FIU College of Medicine and Mount Sinai Medical Center partner to establish new teaching program

MIAMI (Nov. 6, 2007) – The Florida International University College of Medicine announced today that it signed an affiliation agreement with Mount Sinai Medical Center to help train future FIU medical students.

Miami Beach based Mount Sinai, is the largest private not-for-profit teaching hospital in South Florida with 955 beds and established graduate medical education programs that include surgery, internal medicine, pathology, radiology, cardiology, emergency medicine, breast imaging, sleep disorders, anesthesiology, dermatology, infectious disease, gastroenterology, physical and rehabilitation medicine, psychiatry, and thoracic/cardiovascular surgery. As one of only six designated teaching hospitals in the state of Florida, Mount Sinai plays a unique role in enhancing the FIU medical student experience. This partnership brings FIU medical faculty and students together with Mount Sinai physicians, residents and fellows to provide healthcare and education.

“This agreement opens fantastic opportunities for our medical students,” said College of Medicine Dean John Rock. “Mount Sinai is well known and respected, especially for their cardiology and pathology programs, which are key areas to the education of medical students.”

“Mount Sinai has a 55 year tradition of academics and a commitment to undergraduate and graduate medical education,” said Steven D. Sonenreich, Mount Sinai’s president and chief executive officer. “This partnership furthers our mission of developing more highly trained physicians for our community.”

Mount Sinai joins a growing family of clinical partners being put in place by the FIU College of Medicine. Last week, the College of Medicine announced an operating
agreement with Jackson Health Systems, which provides for FIU medical students and faculty to work at Jackson North Medical Center.

“One of our goals is to educate well-rounded, culturally competent doctors,” explains Dr. J. Patrick O’Leary, executive associate dean for clinical affairs at the FIU College of Medicine. “Having a number of partners throughout this diverse, vibrant community will go a long way to helping us achieve that goal.”

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.

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 Mout Sinai
Founded in 1949, Mount Sinai Medical Center is the largest independent, private, not-for-profit teaching hospital in South Florida. Mount Sinai’s Centers of Excellence combine technology, research and academics to provide innovative and comprehensive care in Cardiology, Neurology, Oncology and Orthopedics. The medical center’s commitment to quality has garnered prestigious recognition, including designation as one of America’s Top Hospitals in Geriatrics by U.S. News & World Report.