Two prestigious awards were given out August 27, when the Fort Pierce regional campus of the Florida State University College of Medicine gathered its faculty members for a night of appreciation and academic updates.

The evening event took place at the Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex on the campus of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. The keynote speaker was John P. Fogarty, M.D., dean of the FSU College of Medicine, presenting his State of the College address. The regional campus faculty is composed of over 200 active Treasure Coast physicians who take turns teaching 35 third- and fourth-year medical students. The students work one-on-one with the physicians and gain clinical experience through seeing patients in the local hospitals, surgery centers, physicians’ offices and other ambulatory care facilities.

Two faculty members received awards from Randall Bertolette, M.D., dean of the Fort Pierce campus. One, titled Guardian of the Mission, is for a physician whose activities have furthered the college’s mission: to “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 award was presented to Dennis Saver, M.D., a family medicine physician at his practice, Primary Care of Treasure Coast, in Vero Beach. In addition to working long hours in his practice, Dr. Saver is the director of the We Care Clinics conducted in Indian River County to provide medical care to the underserved. He was the Family Doctor of the Year in 2000 for the Florida Academy of Family Physicians, and in 2001 for the American Academy of Family Physicians. In 2009, he was the sole faculty inductee for the FSU College of Medicine chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Dr. Nancy Baker, the family medicine clerkship director who nominated Dr. Saver, said, “He is an excellent role model for our students and is a shining example of a faculty member who fulfills our mission.” One student commented, “He went above and beyond to make the longitudinal course a great learning experience.”

The other award, Outstanding Community Faculty Educator, is for exemplary achievement in meeting student educational needs, working collaboratively, dedication to the curriculum principles and enthusiasm for teaching. This award went to Prasad Chalasani, M.D., an interventional cardiologist at his practice, Florida Heart Center, in Fort Pierce. He is on the medical staff at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute in Fort Pierce, St. Lucie Medical Center in Port St. Lucie, and Martin Memorial Health Systems in Stuart. Dr. William Hood, the internal medicine clerkship director who nominated Dr. Chalasani, said, “He’s a valued and trusted resource for our third- and fourth-year students, and he enthusiastically volunteers to help us with guest lectures.” One student commented, “He is very knowledgeable and enjoys teaching students.”
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Send us your news!
The Regional Campus Review is published by the FSU College of Medicine Fort Pierce Regional Campus. Have you been published in a journal, received an award, or spoken at a conference? Please tell us about it!
Send it to the editor, Beth Strack, Campus Administrator, at elizabeth.strack@med.fsu.edu

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We are so thankful to our community board for the support they provide.
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Darrell Kirch, M.D., president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges, helped the Florida State University College of Medicine celebrate its first 10 years at an anniversary event on October 7. Kirch, speaking from the College of Medicine’s main campus in Tallahassee, delivered the keynote address, “Defining the century: Florida State University and the future of health care.” Webcast to all six regional campuses, the speech was preceded by a 25-minute film – From Ideas to Outcomes – that told the story of the College of Medicine’s creation.

Participating in the Fort Pierce Campus event was Randall Bertolette, M.D., dean of the Fort Pierce Regional Campus, clerkship directors, several Treasure Coast area physicians who are on our faculty, guests from our affiliated institutions and partners, our community board, and several of our students.

Dr. Kirch offered congratulations for 10 years of innovation – and challenged his audience to join him in transforming the nation’s health system into one that truly responds to patients’ needs.

“I can’t say enough good things about what you’ve accomplished,” said Kirch, president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges. “The problem is now we need to extend it to other medical schools and to the entire health-care system.”

Kirch took his listeners, both on the main campus and by webcast at the college’s regional campuses, on a lively tour of the past century of American health care. He showed how the U.S. – despite great advances in medical knowledge and education – has created a culture that discourages patient-centered care. Add in the recent health-reform act and the downturn in the economy, Kirch said, and you have a system in urgent need of change.

“Who is going to fix this?” he asked. “You need to have some of the best minds in the nation who understand how you deliver health care, how you educate health professionals and how you study – do research on what works and doesn’t. You need to have those come together, and they come together in academic medicine.”

He described a recipe for change that has six ingredients – and he said he had seen all six ingredients at work during his two days at the College of Medicine. Those ingredients are:

1. A mission statement that you actually intend to fulfill. “You have the most focused mission statement I’ve ever seen for a medical school,” he said. “And you’ve been relentless in every one of your programs to line up your activities with that mission statement.”

2. Integrated, interactive leadership. “You are displaying integrated leadership,” Kirch said. “Dean [John] Fogarty is a very, very talented person, but he could never get that mission fulfilled as a commander. He could only do it surrounded by a group of like-minded leaders. I saw leadership from the students today when I saw some of the things that they do in your outreach programs. It’s not a single leader; it’s widely distributed leadership.”

