



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Schmidt College of Medicine

Associate Dean for Medical Education Leadership Profile

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Executive Summary

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University invites inquiries, nominations, and applications for the Associate Dean for Medical Education, a key faculty leadership role overseeing undergraduate medical education, including curriculum, assessment, accreditation, and educational innovation.

Florida Atlantic University (Florida Atlantic) is a public research university with ten colleges, 30,000 students, and six campuses spanning more than 100 miles of coastline. The University has seen remarkable growth in its programs and reputation in just the last few years, including doubling research expenditures, enrolling an all-time high number of National Merit Scholars, setting new records for private gifts to the FAU Foundation, increasing graduation and academic progress rates, and raising the profile of Florida Atlantic's athletics program. For the first time in 2026, Florida Atlantic was named a "Top 100 Public University" by *U.S. News & World Report*, rising from No. 103 in last year's ranking of the nation's best universities.

Created to address the state's healthcare needs, the Schmidt College of Medicine is a community-based medical school that admitted its first class of students in 2011. The College includes 175 faculty (103 full-time and 72 part-time), 1,274 affiliate faculty members, 326 medical students, 181 residents and fellows, and 70 graduate students in biomedical science.

Five local hospitals from top healthcare systems in the region, namely Baptist Health and Tenet Health, serve as key partners in undergraduate medical education (UME) and form the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Consortium, which offers residency and fellowship programs. The College is also affiliated with Cleveland Clinic Florida, HCA, and local behavioral health medical centers. The College also has a faculty practice plan, Florida Atlantic Medical Group, and is home to the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience, offering outstanding research and educational opportunities for faculty and students.

The College annually provides approximately 400 students with a variety of educational offerings, including an M.D. program, an M.D./Ph.D. program, M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs in Biomedical Sciences, and graduate certificates.

Reporting to the Vice Dean for Medical Education, the Associate Dean for Medical Education will provide strategic leadership and oversight for the College of Medicine's integrated four-year undergraduate medical education program. This highly visible leader will guide the continued evolution of an innovative, learner-centered curriculum, ensuring seamless integration across the pre-clinical and clinical years while advancing emerging areas of medical education such as health systems science, artificial intelligence, nutrition, and point-of-care ultrasound. The Associate Dean will oversee curriculum quality, assessment, accreditation readiness, and continuous quality improvement efforts; mentor and support course and clerkship directors; and foster collaboration among faculty, academic leaders, and community-based clinical partners.

As a key ambassador for the College, the Associate Dean will cultivate strong relationships with health systems, physician groups, and community stakeholders to expand and sustain high-quality clinical education opportunities in an increasingly competitive environment. The successful candidate will bring the vision, innovation, and relationship-building skills necessary to support the College's long-term growth, enhance educational excellence, and prepare the medical education enterprise for future expansion.

An M.D. or D.O. degree from an accredited institution is required, along with completion of a U.S.-accredited residency program and credentials that merit appointment at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor. Candidates must be board certified or board eligible in their specialty, hold a current U.S. medical license, and be eligible for Florida licensure. Significant leadership experience in undergraduate medical education, curriculum development and innovation, faculty development, and accreditation is required.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.

Role of the Associate Dean for Medical Education

The Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University is seeking an outstanding faculty leader to join its leadership team as the Associate Dean for Medical Education, reporting to the Vice Dean for Medical Education and the Department Chair, as applicable. This position provides strategic leadership, direction, and oversight for the College's undergraduate medical education program, including the integrated four-year curriculum, assessment, educational quality, and accreditation. The Associate Dean is responsible for ensuring compliance with Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) standards and leading continuous quality improvement (CQI) efforts across the medical education continuum. Working closely with course and clerkship directors, faculty, and institutional leaders, this individual will advance curricular integration across the pre-clinical and clinical years, foster educational innovation, support faculty development, and ensure students are prepared to meet the evolving needs of healthcare. The Associate Dean also plays a critical role in developing and sustaining relationships with affiliated hospitals, physician groups, and community partners to expand and enhance clinical learning opportunities while supporting the College's long-term strategic growth and educational mission.

