, and Society  
Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Johns Hopkins University

Operational Efficiency Model Based on Evidence An Observational Survey  
Background  
Research Questions  
Methods

Background  
Research Questions  
Methods



# STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



Ask me about  
**MY RESEARCH!**





*Here, We Grow*

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**IN THIS SECTION:**

*How one alumnus remembers his FSU roots*

*One family - huge impact. Major gift will support medical students in perpetuity*

*Points of interest: Our honor roll of donors*

# IN THE RIGHT HANDS

*FSU PrimaryHealth is home to new liver scan, thanks to Mayo Clinic gift*



Beau Toskich  
(M.D., 2007)

“It’s a shame people have to wait until they are referred to a major transplant center to have access to this device,” said Beau Toskich (M.D., 2007), a professor of interventional radiology at the Mayo Clinic in

Florida. “Our goal is to put it in the hands of primary care physicians — people who can make the most impact with an early diagnosis.”

The device Toskich is referring to is the Echosens Fibroscan, a non-invasive, precise tool to detect the earliest signs of liver disease that the Mayo Clinic donated to the Florida State University College of Medicine late last month. It will soon be put into practice at FSU PrimaryHealth.

“It’s like a stethoscope for the liver,” Toskich said.

And the need for such a tool is immense.

In the United States, the National Institutes of Health estimates that 25% of adults have nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), and up to 70% of people with Type 2 diabetes also have NAFLD. Untreated fatty liver disease can lead to inflammation and scarring, which over the years can lead to compromised liver function, liver cancer and liver failure. Many more people suffer from cirrhosis (permanent scarring) and other ailments of the liver caused by viruses or alcohol abuse.

*“It’s like a stethoscope for the liver”*

“Liver disease is so prevalent, and yet we weren’t diagnosing nearly the number of people we should, which told me there was a gap,” Toskich said. “Coming back to my roots at FSU, I tried to identify that gap.”

Having such state-of-the-art technology available at FSU PrimaryHealth, located in a southwest Tallahassee neighborhood considered a “health care desert” before the clinic opened five years ago, can translate into early diagnosis and intervention, improving quality of life for patients and their families.

By Patrick Crowley  
*FSU College of Medicine*



Click or scan the QR code to read more.







*Cyneetha Strong, M.D., co-director of FSU PrimaryHealth, demonstrates the Echosens Fibroscan device.*

*Photo by FSU College of Medicine Creative Services*





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read more.





# RAHANGDALE GIFT MAKES SSTRIDE LEGACY INITIATIVE A REALITY

Ravindra “Ravi” Rahangdale made a career of bringing electric power to rural communities in need, first in his native India, and following his immigration to the United States, to small towns and counties in Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina.

Through a \$500,000 gift to the SSTRIDE Legacy Initiative, Ravi and Shashi Rahangdale, his wife of 58 years, will be empowering the next generation of physicians produced by the Florida State University College of Medicine.

“My parents have spent over 50 years trying to give back to their communities,” said Tallahassee Regional Campus Dean Sandeep Rahangdale, M.D. “They have focused on educational and work opportunities for immigrants and rural citizens in the states where they’ve resided. Their primary focus is access to quality education because it helps lift individuals, their families and the communities where they live. Additionally, adequate health care and the opportunity for meaningful work are required to nourish and sustain individuals.”



The College of Medicine’s Ravi and Shashi Rahangdale Family SSTRIDE Center will directly address those areas through scholarships, physician mentors and a 30-year network of resources built since the founding of the program, Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity & Excellence (SSTRIDE).

By Bob Thomas  
*FSU College of Medicine*

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!

Cumulative giving July 1, 2022, through April 30, 2024

## \$100,000 OR MORE

Shands Teaching Hospital & Clinics  
Southeastern HealthCare Foundation, Inc.  
Ravindra N. and Shashi Rahangdale  
Naples Children & Education Foundation, Inc.  
The Bert Fish Foundation, Inc.  
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Sheldon Brown

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Tommy G. Thompson  
Volusia County Medical Society  
Julie A. Wittman  
*\* deceased*

### Support us by contacting:

Assistant Dean for Development Jim McNeill  
[jim.mcneill@med.fsu.edu](mailto:jim.mcneill@med.fsu.edu), 850-644-4389



Barbara Pierre Louis  
Orthopedic Surgery  
Yale University – New Haven Hospital  
New Haven, CT



HAPPY DAY





# CONTACT INFORMATION

## Florida State University College of Medicine

### Main campus

1115 W. Call St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4300  
850-644-1855 | [info@med.fsu.edu](mailto:info@med.fsu.edu) | [www.med.fsu.edu](http://www.med.fsu.edu)

### Daytona Beach campus

1200 W. International Speedway Blvd, Building 600 Ste. 101  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
386-252-0601 | [www.med.fsu.edu/daytona](http://www.med.fsu.edu/daytona)

### Fort Pierce campus

2498 S. 35th Street  
Fort Pierce, FL 34981  
772-464-0034 | [www.med.fsu.edu/fortpierce](http://www.med.fsu.edu/fortpierce)

### Orlando campus

250 East Colonial Drive, Suite 200  
Orlando, FL 32801  
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### Pensacola campus

11000 University Parkway Bldg 234, 2nd Floor  
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850-494-5939 | [www.med.fsu.edu/pensacola](http://www.med.fsu.edu/pensacola)

### Sarasota campus

5560 Bee Ridge Rd D-5  
Sarasota, FL 34233  
941-316-8120 | [www.med.fsu.edu/sarasota](http://www.med.fsu.edu/sarasota)

### Tallahassee campus

2619 Centennial Blvd, Suite 101  
Tallahassee, FL 32308-4513  
850-328-5679 | [www.med.fsu.edu/tallahassee](http://www.med.fsu.edu/tallahassee)

*An important statement from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA):*

*At its September 2022 meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) extended Accreditation-Probation status for the Florida State University School of Physician Assistant Practice program sponsored by Florida State University until its next review in September 2024.*

*Probation accreditation is a temporary accreditation status initially of not less than two years. However, that period may be extended by the ARC-PA for up to an additional two years if the ARC-PA finds that the program is making substantial progress toward meeting all applicable standards but requires additional time to come into full compliance. Probation accreditation status is granted, at the sole discretion of the ARC-PA, when a program holding an accreditation status of Accreditation - Provisional or Accreditation - Continued does not, in the judgment of the ARC-PA, meet the Standards or when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened.*

*Once placed on probation, a program that fails to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and is subject to having its accreditation withdrawn.*

*Specific questions regarding the Program and its plans should be directed to the Program Director and/or the appropriate institutional official(s).*

*The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-florida-state-university/>*





*“Wellness,” Dean Alma Littles, M.D., said, “is more than just a societal buzzword; it’s part of what we teach and practice as health care providers. By persuading our students, colleagues, families, and patients to practice wellness, we can reduce and potentially prevent illness and disease, instead of merely treating them.”*

*Click or scan the QR code to read more.*

*Photo by FSU College of Medicine Creative Services*







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