3. Teamwork. “Everywhere I’ve looked in this College of Medicine, I’ve seen teams,” he said. “Your Learning Communities are teams, right? It permeates the curriculum. Your outreach programs are team-based. You understand it’s the power of the team, it’s the wisdom of the team. None of us, as an individual, can get it done.”

4. A focus on results. “What I’m impressed by is you’re actually saying not just, ‘Are we doing good things?’ but ‘Are we doing good things?’

5. Medical ethics. “When you have expansive areas of Florida where people can’t even get to health care, when you have people searching in vain for decent primary-care homes, that’s not a just health-care system,” Kirch said. “So it isn’t a political issue; it is an ethical issue for any of us who have any concern about health care.”

6. Courage. “You know, some of you as med students – especially those in the early years – showed some real courage coming to a start-up medical school,” he said. “The faculty who came here showed some real courage. President [Sandy] D’Alemberte clearly was a courageous leader. [Sen. Durell Peaden Jr.] showed courage with an idea that was swimming against the stream of the times. We’re at a time in our country where I fear courage is in short supply. But I know where we need it most is in fixing our health-care system and training the next generation of physicians to be our partners in doing that.”

Kirch’s final words to his audience: “You’re doing a wonderful job; we have a lot of work left to do. I really look forward to joining you in that task.”

If you would like a DVD of the film that was premiered that evening, From Ideas to Outcomes, please contact Beth Strack at (772) 464-0034, or elizabeth.strack@med.fsu.edu
Community Service

We Care Clinic—Dermatology

The We Care program, in Vero Beach, provides free medical care for Indian River County residents who are otherwise unable to afford health care. The program refers patients to physicians who provide their care free of charge. The We Care program was created in 1991 as a joint program of the Indian River County Medical Society and the Indian River County Health Department. It is housed at the Health Department, where regular clinics are conducted for specific medical specialties. Last year, the program and its 120 physician volunteers delivered $1.045 million in care to low-income Indian River County residents. In August, several of our FSU medical students participated in a We Care dermatology clinic for underserved and uninsured patients.

The students were under the direction of our FSU clerkship faculty for dermatology, Dr. John McDonald. Pictured from left to right in the above photo are students Michelle Miller (back to camera), Tina Tso, Helen Travis, Diana Mauldin and Brandon Mauldin.

Breast Cancer Walk and Survivor Reception

Saturday morning, Oct. 16, began bright and early for our students volunteering in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk conducted at Sebastian River Medical Center. The students were recruited by our family medicine clerkship director, Dr. Nancy Baker, to raise money and awareness.

Dr. Adam Kurtin, FSU clerkship faculty for surgery, also contributed his time and effort to this worthy cause. He was a speaker at the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Survivor Reception. More than 80 breast cancer survivors heard him speak about the changes over the years in breast cancer research and treatments. For example, what resulted in a complete mastectomy previously can now be treated via cyberknife and other technologies.
Faculty Spotlight

Nancy Baker, M.D., family physician in Vero Beach and FSU clerkship director in family medicine, recently earned the award as the 2010 Exemplary Part-Time Educator. Students nominated Dr. Baker for this honor, presented by the Florida Academy of Family Physicians.

Brett Feldman, M.D. (right), FSU clerkship faculty for orthopedic surgery, practices at Florida Orthopedic Specialists in Port St. Lucie. Last February, he traveled to Haiti with Project Medishare of the University of Miami. This organization coordinates volunteers and provides the plates and screws that the surgeons need to put bones back together. He worked long hours in tents, mending the many injuries resulting from the tragic earthquake. He hopes to return there soon to continue his volunteer efforts.

Howard Voss, M.D., FSU clerkship faculty for internal medicine, was a finalist in the administrative excellence category and was chosen as the winner. Dr. Voss is the medical director for the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic in Stuart. Congratulations to all!

Health Care Heroes, an event presented by Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers and the Treasure Coast Business Journal, celebrated health care professionals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the quality of health care on the Treasure Coast. At a luncheon on Oct. 15, six categories of Health Care Heroes were recognized: Physician, non-physician, administrative excellence, innovation in health care, community outreach and lifetime achievement. With 175 nominations judged by CEOs from all major hospitals and medical centers along the Treasure Coast, 12 finalists were selected. Several of our FSU clerkship faculty were nominated, including T. Peter Downing, M.D., Brett Feldman, M.D., Paul Gaeta, M.D., David Glener, M.D., Michael Jampol, M.D. (pediatrics clerkship director), William King, M.D., Jeffrey Livingston, M.D., Rene Loyola, M.D., George Mitchell, D.O., Gerald Pierone, M.D., Chris Slack, M.D., Richard Steinfeld, M.D., Paul Swanson, M.D., and Genon Wicina, M.D.