The Associate Dean's direct reports include the following positions:

- Assistant Dean of Pre-Clinical Curriculum
- Assistant Dean of Clinical Curriculum

The primary responsibilities of the Associate Dean for Medical Education include, but are not limited to:

- Provide strategic leadership and vision for the College's Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) program.
- Lead the continued growth and future expansion of the UME program.
- Oversee planning, development, and implementation of the didactic and clinical components of the curriculum and assessment of student performance for the four-year UME program.
- Ensure compliance with requirements for successful continuation of LCME accreditation for the medical education program. Site visit scheduled for February 2028.
- Serve as a key liaison and ambassador for the UME program, representing the College with internal and external constituents.
- Advance the quality, innovation, and reputation of the UME program to support educational excellence and prepare FAU medical students for successful residency training and future practice.
- Oversee all Medical Education budgets, as well as state excellence funds allocated to medical student resources.
- Develop annual UME faculty teaching assignments with the Assistant Deans for Pre-Clinical and Clinical Curriculum, in coordination with Department Chairs.
- Provide data and tracking related to faculty effort and accountability for UME teaching in partnership with the Provost's Office, Dean's Office, and Chairs.

- Develop academic and registrar calendars for the UME curriculum.
- Cultivate and strengthen relationships with health systems, physician practices, and community organizations to ensure access to high-quality clinical learning environments, and identify opportunities for expansion of clinical activities.
- Oversee the Assistant Deans for Pre-Clinical Curriculum and Clinical Curriculum and work closely with all curriculum, course, thread, and clerkship directors.
- Serve as a liaison between the UME program and educational support units, including Information Technology, Educational Technology, the Simulation Center, Anatomy, and related resources.
- Collaborate with the College of Medicine Senior Librarian to ensure effective integration of library resources and services into the medical student educational experience.
- Ensure course information, credits, syllabi, and other course requirements are updated per Provost guidelines.
- Assist with searches, hires, and onboarding of new UME faculty and staff.
- Lead curricular orientation and transition sessions related to the UME program.
- Meet regularly with student curriculum and student council representatives.
- Provide UME reports to the Vice Dean for Medical Education for faculty meetings and other venues at the Vice Dean's or Dean's request.
- Serve as an ex officio member of all Curriculum Committees (e.g., COMCC, CIPEC, Learning Resources, etc.).
- Partner with other Associate and Assistant Deans to oversee Educational Affiliation Agreements for the UME program.
- Work collaboratively with Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, and Directors to oversee contracts for all educational software vendors (HMX, DaVinci, MyEvaluations, UWorld, etc.).
- Oversee curricular thread integration, as well as integration with other initiatives related to the MD curriculum.
- Provide direct supervision, mentorship, and support to assigned faculty and staff.
- Complete annual performance evaluations and support the professional development of assigned faculty and staff.
- Promote, model, and promulgate a culture of respect and collegiality, including transparent leadership decision-making, professionalism, and adherence to the College's policies and values.
- Clinical opportunities are available based on specialty. Maintaining a limited but meaningful clinical portfolio (10–20%) to model professional practice and strengthen integration between clinical and educational missions is preferred.
- Serve in any additional roles as determined by the Vice Dean for Medical Education to further support the Office of Medical Education.

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been identified as priorities for this position in the first 12-24 months:

Provide strategic leadership for the continued evolution and growth of the medical education program

The next Associate Dean will provide vision, direction, and leadership for the College's undergraduate medical education enterprise, advancing educational excellence while supporting the institution's long-term strategic goals. This leader will serve as an ambassador for the College, building relationships with faculty, health system leaders, physician groups, community partners, and other stakeholders to strengthen the College's reputation and expand educational opportunities. The Associate Dean will play an important role in positioning the College for future growth, including planning for expanded enrollment and new educational facilities, while ensuring alignment between the UME program, the communities clinical needs and the broader mission of FAU.



Lead the integration, innovation, and continuous improvement of the undergraduate medical curriculum

Working closely with course directors, clerkship directors, faculty, and educational leaders, the Associate Dean will oversee the design, delivery, and continuous enhancement of the integrated four-year curriculum. A particular priority will be strengthening the connection between foundational science and clinical education to ensure a seamless learner experience across all phases of the curriculum. The Associate Dean will champion educational innovation by thoughtfully integrating emerging topics such as artificial intelligence, health systems science, nutrition, and point-of-care ultrasound, while fostering innovative teaching approaches, including small-group learning, problem-based education, longitudinal clinical experiences, and technology-enhanced learning environments.

