Excellence in Medical Education and Research

2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR

Jaclyn Railsback, DO, Hashem Azad, DO, Brent Murchie, MD, and Scott Lieberman, MD, Internal Medicine Residents
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Cleveland Clinic Florida’s Excellence in Medical Education and Research is an annual publication of Cleveland Clinic Florida’s Philanthropy Institute. This publication is a summary of Cleveland Clinic Florida’s Graduate Medical Education and Research program during the 2012-2013 Academic Year.
Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe a quarter of a century has gone by since we first opened our doors in Florida. The vision of providing South Floridians with the specialty care of the world-renowned Cleveland Clinic is now a reality and today, 25 years later, Cleveland Clinic Florida is a proud extension of the Cleveland Clinic legacy.

What began as a group practice in Ft. Lauderdale with nine physicians has grown to become an academic medical center with a staff of 230 salaried physicians and more than 2,000 dedicated professionals in Weston and West Palm Beach. Our goal 25 years ago continues to be what it is today—to provide our patients with high quality health care in a comfortable and compassionate environment.

Our laser-like focus on patient care has allowed us to achieve many successes in recent years and I am pleased to share some of our recent accomplishments with you.

*US News & World Report* continues to acknowledge Cleveland Clinic Florida, and last year, we were the highest ranked hospital in Broward. Our gastroenterology program is nationally ranked and our cancer, gynecology, orthopaedic, urology, pulmonary, nephrology and geriatric programs ranked high in regional rankings. In addition, we were recognized in AARP Magazine for the “A” safety rating we received from the Leapfrog Group, a Washington DC based non-profit organization that works for improvements in health care safety, quality and affordability.

Our academic programs continue to grow and we currently have 12 accredited residency and fellowship programs. Last year, we were the first in Broward to begin a five-year general surgery residency program.

I am excited to tell you that we are focusing our energies on making our services more accessible to residents of northern Palm Beach County and this summer we opened a practice in Palm Beach Gardens. The Palm Beach Gardens practice provides neurology and primary care services. We will also open a practice specializing in primary care services in Parkland later this summer.

To meet growing demand for high-quality primary and specialty care services we must also expand our facilities and staff on the Weston campus. To accomplish this, we have embarked on a campaign for Cleveland Clinic Florida, an unprecedented philanthropic initiative that will expand facilities, and allow our hospital and centers to provide patients with the most advanced treatment available.

Our goal as an enterprise is to create one Cleveland Clinic to ensure there is consistency in our programs so that processes, procedures, measures and quality outcomes can be standardized. Alignment with the Cleveland Clinic Health System also allows us to capitalize on the Clinic’s experience and resources and become part of a more fully integrated healthcare delivery system.

This is an exciting time for us and with your help and support we will continue to move in the right direction.

With warm regards,

Bernardo B. Fernandez Jr., MD, MBA, FACP
President
Dear Colleagues and Friends:

To further Cleveland Clinic’s enterprise goal of becoming One Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Clinic Florida is adopting the same model used on main campus, which is the alignment of clinical departments with institutes. This model has been used successfully on the Cleveland Clinic main campus for five years, and it benefits patients by offering standardized care as well as improved outcomes, patient safety and patient experience.

In this same vein, education in Cleveland Clinic Florida and Cleveland will now be aligned, with the expectation that this unified relationship will enhance educational capabilities even further in Florida. I am delighted to announce that the newly formed Center for Education in Florida will be chaired by Dr. Eric Weiss, with considerable help from our many colleagues in Florida who have advanced the educational mission in Florida to its current strong state.

As examples of the existing educational strength already, Cleveland Clinic Florida is home to the largest GME program in Broward County, offering 10 ACGME-accredited programs, 12 programs outside ACGME oversight and one pharmacy residency program, together which serve 135 trainees.

Cleveland Clinic Florida’s residents and fellows exceed their peers with certifying examination passage rates that are the highest in the nation. For example, the Internal Medicine residents recently achieved a 100 percent Board pass rate, the highest in the state of Florida. In 2011, Cleveland Clinic Florida welcomed 18 residents into its new general surgery residency program, after being the first hospital in Broward County to be approved for such a training program.

With regard to dimensions of education beyond GME, Cleveland Clinic Florida has a robust continuing education department. The center, which has been awarded the highest accreditation “with commendation” by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, increased its number of activities by 42 percent from the prior year to meet the growing demand for quality medical education. Courses such as the Internal Medicine Board Review have become beacons in CME in the Southeast.

To round out the educational program in Florida, Cleveland Clinic Florida also offers education programs for international observers, medical students and patients, and houses a full-service library.

Education is a core component of Cleveland Clinic’s mission, and Cleveland Clinic Florida has demonstrated remarkable success in offering quality education to diverse audiences. By aligning our mission of supporting superb education and development, I am hopeful that we will discover additional opportunities for “educating those who serve.”

James Stoller, MD, MS
Chair, Education Institute
Jean Wall Bennett Professor of Medicine
Samson Global Leadership Academy Chair
Eric Weiss, MD, FACS, FASCRS, FACG  
Chairman, Division of Education  
Designated Institution Official (DIO) and  
Chairman of Graduate Medical Education

Part of Cleveland Clinic Florida’s mission is to provide “compassionate healthcare of the highest quality in a setting of education and research.” As the foremost graduate medical education institution in Broward County, Cleveland Clinic Florida supports this mission and much more.

Cleveland Clinic Florida is the only ACGME-accredited sponsoring institution for graduate medical education programs in our county, providing 10 training programs that are fully ACGME-accredited and several other programs that are accredited by this or other agencies. Cleveland Clinic Florida is the largest provider of resident and fellow education in the area, and our programs are of the highest caliber, attracting top candidates and often achieving national prominence according to a variety of metrics that are used to assess the quality of academic programs.

One may ask, “Why train residents and fellows?” There are numerous reasons, but since the inception of Cleveland Clinic in 1921, one of our primary missions has been to “teach those who serve.” By offering graduate medical education programs that are of the same caliber as the world-class patient care we deliver, as well as by continuing to engage staff and maintain a high volume and level of research, we truly are able to put patients first. Residents and fellows are thirsty for knowledge, often challenging staff physicians to think in new and different ways, pushing the envelope toward innovation and helping us to improve patient care.

