

THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE IS HERE

2023-2024



Tilman J. Fertitta Family
College of Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

ANNUAL REPORT

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FOUNDING DEAN



Stephen J. Spann, M.D., M.B.A. | Founding Dean, Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine

To design, plan and build a new medical school starting with a blank slate is a rare opportunity that seldom happens in a physician medical educator’s lifetime, so nine years ago when offered that opportunity I jumped at the chance. I started with a vision of developing a new and different kind of medical school with the mission of improving the health and health care of the population of Greater Houston, the state of Texas, and beyond, by training more physicians who would practice primary care and other needed medical specialties in underserved communities, be they rural or urban; developing innovative solutions to problems in health and health care through interdisciplinary research; providing evidence-based, high value care to communities with significant health needs; and engaging and partnering with such communities to improve, together, their health and health care. Many thought this was more of a hallucination

than a vision that couldn’t be achieved; but this became our mission, and we have made significant progress towards delivering on our mission and achieving our vision. This has been accomplished through hard work, collaborative teamwork and partnerships across our university and within our new College of Medicine. Sometimes our progress has felt painfully slow, but as we look back, we have difficulty believing we have made so much progress over a relatively brief period of time.

We admitted our first class in July 2020 at the peak of the COVID pandemic, and most of the first year of instruction was online. It was a real struggle for our relatively new faculty to build relationships with each other and our new students. The first two years of operation took place in temporary space in the new Health 2 building on campus; in July 2022 we doubled our class size to 60 students per class

and moved in to our beautiful new 130,000 sq ft medical education building that we had designed. We have continued to build the airplane as we are flying it, and we have seen continuous improvement in our curriculum, our teaching, testing and feedback, our teaching material resources, as well as the size and quality of our faculty. And in May of this year, we graduated our first class of students, and each one successfully matched in a postgraduate residency education program. 62% matched in primary care specialty residencies, and 52% matched in Texas. We admitted our fifth class in July 2025; we are continuing to attract amazing students who are mission congruent. The demographics of our first five classes include 69% women, 56% from underrepresented minorities in medicine, 44% are first generation college students, 50% from lower social economic status families, 20% from rural communities, 37% from urban inner-city communities, and 98% are residents of our state. We are delivering on the promises we made to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Legislature when advocating for their approval of our new medical school.

In 2022, we opened the UH Health Family Care Center on the first floor of the Health 2 building, providing primary medical care for children and adults, women’s health services including pre-natal care, and behavioral and mental health services. Our full-time faculty physicians and psychologists practice at our Family Care Center and we currently train medical students and Ph.D. clinical psychology students there, and soon hope to add students from our schools of nursing, pharmacy and our graduate college of social work. The Family Care Center provides care for patients regardless of their health insurance status or ability to pay; we have recently applied to the long Health Resources Service Administration to become deemed as a Federally Qualified Health Center Look Alike, which would allow us to get paid higher reimbursement for our services to Medicare and Medicaid patients.

Our College of Medicine has come a long way in the past nine years; from a vision to reality; from no financial resources to reasonable ones; from no clinical care platform to a clinic with a growing patient base; from no research to a growing biomedical and health services research enterprise; from no community engagement to significant community engagement that is noticed and appreciated by our Third Ward and East End communities.

As I retire from the Founding Dean position to pursue other interests, I am confident that our medical school will continue to improve and grow. We will expand our class size as our clinical learning opportunities and sites for our students expand. Architectural programming has been completed for a new 60,000 sq ft biomedical sciences research building which will provide a laboratory for our faculty and students to conduct basic, translational, clinical, and population health sciences research, permitting our initially modest research enterprise to grow. Our Family Care Center is continuing to grow and will ultimately serve a large number of patients in our community, hopefully in multiple locations. And we are actively pursuing ways to have our own teaching hospital where our faculty can practice and train our medical students, and future residents. I am confident that Jonathan McCullers, M.D., the new dean will lead the College of Medicine to the next level of excellence while continuing to deliver on its important mission of improving the health and health care of the population.



I am truly honored to be named the second Dean of the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine. I want to express my gratitude for the warm welcome I’ve received from students, staff, and faculty, and I am thankful for the trust placed in me for this role. Significant strides have been made by Founding Dean Spann and the faculty as laid out in this Annual Report and in Founding Dean Spann’s Reflection. Among the many milestones are the opening and occupation of our magnificent new Fertitta College of Medicine building and the graduation of our first class. Dean Spann did an outstanding job navigating complex challenges to bring us to this point, and I feel privileged to continue this important legacy.