Ensure excellence in accreditation, assessment, and continuous quality improvement

The next Associate Dean will lead efforts to maintain full compliance with LCME standards while fostering a culture of continuous quality improvement across the undergraduate medical education program. With the next LCME accreditation review anticipated in approximately two years (February 2028), this individual will play a central role in ensuring the curriculum, assessment processes, student support systems, and educational outcomes align with accreditation expectations. The Associate Dean will oversee curriculum assessment, program evaluation, and outcomes measurement, leveraging data to inform decision-making and enhance educational effectiveness. In partnership with faculty, educational leaders, and institutional stakeholders, this leader will monitor key performance indicators, support accreditation planning and reporting activities, and advance continuous quality improvement initiatives that strengthen both the student experience and the policies, processes, and outcomes that demonstrate a cohesive, compliant, and high-performing educational program.

Expand and strengthen clinical education partnerships throughout the region

As a community-based medical school, the College relies on a diverse network of clinical affiliates and community partners to provide exceptional educational experiences for its learners. The Associate Dean will cultivate and strengthen relationships with hospitals, health systems, physician practices, and community organizations to ensure access to high-quality clinical learning environments. This leader will identify opportunities to expand clinical training capacity, develop innovative approaches to clinical education in a competitive marketplace, and collaborate with institutional and legal partners to support educational affiliation agreements and related partnerships. Success in this area will require strong relationship-building skills and a commitment to representing the College within the broader healthcare community.

Foster faculty engagement, development, and educational leadership

The Associate Dean will support and mentor course directors, clerkship directors, and faculty educators across the undergraduate medical education continuum. Through a collaborative leadership style that values and incorporates the perspectives of faculty and team members, this individual will promote a culture of excellence, accountability, and innovation while ensuring that faculty members have the resources and support needed to succeed as educators. The Associate Dean will collaborate with the Assistant Dean of Faculty Development to advance faculty development initiatives focused on teaching effectiveness, assessment, curriculum design, coaching, and educational scholarship while encouraging recognition and career advancement for faculty committed to medical education leadership.

Advance student success through a learner-centered educational experience

The Associate Dean will play a critical role in ensuring that students receive an exceptional educational experience that prepares them for success in residency and future practice. Through curricular excellence, effective assessment, and continuous quality improvement, the Associate Dean will promote educational environments that support academic achievement, professional identity formation, well-being, and career readiness. This individual will monitor learner outcomes and educational metrics while working collaboratively with faculty and student support leaders to ensure students are fully prepared to thrive in an increasingly complex healthcare environment.

Elevate the College's reputation through innovation, collaboration, and educational excellence

The Associate Dean will have a unique opportunity to position the College as a leader in community-based and innovative medical education. By advancing transformative educational initiatives, strengthening partnerships, promoting faculty scholarship, and contributing to national conversations in medical education, the Associate Dean will help enhance the College's visibility and reputation. The Associate Dean will bring the vision, creativity, and collaborative leadership necessary to guide the next phase of growth and to ensure the College remains at the forefront of undergraduate medical education.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The ideal candidate will have the following professional qualifications and personal characteristics:

- The successful candidate will be an accomplished physician educator with an M.D. or D.O. degree from an accredited institution and completion of an ACGME- or AOA-accredited U.S. residency program. Candidates should bring credentials appropriate for appointment at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor, hold a current U.S. medical license, be eligible for Florida medical licensure, and be board certified or board eligible in their specialty area.
- A minimum of five years of experience in undergraduate medical education is required, with demonstrated success in curriculum development, educational leadership, faculty engagement, learner assessment, and accreditation-related activities.
- Experience overseeing complex medical education programs and advancing institutional priorities. Strong success providing strategic and operational leadership for undergraduate medical education, with responsibility for curriculum, learner experience, accreditation, faculty engagement, and the major issues affecting medical students across the educational continuum.
- Demonstrated experience in LCME accreditation and continuous quality improvement efforts within undergraduate medical education, including expertise in accreditation standards, curriculum assessment, program evaluation, and the development of sustainable processes that support educational excellence and ongoing compliance.
- Sensitive, diplomatic, and highly articulate written and verbal communication skills.
- Demonstrated ability to build and sustain positive working relationships and collaborations with students, staff, faculty, and other internal and external constituencies.
- Knowledge of best practices and current national trends in medical education.