Having residents, fellows and medical students seeing patients together in an environment of inquisitive learning and interested and engaged caregivers provides an opportunity for patients to spend more time with physicians. This creates a different care pathway from that of a community hospital, in which patients might instead be seeing nurses and physician extenders. Our ability to continually attract a wider array of student learners and physicians differentiates Cleveland Clinic Florida from other hospitals in our region and is one of the ways in which we indeed provide world-class care.

682 Annual Medical and Surgical Trainees  
136 observers  
358 medical students  
53 summer students  
38 research fellows  
63 residents  
18 fellows  
14 clinical fellows  
2 pharmacy residents
Cleveland Clinic Florida’s academic programs have had residents receive awards for presentations at meetings, being recognized as the “best of the best” competing both statewide and nationally for some awards. This year, Marlow Hernandez, MD, won 1st Prize at the Florida ACP Research Division in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Also, Ravindra Ramakrishna won Best Case Report in Cancer Cases at the Chest Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

These accolades are due to the commitment and hard work of all of those involved in graduate medical education. As Cleveland Clinic Florida moves into the next accreditation system the mission is to continually improve the educational programs and impress upon the residents and fellows the will to be more than clinical physicians but to be researchers, leaders and role models.

As part of this mission, Cleveland Clinic Florida established Research Week. This is a time for residents and fellows to display their hard work through posters and oral presentations of their finalized research studies. Each year awards are given to the best podium presenters and poster presentations in the categories of medicine and surgery. Additionally, the 3rd year internal medicine residents are awarded separately for their research studies.

This year the winners were as follows:

**Joseph Freedman, MD**, Cardiology Fellow won 1st place for his medicine podium presentation. He found that blood pool contrast agents may improve the image quality and confidence in accuracy of diagnostic coronary studies in particular cases.

**Ashley Tapscott, DO**, Male and Female Sexual Dysfunction, Male Infertility and Prosthetics Fellow won 1st place in both the surgical podium and poster presentations. In her podium presentation she demonstrated that there was a significant reduction in pain scores in the 72 hour postoperative period of penoscrotal procedures when a medication called Exparel® was injected intraoperatively.

**Carlo Cajna, MD**, Clinical Anesthesia Research Fellow was awarded 1st place for his medicine poster. He found that the use of quantitative assessments of neuromuscular function may minimize complications in high risk populations, such as the morbidly obese, as well as determine dosing intervals of muscle relaxants.
### Current Active Research Projects as of April 2013

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<th>Department</th>
<th>Projects</th>
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<td>Anesthesiology</td>
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<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<td>Vascular Medicine</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Device Exemption (HDE)</td>
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“Many Nobel Prizes are awaiting good research to understand and explain the many mysteries of our bodies, such as the basic mechanism of memory or imagination.”

——— John Cameron
Internal Medicine Residency Program

Jose Muñiz, MD, MACP, Program Director
Nemer Dabage-Forzoli, MD, Associate Program Director
Darby Sider, MD, FAAP, Associate Program Director

Cleveland Clinic Florida’s Internal Medicine Residency Program, established in 1996, educates 30 residents and hundreds of medical students. The program has achieved great academic success while boasting excellent outcomes including a consistent 100 percent pass rate by our graduates on the American Board of Internal Medicine certifying examination over the past three years.

In 2012, our residents once again scored in the 99th percentile for the third consecutive year on the Internal Medicine in-training examination, and were one of top two scoring programs among the 400 internal medicine programs in the country. For this achievement, our program again received a special accolade from the Florida chapter of the American College of Physicians.

Our residents remain highly involved in research and on an annual basis produce multiple publications and presentations at local, regional and national meetings. This past year, two of our residents were recognized for their research by the Florida and national chapters of the American College of Physicians.

Successfully continuing their education and securing advanced fellowship training has been a further notable accomplishment. The internal medicine residents obtained fellowship positions in highly regarded institutions across the country in competitive fields such as cardiology, pulmonary/critical care, endocrinology and rheumatology. In fact, two of our graduates will pursue their fellowship training at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio.
A most noteworthy accomplishment by our very own leader, mentor, friend and Program Director, Jose Muñiz, MD, was named a Master of the American College of Physicians (ACP). As stated on the ACP website: Masters shall be Fellows who have been selected because of “personal character, positions of honor, contributions towards furthering the purposes of the ACP, eminence in practice or in medical research, or other attainments in science or in the art of medicine.” Masters must be highly accomplished individuals. The Master must be distinguished by the excellence and significance of his or her contributions to the field of medicine. This past year, only 50 distinguished physicians were selected for this prestigious national award.

Evidence of our program’s success is in its excellent standing with the residency accreditation organization, the ACGME. Our next formal review will be in 2020, but we will perform annual self-reviews to assure that we maintain our high standards.

Our continuing goal for the Internal Medicine Residency program is to expand in order to keep providing world-class healthcare and educating future generations of physicians. Because traditional government funding sources are scarce, we depend on our generous philanthropic supporters, to whom we are very grateful. We will continue to strive toward fulfilling our benefactors’ expectations in providing the best possible education to our next generation of outstanding physicians.
An interview with Frederick Scott Ross, MD
Chief Resident, Internal Medicine

Frederick Scott Ross, MD, and Dennys Reyes, MD, Neurology Resident

Why did you choose to attend the program at Cleveland Clinic Florida?
Going through medical school I had the opportunity to do my core rotation as a third-year medical student at Cleveland Clinic Florida, and through that experience I received first-hand knowledge about teaching, residency and patient care. I realized how invested Dr. Muñiz and the other staff physicians were in the program. As a result Cleveland Clinic Florida was my top choice for my residency. There has not been a single day during training that I have ever second-guessed or regretted my decision.

What is the one thing you will take away from this program and/or Cleveland Clinic’s culture that will set you apart where ever you go next?
I think I will walk away from my Cleveland Clinic Florida residency with a new found passion for teaching new residents so that together we can educate and communicate with our patients in a manner that improves their outcomes.

Can you share an experience you had with a patient that was surprising or inspiring to you?
Early in my residency, I had a young female patient, a mother of two and a recent immigrant to the United States with a very aggressive disease. Although the outcome was, unfortunately, tragic, the experience was inspiring to me. I witnessed how we all came together as a healthcare team, doctors, nurses, case manager, etc. We were not only treating the patient in our bed, but her entire family. It was Thanksgiving and we all knew the patient’s family needed a turkey for their Thanksgiving dinner.