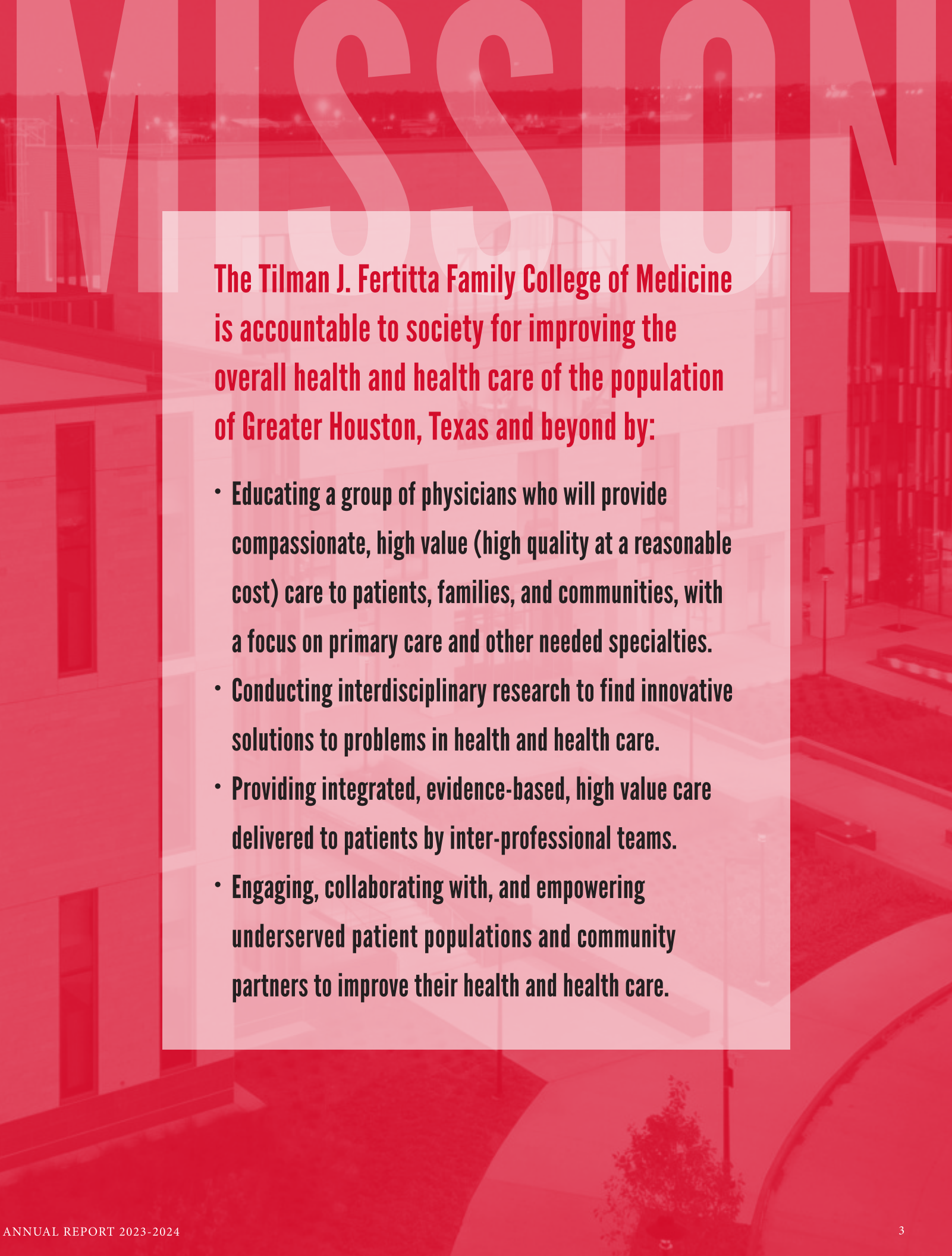
Since the founding of the Fertitta College of Medicine, our mission has been to educate physicians who provide compassionate, high-value care to patients, families, and communities, with a strong emphasis on primary care and essential specialties. We embody “medicine with a mission,” aiming for improved health and thriving communities. I believe that community service and innovations in preventive care must be integral to our identity. Our Strategic Plan outlines our goals to continue to increase our class size, expand research initiatives, and attract exceptional faculty in teaching, clinical practice, and research. Nevertheless, our Vision remains unwavering: we will be nationally recognized for educating physicians who understand the non-medical determinants of health and health disparities, collaborate with communities to enhance health outcomes, and excel in providing high-value health care while managing patient populations and continuously improving health care delivery.

We have several key strategic goals to achieve this Vision. Working with our health system partners, we need to develop new, high quality, and stable opportunities for clerkship training in all specialties. Accompanying this will be growth in the breadth and size of our residency and fellowship programs. We need to grow our research portfolio both internally and in collaboration with our strong partner Colleges at the University of Houston who participate in health-related research. We will continue to update and improve our curriculum and recruit new, well-trained faculty to deliver quality education. Our clinical footprint will grow and tackle new populations and their challenges as our core faculty matures. And finally, we will continue to nurture our community relationships and indeed develop stronger and deeper ties to the many organizations that share our Mission and values. The coming years promise to be an exciting time for the Fertitta College of Medicine as we embark on this next chapter. I am proud to help lead us into the future.



JONATHAN MCCULLERS, M.D.

Dean Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine
& Vice President of Health Affairs



**The Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine
is accountable to society for improving the
overall health and health care of the population
of Greater Houston, Texas and beyond by:**

- Educating a group of physicians who will provide compassionate, high value (high quality at a reasonable cost) care to patients, families, and communities, with a focus on primary care and other needed specialties.
- Conducting interdisciplinary research to find innovative solutions to problems in health and health care.
- Providing integrated, evidence-based, high value care delivered to patients by inter-professional teams.
- Engaging, collaborating with, and empowering underserved patient populations and community partners to improve their health and health care.

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ON NOVEMBER 3, 2021 – University of Houston President Renu Khator welcomed elected officials, members of the UH System Board of Regents, other University leadership, donors, medical students, faculty and staff to an exclusive preview of the \$80 million medical school building.

Slated to open in the summer of 2022, the three-story, 130,000-square-foot building is located on 43-acres along Martin Luther King Boulevard and will feature modern classroom and meeting spaces, and state-of-the art anatomy and simulation suites. Construction began in June 2020 and completed July 2022.

“The University of Houston College of Medicine will play a pivotal role in creating a healthier and safer future for the entire state of Texas,” said Gov. Greg Abbott. “I cannot tell you how important this is for us. This is for the city, it’s also for the state,” said Khator.

The city of Houston’s first new medical school in nearly a half-century was founded on a social mission to improve health and health care in underserved communities in Houston and across Texas by addressing health inequities and the shortage of primary care physicians.

“This new facility, combined with outstanding faculty and community partners, will ensure that doctors who graduate from the University of Houston have the skills

they need to succeed,” Abbott said.

“More than that, the University of Houston College of Medicine will play a pivotal role in creating a healthier and safer future for the entire state of Texas,” he added.