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Honor Flight is a nonprofit organization created solely to honor America’s WWII and terminally ill veterans for all their sacrifices. Our heroes are flown to Washington, D.C., for the day to visit and reflect at their memorials. Rene Loyola, M.D. (left), FSU clerkship faculty for surgery, was a volunteer chaperone for this organization in September.

Chris Slack, M.D., FSU clerkship faculty for otolaryngology, can now add the title of editor to his resume. The international text for physician continuing medical education (CME), Otolaryngology-Facial Plastic Surgery, has chosen Dr. Slack to be a CME editor. This text also serves as a free online source of information for patients.

The next time you are perusing an online article on allergy/immunology from our FSU College of Medicine electronic library, you might be seeing a work that was published with the help of our FSU clerkship faculty for allergy, immunology and asthma, Michael Wein, M.D. He was selected to be a consultant for the nationally known medical resources Dynamed and Prescriber’s Letter. Dr. Wein also spoke on hymenoptera allergy for the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Florida Medical Entomology Lab Public Health Seminar in September.
Message from the Dean

For this edition of our newsletter, I would like to recognize the staff at the Fort Pierce Regional Campus. This group of people (Beth, David, Jennie, Michele, Suzette and Urszula) are unparalleled in their service to the campus. Although they do get paid, their work and service to the campus goes way beyond the usual. They are all professional, dedicated, hard-working individuals who bring excellence and outstanding contributions to their jobs. Each is well suited to their particular job and they perform without complaint. None of them have a “that’s not my job” mentality. Each volunteers their time to the other and all of us get along very well. This type of team performance provides the students and faculty with the best possible service. Although the old saying is that no one is indispensable, I truly hope, from a selfish standpoint and for the betterment of the campus, that these folks will continue to be with us for many years to come. They are superb and we are lucky to have them.

A Learning Experience in Nicaragua

Fourth-year student Ivey Gayahan recently completed a Special Topics in Family Medicine international elective in Nicaragua. She had previously been there the summer before her second year of medical school when she worked on doing history and physical exams and helping out in the pharmacy. For this trip, her responsibilities were increased to guiding the second-year students, producing assessments and plans, writing prescriptions, and running the pharmacy. Ivey stated, “It was amazing to see how much our skills and knowledge had progressed in two years.” The patients were very grateful for the care they received from the FSU students.

“I was amazing to see how much our skills and knowledge had progressed in two years.”
- Ivey Gayahan, FSU College of Medicine fourth-year student
Student Spotlight

Class of 2011 students Ashley Kelley, Stephen Nobles and Stephanie Reed were inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society in October. Started in Chicago in 1902, the AOA serves to recognize and enhance professionalism, academic excellence, service and leadership within the profession. Medical students are eligible for nomination if their scholastic qualifications place them in the upper 25 percent of their class. About 3,000 students, alumni, house staff and faculty are elected each year nationwide. Since its founding, more than 150,000 members have been elected into the society. Ashley, Stephen and Stephanie will be recognized for this outstanding accomplishment at the awards ceremony at the central campus in Tallahassee during graduation week. We congratulate these students on their accomplishment.

At the completion of their third year of medical school, students Jackson Hatfield and Cianna Pender tied more than just suture knots. The two were married in Thomasville, Ga., in June. They celebrated by immediately sitting for the USMLE Step 2 exam—talk about dedication to their studies! In other news, Cianna was recognized earlier this year as a recipient of the FSU Foundation Leon and Billye Tully Scholarship for dedication to rural medicine. Congratulations!

FSU College of Medicine Alumni

Class of 2010 Fort Pierce Campus graduate Glenn Hoots, who is in his first year of residency in Medicine-Preliminary at Orlando Health, recently “ran into” our fourth-year student Zarna Dahya. Zarna was completing an internal medicine externship at that hospital. Don’t worry, there were no injuries, even with their height difference! Zarna was happy to see a helpful, familiar face!
Thank You to Our Donors

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Nancy Baker, M.D.    Randall Bertolette, M.D.
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Or, you may write a check payable to “FSU Foundation, Fort Pierce Campus” and mail it to our campus.

Remember, your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Every effort was made to compile an accurate listing of all gifts received. If you find an error or omission, we apologize and ask you to contact Beth Strack at 772-464-0034.

ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW way for faculty to donate!

Good news! The FSU College of Medicine and the FSU Foundation have created an easy process for faculty to donate their pay back to the Fort Pierce Regional Campus. Through electronic funds transfer, faculty can sign up to have all or a portion of their compensation sent to our campus. These funds will be used for faculty development, student orientations, our graduation reception, faculty appreciation, and other special events and programs. Please contact Dr. Bertolette or Beth Strack for details on this opportunity!

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THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE of MEDICINE
Fort Pierce Regional Campus

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