About Florida Atlantic University Schmidt College of Medicine

Overview



The Florida Atlantic University Schmidt College of Medicine has pioneered a bold, cutting-edge approach to medical education through a curriculum that promotes active small-group learning, clinical reasoning, problem-solving, and teamwork to develop humanistic, collaborative, and highly skilled future physicians. The College was established in 2010, becoming North America's 134th allopathic medical school. In 2020, the College of Medicine received continued accreditation status from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education

(LCME) for the maximum available term of eight years. To address the critical shortage of healthcare professionals, over the past two years, the College has increased class size by 25%, accommodating 80 students, and intends to continue this expansion to 100+.

To further FAU's commitment to promote retention of physicians in Florida, the College of Medicine became an accredited sponsor of graduate medical education programs in 2014. Ten residency and fellowship programs comprising 160 accredited positions were launched between 2014 and 2024.

In 2019, the College established Florida Atlantic Medical Group (previously called FAU Medicine), a university-operated primary care facility. Today, Florida Atlantic Medical Group serves as an umbrella for the College's growing clinical practices, which currently include: (1) Florida Atlantic Primary Care, a faculty practice that provides personalized patient care while integrating patient-centered discovery and education; and (2) Integrative Health Practice, a faculty practice supported by the Marcus Foundation to provide integrative health and wellness programming. Additionally, there are two resident-directed primary care practices providing continuity and longitudinal care in community-based settings: Baptist Health Boca Raton Regional Hospital and Bethesda Community Health Center, located at Baptist Health Bethesda Health East. The College also collaborates with Caridad and Mission Medical Center, as well as several service organizations, to expand access to health care and related services for individuals and families in the surrounding community who may otherwise face barriers to obtaining care.

In the 2025–2026 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Medical Schools rankings, the College was Tier 3 in Best Medical Schools: Research, Tier 3 in Best Medical Schools: Primary Care, 20th in Most Graduates Practicing in Health Professional Shortage Areas, and No. 139 in Most Graduates Practicing in Primary Care (tie).

The College's current strategic plan can be found at <http://med.fau.edu/strategicplan/index.php>.

The mission of the Schmidt College of Medicine is to advance the health and well-being of its broader community by training future generations of humanistic clinicians and scientists and translating discovery to patient-centered care.

As an integrated learning organization that fosters high-quality, humanistic, and patient-centered care, the College delivers high-touch, high-tech education to students and residents and collaborates with leading experts in the field on high-impact, interdisciplinary research. The College of Medicine is dedicated to integrating discovery with health care and education to contribute to the vitality of our immediate communities, improve the health and well-being of people and populations, and transform community-based health care.

The Schmidt College of Medicine achieves excellence in advancing patient care, research, and training health care leaders of the future with:

- Courage and Passion
- Integrity and Respect
- Collaboration and Partnership
- Leadership, Dynamism, and Accountability

Strategic priorities that enable college growth include: (i) Providing regional leadership as the primary academic medical institution, (ii) fostering community relationships and healthcare partners, and (iii) creatively seeking resources from a variety of sources and maximizing potential collaborations with Florida Atlantic Colleges and Institutes, as well as local and regional partners.

The College has seven departments: [Biomedical Science](#), [Clinical Neurosciences](#), [Emergency Medicine](#), [Medicine](#), Population Health, [Surgery](#), and [Women's and Children's Health](#). Each department has University-based faculty, as well as affiliate or volunteer faculty, who are based at hospitals and other institutions in the region.

The College offers students a variety of educational degree programs and certificates:

- [M.D. Program](#)
- [M.D./Ph.D. Dual Degree Program](#)
- [M.D./M.B.A. Dual Degree](#)
- [M.D./M.H.A. Dual Degree](#)
- [MS Program in Biomedical Science](#)
- [Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Science](#)
- [Graduate Certificate in Genomics and Predictive Health](#)
- [Bachelor's/M.D. Dual Degree Programs](#)
- [FAU High School M.D. Direct Program](#)

The physicians and scientists at the Schmidt College of Medicine strive to develop innovative approaches to understand, treat, and prevent disease in Palm Beach and Broward counties, the State of Florida, the nation, and throughout the world. Using collaborative and multidisciplinary approaches, the College seeks to understand basic biological mechanisms and population and social medicine factors and cultivate new strategies to combat disease through patient-centered research and discovery. Areas of research emphasis span several active [research programs](#).

