

The Case for the Florida International University School of Medicine

Based on clear needs at the regional, state and national level, and its own existing strengths and capabilities in the health fields, Florida International University proposes a new program in Allopathic Medicine leading to a doctorate in medicine (MD) degree.

The case rests on the following facts:

- Fact: There will be a national shortage of 80 to 90,000 doctors by the year 2020, with some estimates going as high as 200,000, according to several recent studies.
- Fact: In Florida the deficit of doctors will be among the worst. Florida has a rapidly growing and aging population. Older patients require over three times more physician time than the average patient. An older patient base means Florida needs more doctors than a state of similar size with a younger population.
- Fact: Florida is already importing 80% of its doctors. Of the 2,500 new doctors licensed in the state every year, only 500 graduate from Florida schools.
- Fact: Nearly half of South Florida's doctors are foreign trained. New visa restrictions will limit this stream of talent.
- Fact: Florida has the nation's oldest physician workforce. Forty-two percent of Florida's 47,000 doctors are 55 or older; a quarter of those are 65 or older.
- Fact: Florida has only 9 medical school seats per 100,000 residents vs. 22 seats per 100,000 in the rest of the country. Half of Floridians currently in medical school are enrolled outside the state.
- Fact: Existing medical schools in Florida cannot expand enough to fill the physician gap. They could graduate no more than 100 more MDs each year leaving a gap of 400 physicians a year.
- Fact: Less than 4% of South Florida's physician workforce have graduated from the state's existing public medical schools.
- Fact: Over 80% of Florida International University graduates remain in South Florida.

To solve South Florida's physician workforce shortage, the Florida International University School of Medicine will:

- Graduate doctors trained in the Florida International University's School of Medicine and residency programs who will be culturally sensitive and very likely to live and work in the area after graduation.
- Work with existing hospitals and primary care facilities, sharing its educational resources widely throughout the community.
- Build on already existing programs in biology, biomedical engineering, and other sciences. This year the State Legislature approved funding for the creation of the Honors Pre-Med Program and the planning for residency programs at Florida International University and affiliated healthcare facilities.
- Contribute more than a \$1 billion a year to the South Florida economy and boost the local biomedical and bio-engineering industries.

Please visit www.FIU.edu to read the full plan for the Florida International University School of Medicine.