Every year Cleveland Clinic Florida provides caregivers with turkeys for Thanksgiving. This year, the healthcare team donated their turkeys to this patient’s family. This was the first time I realized that Cleveland Clinic Florida is more than a hospital. It is a caregiver to our community. I have seen this same level of giving time and time again.

Where are you going next year?
I am staying on staff here as an internal medicine hospitalist. I am excited about the challenges that lie ahead as the healthcare industry redefines itself with changing governmental legislation and patient expectations. My initial intent was to train for three years and then go home to South Carolina with my wife and six children, but this place is so inspiring, and I see so much that can be done in the future that my family and I are staying here.

“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life” is a famous Confucius quote, and it is true. I am very fortunate to do what I do. I love to come to work every single day!
Cardiology Fellowship Program
Craig Asher, MD, Program Director
Gian Novaro, MD, MS, FACC, Associate Program Director

The Cardiology Fellowship, now in its ninth year, has produced successful graduates who have achieved high board pass rates, obtained advanced training in top-tier programs throughout the country, (including Cleveland Clinic in Ohio), and become preferred candidates for job placement. One of our graduates was hired by Cleveland Clinic Florida.

The Robert and Suzanne Tomsich Department of Cardiology has experienced significant growth in the past few years. Currently, there are 14 cardiologists at Cleveland Clinic Florida, including new department Chair, Andrew Boyle, MD, a widely recognized national expert in the field of congestive heart failure. Dr. Boyle is leading efforts to initiate the cardiac transplant center in Weston.

A recent advancement in the program was receiving approval for using cardiac transplantation/advanced ventricular support devices.

Research Highlights
• Roy Chung, MD, coauthor (manuscript) “Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator FDA safety advisories: impact on patient mortality and morbidity” Heart Rhythm 2012; 10:1619-26
• Cesar Bonilla, MD, coauthor (book chapter); “Cardiac Physical Diagnosis”; The Cleveland Clinic Cardiology Board Review, 2nd Edition, 2012
• Joseph Freedman, MD, coauthor (abstract) “Evaluation and improvement of SPECT appropriateness criteria with clinical outcomes.” American College of Cardiology 2013 poster presentation
• Joseph Freedman, MD, coauthor (abstract)”Magnetic resonance imaging of the coronary arteries” Radiology Society 2012
MEDICINE TRAINING (continued)

Gastroenterology Fellowship Program
Fernando Castro-Pavia, MD, Program Director
Ronnie Pimintel, MD, FACP, FACP, FASGE, Associate Program Director

This three-year Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education program in gastroenterology provides extensive training to qualified applicants who have successfully completed their training in internal medicine. The program goals are:

• To meet the training guidelines of the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy in all basic endoscopic procedures
• To provide the skills necessary to understand, diagnose and treat a wide range of gastrointestinal and liver disorders
• To develop teaching abilities
• To provide a meaningful and stimulating clinical research experience.

Under the careful supervision of a mentor, fellows are expected to design and implement a research study.

Areas of Research
• Facilitating the process and improving the yield of screening colonoscopy
• Pancreas function
• Esophageal motility

Program Highlights
The program will grow with the addition of two more faculty members for a total of 10 gastroenterologists and has begun liver transplants services with our surgical colleagues.

“We are proud to be associated with this world class institution and are thankful for their good care. We will continue to do our small part towards their continued success.”

—Victor and Rita Bertrand, Benefactors
Pulmonary Fellowship Program
Laurence A. Smolley, MD, Program Director
Anas Hadeh, MD, FCCP, Associate Program Director

The Pulmonary Medicine Fellowship Program strives to provide an outstanding educational experience in an environment that assures a balance between academic pursuits and clinical activities, including research. During their two years of training, Fellows are exposed to various disciplines of pulmonary medicine with strong subspecialty training in pulmonary hypertension, interventional pulmonology, thoracic oncology, interstitial lung disease, bronchiectasis and sleep medicine. Fellows receive a deep and broad experience in dealing with both common and rare, very challenging problems experienced by patients, including the full gamut of pulmonary disease, critical illness and sleep disorders.

The Department of Pulmonary Disease has nine staff members who are experienced educators with years of expertise in, and commitment to, teaching in this program. The diversity of clinical material is enhanced by our collaboration with other departments, such as Cardiothoracic Surgery, Radiology, ENT, Allergy & Immunology and Pathology. In addition to staff teaching, centering on patient care interactions, the program includes comprehensive didactic conferences.

Recent Advancements in Pulmonary Medicine
• New and effective medications for the treatment of pulmonary hypertension help alleviate shortness of breath and improve patients’ quality of life.
• In the field of interventional pulmonology, leading-edge treatments provide relief of bronchial obstruction caused by cancer or bronchospasm caused by asthma. New and minimally invasive diagnostic techniques performed through the bronchoscope help in diagnosing and staging lung cancer, as well as in diagnosing various other lung diseases.
• In sleep medicine, new and more economical treatments are available for patients with obstructive sleep apnea.

Areas of Research
• Pulmonary hypertension
• Interventional pulmonology
• Sleep disorders medicine
• Non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis
MEDICINE TRAINING (continued)

Nephrology Fellowship Program

Mauro Braun, MD, FASN, Program Director
Rute Paixo, MD, Associate Program Director

The Nephrology Fellowship program is focused on clinical training and close interaction with attending nephrologists at Cleveland Clinic Florida. During their first year Fellows rotate through consulting nephrology services, inpatient and outpatient dialysis services, and ambulatory nephrology clinics. They also are introduced to renal pathology, community nephrology (private practice experience) and interventional radiology, with training in central line placements and renal biopsies (native and transplanted kidneys). During the second year rotations include transplant services at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio and elective subjects (for example, pediatric nephrology). Fellows also participate in six months of nephrology research and attend weekly didactic conferences, as well as journal clubs, pathology conferences, and morbidity and mortality (peer review) conferences.

Fellow Accolades

• Presented two studies at the National Kidney Foundation Spring Meeting in Orlando, Fla., in April 2013
• Presented two studies at the World Congress of Nephrology in Hong Kong in June 2013
• Several publications in peer review journals in the last year
• 100 percent pass rate achieved in the Nephrology Board Certification
• Approximately 200 physicians applied for a single opening in our program in the past two years
Adult Neurology Residency Program

Efrain D. Salgado, MD, Program Director

The Adult Neurology Residency Program is a three-year program designed to train the most highly qualified neurologists of the next generation. The rigorous curriculum is designed to cover the breadth and depth of neurological knowledge and to instill the professional attitudes and skills that a graduate of the program will need to provide evidence-based, compassionate care to a population increasingly coping with the consequences of a wide variety of neurological diseases. These include but are not limited to headache, stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig’s disease) and peripheral neuropathy.

