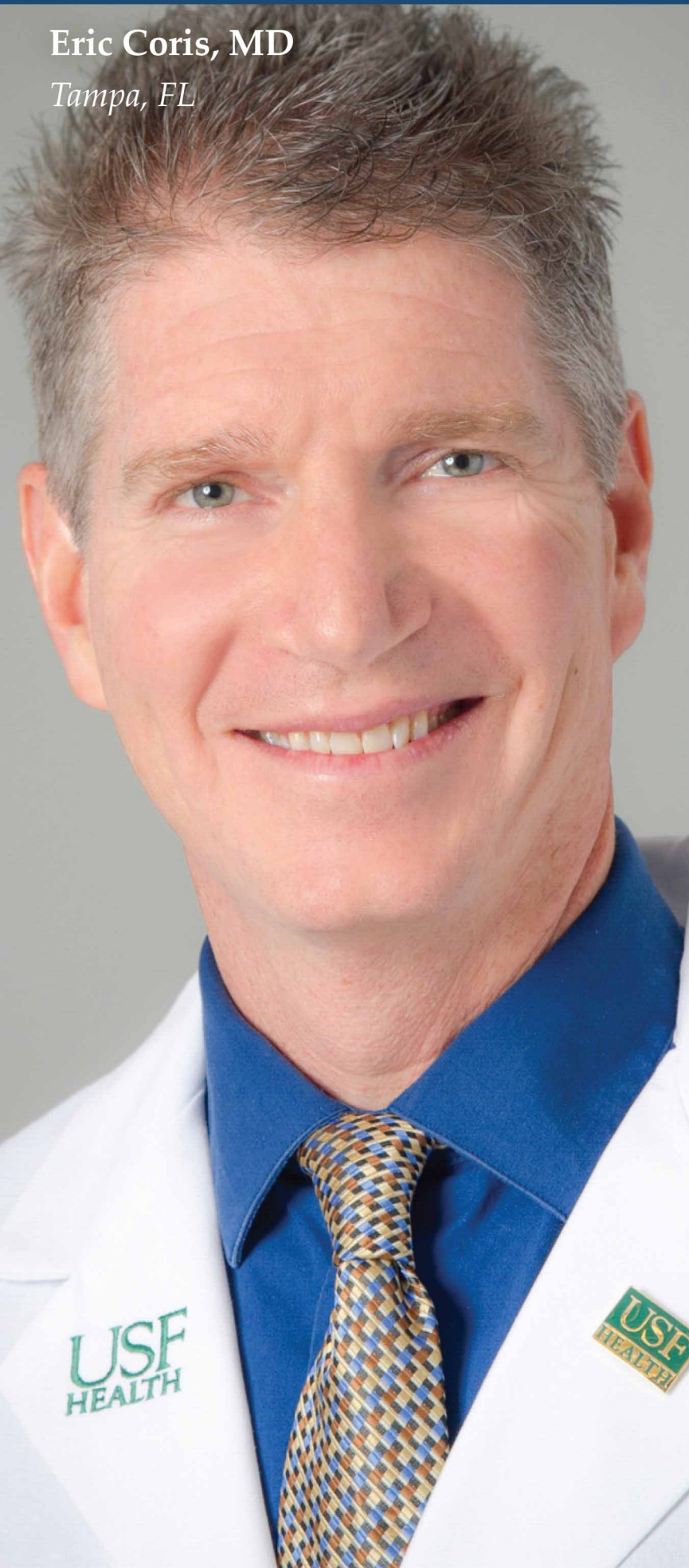


FAFP APRIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Eric Coris, MD

Tampa, FL



“High-quality primary care is the foundation of the health care system. It provides continuous, person-centered, relationship-based care that considers the needs and preferences of individuals, families, and communities.” *National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2021. Implementing High-Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care, Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.*

Not sure I could say it better myself. The 448 pages is significant, but an excellent executive summary opens up the struggle for Primary Care in the US today.

I was sucked into the beautiful, complex, exciting, compelling world of Family Medicine and Sports Medicine, like many, by the late, great Dr. Dan Van Durme. He began the transformation of an incompetent but excited young med student at USF, into an equally passionate, hopefully less incompetent, Family Physician in 1995. Seems like forever ago, and yet, not that long. Now, I have the great privilege to work with a fantastic faculty at The USF Morsani College of Medicine to carry forward that wonderful gift. An incredibly challenging and rewarding career in Academic Medicine has carried me through multiple Universities, Deans, Departments and Hospitals; always with the amazing privilege of joining patients, families, students, fellows, residents, nurses, athletic trainers, and coaches in this broad, deep specialty of Family medicine. It has carried me through nights of call, deliveries of babies at 2:00 AM, Stanley Cups, Lombardi Trophies, discussions of death, and saving of lives. What an incredible ride. Thanks Dan!!

Now, after serving as faculty for decades, I find myself as a Chair of our beloved USF Department of Family Medicine, helping to guide us into an even greater role supporting our students, residents, faculty and fellows in advancing Family Medicine. While a ton of work, what a labor of love. Now, we have the awesome challenge of rebuilding Primary Care Nationally to try to fix a broken healthcare system one family doc at a time. Our new USF TGH Family Medicine Residency adds another option for our excellent young students to an already strong group of programs in our state trying to do just that; fix our broken system. It always amazed me that we did not have a Family Medicine Residency mixed in with the excellent subspecialists of Tampa General Hospital and the Tampa Campus of USF, and now, fully Accredited with the ACGME and ready to match our first class in 2025, we can't wait to help build the next generation of superb Family Physicians!

As we continue to educate, we also continue to broaden our commitment to service in our community - particularly, the underserved of Tampa. Our program will continue to expand efforts in this integral role for our department, and our residents and faculty will be all the richer for the work as we love and serve our community. Let's Go!!!

And thanks again, Dan!

“Primary care is the only health care component where an increased supply is associated with better population health and more equitable outcomes. For this reason, primary care is a common good, which makes the strength and quality of the country's primary care services a public concern.” *National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine: Implementing High-Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care, 2021*