Research at the Schmidt College of Medicine is recognized through significant funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Defense (DOD), and other funding agencies. In addition, College of Medicine faculty have leading roles in two university-wide multidisciplinary research institutes, namely [the Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute](#) and the [Institute for Human Health and Disease Intervention](#) (I-Health). Stiles-Nicholson research focuses on the mechanisms that govern brain development, function, and plasticity, which yield insights into major neurological and mental illnesses. I-Health research focuses on human health and dementia, infectious diseases, cancer, and genetics. The College currently has more than 15,000 square feet of dedicated laboratory space and a

wide array of state-of-the-art equipment generously supported by the Schmidt Family Endowment Fund and State University Excellence Funds.

College faculty and students also benefit from affiliations with prestigious local research institutions such as the Max Planck Institute for Neuroscience. These relationships not only further collaborative research at the College but also provide exciting and varied opportunities for students to work with world-class scientists.

GME Consortium

The [FAU Consortium for Graduate Medical Education](#) is a partnership between the Schmidt College of Medicine, Baptist Health Boca Raton Regional Hospital, Baptist Health Bethesda Hospital East, and several hospitals of the Tenet Healthcare system, including the Delray Medical Center, St. Mary's Medical Center, and West Boca Medical Center. With a strong commitment to train the next generation of healthcare providers, the Consortium supports a growing number of graduate medical education programs. The combination of the great diversity of patients in the region and the wide areas of expertise within the Consortium provides a unique richness of opportunity and ensures high-quality medical education and care for the future of South Florida. Current [residencies](#) include Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Psychiatry, and Surgery. [Fellowship](#) programs include Cardiovascular Disease, Geriatric Medicine, Hospice & Palliative Care, Pulmonary Critical Care, and Vascular Surgery.

Office of Medical Education

The Office of Medical Education provides leadership and oversight for the College's integrated, patient-centered undergraduate medical education curriculum across all four years of medical training. The office oversees curriculum planning, implementation, assessment, and continuous quality improvement while supporting faculty, course directors, and clerkship directors in delivering a high-quality educational experience. In addition, it coordinates accreditation efforts and ensures ongoing compliance with LCME standards.

About Florida Atlantic University



Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University offers more than 170 degree programs.

Florida Atlantic is an energetic and fast-growing institution determined to propel itself to the forefront of innovation and scholarship. Florida Atlantic is classified as a "High Research Activity University" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and it is well on its way to reaching its goal of building a \$100 million research enterprise. The University has an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion.

Florida Atlantic's mission is to promote academic and personal development, discovery, and lifelong learning through excellence and innovation in teaching, outstanding research and creative activities, public engagement, and distinctive scientific advancement.

Florida Atlantic aspires to be recognized as a university of first choice for excellent and accessible undergraduate and graduate education, distinguished for the quality of its programs across multiple campuses, emulated for its collaborations with regional partners, and internationally acclaimed for its contributions to creativity and research.

The current strategic plan of Florida Atlantic can be found at <https://www.fau.edu/provost/academic-affairs/strategic-plan.php>.

The largest campus of Florida Atlantic is in Boca Raton, which is halfway between West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale. The majority of the degree programs are offered at the Boca Raton campus, and more than 70 percent of the students take classes there. The campus is also home to Division I athletics programs. Located less than three miles from the Atlantic Ocean and the beautiful beaches of Boca Raton, the campus features everything one would expect from a modern university – suite-style housing for more than 4,500 students, brand-new athletics and recreational facilities, art galleries, theaters, and so much more, all in a vibrant, tropical setting.