The program is relatively young with a total of 24 alumni. Approximately 85 percent of our graduates embark on further subspecialty training, while 15 percent enter private practice. We are proud to have sparked diverse interests among our graduates, leading to postgraduate training in such fields as cerebrovascular disease, interventional neuroradiology, movement disorders, pain management, epilepsy, neuro-ophthalmology, neuro-oncology, multiple sclerosis, clinical neurophysiology and sleep medicine. We also contributed our first graduate to the budding neurohospitalist movement.

**Resident Achievements**
- 100 percent board passage
- 90th percentile composite score in the most recent yearly Resident In Training Examination (RITE), as compared with other programs in the country
- First-choice fellowship programs by this year’s graduating residents, Raghav Govindarajan, MD, in neuromuscular diseases at Washington University, St. Louis, and Camilo Garcia, MD, in epilepsy at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio
- Gold Plus Award for the Get With the Guidelines American Heart/American Stroke Association program for the quality of care provided to our stroke patients

**Areas of Research**
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Movement disorders
- Neuromuscular disease

**Program Highlights**
- Peer-reviewed selection for presentation of 10 research projects at the most recent annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology, with two projects meriting presentation at special discussion sessions and two others meriting recognition in this year’s meeting highlights session
- Continuing accreditation status granted for four more years by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) because of the high quality of our program, which has translated into a 10-year cycle under the New Accreditation System
MEDICINE TRAINING (continued)

Electrodiagnostic Medicine Fellowship Program

Virgilio D. Salanga, MD, MS, FAAN, Program Director,
The John & Margaret A. Krupa, Chair in Neurology

In 2001 the John and Margaret Krupa Chair in Neurology was established at Cleveland Clinic Florida with Virgilio D. Salanga, MD, as the first chair holder. The Krupa Chair supports clinical patient care, clinical research, and teaching of residents and fellows, including the Electrodiagnostic Medicine Fellowship Program.

Fellow Accolades

Between 2001 and 2012 eight fellows completed electrodiagnostic medicine training:

• Four were Cleveland Clinic Florida neurology residency graduates. The first is now in private practice in Sunrise, and the second is on staff at Cleveland Clinic Florida – Palm Beach Gardens. The third graduate is in private practice in Pembroke Pines, and the fourth is in a neuromuscular medicine fellowship at Pennsylvania State University and will return as a staff member at Cleveland Clinic Florida-Palm Beach Gardens after completing the fellowship.

• Two University of Miami neurology residency graduates are now in private practice in Palm Beach and Orlando.

• Two neurologists, already in private practice, suspended their practices to obtain additional training and then resumed their practices in Boca Raton and Tampa.

A 2012-2013 fellow joined the staff of Cleveland Clinic Florida-Palm Beach Gardens after graduation.

A 2013-2014 future fellow currently is Chief Neurology Resident at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Our fellows have generated multiple publications and presentations to national and international meetings.
Movement Disorders Fellowship and The Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Foundation, Inc. Neurology Research Fellow Programs

Néstor Gálvez-Jiménez, MD, MSc, MHSA, FACP, Program Director,
Pauline M Braathen, Endowed Chair in Movement Disorders and Parkinson's Disease
Tarannum Khan, MD, Associate Program Director
Ramon Lugo, MD, Associate Program Director

The Movement Disorders Fellowship has two tracks, a clinical fellowship and a research fellowship, where applicants receive training in all aspects of movement disorders, including Parkinson’s disease and related Parkinsonian disorders, tremor, chorea, myoclonus, tics and Tourette’s syndrome, dystonia and many other lesser known conditions such as restless legs syndrome, akathisia and others. In addition, applicants are exposed to the treatment and diagnosis of neurodegenerative conditions such as Huntington’s disease, Corticobasal Syndrome and others. The Mangurian Neurology Research Fellow performs/supervises the clinical neuropharmacology and other studies including patients who had deep brain stimulation surgery and procedures such as botulinum toxin therapy. In addition to clinical study, the research fellow participates in the preparation of manuscripts and protocols within the Movement Disorders Program and Department of Neurology.

Areas of Research
- Deep Brain Stimulation surgery
- Neuropharmacology/neuroprotective therapies
- Presymptomatic treatment

Research/Program Highlights
- First in South Florida to perform Deep Brain Stimulation surgery (1997)
- Publication Books: Scientific Basis for the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease. Néstor Gálvez-Jiménez, MD, editor

Most fellows have become experts in the field. Many have remained with Cleveland Clinic.
The Mangurian Foundation Boosts Neurological Research at Cleveland Clinic Florida

The late Harry Mangurian Jr. of Fort Lauderdale was a World War II veteran, real estate developer, thoroughbred breeder and former owner of the Boston Celtics. He was also an empathetic philanthropist, and his legacy continues today four years after his passing. Cleveland Clinic is grateful to be a recipient of the Foundation’s philanthropic support, which will enhance the neurological research being conducted at Cleveland Clinic Florida.

According to Foundation trustee Gordon Latz, “Clinic physician Dr. Salanga was responsible for diagnosing a rare illness in Mrs. Dottie Mangurian after many mis-diagnoses. We have been impressed and grateful for the compassionate care Dottie has received for many years from Dr. Salanga, the Neurology team and especially Dr. Néstor Gálvez-Jiménez.”

In July the Foundation committed $340,000 to support a neurological research fellow at Cleveland Clinic Florida for the next four years. The Neurological research fellow will provide support for nine staff physicians on research of patients with disorders of the basal ganglia and associated structures, in addition to the spinal cord, peripheral nerves and muscles. The fellow will study the areas of Parkinson disease, Parkinsonism, Chorea, Ballism, Lewy body dementia, Tremor, Tics, Ataxias, and other motor disorders. According to Department Chairman, Néstor Gálvez-Jiménez, MD, “a full-time research fellow will be an important addition to the program and enhance research studies being conducted. Our entire department is thankful for the Foundation’s philanthropic support which will benefit current and future patients here, and throughout the world.”

