



Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, South Florida's only public medical school, is transforming the future of public health and educational opportunity in the region. Created in 2006 amid pressing community health concerns and a projected critical shortage of physicians nationally, the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine has developed a curriculum that reflects an innovative, 21<sup>ST</sup> century approach to healthcare and medical education.

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The medical school provides quality, affordable medical education and educates physicians who are culturally sensitive to South Florida's diverse demographics. It will help advance South Florida's healthcare dynamic by facilitating improved access to first-rate medical care among our medically underserved populations and by having an economic impact that will eventually reach more than \$1 billion each year.

The mission of FIU's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine is to serve as a model for the next generation of medical education and to elevate the level of care available to the Florida community through:

- Educating culturally competent physicians to serve the region's diverse population
- Providing South Florida students greater access to medical education, admitting a student body that reflects the rich diversity of the region
- Presenting NeighborhoodHELP™, a program that allows a team of medical students to provide care to underserved communities
- Developing basic, translational and clinical research programs that will ensure state-of-the-art care and will substantially expand the economic growth potential of the region



### **Our Students**

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine is dedicated to providing the opportunity for an exceptional medical education to all applicants who are prepared to benefit from this specialized curriculum and instruction. The primary objective is to produce and qualify humanistic, ethical and culturally sensitive physicians, responsive to the medical needs and healthcare challenges faced by the State of Florida. It is the mission of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Admissions Office to recruit, enroll, and graduate a diverse student body capable of pursuing a full range of opportunities available to physicians through medical practice, service, education, and research.



### **Our Faculty**

FIU's new medical faculty includes some of the most well-regarded doctors and researchers from South Florida and major medical centers around the country. Founding Dean, John A. Rock, M.D., assembled a team of experienced medical leaders to serve as the deans of the new college. Well-known South Florida physicians like Dr. Pedro "Joe" Greer, the assistant dean of academic affairs, were recruited to bring their deep understanding of community health issues to the college. National searches were conducted to fill the 15 department chair positions. The college also looked within FIU's own ranks for professors like Dr. Kalai Mathee to chair the Department of Molecular Microbiology.



### **Our Research**

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine is building a modern research program by assembling a team of established scientists with nationally funded research projects. The college is focusing on three research areas: reproduction and genetics, environmental health, and the specific health issues of South Florida's medically underserved population. "We wanted to figure out what research we could do at FIU that wasn't a duplication of other universities and what would have the greatest impact on our community," said Dr. Joe Leigh Simpson, the college's executive associate dean of academic affairs responsible for research development. "We've built some real depth in these areas, and as the college grows, our research will have a larger and larger impact on medical science."