The Jupiter Campus currently enrolls 1,500 students and offers groundbreaking research and educational programs. Two of the world's leading research organizations, the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience and the Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for Biomedical Innovation & Technology, are located on the campus and offer high school, undergraduate, and graduate students transformational experiences not found anywhere else in the world. The campus is home to the nationally ranked Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, which provides 510 students with a live-in, all-honors educational experience, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, the largest membership program of its kind in the nation. More than 5,000 students take classes at Davie campus, the second-largest campus. The campus features more than 300,000 square feet of labs, classrooms, offices, and a library. The campus is home to the Florida Center for Environmental Studies, which leads the University's Everglades research and restoration efforts. The northernmost campus is in Fort Pierce, home to the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI). HBOI is dedicated to exploring the world's oceans and integrating the science and technology of the sea with the needs of humankind. As a base of operations for a host of ocean science research programs – such as coral reef and estuary studies, marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation, the Semester By The Sea Program – undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty find HBOI's high-tech facilities and dynamic environment perfect for their academic pursuits in ocean sciences. The Fort Lauderdale campus is in downtown Fort Lauderdale, one of the region's most vibrant downtown areas. The Fort Lauderdale campus provides a "real-life" urban laboratory for students pursuing an accredited architecture degree. The campus is also home to MetroLAB, a collaborative space for community engagement. The Dania Beach campus, Florida Atlantic's southernmost location, is home to the Institute for Ocean and Systems Engineering, also known as SeaTech. This waterfront research and education facility complements the academic programs of the Department of Ocean and Mechanical Engineering, which is home to one of the nation's first ocean engineering programs.

Across six campuses, Florida Atlantic's [distinguished colleges](#) offer [degree programs](#) spanning the arts and humanities, the sciences, medicine, nursing, accounting, business, education, public administration, social work, architecture, engineering, computer science, and more.

- [Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters](#)
- [College of Business](#)
- [College of Social Work and Criminal Justice](#)
- [College of Education](#)
- [College of Engineering and Computer Science](#)
- [Graduate College](#)
- [Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College](#)
- [Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine](#)
- [Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing](#)
- [Charles E. Schmidt College of Science](#)

Institutional Governance

Florida Atlantic is governed by a 13-member board of trustees, six of whom are appointed by the governor, five by the Board of Governors, plus the student body president and the president of the University Faculty Senate. The Florida Senate must confirm the gubernatorial and Board of Governors appointees.

The trustees are responsible for cost-effective policy decisions appropriate to the University's mission, the implementation and maintenance of high-quality education programs, performance assessment, information dissemination, and input on state policy, budgeting, and education standards.

Leadership

Lewis S. Nelson, M.D., M.B.A., Dean and Chief of Health Affairs



Lewis S. Nelson, M.D., M.B.A., is the Dean and Chief of Health Affairs at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine. A nationally recognized leader in academic emergency medicine, medical toxicology, and addiction medicine, Dr. Nelson brings over three decades of experience in medical education, clinical care, and academic leadership to FAU.

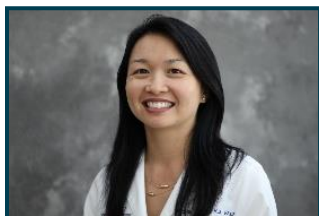
Prior to joining FAU in 2025, Dr. Nelson served as Professor and founding Chair of Emergency Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, where he also held the position of Chief of Service for the Emergency Department at University Hospital of Newark. His leadership drove remarkable growth: expanding the residency program, doubling the faculty size, establishing five fellowship programs, and increasing clinical revenue while maintaining a strong focus on educational excellence and research productivity. He also served as Chief of the Division of Medical Toxicology and Addiction Medicine, developing innovative approaches to the clinical management of poisoning and overdose and addressing complex substance use challenges.

Dr. Nelson has served as President of the Association of Academic Chairs in Emergency Medicine, held positions on the Board of Directors for the American Board of Emergency Medicine, the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, and led the American College of Medical Toxicology as President. His work with numerous professional organizations and governmental agencies has shaped medical education, health policy, and clinical practice nationally.

Looking forward, Dr. Nelson's vision for the Schmidt College of Medicine focuses on three key areas: expanding research capabilities, advancing clinical excellence through strategic partnerships, and fostering innovation in medical education. This vision, coupled with his commitment to collaborative leadership and community engagement, aligns with FAU's mission to improve health outcomes in South Florida and beyond.

