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### **Agency for Health Care Administration and Florida Hospital Host Event Highlighting Impact of Florida's New Statewide Residency Program**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** –The Agency for Health Care Administration and Florida Hospital today welcomed supporters of health care and education as they honor Florida's commitment to graduate medical education through the new Statewide Residency Program. For the first time, hospitals are receiving a supplemental payment specifically for graduate medical education, which was made possible by the \$80 million appropriation recommended by Governor Scott in the Florida Families First Budget.

“This funding specifically for graduate medical education is another way Governor Scott has demonstrated his commitment to education, health care and jobs,” said Secretary Liz Dudek. “It will improve access to and quality of care for all Floridians, expand graduate medical education on an equitable basis, and increase the supply of highly trained physicians statewide.”

“We are very pleased to see the state allocate additional funding for graduate medical education. There has been limited funding for this type of training in the past and many hospitals that have committed to residency programs do so at their own cost,” said Dr. Eddie Needham, Program Director, Florida Hospital Family Medicine Residency. “With over 150 residents in the Florida Hospital programs each year, it is important to make sure there are sufficient dollars for training.”

Through the new Statewide Residency Program, Florida Hospital will receive \$3,241,000 to support residents in their well-respected residency programs. Funding from the New Statewide Residency Program is available to all hospitals—large and small, urban and rural—so long as they sponsor residents.

“Over the years we've learned that if you establish residency programs in a community, the physicians are more likely to open practices in the same areas they completed their residency,” said Dr. Patricio Bruno, Program Director, Florida Hospital East Orlando Family Medicine Residency. “In some cases as many as 65-90% of the residents remain in the local area to provide medical care for the community.”

“I went to high school in Orlando and it has been such a wonderful experience completing my residency at Florida Hospital. Right now, my plans include staying here in the local community to practice medicine and give back to this area,” said Dr. Jeff Chiu, Florida Hospital 5th year general surgical resident.



The funding affiliated with the new Statewide Residency Program will ensure Florida medical students can continue their training in the state, increasing the likelihood they will practice medicine in Florida after completion of their education.

*B-roll of Florida Hospital residency has been loaded onto the Florida Hospital FTP site and can be downloaded from <http://floridahospital.tv/external/RESIDENCY%20PROGRAM/>.*

*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA\\_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).*

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