FIU appoints College of Medicine founding dean
Former chancellor of LSU’s Health Sciences Center boasts impressive research and administrative experience

MIAMI (Nov. 14, 2006)—John A. Rock, M.D., has been appointed founding dean of the Florida International University College of Medicine and executive vice president for medical affairs, university officials announced today.

Former director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Dr. Rock also served as chairman and director of residency training programs in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Emory University School of Medicine. During his tenure at Louisiana State University Health Science, he served as chancellor of the Health Sciences Center and had management oversight of Louisiana’s statewide Charity Hospital System. Rock, who speaks fluent Spanish, most recently held the titles of chancellor emeritus and professor of obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics and public health at LSU.

Rock has almost 30 years of experience in leadership of medical institutions.

“There are some very good administrators out there, but when you find the combination of an excellent administrator, strategist and researcher, you’ve found the perfect founding dean for a new College of Medicine,” said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. “Dr. Rock’s experiences throughout his distinguished career position him perfectly to build a 21st century College of Medicine in a dynamic city such as Miami.”

Rock has vast experience in administration and research. At Emory, for example, Rock boosted the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology’s National Institutes of Health’s ranking from 66th in the nation to 18th; at LSU, he established a School of Public Health and increased the medical school’s research funding by almost 85 percent.
Rock earned his M.D. in 1972 at LSU and did his residency at Duke University’s Medical Center. Recently, he returned to school, earning an M.S. in public health at Harvard University in 2003.

His FIU appointment makes him only the fourth individual since 1980 to guide the growth and development of a new U.S. allopathic medical school.

The FIU College of Medicine, South Florida’s only public medical school, was authorized by the Florida Board of Governors earlier this year. The school will accept its first class in 2008 and begin instruction in 2009.

“Dr. Rock will assemble a faculty, design a curriculum and put together a medical program that produces cutting-edge research and graduates doctors who are sensitive to the needs of our diverse community,” said FIU Acting Provost and Executive Vice President Ronald Berkman.

In addition to his administrative posts, Rock has written 18 books, contributed to 83 others and written more than 200 juried and non-juried articles. He has been included for the last several years in the annual listing of America’s Best Doctors, an independent ranking system that reflects the opinions of 50,000 physicians worldwide.

He has served as a member of the Astronaut Selection Criteria Committee for NASA and participated in the Space Station Medical Standards Consultants Committee.

“In my career I have been fortunate enough to work at prestigious institutions and with great people who have put their trust in me,” said Rock. “But the opportunity to guide the creation of a new program in a city as vibrant as Miami is certainly a challenge, a great honor, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Rock and his wife Martha Rock will join the FIU community in January of 2007. Rock’s curriculum vitae and photo are available at http://news.fiu.edu/releases/2006/attachments/Dr_Rock/dr_rock.htm

Media Contacts:
Maydel Santana-Bravo, 305-348-1555, santanam@fiu.edu
Jose D. Parra, 305-348-2716, parraj@fiu.edu