A distinguished scholar, Dr. Nelson has authored over 300 peer-reviewed publications and serves as lead editor of Goldfrank's Toxicologic Emergencies, the definitive text in medical toxicology. His research interests span emergency medicine, medical toxicology, and addiction medicine, with particular focus on opioid use and alcohol withdrawal, patient safety, and public health and health policy challenges.

Jennifer Caceres, M.D., F.A.C.P., Vice Dean for Medical Education



Jennifer Caceres, M.D., F.A.C.P., is Vice Dean for Medical Education and Professor of Medicine at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University. Prior to beginning her career in academic medicine, Dr. Caceres developed a successful clinical practice in Palm Beach County. In 2008, she joined the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Regional Campus, where she had an integral leadership role in building the Internal Medicine Residency Program as Associate Program Director and Medical Director for Quality and Patient Safety. Since joining FAU

in 2014, Dr. Caceres has developed and implemented key career advising programs that have supported medical students in successful match outcomes and longitudinal mentoring and coaching programs for professional and personal development for future physicians. She has also designed and developed crucial components of a holistic admissions process, presenting her work nationally. In addition, Dr. Caceres has worked collaboratively with other FAU colleges to develop pathway programs and dual degree programs.

Dr. Caceres is a nationally recognized leader in Medical Student Affairs and continuously advocates for the success of medical students in an evolving landscape. She currently serves on the Association of American Medical Colleges

(AAMC) Committee on Student Affairs, which provides guidance on issues related to student support and services, including career advising, health and well-being of medical students, ethical and professional development of students, academic support and resources, and the preparation of students for the transition from medical school to residency. She has previously served on the AAMC National Group on Student Affairs Steering Committee and was Chair of the AAMC Southern Group on Student Affairs. She also served as the Southern Region Representative for the AAMC National Committee on Student Affairs Medical Student Wellbeing Work Group.

Dr. Caceres' scholarly work has focused on Quality Improvement and Patient Safety. She has been involved in many system innovations and quality improvement initiatives, including the College's Safe Transitions for At-Risk Patients: The STAR Program, which aimed to address potentially preventable hospital readmissions among older adults at high risk for complications during transitions between care settings. She has also developed several educational and curricular innovations in this area, including a longitudinal quality improvement and patient safety curriculum for post-graduate training in internal medicine residency. She has mentored innumerable medical students and residents in scholarly pursuits, including peer-reviewed publications and presentations at regional and national conferences. She has also mentored many faculty and staff in professional development, leadership skills, and scholarly activities. She also participates in community service and engages with the local community in active, healthy lifestyle practices, having served as the founder and director of the Run for the Health of It, a 5K charitable event held in Palm Beach County.



The Community

Boca Raton, Florida



Located in the heart of Palm Beach County, the city of Boca Raton and surrounding areas provide the best of everything—schools, beautiful beaches, pristine surroundings, indoor and outdoor recreation, restaurants, theaters, entertainment, shopping, and much more. Boca Raton also offers a broad selection of residential communities and recreational, cultural, and social activities.. [Click here](#) to discover the very best the Palm Beaches have to offer and the ideal way to experience Florida. To learn more about the vast array of amenities, businesses, programs, and services in the county, visit the [Business Development Board of Palm Beach County](#).

Palm Beach County is nationally recognized for excellence in education and has been an “A” county since 2006. Boca Raton boasts a wide variety of public, private, and charter schools with small class sizes and cutting-edge technology, resulting in an above-average student success rate. In addition to strong academics, Boca Raton schools provide a multitude of extracurricular activities and sports programs. For additional information and reviews on the schools in the Boca Raton area, visit [GreatSchools.org](#).

Procedure for Candidacy

Applications can be submitted through the [WittKieffer Candidate Portal](#). Applicants should submit, as separate documents, a CV or résumé and a letter of interest that addresses the themes outlined in this profile. WittKieffer is assisting Florida Atlantic University in this search.

Please note that candidates must meet the minimum qualifications, including an M.D. or D.O. degree from an accredited institution, with credentials that merit appointment at the rank of associate or full professor.

This search is being led by the WittKieffer team of Megan Welch and Charlotte Harris. Nominations and inquiries may be directed to Charlotte Harris at charris@wittkieffer.com.

Florida Atlantic University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action/equal access institution, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veterans' status, or any other characteristic protected by law.