



Training Tomorrow's Doctors

Residents bring hands, hearts and minds to the care team

By John DiAngelo, Inspira Health Network President and CEO

Having residents in our hospitals in Vineland and Woodbury is both a privilege and a responsibility. They bring fresh ideas, intellectual curiosity, and an energy that comes with being immersed in new experiences. Their rigorous medical school education is tested constantly by the complexity of the human body and the countless illnesses and injuries that can weaken it. It is our job as a teaching institution to help each of these young doctors attain a level of skill and confidence that will allow them to heal and comfort patients on their own, after they complete their training.

Of course, teaching is never a one-way activity. Every educator knows that teaching and learning are reciprocal in nature. It might seem odd that a physician fresh out of medical school could teach something new to an experienced physician, yet it happens. Our attending physicians, many of whom who have practiced for 10, 20 or even 30 years or more, greatly enjoy the opportunity to work with our residents. They enjoy the challenges of teaching and the opportunities to observe how residents approach the practice of medicine. Approximately 200 of our medical staff serve as faculty for our 12 training programs.

In early June, Inspira graduated 52 young physicians from our residency and fellowship programs. A month later, we welcomed 51 new physicians into our training programs. For some, the stay will be as brief as one year. For others, Inspira Vineland or Inspira Woodbury will be "home" for the next three to five years. As of July 5, we are training 156 young physicians in nine residency and three fellowship programs.

Our residents bring their hands, hearts and minds to Inspira and our patients for the length of their post-medical school training. And some will continue to serve our communities after completing their training. From our most recent graduating class, five have chosen to practice locally, joining existing practices in our service area. We view this as an added bonus of being a teaching institution. With an impending physician shortage just a few short years away, keeping talented and well-trained physicians local greatly benefits the families in our region as well as our health network.

You may have recently heard about the retired physician who donated \$1 million to the Inspira Health Network Foundation Cumberland/Salem. The physician, Frank DeMaio, M.D., made it clear that he

wanted that money to be used to encourage talented young physicians to practice locally after they complete their residency training. He feels passionately that we must keep more of the talented physicians we train here. His gift is funding a program that will help selected young physicians pay off their medical school loans in exchange for practicing in Cumberland County for a minimum of four years. Dr. DeMaio's remarkable act of philanthropy will have a positive impact on our communities for decades to come.

If you should visit our hospitals in Vineland or Woodbury, you will be able to identify our residents and fellows by their yellow ID badges. Each of these individuals has graduated from medical school and is now training for the day when they will practice medicine on their own, no longer under the guidance of mentoring physicians. If you or a loved one becomes a patient, I think you will appreciate the hands, hearts and minds our residents bring to your care team.



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