

CONTACT:

Pat Dolce, Public Affairs Specialist
(O) 239-343-8370 - (C) 239-989-2758

Department Mobile/After Hours:
239-789-5786

New Physicians Begin Training at Lee Health’s Family Medicine Residency Program

(Fort Myers, Fla. – July 31, 2018) --- Eight first-year family medicine residents started seeing patients as part of the Florida State University College of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health July 30. Based at Lee Memorial Hospital, the program was created to abate a national shortage of primary care physicians.

Lee Health is proud to welcome:

- Kathleen “Katie” Dixon from Lake Mary, Fla.
- Jerry Lanza from Belize
- Tatianna Pizzutto from Clearwater, Fla.
- John Schmidt from Hattiesburg, Miss.
- Miri Shlomi from Orange, Ohio
- Diana Sitar from Las Vegas
- Tyler Spradling from Fort Myers Beach, Fla.
- Renee Wong from Toronto, Canada

“This new class—the class of 2021—is academically strong and we are very excited to have them start their training with Lee Health,” said Alfred Gitu, M.D., Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program. We are proud to welcome these eight physicians who are passionate about their training and about this program.”

Medical school graduates are required to complete residency training in their chosen specialty in order to become independently practicing physicians. Statistically, about 60% of residents will practice medicine in the same area in which they are trained.

The Lee Health program received more than 1,700 applications from U.S. medical students and physicians from around the world. This is the second class of eight residents to join the program since it was approved for expansion and received Continued Accreditation with a 10-year cycle (longest possible interval) from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

The Florida State University College of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health takes residents through 36 months of training, which is divided into four-week blocks. These rotations are completed at Lee Memorial Hospital, HealthPark Medical Center and Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, as well as several community physicians’ offices. The program began with its inaugural class in April 2014.

Photo Caption: LtoR 1st row: Katelyn Caldwell, Program Coordinator; Miri Shlomi, M.D.; Tatianna Pizzutto, M.D.; Kathleen Dixon, M.D.; Diana Sitar, D.O. 2nd Row: Alfred Gitu, M.D., Family Medicine Residency Program Director; Jerry Lanza, M.D.; Tyler Spradling, D.O.; John Schmidt, D.O.; Gary Goforth, M.D., former director of the Family Medicine Residency Program; not pictured: Renee Wong, M.D.

About Lee Health

Since the opening of the first hospital in 1916, Lee Health has been a health care leader in Southwest Florida, constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community. A non-profit, integrated health care services organization, Lee Health is committed to the well-being of every individual served, focused on healthy living and maintaining good health. Staffed by caring people, inspiring health, services are conveniently located throughout the community in four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals, outpatient centers, walk-in medical centers, primary care and specialty physician practices and other services across the continuum of care. Formerly known as Lee Memorial Health System, the organization began its second century of service with a new name in 2016. Learn more at www.LeeHealth.org.