

## MARCIA

Marcia is 88 years old and has lived in South Florida for decades. She's one of 850,000 people 65 years of age or older in South Florida. Marcia's no longer so active or so healthy as she once was. She lives with the reality that people over 65 need at least three times the doctoring that younger people do.

One by one, Marcia's doctors have retired. Marcia is now looking for a gerontologist, a doctor specializing in treating the elderly.

Marcia might never get to see a gerontologist. There are few gerontologists in Florida, even though one out of every 6 people in Florida is over 65 years of age, the highest percentage of elders in the nation.

Florida doesn't train many gerontologists. Marcia's heard that there's a special program at one of the public medical schools upstate to train a handful of gerontologists each year. Marcia doesn't know that less than two percent of South Florida's doctors come from any one of those schools.

Soon there will be many more Marcias. Every year the ranks of the state's elders grow. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that Floridians age 65 and above will grow from 2.75 million in 2000 to 4.57 million in 2020. Those age 85 and above will increase from 342,672 to 627,140 in 2020.

## MARIA

Twenty-eight year old Maria has two children and two jobs to make ends meet. She's one of 2 million people in South Florida, 40% of the population, who are designated as "medically underserved" by the federal government.

Maria became one of the "medically underserved" when she moved into an area that had very few primary care physicians, many elderly, and many poor people. Maria has not been able to find a primary care physician for herself and her children.

Florida doesn't train many medical doctors. The nation's fourth largest state trains just 500 doctors a year.

Maria will be without access to a primary care physician until Florida trains enough physicians to meet the state's needs. New York showed that this was possible by training enough doctors to provide 325 physicians per 100,000 people. Florida trains enough doctors to provide only 201 physicians per 100,000 people.

When Maria's children become very sick she takes them many miles to a local emergency room. They wait up to 12 hours to receive care.

## FIU School of Medicine Case Statement--DRAFT

The hospital has had difficulty recruiting emergency room physicians. Florida depends on other states having a surplus of doctors but in emergency medicine and some other specialties there are shortages across the country.

Maria is going to have to keep waiting in the emergency room but if the waits become too long or too frequent, Maria could lose her day job and her health insurance with it.

### JOHN

John is a 51-year old boat captain. He makes a decent living in South Florida for himself and his family. John dreams of his kids moving up the ladder. His daughter has always been especially protective of her diabetic brother. She's been talking about becoming a doctor since she visited him in the hospital after his accident. She's always been strong in math and science.

John worries about the costs involved. Public medical schools in Florida charge about \$15,000 per year in tuition and total costs are double that. If his daughter goes to the University of Miami, tuition costs alone will be about \$29,000, twice as much as tuition costs in the public medical schools.

Students coming out of public medical schools carry an average educational debt load of \$100,000. Students graduating from private medical schools carry an average debt of about \$140,000.

### STEVE

Steve dreams of becoming a medical doctor. Too bad he lives in Florida, and especially in South Florida.

Steve has to face the reality that there are only 2.2 first year medical school seats per 100,000 people in Florida, compared to the national average of 4.3.

Steve also has to face the reality that only 12% of the public medical school students are from South Florida, home to 31% of the state's population.

The University of Miami has announced that it is adding 32 first year seats but has also announced that it will reserve up to 35 seats for non-Florida residents.

Steve may have to leave the state to get a medical education. Forty-two percent of Floridians admitted to an accredited medical school do so. If Steve leaves the state for his medical education, chances are good that he won't return.

## FIU School of Medicine Case Statement--DRAFT

Florida badly needs more public medical schools.

The state of Florida is dependent on other states and foreign countries for 80% of its physicians. It needs between 2,500 and 3,000 new physicians each year but produces only 500 new physicians a year. Thirty-five percent of its physicians are foreign-trained. In South Florida, 42% of the physicians are foreign-trained.

Importing more doctors from other states is not a good option. Doctor shortages are already reported not just in Florida but also around the nation as well. The shortages are projected to grow to 80,000 or 90,000 by 2020.

Importing even more foreign-trained doctors is also not a good option. Increased national licensing and visa requirements as well as rising standards of living abroad have recently made importing more foreign-trained doctors more difficult.

Expanding Florida's medical schools is necessary but not sufficient to meet the need. They can expand their output by no more than 100 doctors per year. That would not meet the state's need for doctors or for access to medical education

To meet its needs for doctors and access to medical education, South Florida badly needs at least one public medical school.

Florida's public medical schools do not serve South Florida's needs for doctors. They each provide less than 2% of Southeast Florida's physicians.

Florida's public medical schools do not provide South Florida with reasonable access to medical education. Although South Florida is home to 31% of the state's population, just 12% of Florida's public medical school students are from South Florida.

Florida's public medical schools are even less accessible to important parts of South Florida's population. Hispanics and blacks, 16.8% and 14.6% of the state's population, and larger elements of the South Florida population, make up but 9.2% and 5.2% of the public medical school students.

## FIU School of Medicine Case Statement--DRAFT

Florida International University, a public university serving nearly 35,000 students in South Florida, requests your assistance in establishing a badly needed public medical school in South Florida.

Florida International University provides a strong base for a medical school. It graduates students from over 200 academic programs and features strong programs in the social sciences, mathematics, science and engineering. In 2002, it ranked 21<sup>st</sup> nationally among all colleges and universities in federal expenditures for social science research and development, 71<sup>st</sup> in engineering, 84<sup>th</sup> in mathematics and computer science, and 88<sup>th</sup> in environmental science.

Florida International University's student body reflects South Florida's population and particularly that of Miami. FIU ranks first among the nation's colleges and universities in graduating Hispanics with the baccalaureate degree and twentieth in graduating African-American Baccalaureate degree holders. FIU is 1<sup>st</sup> in graduating Hispanic baccalaureate degree holders in engineering and in the physical sciences and 8<sup>th</sup> in the biological and life sciences. At the graduate level, FIU ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in granting Master's degrees in the health and related sciences to Hispanics and 5<sup>th</sup> to African-Americans.

FIU alumni serve the region very well. Eighty percent of Florida International University graduates remain in Southeast Florida. They are knowledgeable about and comfortable with the dynamic mix of peoples in the region. FIU medical graduates can reasonably be expected to remain in and serve the region's needs.

In addition to training badly needed physicians, a public medical school at Florida International University will support a large-scale medical residency program that will raise the quality of care in affiliated hospitals and clinics throughout the region. Mt. Sinai Medical Center will be the primary teaching affiliate of the proposed medical school. Miami Children's Hospital, Mercy Hospital, Baptist Health South, and other health care providers are expected to affiliate with the new medical school.

A public medical school at Florida International University will support the development of a biomedical research program aimed at the health and medical problems afflicting the people of Southeast Florida, and beyond.

Florida's medical schools and their affiliated hospitals have an eleven billion dollar a year economic impact on the state economy returning to the state a hefty multiple of state investment in the medical schools. It is estimated that a public medical school at Florida International University will have a billion dollar impact on the economy.

Establishment of a medical school at Florida International University will offer public-spirited individuals an opportunity to be remembered forever for their generous concern for the health and welfare of generations of needy persons in this region and beyond.

T.A. Breslin/ case statement/draft of 11/1/04,