Kateryna Kurako, MD, Mangurian Neurology Research Fellow
General Surgery Residency
*Raul Rosenthal, MD, FACS, FASMBS, Program Director*
*Mark K. Grove, MD, FACS, Associate Program Director*
*Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD, Associate Program Director*

Cleveland Clinic Florida started its newest residency program in General Surgery this past year. The program has provided an excellent teaching environment for trainees and positively affected the surgical care of patients. All available residency positions were filled (18 residents) because of the efforts of program leadership, including Diana Nino (Program Coordinator), Raul Rosenthal, MD (Program Director), Mark Grove, MD (Associate Program Director), Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD (Associate Program Director) and Gary Birken, MD (Site Director, Memorial Healthcare System). During the 2013-14 academic year, the program will grow to 21 residents. The residents have had the opportunity to rotate through Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, as well as Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Fla., and Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital in Hollywood, Fla., our partners in this integrated program.

“Surgeons must be very careful
When they take the knife!
Underneath their fine incisions
Stirs the Culprit – Life!”

—Emily Dickinson
An interview with Fernando Safdie, MD, General Surgery Resident

Tell us about your journey to Cleveland Clinic Florida –
I was born and raised in Argentina. When I finished medical school, I decided to go to America to train and practice. I knew that becoming a surgeon in the United States would not be an easy task because this is a very competitive field. Nonetheless, after finishing one year of premed and seven years of medical school, I moved to Los Angeles. While going through a recertification process that took almost two-and-a-half years, I worked as a research associate at Davis School of Gerontology and Norris Cancer Center at the University of Southern California. I then applied for a surgery residency and received a position at Mt. Sinai in Miami. I had the opportunity after two years at Mt. Sinai to apply for a position in Cleveland Clinic Florida’s new general surgery program and was accepted.

This was Cleveland Clinic Florida’s first year to offer a general surgery residency program. Why did you choose this one?
Cleveland Clinic is synonymous with excellence in medical care and education. This institution is particularly known for practicing the highest-level surgical techniques in leading-edge operating rooms. The staff physicians here are known worldwide, well-published and respected as surgeons. Also, having the opportunity to learn from Drs. Raul Rosenthal (General Surgery Program Director), Steven Wexner, (Advanced Colorectal Surgery Program Director and Chair of the Department of Colorectal Surgery) and Eric Weiss (Chairman of Graduate Medical Education), to name a few, is a unique opportunity that I would not like to miss.

Is there something special about the program that you have experienced this year?
One thing I appreciate very much is that our attending physicians respect us and give us a voice. We are helping to mold and create this program, and this is a great experience. They are great role models both inside and outside of the operating room. It is truly an honor to be working with them.

What patient experience has been most memorable?
When you operate on a patient, you see the person throughout the hospital stay and hopefully through full recovery. I remember one patient who had suffered multiple, post-operative complications from a major surgery and was hospitalized for a longer period than expected. He faced this difficult period with optimism. He was always grateful and very positive about getting better. His attitude was a daily inspiration, and I would always try to spend extra time with him in our morning rounds.

What are your future plans?
After my surgery residency, I will do a fellowship. A fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery has always been a consideration. However, this program has shown me that there are other fellowship programs to consider, so I am trying to make my final decision as to what specialty to pursue.

Becoming a surgeon is a very challenging, yet rewarding experience. When I am asked if I enjoy what I do and if I would do it all over again, I say, “absolutely.” I am very passionate about medicine and I do not consider this a job but rather my profession. I am grateful for the opportunity of being here and to my wife and my daughter who are my inspiration.
Colorectal Surgery Program

Steven D. Wexner, MD, FACS, FRCS, FRCSEd, Advanced Minimally Invasive Colorectal Surgery Fellowship Program Director

David Maron, MD, MBA, FACS, FASCRS, Colorectal Surgery Residency Program Director

Eric Weiss, MD, FACS, FASCRS, FACG, Colorectal Surgery Residency Associate Program Director

Cleveland Clinic Florida’s Department of Colorectal Surgery is a very busy clinical and research-oriented department in which patients with a broad spectrum of colorectal pathology are treated. A one-year comprehensive clinical colorectal residency offered by our department includes training in all aspects of treating diseases of the colon and rectum, including laparoscopy, robotic surgery, transanal endoscopic microsurgery, and medical and surgical treatment of fecal incontinence. A one-year advanced fellowship in minimally invasive colorectal surgery is also offered. This fellowship focuses on advanced colorectal surgery, particularly reoperative surgery, as well as complex advanced inflammatory bowel disease and rectal cancer. Operations such as the artificial bowel sphincter, graciloplasty for treating intractable fecal incontinence, sacral nerve stimulation and other newer technologies and techniques are emphasized. In addition to working with faculty at Cleveland Clinic Florida, the residents spend two weeks at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. The departments of both locations host the annual Jagelman/Turnbull International Colorectal Disease Symposium, in which world-renowned leaders in the field of colorectal surgery present. Graduates of our residency programs have gone on to successful careers at numerous academic medical centers throughout the country and abroad (including several chairs of colorectal surgery), as well as in semi-academic and private practices.
Colorectal Surgery Residency Program (continued)

Areas of Research
• Sphincter preservation in patients with rectal cancer
• Treatment of fecal incontinence
• Minimally invasive treatment of diseases of the colon and rectum

Research Highlights
• Second-place award for original research in the Clinical Surgery category at the 24th Annual Fellow, Resident, and Medical Student Surgical Research Forum of the South Florida Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, May 2013 (Noam Shussman, MD)

Futures of the Graduates
• Julie Van Koughnett, MD – Advanced Colorectal Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, Cleveland Clinic Florida, Weston, Fla.
• Rahul Narang, MD – Advanced Colorectal Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, Cleveland Clinic Florida, Weston, Fla.
• Hayder Al-Azzawi, MD – Colorectal Surgeon, Good Samaritan Hospital, West Palm Beach, Fla.
• Lisa Haubert, MD – actively seeking an academic colorectal surgery position in Houston
• Melissa Alvarez-Downing, MD – Colorectal Surgeon, St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Medical Center, New York
• Noam Shussman, MD – Colorectal Surgery Residency, Cleveland Clinic Florida, Weston, Fla.
Minimally Invasive Surgery & Bariatric Fellowship Program

Raul J. Rosenthal, MD, FACS, FASMBS, Program Director

Since 1999, when the MIS/Bariatric Fellowship program was established, Cleveland Clinic Florida has trained more than 50 clinical and 60 research fellows.

