

**Case Statement for the Development of the
Florida International University School of Medicine**

The Problem

Physician Profile

A comparison of national and statewide statistics indicates that Florida has a physician shortage as well as other challenges within the current physician population:

Figures and statements are taken from the June 30, 2004 version of the FIU proposal to the BOG

Issue	National	Florida	South Florida (PB, Broward, M-D, Monroe Counties)
Population Estimated 2004	293,655,404 Census.gov	17,397,161	5.3 million (2003 Census Quick Facts;M-D, 2000)
Physician to population ratio	1:351 (AMA, 03-04; stats are for 2001))	1:368	1:301 Act & Inact, AMA;1:364 if Act only, AMA;1:374 if L. Greb's, 14,160 used)
Age of licensed physicians 30 – 45 45 – 60 Over 60	42% 40% 18%	34% 40% 26%	31% 42% 27%
Percentage of practicing physicians who foreign trained	24%	35%	47% P 62
Percentage of board certified physicians			
Malpractice suits per population (or practicing physicians...), 2003		2,063/17,019,068=1:8,250; 2,063/48,706=1:24 (Vidmar&Lee,2005)	
Percent of physicians not carrying malpractice insurance		5%	20%
Residency training positions per population		1:5,901 (ACGME,03-04)	

From these numbers, one can draw certain conclusions:

- The growth in Florida's population continues to create a demand for increased access to medical services
- Florida has a high percentage of physicians nearing retirement age, creating the need to attract physicians to the state at a faster rate
- Florida has a high percentage of foreign-trained physicians practicing in the state
- Florida has an extremely low percentage of board-certified physicians; board certification is an accepted indicator of quality
- Florida has a high number of malpractice suits, perhaps related to the low number of board-certified physicians

Cultural Competence

Hispanics or Latinos are just over 57%% of the Miami-Dade population, nearly 16 of the Monroe county population, nearly 17% of the Broward County population and 12% of the

Palm Beach County population. Only 3.4% of the nation's physicians are Hispanic. Black or African American persons are nearly 5% of the Monroe County population, 20% of the Miami-Dade population, 20.5% of the Broward County population, and almost 14% of the Palm Beach County population. Only 2.5% of the nation's physicians are Hispanic or African American.

In a December 2003 report, the American Medical Association's Council on Medical Education concluded that there is a "need to enhance underrepresented minority representation in medical schools and in the physician workforce as a means to ultimately improve access to care for minority and underserved groups." Further, the Institute of Medicine reports (Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, March 2002) that there is evidence linking poor health status to gaps in cultural understanding among physicians and other health care providers.

Florida's medical schools have not been successful in producing physicians to serve the South Florida population. Only about 15% of the University of Miami's medical graduates are Hispanic and only 17% of its graduates practice in Miami/Dade County.

The need to be bilingual to effectively deliver high quality medical care in South Florida prevents medical school graduates from other states and even from other medical schools in Florida from seeking residencies and practicing in South Florida.

The Solution

To address these problems, South Florida needs a significant increase in bilingual, culturally competent, board-certified physicians and specialists in all fields. This goal can be achieved through the development of a new medical school at Florida International University.

National Perspective on the Development of New Medical Schools

In response to a growing shortage of physicians nationally, the Association of American Medical Colleges released a position statement on "The Physician Workforce" in February 2005. The statement concludes that *"the number of physicians being educated at both the medical school and residency levels should be increased. Specifically, the Association recommends that the total enrollment in US medical schools should be increased by 15 percent from the 2002 level over the next decade. This growth should be concentrated in areas of the country where the population has grown the most rapidly over the past 25 years and in areas where the population is projected to grow rapidly in future years."*

The State of Florida needs to create more opportunity for Florida students to receive a medical education. One of Florida's new medical programs needs to be developed at FIU to create a pipeline of bilingual and culturally sensitive physicians to practice in the region.

Medical School Applicant Pool

Issue	National	Florida
Number of medical school positions available in 2004	16,648	798(LECOM,150;FSU,58;UF,120;,,USF,120;UM150;NSU,200),
Ratio of first year medical school positions to population	1:17,477	1:21,327
Number of students applying to medical school in 2004	35,735	1,557
Number of students accepted to medical school in 2004	16,648 (46.59%)	700 (44.96%)
Residents attending medical school in state out of state	10,505 In-state (63.1%) 6,143 Out-of-state (36.9%)(418 In-state (59.7%) 282 Out-of-state (40.3%) (AAMC, Nov. 2004) FL ranks #32 in % of in-state

		matriculants)
SE Florida as % of FL Pop.		31%
SE FL Residents as % of Pub Med School Enrollment, 2001-2002		11%

Development of Residency Programs

The AAMC *“further recommends that the aggregate number of graduate medical education positions should be expanded to accommodate the increased number of graduates from accredited medical schools.”*

Annually in the United States, there are approximately 16,000 medical school graduates; the total number of first-year residency positions available annually is approximately 23,000. This means that the demand for residency positions by US-trained medical graduates is satisfied with the residency positions currently available.

