MIAMI (Nov. 5, 2007) - As the Florida International University College of Medicine continues to build its distinguished faculty, another highly recognized South Florida doctor is joining this prestigious team. Dr. Manuel A. Peñalver will chair the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"It’s a tremendous opportunity," said Dr. Peñalver who recently was named Doctor of the Year by Baptist Hospital Surgical Services for 2007. "I've been in private practice for the last 3 years and I have enjoyed it tremendously. And now I look forward to continue my practice and getting back to academics."

College of Medicine Dean John Rock said that having Dr. Peñalver join the faculty adds to the fantastic mix of professors that will be teaching at the college.

“Dr. Peñalver brings tremendous experience and reputation to the post," said Dean Rock, who has recruited other well-known local doctors such as Pedro Jose Greer and Fernando J. Valverde to leadership positions. In addition, nationally recognized doctors such as Dr. Sanford Markham and member of the National Academy of Science Leigh Simpson have also joined the team at the College of Medicine. The College of Medicine is expected to accept its first class in 2009.

Dr. Peñalver obtained his M.D. from the University of Miami School of Medicine in 1977. After graduation Dr. Peñalver went on to complete Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Training at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center. He
joined the faculty of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Miami Medical School, where he became chairman in 1999.

Dr. Peñalver has received numerous awards for teaching excellence. His work has been published in a long list of peer review journals, textbooks and chapters. He is a member of numerous professional societies and has made countless presentations at local, national and international meetings.

“The challenge of building the Department of OB/GYN is exciting. Very rarely do you get the opportunity to start a department like this from scratch,” said Dr. Peñalver.

“It’s impressive to know that the school will have an incredible impact, not only to our community but also around the world, especially in Latin America,” said Dr. Peñalver.

The first order of business for Dr. Peñalver will be creating a curriculum and recruiting top notch faculty and staff for the Department of OB/GYN.

Dr. Peñalver will continue his private practice at both Baptist and Doctors Hospitals. He is the son of Dr. Rafael Peñalver, former Director of International Medicine at the University of Miami. He is married to Dr. Cristina Lopez-Peñalver and they have two sons.

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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.