Research fellows, who come here from Europe, Asian Pacific and Latin American countries, have contributed more than 300 abstracts, posters and educational video presentations and are conducting innovative research.

Recent Advancements in Minimally Invasive Surgery

• Proximal gastrectomy for chronic staple line disruptions in bariatric surgery patients
• Closure of diaphragmatic hernias
• Treatment of gastroparesis

Fellow Accolades

• Presentations at American College of Surgeons, Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery annual clinical conferences
• 2nd best clinical and research presentations of the South Florida Chapter of American College of Surgeons

Areas of Research

• Fluorescent imaging
• Ghrelin cell of the stomach and obesity
• Surgical education

Fellowship positions
4

Years to complete program
1

2013 Graduates
4

Clinical research fellowship positions
9

Mayank Roy, MD, General Surgery Resident, Raul Rosenthal, MD, FACS, FASMBS, Sandy Perrins, MD General Surgery Resident, Julie Kilgore, MD, MIS Fellow, Juliana Mazo, scrub nurse

Raul J. Rosenthal, MD, FACS, FASMBS
Adult Reconstructive Surgery Clinical Fellowship and Orthopaedic Research Fellowship Programs
Preetesh Patel, MD, FAAOS, and Juan Suarez, MD, FAAOS, Program Directors

The Adult Reconstructive Surgery Clinical Fellowship and Orthopaedic Research Fellowship Programs continue to be very successful. We are involved in 19 clinical research studies that were presented at national meetings and for Cleveland Clinic Florida research day. The studies also were submitted to peer-reviewed publications. These and other academic achievements are largely due to philanthropic support.

Recent Advancements in Total Joint Replacement
• The direct anterior approach (DAA) has become popular for total hip arthroplasty (THA) in recent years. This approach has shown decreased soft-tissue trauma, early recovery of hip function and gait mechanics, decreased postoperative dislocation rates and promising short-term outcomes compared with more traditional approaches.
• Custom-fit knees with Shape-Match® technology allow the surgeon to size and fit patients’ implants based on individual anatomy.
• A transcollation technology device helps reduce blood loss, transfusion rate and hospital stay.
Areas of Research
- Direct anterior total hip arthroplasty
- Total knee arthroplasty
- Blood loss in total joint replacement
- Hip and knee arthroscopy
- Anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction
- Reverse total shoulder arthroplasty and rotator cuff repairs

Research Highlights
Randomized, controlled trials evaluating:
- The use of drain vs. non-drain in the DAA total hip replacement
- The ability of a thrombin-based hemostatic agent to decrease blood loss in total knee replacements
- The ability of a bipolar sealer to decrease blood loss in the DAA total hip replacement

Cleveland Clinic Florida has become a leader in the DAA THA through the expertise of Dr. Patel and Dr. Suarez.
Male and Female Sexual Dysfunction, Male Infertility and Prosthetics Fellowship Program

Lawrence S. Hakim, MD, FACS, Program Director

The Department of Urology at Cleveland Clinic Florida, within the Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, offers fellowship training in male and female sexual dysfunction, male infertility and prosthetics. The educational program is focused on the areas of male and female sexual medicine and surgery, hypogonadism, andrology, Peyronie’s disease, male-factor infertility, post-prostatectomy penile restoration and rehabilitation, minimally invasive BPH surgery, male incontinence and advanced urologic prosthetics. Our fellows develop clinical expertise in the anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and diagnostic evaluation of sexual dysfunction, including hemodynamic testing, as well as care of patients with vasculogenic, neurogenic and endocrinologic erectile dysfunction and Peyronie’s. Fellows gain considerable experience in the diagnostic evaluation and treatment of male voiding problems, including BPH and urinary incontinence, and using advanced minimally invasive therapies including laser surgery, urethral sling surgery and advanced artificial urinary sphincter prosthetic devices.

Other important areas of study are male factor infertility (MFI) and reproductive medicine and surgery. The fellows develop expertise in the pathophysiology and diagnostic evaluation of MFI, as well as extensive clinical experience with a special emphasis on microsurgery. Our program is involved in clinical trials and outcomes research studies that allow fellows the opportunity to publish in peer-reviewed journals and present their research at large national and international meetings.

“The only mistake you can make is not asking for help.”

—Sandeep Jauhar
Fellow Acclades

- Fellow won first prize at Cleveland Clinic Florida Research Week for her podium and poster presentation
- National recognition for presentation of multiple related urologic research projects at the Annual American Urological Association meeting in San Diego 2013
- Multiple published abstracts in the Journal of Urology 2013
- Book publication, Urologic Clinics of North America, 2013, chapter co-author

Recent Progress

- Surgical advances in penile prosthesis devices and ectopic reservoir placement
- Innovative therapy for Peyronie’s Disease
- New therapeutic alternatives for the hypogonadal male
- First published use of a novel treatment for postoperative pain management in penoscrotal urologic surgery

Areas of Research

- Medical management of Peyronie’s Disease
- Innovative therapeutics to improve postoperative comfort and decrease pain
- Advanced surgical experience with ectopic penile prosthesis reservoir placement
- Post-prostatectomy penile restoration and rehabilitation of sexual function and continence
Fellowship positions
2

Years to complete program
1

Genitourinary Oncology Fellowship Program
Nicholas Muruve, MD, FRCSC, FACS, Program Director
Alok Shrivastava, MD, M.Ch, Associate Program Director
Barbara Ercole, MD, MSCI, Associate Program Director

The Department of Urology at Cleveland Clinic Florida offers fellowship training in urologic oncology. Fellowship includes exposure to all aspects of uro-oncologic surgery including robotics, laparoscopy and open surgery. The fellowship emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to cancer treatment, clinical research and management of the urologic cancer patient.

Cleveland Clinic Florida houses the largest clinical training program in the region. Additionally, it was the first program in the state to perform difficult and innovative urologic robotic surgery.
Female Urology and Voiding Dysfunction Fellowship Program
Sneha Vaish, MD, Program Director

The Department of Urology at Cleveland Clinic Florida offers fellowship training in female urology and voiding dysfunction. Our fellows have completed training in an ACGME-accredited urologic residency program and are eligible for licensure in the state of Florida. The fellowship consists of a fully funded one-year clinical training program. The educational program is based on Society of Urodynamics and Female Urology (SUFU) guidelines. It covers the following modules: Urodynamic Testing (extensive urodynamic testing in the laboratory using fluoro-urodynamics provides a thorough understanding of different disease processes), LUTS and Urinary incontinence (Male and Female), Pelvic Organ Prolapse, Voiding Dysfunction (Neurogenic and Non-neurogenic), Genitourinary Reconstruction (reconstruction includes use of bowel, urethroplasty and ureteral reconstruction).

