

Med School Watercooler

Thursday, August 1, 2024

Welcome, Class of 2028!



The Class of 2028 gathers in front of the Medical Sciences Building for the class photo.

The Whiddon College of Medicine Class of 2028 officially began their medical school journey this week with a host of orientation activities.

Orientation kicked off Monday with a welcome from John Marymont, M.D., MBA, dean of the Whiddon College of Medicine and vice president for medical affairs. Afterward, the students gathered in front of the Medical Sciences Building for their first photo as the Class of 2028.

Other highlights from the week included a meet and greet with faculty at the MacQueen Alumni Center, and dinner with the dean at Moe's Original BBQ in downtown Mobile.

Activities continue this afternoon when the students are sorted into their Wellness Houses and compete in a kickball tournament sponsored by the Wellness Program.



John Marymont, M.D., MBA, greets the students during dinner with the dean at Moe's Original BBQ.

[View more photos from orientation week.](#)



Students throw their J's up during the meet and greet at the MacQueen Alumni Center.

Posted by Med School Watercooler at 1:24 PM



Medical students present summer research at 51st annual event



Medical students Leah Kunneth and Danielle Flores discuss their research during poster presentations.

Fifty-one medical students participated in the Whiddon College of Medicine's 2024 Medical Student Summer Research Program. The eight-week program culminated with student presentations and a keynote lecture at the 51st Annual Medical Student Summer Research Day, held Friday, July 26, in the Medical Sciences Building.

The summer program pairs incoming first-year and rising second-year medical students with faculty mentors. The students devote 30 to 40 hours a week to hands-on research related to basic science and/or clinical medicine, allowing them to develop an appreciation of how research contributes to the knowledge and practice of medicine.



Troy Moon, M.D., MPH, delivers the keynote lecture.

Troy Moon, M.D., MPH, professor of tropical medicine and pediatrics at Tulane University School of Public

Health and Tropical Medicine, delivered the keynote lecture, "Bobbles, Mishaps and a Good Bit of Fun: Adventures on the Road to Becoming a Physician-Scientist-Educator." Students had the opportunity to attend a mixer with the keynote speaker the Thursday evening prior to Summer Research Day.

The Clyde G. Huggins Awards for Summer Research will be presented to the winners in the oral and poster presentation categories next week.

[View more photos from Medical Student Summer Research Day on Flickr.](#)



Medical students who participated in the summer research program pose with the keynote speaker, Troy Moon, M.D., MPH.

Posted by Med School Watercooler at [11:32 AM](#)



Wednesday, July 31, 2024

New hospitalist joins internal medicine faculty

For Frederick J. Rossi III, D.O., joining USA Health is an extension of something he already enjoys – teaching.

As a result, one of USA Health's newest hospitalists and an assistant professor of internal medicine at the Whiddon College of Medicine said making the choice was easy.

"Passing on knowledge and tips has always been something I've enjoyed," he said. "I tutored in college and medical school, delivered health education lectures to communities and other training organizations while I was a paramedic/firefighter, and enjoyed working with medical students as a resident. Working in an academic health system was a no-brainer."

Rossi, who will provide care for patients at University Hospital and Children's & Women's Hospital, attended medical school at the William Carey College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and completed his combined internal medicine and pediatrics residency training at USA Health.

Continuing his work with residents in a teaching setting will ensure that he also will keep learning.

"Working with people who ask you questions all day challenges you to stay up to date on current practices, and in return, that makes you a better physician for your patients," he said.

When Rossi graduated with his bachelor's degree in biology from Spring Hill College, he said he knew he wanted to work in the medical field, but he wasn't



Frederick J. Rossi III, D.O.

sure where.

"A friend of mine recommended that I become a paramedic and work at a fire department until I figured that out," he said. "I thoroughly enjoyed that job and the skills it taught me, and I believe it gives me a somewhat unique perspective as a physician."

After Rossi earned his paramedic associate degree at Bossier Parish Community College in Shreveport, he put his training as a first responder to use at Bossier Parish Emergency Medical Services and Velocity Care Urgent Treatment Center in Louisiana.

His stints as a paramedic led him to medical school, where he said he found that he enjoyed the internal medicine and pediatrics rotations the most, and he chose to pursue the combined internal medicine and pediatrics training.

"I have found that med-peds physicians, due to their dual-residency training in two different, yet similar fields, typically look at problems and their solutions a little differently because the training blends different aspects of both," he said. "This unique look at problems and their solutions is what drew me to my field."

During medical school and residency, Rossi volunteered his time in the community at various health fairs, Rapahope, a camp for children with cancer, the Food Pantry of Hattiesburg and ARC of Mobile, which supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"The value of volunteering is that it allows you to see life through others' perspectives and teaches you that everyone is different and has unique life problems and experiences," he said. "By experiencing some of those individuals' hardships, it helps you strive to find solutions that work for that individual person."

Posted by Med School Watercooler at [4:02 PM](#)



USA Health Pediatrics expands with addition of Garlapati

To better meet the healthcare needs of children on the Gulf Coast, USA Health Pediatrics is expanding its practice with the addition of Srikanth Garlapati, M.D., MPH.

A board-certified pediatrician with more than a decade of experience, he is passionate about caring for children and places a focus on patient- and family-centered care.

"Children are so resilient, and it gives me so much satisfaction to be able to help them," he said. "I also enjoy pediatrics because it can be challenging when trying to determine a complex case."



Srikanth Garlapati, M.D., MPH

In addition to caring for children with general pediatric conditions, Garlapati – known as Dr. G to his patients and their families – also treats children and adolescents with complex medical needs, including those who were born prematurely and may have spent time in a neonatal intensive care unit.

As part of the only academic health system on the upper Gulf Coast, Garlapati is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine, where he is helping to educate the next generation of healthcare providers.

He earned a medical degree from Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University in Chennai, a city in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. Following a year-long internship at Vinayaka Missions Kirupananada Medical College in Salem, India, he completed a pediatric residency at West Virginia University School of Medicine in Morgantown, West Virginia. He continued his education by earning a Master of Public Health from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Garlapati is fluent in six languages including English, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Urdu and Kannada.

His professional memberships include the American Association of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the American Public Health Association.

He is accepting new patients at the Strada Patient Care Center, 1601 Center Street. For an appointment, call 251-410-5437.

Posted by Med School Watercooler at [3:57 PM](#)



Menger invited to speak at UCSF Pediatric and Adult Spine Course in Hawaii

Richard Menger, M.D., MPA, chief of complex spine surgery at USA Health and associate professor of neurosurgery at the Whiddon College of Medicine, was invited to speak at the University of California San Francisco's (UCSF) Pediatric and Adult Spine Surgery Course in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Richard Menger, M.D., MPA, third from left, attends the course in Honolulu.

Attending UCSF's three-and-a-half-day course, Menger lectured about USA Health's team-based approach reducing complications in complex spine deformity. The course was designed with interactive lectures given by leaders in the spine community.

"It was an honor to be selected as faculty, and I am proud to highlight the unique work we are able to accomplish here as a group at USA Health," Menger said.

Menger is a fellowship-trained neurosurgeon practicing at USA Health University Hospital and Strada Patient Care Center, specializing in neurosciences, pediatrics and neurosurgery. He has a specific focus on complex spinal reconstructions for spinal deformity in children and adults. He performs minimally invasive spinal procedures and has a special expertise in state-of-the-art surgical and conservative management of pediatric scoliosis. Trained in neurological and orthopaedic spine surgery, he can assess patients from an interdisciplinary perspective.