

## Lee Health Welcomes Eight New Resident Physicians on Match Day

(Fort Myers, Fla. – March 19, 2018) --- Eight, new, first-year, family medicine residents of The Florida State University College of Medicine Family Medical Residency Program will complete their training at Lee Health. The graduating medical students were announced at the annual Match Day celebration on Friday, March 16. The new residents include:

- 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

“For this class, we received more than 1,800 applications from U.S. medical students and physicians from all around the world,” says Gary Goforth, M.D., Founding Program Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health. “We are very proud of the number of applications we received and that we’ve matched with eight outstanding candidates this year. Our program continues to grow and expand with residents who are passionate, compassionate and academically strong. This year’s residents scored in the top 20% in the nation on the United States Medical Licensing Examination, and they are dedicated to caring for the underserved.”

Based at Lee Memorial Hospital with The Florida State University College of Medicine as its institutional sponsor, the residency program was created to abate the shortage of primary care physicians anticipated nationally, an issue that is compounded locally by rapid population growth in Southwest Florida. Medical school graduates are required to complete residency training in their chosen specialty to become independently practicing physicians.

Statistically, about 60% of residents will practice medicine in the same area in which they are trained. Since 2012, when the program started, 13 of the 18 graduates (or 68%) of The Florida State University College of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health have stayed in Southwest Florida following graduation from the program. Two graduates of the residency program were accepted into fellowship programs with one planning to return to the area to practice medicine following his fellowship.

### 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](http://www.LeeHealth.org).*

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