MIAMI (Nov. 1, 2007) – Florida International University College of Medicine announced today that it signed an operating agreement with Jackson Health System to establish teaching programs for FIU medical students at Jackson North Medical Center.

Jackson North Medical Center is a 382-bed acute care center located near the Golden Glades interchange in North Miami-Dade. The hospital was acquired by the Jackson Health System last year and will become South Florida’s newest teaching hospital, when FIU medical faculty begin providing care there in the coming weeks.

According to the operating agreement signed this week, FIU doctors will help care for uninsured as well as insured patients in a variety of specialties already available at Jackson North. While FIU medical faculty will begin working at Jackson North almost immediately, FIU medical students will begin interacting with patients at that location in 2011, when the inaugural class enters its third year of medical school.

“The nature of our public mission makes this an ideal relationship for us as well as for the Jackson system,” said Dr. John A. Rock, dean of the FIU College of Medicine. “The community will benefit from enhanced and expanded care at Jackson North and our students will benefit from the learning opportunities this relationship will offer.”

“Jackson Health System is looking forward to working with FIU at Jackson North Medical Center. Jackson has a long-standing tradition of providing high-quality academic medicine to the residents of Miami-Dade County and beyond. As part of our new affiliation, FIU will further enhance our commitment to the community, said Marvin O’Quinn, President & CEO, Jackson Health System.
The FIU College of Medicine was approved in 2006 by the Florida Board of Governors and the Florida Legislature. The first class of medical students is expected to be admitted in the fall of 2009, pending provisional accreditation by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education.

Dr. J. Patrick O’Leary, executive associate dean for clinical affairs at the FIU College of Medicine, explained that this new relationship with Jackson North is a central piece of the clinical relationships the college is developing with hospitals throughout South Florida.

“We will have a number of relationships that together will give our students wide exposure to different kinds of patients,” said Dr. O’Leary. “Our goal is to educate well-rounded, culturally-aware doctors and at the same time interact with the local community in a variety of ways.”

Among the innovative elements of the FIU College of Medicine is a program called Medicine and Society, which will send medical students along with their counterparts in social work, nursing and public health, into the community from the onset of their academic programs.

The FIU College of Medicine is expected to have a billion-dollar economic impact on Miami-Dade County, bringing thousands of new jobs to the area while ultimately contributing millions to state coffers every year.

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**About FIU**
Florida International University was founded in 1972 and is Miami’s only public research university. With a student body of more than 38,000, FIU graduates more Hispanics than any other university in the country. Its 21 colleges and schools offer more than 200 bachelors, masters and doctoral programs in fields such as engineering, international relations and law. FIU has been classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a “High Research Activity University.” In 2006 FIU was authorized to establish a medical school, which will open in 2009. FIU’s College of Law recently received accreditation in the fastest time allowed by the American Bar Association.

**About Jackson Health System**
Jackson Health System, an integrated healthcare delivery system, consists of its centerpiece, Jackson Memorial Hospital; 12 primary care centers and two primary care mobile vans; 16 school-based clinics; two long-term care nursing facilities; a network of mental health facilities; Holtz Children’s Hospital, Jackson Rehabilitation Hospital, Jackson North Medical Center and Jackson South Community Hospital. Governed by the Public Health Trust, a dedicated team of citizen volunteers acting on behalf of the Miami-
Dade Board of County Commissioners, Jackson Health System ensures that all residents of Miami-Dade County receive a single high standard of care regardless of their ability to pay.