Not only does the medical school serve the community, but also elevates the University as it endeavors to become a Top 50 public university in the nation. Tilman Fertitta, chairman of the UH System Board of Regents, has been instrumental in its development.

“When you have a medical school that’s going to be the caliber of this, it puts us on a different level, and helps us accomplish all the goals we want to accomplish,” said Fertitta.

The College of Medicine became the official member of the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical center in the world, in 2021. At full enrollment, the medical school will have 480 students.

“Being present at the preview was special to me. UH College of Medicine is my home – I spend countless hours studying and hanging out with my classmates,” said Nabeel Ahmad, a member of the college’s inaugural class. Ahmad, a former high school science teacher, is pursuing a medical career to address the many health issues he noticed in his inner-city classroom. “Walking the halls through the new building made me feel excited for what’s to come.”



When University of Houston President Renu Khator unveiled plans for a new medical school in 2014, she envisioned a program that would produce a diverse group of graduates with a deep understanding of the non-medical determinants of health and a commitment to providing compassionate, high-value care to underserved populations.

A big part of those plans was a new, state-of-the-art facility to support these future health care leaders. Located in a new life sciences complex on 43 acres along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, the three-story, 130,000-square-foot building features an anatomy suite, clinical skills lab, patient examination rooms, simulation center, large team-based learning classrooms, small group meeting rooms, faculty and administrative offices and dedicated social and study spaces.

More than anything, students see the new building as a major investment in their future and the college’s mission to create a new generation of physicians that will bring much-needed health care to so many who, for years, have been neglected.





INAUGURAL CLASS OF 2024

The Doctors are In!

Celebrating the University of Houston's First Medical School Graduates

Graduation day. A rite of passage, a major milestone on the academic journey. Students, resplendent in their regalia, close one chapter in their lives and open another with the turn of a tassel and the toss of a trencher. But there was a little more pomp, and a lot more circumstance, when 22 students at the Tilman J. Fertitta College of Medicine crossed the commencement stage on Saturday, May 11. They were the first students ever to earn a medical degree from the University of Houston.

"The Tilman J. Fertitta College of Medicine has long been a dream of mine and the University of Houston community," said UH President Renu Khator. "Conferring a medical degree to this first class is truly a historic moment for UH, our city and state. Most significantly, these doctors have been given a unique education that has empowered them to make a lasting impact on our underserved communities."

When it opened in July 2020, the Fertitta College of Medicine was the first new medical school in Houston in nearly 50 years, built on a unique mission and promise. "Four years ago, you began a journey of service and dedication to your community leading up to this moment," said Tilman Fertitta, chairman of the UH System Board of Regents and the College of Medicine's namesake. "It is our hope that this experience and the challenges you overcame along the way have ingrained you with the knowledge, the wisdom and tools to provide quality, compassionate health care for our underserved communities."

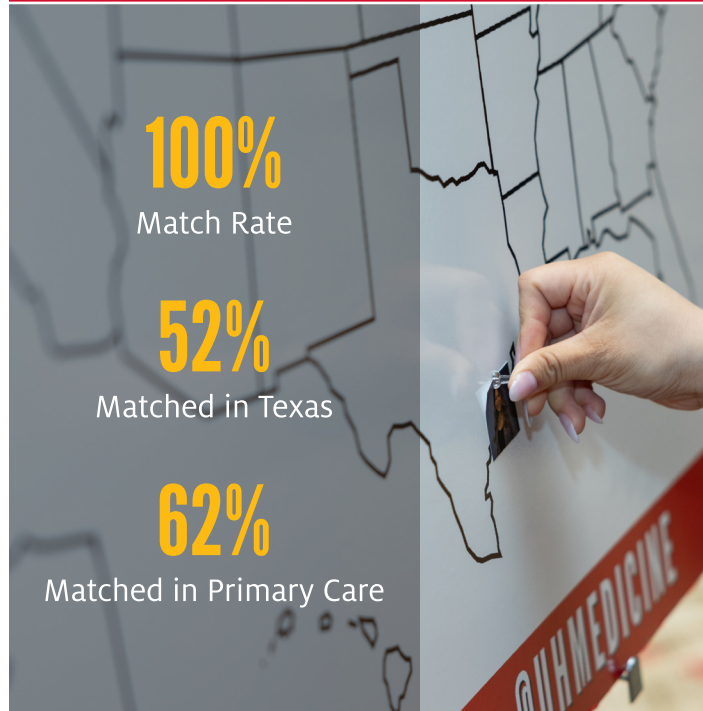
"This is a time to celebrate, not just for our students, but for the College of Medicine, as well," said Dr. Stephen Spann, founding dean of the Fertitta College of Medicine. "What they accomplished these past four years is remarkable and we achieved our goal of training new medical students to be doctors. It's proof of concept in a lot of ways."





Match Madness!

University of Houston Medical Students Celebrate Historic ‘Match Day’ by Securing Residency Placements



On March 15, the Fertitta College of Medicine celebrated a momentous milestone. “Match Day is a pivotal moment for these students, the culmination of years of tireless dedication, hard work and unyielding resilience,” said Dean Stephen Spann, founding dean of the Fertitta College of Medicine. “We proudly celebrate their accomplishments and wish them well as they embark on this important and exciting new chapter.”

This year, all 22 students in the Fertitta College of Medicine’s first class matched with a residency program, a historic moment. “This is our inaugural class, so these students are the first to experience this rite of passage, the transition from medical school to the front lines of medicine,” said Kristin Kassaw, M.D., associate dean of student affairs. “As they open those envelopes, they also open the door to their future as health care providers who are ready to make a meaningful difference in society.”

CLINICAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Longitudinal Primary Care (LPC): Students are placed in an ambulatory clinical setting to practice history-taking, physical examination, communication skills and patient management on patients — under the supervision of attending primary care physicians. The LPC model is concentrated on two disciplines: internal medicine and family medicine. Students learn to function as a member of a primary care team, providing continuity of care to patients.

Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC): The Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC), which is based on a hybrid-rotation model that exposes students to various fields of medicine, simultaneously, for enhanced learning and retention of knowledge. In this model, learning occurs within concentrated experiences in four hospital-based inpatient settings of internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics and obstetrics-gynecology. In addition, students learn across longitudinal, primarily ambulatory, experiences to allow continuity of patient contact and care, assessment and supervision, and clinical and cultural engagement.

Advanced Clerkship & Electives (ACE): Includes four core clinical rotations. During the late third year of medical school and throughout the fourth year of medical school, our students can have four-week clinical electives.

210

Students

30% / 70%

Male/Female

98%

Texas Residents

44%

1st Generation College Students

39% / 19%

Urban vs. Rural

STUDENT BODY STATS





Guiding the Next Generation: Insights from a Dedicated Preceptor

Daniel Medrano, M.D., a seasoned physician who has practiced in the Houston area for nearly twenty years, shares his journey and experiences as a preceptor at the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, shedding light on the rewarding aspects of medical education.

Medicine, for Medrano, is not just a profession but a calling rooted in a profound sense of duty and passion for serving others. With a career spanning from medical student to intern to resident and now attending physician, Medrano felt compelled to continue the tradition of teaching in medicine. He views precepting as an opportunity to pass on his experiences and knowledge to the next generation of physicians, thus contributing to the growth and development of the medical community.

Having taught nurse practitioners and medical students prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, Medrano eagerly embraced the chance to dive back into medical education when he became a preceptor at the Fertitta Family College of Medicine. For him, it rekindled his interest in the core principles of medical education and reignited his passion for mentoring future physicians.

Reflecting on his career choice, he attributes his decision on becoming a physician to his “love for science and the rich history of medicine and our victories (and many defeats) as humans against disease and suffering”.

The prospect of serving his community while working in a field that constantly evolves and adapts was both challenging and attractive. As a preceptor for over a year now he finds the energy, empathy, and curiosity of medical

students to be the most refreshing aspect of his role. Medrano “enjoys the ability to help mold our future physicians and seeing how excited they can get knowing they can impact their fellow men and women.”

A typical day with medical students for him involves thorough patient discussions, hands-on learning experiences, and in-depth case analyses. From discussing clinical assignments to reviewing complex cases, each day presents opportunities for growth and learning for both the students and himself.

One of Medrano’s favorite memories as a preceptor is seeing Saba Siddiqi, MS2, gain confidence and polish her clinical skills. Witnessing her breakthrough moments and connecting classroom knowledge to real-world patient care was truly gratifying for him. Siddiqi was impressed by her experience, saying “he has provided me with support and guidance that truly allowed me to flourish and grow. Dr. Medrano imparted to me a wealth of insight and knowledge that I will forever carry throughout my journey. He is an exceptional preceptor that provided a safe environment for a curious learner, willing to answer any questions I had.”

Looking ahead, Medrano eagerly anticipates his days with medical students, recognizing that teaching not only enhances his own knowledge but also makes him a better physician.

If you’re interested in becoming a clinical preceptor at the Fertitta College of Medicine, email compre@Central.UH.EDU



535
Simulation Activity Hours

3,360
Medical Student Contacts



Center for Clinical Arts, Skills and Experiential Learning (CCASEL)



Where innovation meets education. CCASEL is a cornerstone of our training with cutting edge technology that allows students to practice real life medical scenarios in a safe and controlled environment.



Sarah Strobel

Sarah Strobel’s, MS2, research poster placed first at the IUCRC (Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers Program) BRAIN Symposium hosted at the University of Houston. With first place comes funding to present at a national conference later this year.

Strobel’s research focused on “Wireless Electrical Goniometer vs Smartphone Sensors: A Comparative Study of Joint Angle Measurements Using OpenCap”. In summary, she tested a brand-new open-source joint angle program called OpenCap which uses 2-4 smartphone cameras to do musculoskeletal modeling and gait cycle tracking. It’s an interesting software that’s free, easy to use, and non-invasive giving it many potential clinical applications. Strobel compared the accuracy of it to more gold standard joint angle measurement methods to see if it was something that could be used in developing rehabilitation devices or in a clinical setting to track the progression of motor diseases, musculoskeletal injuries, or to track recovery of post-surgical procedures.

2023-2024 Albert Schweitzer Fellows Program

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship offers the students a year-long mentored community project that addresses unmet health needs for underserved communities in our area. The goal of these projects is to enhance and extend the services of existing community organizations to create immediate and lasting impact in the Houston-Galveston area. Named in honor of humanitarian and Nobel laureate Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the fellowship’s mission is to “prepare the next generation of professionals who will serve and empower vulnerable people live healthier lives and create healthier communities.” This mission is a perfect match for the Fertitta Family College of Medicine students’ commitment to improve health and health care in Texas.



LMSA

The Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) exists to unite and empower current and future physicians through service, mentorship, and education to advocate for the improved health of the Hispanic & Latina/o/x community in the United States. LMSA aims to unite Latino medical students, provide a voice for underrepresented groups, and support the recruitment and retention of Latino students at all levels. LMSA focuses on educating medical students about Latino health issues, advocating for Latino rights in health care, offering leadership opportunities, and encouraging volunteerism within the Latino community.



