



For Immediate Release

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HCA Florida West Hospital and the University of Central Florida College of Medicine Announce Launch of New Graduate Medical Education General Surgery Residency Program

Pensacola, Fla. – HCA Florida West Hospital, an affiliate of HCA Florida Healthcare, is proud to announce the launch of a new Graduate Medical Education General Surgery Residency Program in partnership with the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. Accredited by the Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the new program will train residents in general surgery and is currently seeking applicants to begin training in July 2022. A residency is a critical component of a physician’s career path. The programs last between three and seven years, depending on the specialty, and follows graduation from medical school to prepare physicians for independent practice in a medical specialty.

“HCA Florida West Hospital is proud to partner with the University Of Central Florida College Of Medicine to bring this innovative new residency program to our community,” **said Gabe Bullaro, Chief Executive Officer, HCA Florida West Hospital.** “Attracting and retaining talent is a key component of expanding access to care and improving the health of our community. As these residents complete their training, our community and our region will see both economic and health benefits. We are fortunate to have the strong infrastructure necessary to create this program as well as our existing team of highly skilled physicians who can train the next generation of General Surgeons.”

The general surgery residency program is a five-year program designed to train residents in the art and science of surgery including how to diagnose, manage and operate on wide range of diseases. Residents will be trained in a number of fields including vascular, trauma, critical care, emergency surgery, colorectal, surgical oncology, burn and pediatric surgery. Residents will be able to perform open, laparoscopic and robotic surgery, as well as endoscopy. The program will accept three residents per year for a total of 15 accredited positions.

“This residency is an opportunity to train the next generation of surgeons who will want to continue providing care in the Panhandle area of Florida,” **said Dr. Sandra Tan, M.D., Ph.D, Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program.** “The population in this community continues to grow and our surgical residents will provide care so that the people living in this beautiful area of the country do not have to drive long distances to obtain the healthcare they need and deserve. “With our exceptional team of existing surgeons, medical teams and support staff, we are committed to providing a comprehensive and rewarding educational experience for our trainees.”

The new program also will provide an additional opportunity for medical school graduates in Florida and across the nation. General Surgery is one of the more competitive specialties with 3,071 applicants competing for 1,622 positions available nationally in 2021.

Across the country, HCA Healthcare is the largest sponsor of residency and fellowship programs for physicians. The impact of HCA Healthcare’s efforts to train the next generation of healthcare leaders is significant and each program helps to address the doctor shortage nationwide. Currently, the program includes 61 teaching hospitals in 16 states that include:

- 4,754 Residents
- 309 Fellows
- 221 Residency Programs
- 83 Fellowship Programs

In Florida, HCA Healthcare is home to the largest teaching hospital system. With over 1,900 residents and fellows at 25 hospitals, HCA Healthcare trains the most, new doctors in Florida. With the level of experience that HCA Healthcare has in developing Graduate Medical Education Programs and the expert training provided by the University of Central Florida College of Medicine, HCA Florida West Hospital is well positioned for immediate success.

“We are delighted to partner with HCA Florida West Hospital and serve the Pensacola community,” said Dr. Deborah German, vice president for health affairs and the founding dean of the UCF College of Medicine. “Our mission at the UCF College of Medicine includes improving healthcare for all. Residency programs are an important part of that effort. Physicians often remain in the community where they had their residency training and our programs will allow Pensacola to have a supply of outstanding, compassionate young physicians, now and into the future.”

The general surgery residency is the third UCF/HCA Healthcare graduate medical education program at the hospital -- Obstetrics/Gynecology and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation began last year. With this latest addition, the UCF/HCA Healthcare consortium has 33 residency and fellowship programs across Florida.

About HCA Florida West Hospital

HCA Florida West Hospital, located in Pensacola, Florida is a full service acute care hospital that has proudly cared for Northwest Florida for more than 45 years. Our top priority is to exceed patient expectations with the highest quality and most compassionate team of healthcare professionals. Our fully accredited healthcare facility strives to provide state-of-the-art technologies and best practices in evidence-based care. Currently, our hospital campus includes the acute care hospital, an inpatient, CARF accredited rehabilitation facility and an Age Friendly designated mental health facility. In addition, we are also pleased to partner with the University of Central Florida to offer Graduate Medical Education Residency Programs.

The area's first Accredited Chest Pain Center and Breast Imaging Center of Excellence, West Florida Hospital is also the first hospital in the state of Florida to have earned Atrial Fibrillation with Electrophysiology Services Accreditation. In addition, West Florida Healthcare is an Advanced Primary Stroke Center.

Affiliated with HCA, the nation's leading provider of healthcare, West Florida Healthcare meets the community's healthcare needs in major services such as cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, oncology, orthopedics, pediatrics, robotic-assisted surgery, critical care, neurology/neurosurgery, emergency care, urology, behavioral health, gastroenterology, obstetrics, pulmonary, and rehabilitative medicine.

About UCF College of Medicine

As one of the nation's newest medical schools, the UCF College of Medicine epitomizes innovation, high-tech learning tools and a pioneering spirit to educate doctors and scientists in a new and better way for the future. The medical school is the academic cornerstone of Medical City at Lake Nona, a biosciences destination for medical education, research and patient care just minutes from one of the world's most visited airports. UCF Lake Nona Medical Center, a partnership with HCA Healthcare, opened a year ago next door to the medical school. The college's new UCF Lake Nona Cancer Center brings together national leaders in cancer treatment and research under one roof. For more information, visit med.ucf.edu