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## **FIU College of Medicine hires Fernando J. Valverde as assistant dean**

**Miami (May 30, 2007)** --Florida International University College of Medicine officials have announced the hiring of a pioneer in South Florida managed care systems.

Dr. Fernando J. Valverde, who has focused on patient access for primary care, prevention and educational services in the local community, has become assistant dean for community and clinical affairs.

“Dr. Valverde is vital for our program’s development” said Dr. John A. Rock, FIU College of Medicine dean and senior vice president for medical affairs. “His impressive credentials in efficient delivery of care make him invaluable to our mission.”

Just as important as the type of patients would-be-doctors learn from, is the local medical community which surrounds them, Rock said. That is why Valverde’s management experience and strong ties to the local medical community are important to the nascent college.

Valverde, 48, has pioneered new approaches to provide medical care to Florida’s elderly and uninsured. He has led several physician practice management organizations, both locally and nationally, responsible for over 100 employed physicians; 70 primary care centers; and 500,000 primary care patient visits a year in South Florida. He has been medically active in the community for the past 20 years.

Recently, Valverde, an internist, headed South Florida Prepaid Health Clinics, LLC. Valverde co-created the company, which emphasizes primary and preventive care, looking for a solution to South Florida’s health insurance crisis. In his role as CEO and

medical director, Valverde brought together approximately 30 primary care centers and 300 medical specialists to provide guaranteed care to South Florida's uninsured.

"It's a once in a life time opportunity – to be involved in the formation of a medical school – working with great medical minds such as John Rock, of our new dean, and associate deans. It's an educational, intellectual and social challenge for FIU's College of Medicine," Valverde said. "One of my responsibilities will be to help integrate the College with the local medical community."

Valverde's appointment became effective on May 1.

The College of Medicine was approved in 2006 by the Florida Board of Governors and the Florida Legislature. Officials hope to start classes in 2009 pending provisional accreditation by the Liason Committee on Medical Education (LCME).

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