Graduate Medical Education

HCA Houston Healthcare/University of Houston Consortium
10 residency programs in the area:



- 114 Internal Medicine
- 10 Cardiovascular Disease Fellows
- 38 Emergency Medicine Residents
- 6 Pulmonary Disease
- 32 Surgery
- 3 Gastroenterology
- 13 Transitional Year
- 2 Nephrology

The Dean's Cabinet

STEPHEN J. SPANN, M.D., M.B.A., *Founding Dean* · **JONATHAN MCCULLERS, M.D.**, *Dean and VP of Health Affairs*

STEPHEN SCOTT, M.D., M.P.H., *Senior Associate Dean, Education*

OMOLOLA E. ADEPOJU, PH.D., M.P.H., *Director, Humana Integrated Health System Sciences Institute*

JEREMEKIA AMOS, M.B.A., *Associate VP, Business Operations*

NEENA ARORA, M.H.A., M.B.A., *Assistant VP & CEO, UH Health Family Care Center*

JAMES H. BRAY, PH.D., *Chair, Behavioral and Social Sciences*

MARINO A. BRUCE, PH.D., M.S.R.C., M.DIV., *Associate Dean, Research*

DAVID S. BUCK, M.D., M.P.H., *Associate Dean, Community Health*

GREGORIO GOMEZ, PH.D., *Chair, Faculty Council*

KRISTIN KASSAW, M.D., *Associate Dean, Student Affairs*

JACQUELINE LEVESQUE, A.ED., *Associate Dean, GME, Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development*

WINSTON LIAW, M.D., M.P.H., *Chair, Health Systems and Population Health Sciences*

TERENCE P. MA, PH.D., M.B.A., *Associate Dean, Assessment and Quality Improvement*

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BRIAN C. REED, M.D., *Chair, Clinical Sciences*

KEVIN C. ROWLAND, PH.D., *Chair, Biomedical Sciences*

KENYA STEELE, M.D., *Assistant Dean, Outreach and Student Pathways*

MICHELLE A. CARROLL TURPIN, PH.D., *Assistant Dean, Admissions*

FACULTY DATA

54

Full-time Faculty
13 joined this past year

26

Adjunct Faculty
16 joined this past year

833

Voluntary Faculty
184 joined this past year

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Omolola E. Adepoju, Ph.D., M.P.H.,

Director of Humana Integrated Health System Sciences Institute and clinical associate professor at the Fertitta College of Medicine, has been awarded a prestigious Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship to support high-caliber scholarly research and education projects at the University of Ghana Medical School.



James H. Bray, Ph.D.,

Clinical Psychologist and Chair of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Department, was awarded the Presidential Citation from the American Psychological Association (APA) for his Lifetime Contributions to the discipline, the profession and the APA.



Winston Liaw, M.D., M.P.H.,

Clinical Professor and Chair of the Health Systems & Population Health Sciences Department, along with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine and the American Board of Family Medicine, is leading an effort to develop the artificial intelligence and machine learning for Primary Care (AiM-PC) Curriculum. This Curriculum is funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and will teach medical students, residents, and practicing primary care clinicians how to safely and equitably integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into care. The curriculum will be released in 2025, will be online and free, and will be accompanied by a series of video interviews with national AI experts.



Steven Starks, M.D., M.B.A., DFAPA,

Clinical Assistant Professor and geriatric psychiatrist at the at the Fertitta College of Medicine, has been appointed speaker of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Assembly of District Branches.



Teaching & Excellence Series

At the Fertitta College of Medicine, our faculty are key to educating our students and fulfilling our mission. As part of our responsibility to recruit and retain top educators, the Office of Faculty Affairs is committed to regularly assessing the needs of our team with a focus on providing high quality, accessible opportunities for faculty development. The ongoing lectures were first introduced by Terence P. Ma, Ph.D., M.B.A., in the Fall of 2023 and focus on Teaching and Assessment.

2024 FALL SERIES

- August 28, 2024 - *Item Writing*
- September 19, 2024 - *Developing Assessments and Blueprinting*
- October 23, 2024 - *Introduction to the Foundational Competencies for Undergraduate Medical Education*
- November 14, 2024 - *Criterion vs. Norm Referenced Assessments*
- December 16, 2024 - *Assessments with Behavioral Anchors*

2024 SPRING SERIES

- June 2024 - *Providing Student Feedback and Narrative Assessments*
- May 2024 - *The Use of Diagnostic, Formative, Summative Assessments*
- April 2024 - *What are Entrustable Professional Activities and the Milestones Program?*
- March 2024 - *The Educational Quality Improvement Cycle*
- February 2024 - *What are Learning Goals, Learning Objectives, and Learning Outcomes?*
- January 2024 - *Competency/Outcomes-Based Medical Education Workshop*

Grand Rounds Series

The Fertitta College of Medicine is built on an important social mission – to improve the overall health and health care of greater Houston, the State of Texas and beyond. It focuses on educating a diverse group of physicians with a deep understanding of the non-medical determinants of health and a commitment to provide high quality, affordable health care to patients in underserved communities.

In 2019, executive and faculty leadership quickly identified the need for a Continuing Medical Education program to facilitate and promote lifelong learning for physicians. In alignment with the College’s social mission, leadership decided that the CME program would incorporate unique educational activities for physicians. The goal was and remains to reach full-time and voluntary faculty practicing both onsite and off-site.

