



July 2017



Dean's Newsletter

JOHANNES W. VIEWEG, M.D., FACS

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Supporters of the NSU M.D. College:

I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU that on June 8, the NSU College of Allopathic Medicine (NSU M.D. College) received a call from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) Secretariat notifying us of our advancement from “applicant” to “candidate” status for accreditation, following a successful review of the Data Collection Instrument and Institutional Self-Study we submitted on April 13.

This marked a significant milestone in the accreditation process. As a candidate college, we have been granted a survey visit for Preliminary Accreditation, scheduled for July 23-26. During this visit, a team of medical educators and leaders from LCME will comprehensively assess our program's readiness by interviewing university and college leadership, faculty members, researchers, hospital partners, clinicians, and other key personnel. The survey team will be examining the college's progress in its development of the curriculum; the establishment of learning facilities; adequacy of

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existing and future faculty recruitment plans; and other essential aspects of our preparations to launch a new M.D. program. LCME will consider the recommendation of the survey team at its October Board meeting and will determine if the M.D. College advances to Preliminary Accreditation, at which time we would be able to recruit a class of 50 medical students to matriculate in the fall of 2018.

As NSU's M.D. College advances through this rigorous evaluation process, I would like to share information about several key partnerships we have established as part of our four priorities to help further our mission and that contribute to the college's distinct identity among other medical schools.

We are actively reaching out to communicate the college's unique goal to become a leader in developing collaborative partnerships throughout our state; and ultimately, find better ways to advance human health. I encourage you to visit md.nova.edu for additional information on our college, the accreditation process, strategic partnerships, and our educational philosophy.

Sincerely,



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Medical Education

Close collaborations with many of NSU's colleges and the functional integration with the university's Health Professions Division have enabled us to design a unique curriculum. We are developing superb interprofessional education capacities that provide exemplary training in the areas of health sciences, research, and health care administration. Accordingly, the NSU M.D. College's educational model is built on cross-disciplinary learning opportunities spanning the health professions, biomedical science, medicine, and other specialties. We believe our educational experience will better prepare students to understand the complexities of academic medicine and to educate a new brand of physicians capable of shaping the future of health care in the 21st century.



Clinical Care and Hospital Partnerships

Through a comprehensive affiliation agreement between NSU and Hospital Corporation of America's (HCA) East Florida Division, the College of Allopathic Medicine is well positioned to integrate NSU's comprehensive education and research infrastructure with one of the nation's largest health care systems through a patient-first approach. With plans soon to break ground for HCA's new on-campus teaching hospital, this partnership will enable students to interact with practicing physicians, residents,

and fellows to gain access to clinicians in a real-world setting, within a short walk from our classrooms. Establishing this integrated medical campus with the backing of two respected institutions will provide a significant economic boost to the region, attract the best and brightest students to our campus, help curb the critical physician shortage that the state and the nation face, and enhance patient care in our region.





Biomedical Research

We are making significant progress as we strengthen our translational research capacities. Since the opening of NSU's Center for Collaborative Research (CCR) in September 2016, Richard Jove, Ph.D., director of the NSU Cell Therapy Institute, and faculty researchers from the institute have chosen the NSU M.D. College as their academic home as they pursue advancements of gene- and cell-based therapies and biomedical education. As a distinct feature, researchers from the NSU Cell Therapy Institute maintain unique, collaborative relationships with several distinguished visiting faculty researchers from Karolinska Institutet (KI) in Sweden, one of the leading medical research institutions worldwide.

These world-renowned researchers also hold faculty appointments within the NSU M.D. College. Johannes W. Vieweg, M.D., FACS, is working with Jove, who also serves as chair of the Biomedical Sciences Department at the NSU M.D. College; H. Thomas Temple, M.D., who has a dual role as NSU's senior vice president for translational research and economic development and the NSU M.D. College's executive associate dean for research; and leadership from KI to expand the relationship beyond the faculty members.

One future aim is to establish bilateral agreements allowing medical students from each institution to participate in clinical or research rotations at the partner school. The two universities are also discussing additional collaborative opportunities such as the possibility of allowing qualified NSU M.D. students to spend a degree-awarding research year at the KI facilities in Stockholm.

Under Temple's leadership, the College of Allopathic Medicine is pursuing a new and entrepreneurial model of translational research designed to expedite academic discovery in a more cost-efficient way by strategically collaborating with private industry partners early. Our college is embracing such partnerships as the way to the future. The key is to develop mutually-beneficial agreements in which incentives are well-aligned, funding is based on reaching milestones, and everyone is racing toward a common goal—to more efficiently advance new and better treatments to patients through clinical trials. This collaborative research model will further our priorities of translating research from the bench to the bedside and providing opportunities for future students to work alongside leading investigators.



Community and Diversity

As a college focused on community and global health, we are committed to aligning our work with ongoing health care initiatives and promoting synergy among our collaborators that strengthen our mission and vision, ultimately establishing a healthy ecosystem. Some of our existing community partnerships include

- Broward County Medical Association (BCMA)—Our relationship with BCMA allows us to further our reach and strength as we work toward common goals in medical education, professional development, and excellence in health care delivery.
- Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC)—We are working with BRHPC on several initiatives, including preventative health programs and data collection to identify and reduce health disparities.
- Health Foundation of South Florida (HFSF)—Our college is working with HFSF on an anchor hospital initiative, which is focused on enhancing population health through community engagement and economic development.

If you or your organization have shared values and wish to collaborate with the NSU College of Allopathic Medicine, contact Farzanna S. Haffizulla, M.D., FACP, FAMWA, assistant dean for community and global health, at fhaffizull@nova.edu.