



Hill: Newtown clinic a win-win-win

By Washington Clark Hill, M.D., Guest Columnist

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The Sarasota Memorial Internal Medicine Practice at Newtown will have its grand opening ceremony on Wednesday, July 5, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the site of the practice, 1825 Dr. Martin Luther King Way. The practice is made possible by Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System and the support of the Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation. The grand opening will be an opportunity to meet the doctors and staff, tour the new facility and enjoy refreshments.

This is a win-win-win for all involved: Florida State University College of Medicine, Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System and Sarasota's Newtown community.

The health care will be provided by Florida State University College of Medicine internal medicine residents, supervised by Sarasota Memorial Hospital internal medicine physicians and attending doctors.

A diverse group of 13 residents from around the world and six attending physicians and faculty are already caring for patients in the hospital and in local outpatient and physician practice settings. All are sensitive to the complex needs of the Newtown community's patients.

This will be a comprehensive, three-year internal medicine training program. There are far too few residency programs in Florida for medical students to attend upon graduation and opportunities to stay and practice in Sarasota and Florida. This program will help alleviate that problem.

It is a win for Florida State University College of Medicine, which is always striving to educate medical students and residents to be the best they can be.

This is also a win for the Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System as it continues not only to take excellent care of patients but also to educate medical students and now internal medicine residents.

This is SMH’s first training program for resident physicians but will certainly not be the last. Sarasota Memorial is nationally recognized for quality care and is one of the best community hospitals in the country. The clinic in Newtown will ultimately decrease unnecessary trips by patients to the emergency room by increasing better care and promoting better health — a win for SMH.

Last and certainly not least, this is a win for the Newtown community. Newtown has for years needed improved access to health care.

A health facility began in the Goodwill building in Newtown many years ago. Several SMH physicians and I were involved. Now, we have progressed with the help of Sarasota Memorial to having a facility providing comprehensive internal medicine care right in the heart of the community.

The plans are for the Internal Medicine Practice at Newtown to serve 1,800 patients in the first year. The practice will open officially on July 6.

(For appointments and more information, call 941-952-4123, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Priority appointments will be given to sick patients from Newtown and North Sarasota, patients from Newtown recently discharged from SMH or the emergency department, and patients with chronic or underlying medical problems who do not already have a regular doctor. More information is also available at the website:

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The Newtown-North Sarasota Redevelopment Office, the city of Sarasota, Mayor Willie Shaw, Booker High School Principal Dr. Rachel Shelley, the Department of Health-Sarasota County and many others have partnered to make this program successful.

Dr. Wilhelmine Wiese-Rometsch, M.D., an associate professor at FSU College of Medicine, has assembled a multidisciplinary team, including pharmacists, dietitians and other resource partners. Dr. Rometsch and her team have done wonders in pulling this partnership together. What a win for Newtown.

The SMH Internal Medicine Practice at Newtown is indeed a win-win-win and a true partnership.