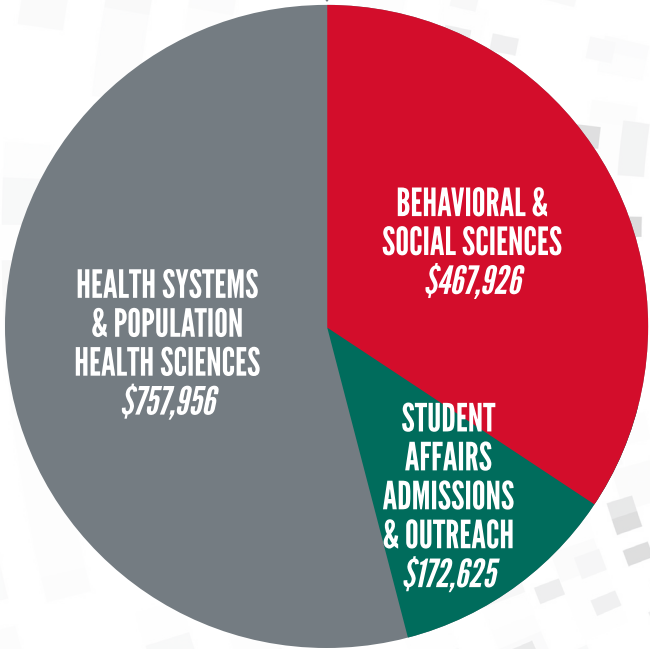
The College’s weekly Grand Rounds meets that educational mission. The Fertitta College of Medicine Grand Rounds reaches our faculty, voluntary faculty across the State of Texas, our medical students, residents, and staff every Tuesday from 12 – 1 pm, in TBL 2100 and via Zoom. Grand Rounds is led by expert presenters and lecturers from a wide range of medical disciplines and callings who each week provide the latest and up to date innovative, mission-oriented, clinical, research, and medical education topics to our learners.



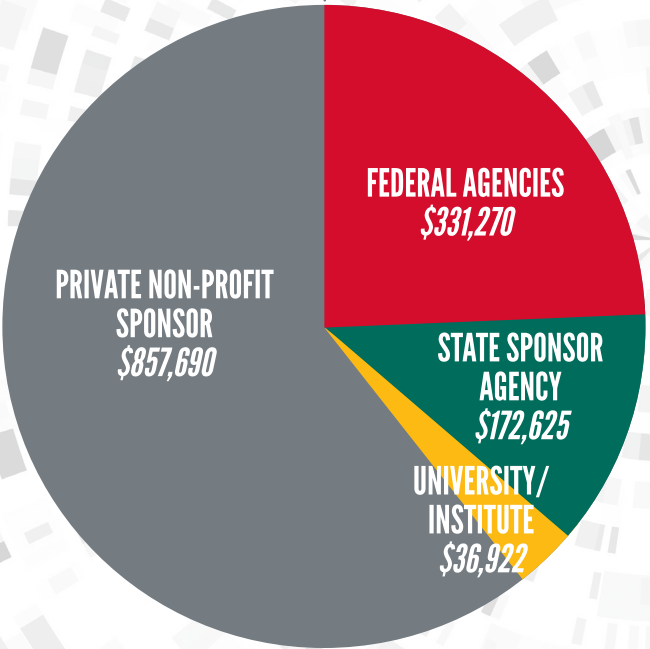
PUBLICATIONS

- 24 Behavioral & Social Sciences
- 12 Biomedical Sciences
- 6 Clinical Sciences
- 28 Health Systems & Population Health Sciences

DEPARTMENT - \$ AWARDED



AGENCY TYPE - \$ AWARDED



Health Career Collaborative

92
High School Students

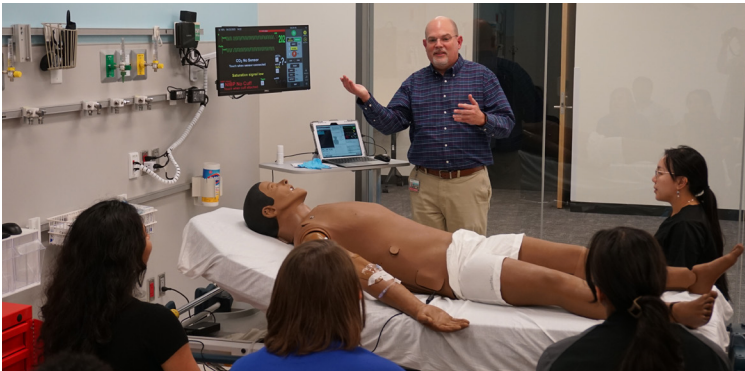
46
Student Mentors

38
Sessions

Health Career Collaborative, hosted by Kenya Steele, M.D., and Ashley Schwartz in the the Office of Outreach and Student Pathways along with medical student mentors, is an ongoing national program that exposes high school students from underrepresented backgrounds to health-related careers in medicine. The project goals are to encourage graduation and provide students access to a diverse range of health-related careers by providing mentorship and an engaging health curriculum with project-based learning. We aim to empower students to identify the most pressing health needs in their community and engage them in community-based health promotion activities. Over the course of the last year, the Health Career Collaborative team held over 30 sessions involving more than 90 high school students that were able to interact with nearly 50 College of Medicine students.

Joint Admissions Medical Program

The Office of Outreach ad Student Pathways, along with medical student mentors, hosted 21 JAMP Scholars, including 21 premedical undergraduate students from schools across Texas. The students stayed overnight on campus and participated in activities at the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, which align with the goals of JAMP. They prepared for the MCAT; were introduced to the realities and rigors of medical school; studied ethics and professional identity formation, service, social and cultural activities; and participated in activities to inspire and motivate.



Household-Centered Care Program

The Household Centered Care Program (HCC) works with families from our neighboring communities, including the East End and Third Ward. Students work in interprofessional teams consisting of nursing, social work and medical students, as well as community health workers and physician faculty. Home visits allow us to teach first-hand about nonmedical drivers of health and work in teams.

83
Community Participants

291
Students
147 Medical | 141 Nursing | 3 Social Work

5
Community Health Workers

113
Student Home Visits

Health Commons

Health Commons is the College of Medicine’s model for community engagement that prioritizes shared leadership. Through an intentional approach to power-sharing, the community and the College co-create policies and programs to improve community health. Current projects include a food cooperative to address the community identified goal of improving food security.



