



Dr. Lee Learman spearheads graduate medical education at FAU's Schmidt College of Medicine.

# Training Cardiac Specialists

With its first university-sponsored fellowship last year, Florida Atlantic University's med school chose to train cardiovascular specialists.

"Training the next generation of cardiologists is critical to addressing the immense and growing need for this specialty both locally and nationally," says med school dean Dr. Phillip Boiselle.

Florida, according to a study by the Association of American Medical Colleges, has 1,646 cardiovascular disease doctors, or one for every 12,523 Floridians. Nearly half of those doctors are 60 or older.

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine's FAU Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship welcomed its first two fellows in July. Based at Tenet HealthCare's Delray Medical Center, their number will grow to six fellows over time.

Over their three years in the program, the fellows will do rotations

in Delray Medical's cardiac intensive care unit and other cardiac care units, a catheterization lab and train in stenting, aneurysm repair and other care.

"Our first fellowship at Florida Atlantic University is the continuation of our commitment to train and retain highly skilled physicians in this region as well as in Florida," says Dr. Lee Learman, senior associate dean for graduate medical education and academic affairs at FAU's Schmidt College of Medicine, who spearheads graduate medical education for the med school. "Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Florida and claimed nearly 46,000 lives in 2016 alone. Working together with our partners at Delray Medical Center, our fellowship program will create expert cardiologists to address physician workforce needs in Florida and the nation." — *By Mike Vogel*