

FAFP NOVEMBER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

John Fogarty, MD

Tallahassee, FL



As I approach retirement after 14 years as Dean here at the FSU College of Medicine, and with COVID allowing us to be together more, it is good to feel a bit more “normal” before I turn the Dean role over to my successor. I think what I’ve enjoyed the most in my time here is seeing our staff, faculty, and particularly, our students working and learning together as a community. We welcomed our 22nd Medical School Class (2026) this May and our 6th PA Student Class (2024) in August and are again seeing the palpable energy and enthusiasm among the students. It is a joy to see them together in class or congregating in the courtyard playing frisbee or throwing a football. Our school was created with the intention of building community among students and ensuring that our patient-focused curriculum gives our students the tools they need to be caring and competent physicians.

Knowing that burnout, depression, and suicide are an epidemic nationally for students, residents, and attendings in the US, we have worked hard to build that community. With both our Medical and PA classes here in person, the building feels full again and students have smiles on their faces. They

have a caring and supportive faculty and a counseling center with great psychologists who encourage seeking help. Students are all asked to “care for each other” and recognize classmates who may not be doing well. I enjoy seeing our students both here and at their regional campuses. I can see that they really enjoy each other in our team-based atmosphere in Tallahassee and in our model at the regional campuses where they work one-on-one with the local community physicians. They see large numbers of patients, care for common problems, read about what they saw each day, and perform extremely well in their standardized tests. With over 1,000 alumni now out of their training and in practice, we are very proud of the large number who are practicing in Florida and serving as our campus faculty.

When the FSU College of Medicine was established in 2000, we were the first new Medical School created in over 20 years and we focused on producing the doctors that Florida needed the most – particularly, for rural, underserved, and underrepresented communities. Our leadership includes Dr. Littles (Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and Academic Affairs), Dr. Van

Durme (Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Affairs), and Dr. Campbell (Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs) so Family Physicians are well represented here, consistent with our mission. To meet our mission, we have had pipeline programs since 1974 encouraging junior high and high school students to go to college and consider health careers. At the undergraduate level, we have additional pipeline and honors programs to help students prepare for Medical School and we have had a “Bridge to Clinical Medicine” pre-matriculation program for mission-fit students for over 12 years that has contributed greatly to our diversity. We remain one of the most diverse Medical Schools in the country for both African-American and Hispanic student percentages.

I’ve been truly blessed with coming to a wonderful institution and working with amazing people for these 14 years. I look forward to the next exciting chapter for the FSU College of Medicine and will not be far away as my wife and I retire here in Tallahassee.