“Medicine is the only profession that labours incessantly to destroy the reason for its own existence.”
—James Bryce, 1914
The objective of the Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS) fellowship at Cleveland Clinic Florida is to provide high-quality, comprehensive education in pelvic floor disorders for physicians pursuing this subspecialty. The program offers an in-depth and extensive experience in education, teaching, and clinical and surgical practice, as well as in conducting high-quality research. Staff mentors guide these promising young fellows toward becoming effective, skilled, and compassionate physicians. The program advocates comprehensive assessment by a multidisciplinary team that includes the departments of Gynecology, Urology, Colorectal Surgery, Neurology and Geriatrics with a goal of elevating the standard of care for women who have pelvic floor dysfunction. The program provides an environment that facilitates progressive attainment of a knowledge base, clinical and research skills, and professionalism required of fellows seeking an academic career.

**Recent Advancements in this Program**
- Accredited by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2012
- Approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties as a subspecialty of Ob/Gyn, with subspecialty exams starting in 2013
- Designated a Center of Excellence by the National Association for Continence March 2012

**Research Highlights**
- Numerous oral presentations received awards at the American Urogynecology Society meeting in Chicago, 2012
- Numerous oral presentations received awards at the International Urogynecological Association for the scientific meeting in Dublin, Ireland, 2013
An interview with Carey Gross, DO – 3rd year Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Fellow

Why did you choose to attend this program at Cleveland Clinic Florida?
When looking at fellowship programs, I was advised to apply and interview all over the country. The urogynecologist from my school, University of Cincinnati Medical School, encouraged me to come here. The physicians here, Dr. Davila and Dr. Aguilar, have very good reputations nationally.

What is one thing that you will take from this program culture that will set you apart wherever you go next?
I have received excellent surgical/OR training here, and where I am going, I will be on my own. Both Dr. Aguilar and Dr. Davila are great surgeons. I feel very comfortable in problem-solving and performing all of the urogynecology services because of the experience I have gained here. We see a lot of patients and have a high-volume program.

Can you tell a story about an experience you had that was surprising or inspiring to you?
In general, what I find inspiring is Dr. Davila and Dr. Aguilar’s reputation. They are so well known statewide and nationally. It is not uncommon for a patient to drive four to five hours just to see them, come back for surgery, and then again for a post-op visit. It is inspiring to see the lengths that patients will go to be treated here and by Drs. Davila and Aguilar. As a young physician starting out her career, you hope one day to have their level of reputation and skills.

What are you doing next year?
Next year, my husband and I will be going to a multispecialty clinic in Arkansas. I met my husband, Matei Andreoiu, during my first year as a fellow. He was a urology oncology fellow and is now in private practice. So we are looking forward to being together next year. He will be practicing urology oncology and I will be practicing urogynecology.

What have you noticed about Cleveland Clinic Florida and its residency program that is special?
One thing that is special is that the other fellows here and I have become lifelong friends.

Cleveland Clinic has a nice mix of both private practice and academics. It blends the two worlds and allows adequate exposure to both. Because of the integrative approach to medicine you really get to know all of the staff at every level. It becomes a nice community to work in every day.

Carey left at the end of July, but her cousin John Gross, MD, is following in her footsteps as a first-year general surgery resident at Cleveland Clinic Florida.
Plastic Surgery Residency Program

Martin Newman, MD, FACS, Program Director

Steven Earle, MD, Plastic Surgery Staff physician and Pedro Viera, MD, Plastic Surgery Resident, Malik Taha surgical tech, Michael Medina, MD, Otolaryngology Staff Physician, and Erika Leo, surgical nurse perform dual surgeries on a patient.

Cleveland Clinic Florida’s campus in Weston offers several graduate medical education training programs including a fully accredited, three-year, independent plastic surgery residency. A broad patient base and the faculty’s extensive expertise provide an excellent training environment in a congenial atmosphere, contributing to an enlightened approach to resident education.

Areas of Research
- Breast reconstruction
- Non-surgical treatment in Dupuytren’s disease of the hand
- Intra-operative imaging
The path to becoming a practicing physician is a long and rigorous one. Applicants to most medical schools have completed their undergraduate education at a four-year college or university. Those successful in gaining acceptance to medical school have not only completed their undergraduate studies with distinction, but have scored well in standardized medical college admission tests.

Those students “making the cut”, begin medical school with much anticipation and excitement. As the students progress through the four-year program, he or she will transition from basic science studies to fundamentals of clinical medicine and, finally, to actual participation in patient care. Students will typically spend time rotating through Internal Medicine services, Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics and Psychiatry. Often during the final year, students rotate through an “elective” time in more specialized areas in which they wish to gain exposure and experience.

During the final year of medical school, the student will apply for a residency position in the field they wish to first pursue. Acceptance into these programs is often very competitive. The “intern” or first year of residency is often considered to be the most challenging time in a doctor’s medical education. The duration of residency training varies greatly depending upon one’s chosen area of specialization, but generally ranges from 3-6 years.

Upon completion of residency training, some graduates will choose to pursue additional training in a fellowship program to gain expertise in a subspecialty. For example, a graduate of an internal medicine residency program may seek additional training in cardiology for an additional 2-3 years. A graduate of a general surgery program may spend a similar period of time perfecting their skills in a cardiac surgery fellowship. Further sub specialization in cardiac transplantation or in pediatric heart surgery would require an additional year or more of training.

The final challenge in realizing the goal of becoming a practicing physician is to complete the certification process, allowing the physician or surgeon to practice within their chosen field. This last hurdle involves written and, frequently, an oral examination required by the specialty board. Passing these examinations is required for the practitioner to become “board certified.” In the capacity of “attending physician”, a doctor may begin to apply the knowledge and skills acquired over these many years of training.

