

FAU to train doctors in five hospitals

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Florida Atlantic University's new Charles . Schmidt College of Medicine signed a deal to train doctors in five Palm Beach County hospitals.

The state university formed a graduate medical education consortium, which it hopes will create 250 to 350 medical residency positions at these hospitals. A residency is required in order for medical school graduates to become board-certified physicians, but there is a shortage of residency slots in Florida.

FAU signed up to work with nonprofits **Bethesda Memorial Hospital** and **Boca Raton Regional Hospital**, along with **Tenet Healthcare Corp.'s Delray Medical Center**, **St. Mary's Medical Center** and **West Boca Medical Center**. FAU's medical students will train under the resident physicians at those hospitals during their third and fourth years at the college.

“About 80 percent of medical residents stay in the community where they train in, so it will be a great benefit to our community for keeping doctors down here,” FAU President [Mary Jane Saunders](#) said.

Currently, **JFK Medical Center** is the only hospital in Palm Beach County with medical residency slots, but this would expand those opportunities for future doctors greatly, Saunders said. Each of the five hospitals will move at its own pace, in terms of establishing the program, and the hospital consortium will select the medical specialties residents train under, she added.