The remaining 7,000 first-year residency positions are filled each year by international medical graduates (US and foreign citizens trained in non-US schools). Developing new residency programs without simultaneously increasing the number of US-trained medical school graduates would simply provide more positions to be filled by international medical graduates. While many foreign-trained physicians provide good medical care, the overall quality of the educational program at many international schools has been questioned by the medical education community worldwide.

The Relationship between Medical Schools and Residency Training Programs

Medical education is seen as a continuum that encompasses four-year medical school training, residency training in a specialty, and continuing or life-long learning for practicing physicians.

Medical school faculty provide instruction at all three levels; for this reason, a recent report from the Association of American Medical Colleges (Ad Hoc Committee of Deans, 2004) states that:

- residency programs and undergraduate medical education should be directly related and residency requirements should be integrated into the medical school curriculum;
- medical schools should develop and support a cadre of teaching faculty whose main responsibility is the education of students as they progress through the complete educational program, including undergraduate, graduate and continuing education; and
- medical schools and graduate education programs should share learning resources, such as simulation laboratories, standardized patient programs and information technology applications to ensure that learners at each stage of their education receive the highest educational experience.

While there are free-standing residency training programs in the US, quality and economies of scale can be achieved by linking medical school and residency training. At FIU:

- The newly recruited medical school clinical faculty will also teach in the residency programs, so the development of the medical school actually facilitates the development of residency programs.
- Several South Florida hospitals are interested in developing new residency programs and have the patient base and technology resources to do so. All these hospitals have expressed interest in affiliating with the proposed FIU medical school in the planning and development of residency programs of different specialties and sizes.

Support for the FIU School of Medicine

There is a great deal of interest and momentum in the South Florida community about the development of a medical school at FIU:

- At its March 2005 meeting, the FIU Board of Trustees expressed support of the President's and his administrative team's efforts to develop the new medical school; further, they requested that the President step up the timeline for development.
- Several major donors have made financial commitments to facilitate the development of an FIU School of Medicine; with private and state matching gifts, the pledges will reap \$80 million for the proposed new school:
 - **Herbert Wertheim** has made a \$10 million challenge pledge; once the challenge is matched by \$10 million in private funds, the \$20 million total will be eligible for 100% state match.
 - **Sergio Pino** has made a \$10 million challenge pledge; once the challenge is matched by \$10 million in private funds, the \$20 million total will be eligible for a 100% state match.
- Facility planning to support new life sciences research is underway. In the 2004 session, the Legislature authorized **the first part of \$20.5 million** for FIU for a molecular biology building. If the medical school is approved, this facility could house medical school infrastructure, educational space and laboratories as well.
- The North Dade Medical Foundation has pledged a \$5 million scholarship endowment gift, contingent on approval of the new school. Recipients would be required to practice medicine in the four counties of southeast Florida one year for every year of scholarship assistance received.
- The Beacon Council—Miami-Dade's official economic development partnership—has unanimously passed a resolution of support for the new school because of the economic development and job creation that would be spurred by the project. A 2002 RAND Corporation report states that 45% of all federal research and development funds to universities went directly to medical schools. **The Washington Economic Group estimates the annual economic impact of a medical school at FIU to be \$784.3 million, including the creation of 11,249 new jobs.**

Conclusion

What South Florida needs is an increase in medical students who want to stay in South Florida for their residency training and who will choose to stay in South Florida to practice medicine.

Florida International University is in a unique position to fill this need. Currently, **52%** of FIU's students are Hispanic; **14% are African-American**; 80% of graduates in all disciplines remain in South Florida after graduation. Nearly 90% of the nursing graduates stay in South Florida.

This student base is the pipeline for the bilingual, culturally-competent, board-certified, high quality physicians that South Florida needs.

In addition, a medical school can markedly increase research and research funding at FIU (Miami's public research university), and it can significantly enhance economic development for the South Florida area.