For the doctor, however, the education is never complete. Some physicians and surgeons choose to practice in an academic center such as Cleveland Clinic Florida, serving as teaching faculty and mentors for medical students, residents and fellows. For those who choose a private or community practice setting, continuing medical education and maintenance of certification become a lifelong commitment.
Each June, Cleveland Clinic Florida’s Graduate Medical Education Program celebrates commencement of its residents and fellows. This year, in addition to the graduation of 38 residents and fellows, 18 clinical research fellows have made important contributions to their respective fields of medicine.

Although for some, graduation is the final goal of a long educational path, for others, it’s just another milestone on their way to further training.

All those who have trained under the guidance of Cleveland Clinic Florida’s staff have gained knowledge and expertise that will allow them to make a difference to their patients as world-class physicians. They will not forget those tough nights on call, the difficult decisions they made, and the technical skills they acquired through careful observation and practice. When our graduates enter a practice or move on to their next training venue, it is the hope of their mentors that they will reflect proudly on their time at Cleveland Clinic Florida while acquiring new knowledge and excelling in their careers.

Cleveland Clinic’s motto is: “Every life deserves world-class care.” Their training at Cleveland Clinic Florida helps our graduating residents and fellows make this possible for all patients in their care wherever they may go.
Weber Family Summer Scholar Program

This will be the fourth year of the Weber Family Summer Scholar Program, an exciting opportunity for Senior High School and pre-med students who are interested in the medical field. The program consists of two high school sessions of a three-week curriculum taking place in June and July and a six-week session for college students starting in June. Students rotate into different departments within Cleveland Clinic Florida to gain a broad understanding of all specialties. Our Weber Family Summer Scholar Program is designed to provide a one-on-one relationship with a mentor, which has proved beneficial in helping students to decide whether they would like a future in medicine and also in allowing them to develop valuable interpersonal and medical skills.

Program Goals

- Provide an individually structured, full-time learning experience at Cleveland Clinic Florida during the summer for selected students
- Provide students with an introduction to clinical medicine and foster their interest in the medical field
- Raise consciousness about the daily tasks and responsibilities of a physician, offering real-world hospital experience
- Teach students presentation skills
For Gene and Nancy Beard, advancement starts with education

The Palm Beach couple supports a wide variety of institutions and educational programs throughout the country, including Cleveland Clinic Florida.

“We both believe in education from the ground up, beginning with preschool,” Mrs. Beard says. “And we support medical education at Cleveland Clinic Florida because doctors in West Palm Beach, far away from the Weston location, need videoconferencing with doctors in that community. It’s important because of all the new knowledge, the innovative information coming out.”

Mr. Beard says teleconferences also work well at the universities they support, including Yale.

“I have found that if you can disseminate information to all levels – in this case, doctors, nurses and technicians – it is very beneficial for all,” he says.

Ultimately, he says, patients receive better care because of this shared knowledge.

The Beards became Cleveland Clinic Florida patients on moving to the area from Connecticut in recent years. Their interest in supporting medicine began in their former city, where they established a Grand Rounds lecture program at their local hospital in memory of their long time family care physician.

“It’s been very successful,” Mrs. Beard says. “Doctors from all over the area come and speak. That’s the genesis of what we are doing at Cleveland Clinic Florida.”

The couple also has Ohio connections. Mrs. Beard grew up in Lorain, Ohio, near Cleveland. Mr. Beard grew up in Pittsburgh, not far away. “Our family was very familiar with Cleveland Clinic’s reputation before we moved to Florida, and many members of my family have had the privilege of being treated at Cleveland Clinic,” Mrs. Beard says.

The couple has a long history as advocates for education.

Mrs. Beard founded a literacy program for women completing their general equivalency diplomas (GEDs) in Bridgeport, Conn., and also contributes to literacy programs in rural libraries throughout the country.

Mr. Beard honored his mother with educational scholarships and capstone awards in her memory at Carlow University in Pittsburgh. He also funds scholarships at a private high school for boys and girls, and established the Beard Institute for Ethics in Business and Leadership at Duquesne University and professorial grants and fellowships in ethics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

The couple’s explanation for their passion is simple.

“We are lifelong learners,” Mr. Beard says, “and we are convinced that government can’t do it all. There has to be a balance between the public and private sectors, and we believe in the need for giving back to local institutions and remembering our roots.”
MORE THAN AN EDUCATION...

Dr. John Rivas –
2nd year GI Fellowship

Dr. Yordanka Reyna –
2nd year Cardiology Fellowship

John Rivas, MD, and Yordanka Reyna, MD, who have been married 12 years, met at the University of Miami, fell in love, and married before entering medical school. Fortunately for them, they have been able to train together for 10 years, four in medical school, three as residents, and three in their respective fellowship fields. Both have one more year of their current fellowship program to complete before going on for a final year in a super specialty. They are hoping that their good fortune continues with acceptance at the same institution for their last year or at least in the same location. They are both entering difficult specialty fields – John in transplant hepatology and Yordanka in transplant cardiology. They will hear if they have been accepted for their specialty fellowship program training in July and are expecting their first child in August. So the summer will be very exciting.

Yordanka said that being at Cleveland Clinic Florida is a great experience because “the education is outstanding and is giving me the necessary foundation to build on.” John agreed, adding, “everyone we work with and the environment we work in is awesome. You get a sense here that this is the way medicine should be practiced. The teamwork and interdisciplinary cooperation here are outstanding.”

John commented that they have been many places on rotations, including seminars and conferences, and everywhere they go, people notice them because they are with Cleveland Clinic. “There is respect wherever we go, and it is an awesome feeling to be a part of Cleveland Clinic,” he says.

When finished with their education they want to return to Florida for multiple reasons. They were raised here, their families are here, and they want to come back to Cleveland Clinic Florida to practice. They are hopeful that the newly established transplant program here in Florida will be the perfect fit for them when they return.
World class care in South Florida

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• Highly personalized care
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Where does funding for Cleveland Clinic Florida’s Medical Education and Research Program come from?

“Through the generous philanthropic support of our patients, we are able to augment a portion of the program’s expenses. In the future we hope that increased philanthropic support will enable us to expand the number of student physicians we accept and the number of accredited areas of study.”

— Bernardo B. Fernandez Jr., MD, President

CLEVELAND CLINIC FLORIDA IS GRATEFUL FOR EACH GIFT.
To learn how you can make a difference, contact the Philanthropy Institute at 954-659-6238 or supportccfl@ccf.org. To make an online gift to Cleveland Clinic Florida, visit giving.ccf.org/florida.
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