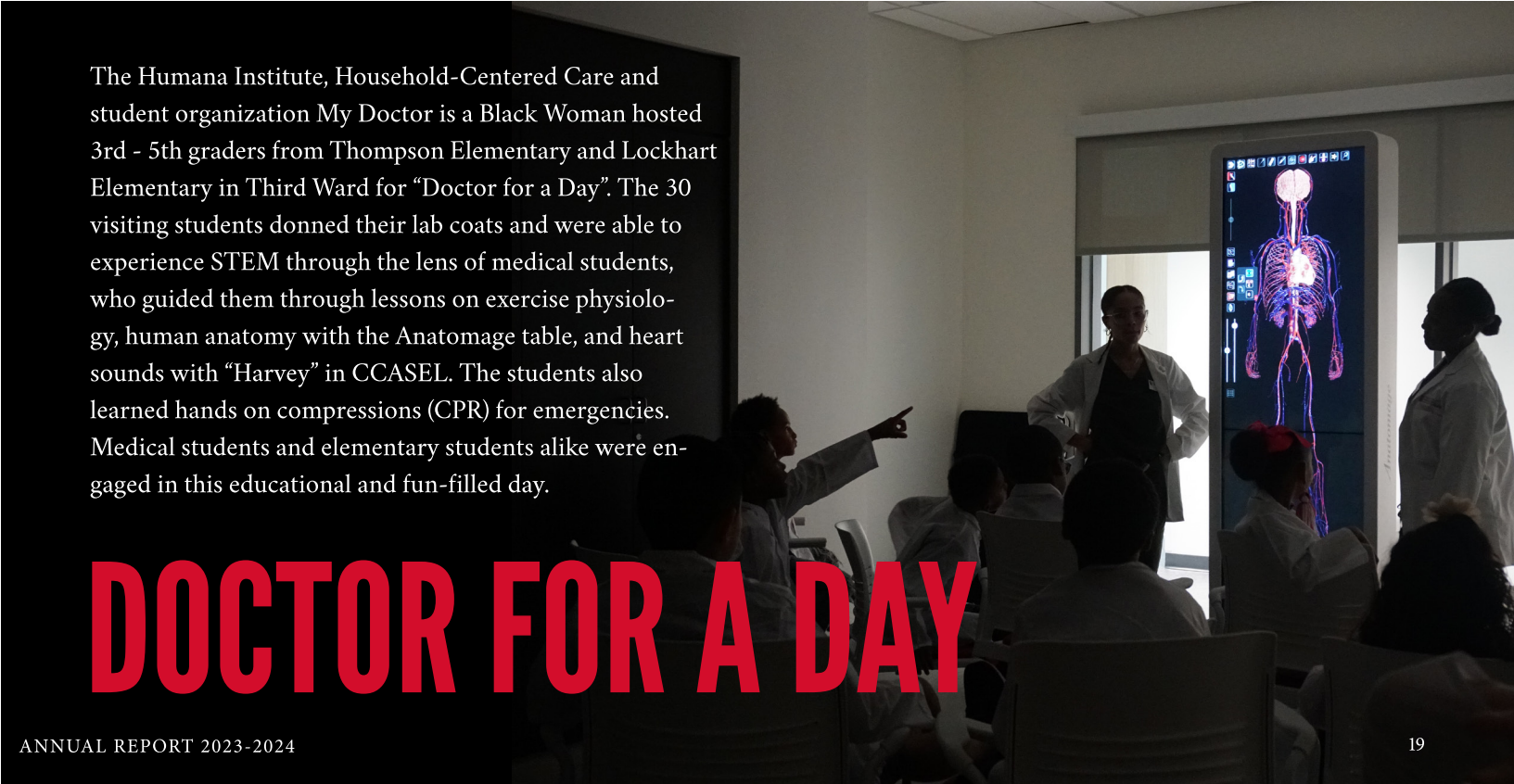
Honduras Trip

For the second year in a row, Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine students have made the arduous journey to provide medical care to a remote village in rural Honduras. True to the mission of the College of Medicine, the journey offered the opportunity to provide integrated, evidence-based, high-value care delivered by our interprofessional teams. Many of the students have participated in medical trips to Central America before their time at the College of Medicine, but for most this is the first occasion they were able to put the skills learned during their medical training to the test, in a setting where medical care is scarce.

Blanca Morales, MS1, was especially excited to exercise her background in case management and community health work. “It marked my inaugural venture into the integration of clinical care with social and community development. I’ve long been committed to addressing the intricate interplay between social and medical needs. Honduras presented a unique opportunity to deepen my understanding in this domain.”

Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the United States, and with the College’s focus on primary care in underserved communities such as the Third Ward or East End, the need for strong communication skills is integral. Medical Spanish is quickly becoming more and more important at the College, with many students expanding on their own native Spanish language skills to provide enhanced care to those in our underserved communities that experience language barriers. Edgard Castillo, MS1, saw the trip to Honduras as “a valuable opportunity to give back to a community in need”.

Morales’ passion is shared by many others at the College. According to her, this trip “definitely reinforced my aspirations in medicine. I have always wanted to help underserved communities, but I will now be expanding that to beyond my own city and state. I look forward to participating in more medical trips in the future!”



The Humana Institute, Household-Centered Care and student organization My Doctor is a Black Woman hosted 3rd - 5th graders from Thompson Elementary and Lockhart Elementary in Third Ward for “Doctor for a Day”. The 30 visiting students donned their lab coats and were able to experience STEM through the lens of medical students, who guided them through lessons on exercise physiology, human anatomy with the Anatomage table, and heart sounds with “Harvey” in CCASEL. The students also learned hands on compressions (CPR) for emergencies. Medical students and elementary students alike were engaged in this educational and fun-filled day.

DOCTOR FOR A DAY

The UH Health Family Care Center at the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine has received \$1.3 million in federal funds to establish new mental health programs for children, adolescents and families in Houston’s under-served communities.

The award, which was distributed by Harris County Public Health, is part of the American Recovery Plan Act, a federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic with money specifically designated for behavioral health.

