

## **The Need for Continued Expansion of Graduate Medical Education in Florida**

**The Council of Florida Medical School Deans (CFMSD) urges the legislature to continue to support enhanced funding for Florida graduate medical education (GME) residency positions. Because most physicians practice within the same geographic area where they complete residency training, GME funding produces one of the highest and most direct returns on investment that Florida can make.**

### **Current Status of GME in Florida:**

- Florida currently ranks 41st of the 50 states in the number of GME positions per 100,000 persons, with approximately 19.0 resident physicians per 100,000 population.
- Florida needs approximately 3350 more allopathic residency positions to meet the average national ratio of medical residents per 100,000 state population according to Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).
- The 2014 OPPAGA report on Florida's Graduate Medical Education System found that of graduates from Florida's medical schools who matched to a Florida residency program during the last 13 years, 74% have an active Florida medical license and are practicing medicine in Florida.
- The 2014 Florida Department of Health Physician Workforce Annual Report shows that:
  - Nearly two-thirds of Florida's physicians are age 50 or older.
  - Almost half of Florida's psychiatrists are over age 60.
  - 13% of Florida's physicians have indicated they intend to retire within the next five years.
- The United States is projected to confront a shortage of 91,500 doctors by 2020 according to the AAMC.

### **Background**

- By the year 2020, it is projected that Florida will have approximately 500 more medical school graduates per year than the number of currently available first year graduate medical education positions. Unless the number of Florida GME positions is increased concomitantly, many Florida medical school graduates who want to complete GME training in Florida will be forced to leave the state and statistics show that most of them will never return to Florida to practice.
- Most GME programs in the state are either sponsored by or affiliated with Florida's medical schools. The medical schools serve as a catalyst for the creation of new GME programs.
- Florida's medical schools currently operate graduate medical education programs in traditional hospital settings, as well as providing programs in unique settings such as county health departments, prisons, and through multi-site consortia. Funding eligibility for new and existing programs should include hospitals, medical schools, non-hospital outpatient settings, and other sites at which graduate medical education programs operate.
- Florida currently has nine (9) public and private, allopathic and osteopathic colleges of medicine. These high quality medical schools are doing their part to contribute to Florida's physician workforce at the first stage. Florida's medical schools are well positioned to sponsor new residency programs at hospitals new to GME and to partner with existing hospitals to expand GME, and to expand physician-directed, multidisciplinary, collaborative population-based care using the principles of evidence based medicine.
- Florida is highly successful in retaining physicians who train here. Florida ranks ninth in the US relative to retaining physicians who completed medical school in the state, fourth relative to retaining physicians who completed residency education here and sixth relative to retaining physicians who completed both medical school and residency education here.