“COVID affected mental health in all communities,” said David Curtis, practicing clinical psychologist at the Family Care Center and chief behavioral officer for the Fertitta College of Medicine. “But the impact in historically marginalized and underserved neighborhoods like Third Ward, where the University of Houston is, and the East End was much greater. Those communities were much more vulnerable.”

UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER

According to Curtis, one in five children meets the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition, but many never seek treatment due to limited financial resources or other factors. Those who do seek help often only see a primary care physician. The Family Care Center features an innovative, integrated behavioral health model of care that allows for comprehensive primary care without neglecting the mental health needs of patients, since psychologists/psychiatrists work inside the clinic alongside medical doctors.



SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE FAMILY CARE CENTER

- 
Family Medicine
- 
Pediatrics
- 
OBGYN
- 
Psychology
- 
Psychiatry
- 
Limited diagnostic testing & labs

LEADERSHIP

Assistant Vice President & CEO

Neena Arora, M.H.A., M.B.A.

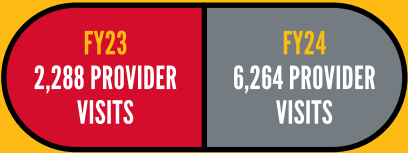
Chief Medical Officer

Diana Grair, M.D.

Chief Behavioral Health Officer

David F. Curtis, Ph.D.

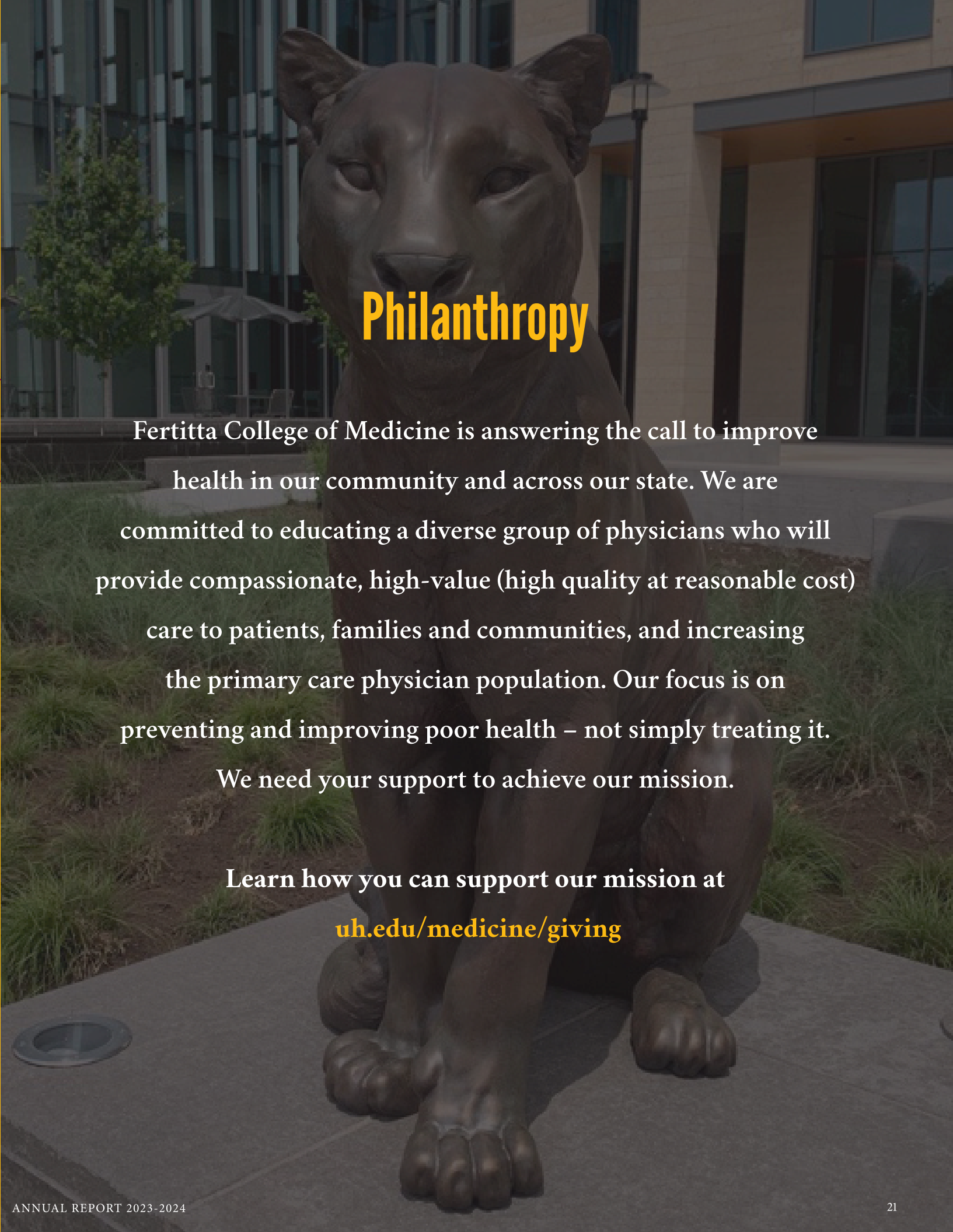
PROVIDER VISITS



174% increase from previous year

PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- 32%
Hispanic or Latino/Spanish
- 27%
Black/African American
- 17%
White, Non-Hispanic
- 6%
Asian
- 1%
American Indian or Alaska Native
- 18%
Patient Declined/Unreported



Philanthropy

Fertitta College of Medicine is answering the call to improve health in our community and across our state. We are committed to educating a diverse group of physicians who will provide compassionate, high-value (high quality at reasonable cost) care to patients, families and communities, and increasing the primary care physician population. Our focus is on preventing and improving poor health – not simply treating it. We need your support to achieve our mission.

Learn how you can support our mission at uh.edu/medicine/giving



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