

College of Medicine Video

We're in the business of training tomorrow's healthcare providers. Whether those are nurses, pharmacists, physicians or veterinarians. Healthcare in the future is increasingly going to be delivered by teams of people who share responsibility.

Medical education is really accelerated in its complexity, both the information that has to be absorbed by the students and the way that students absorb the information. And so specific development of faculty educators is critical.

Florida will need more physicians, and we would like to therefore grow the size of our medical school and the number of physicians that we train each year. To do that we have to expand our facilities and our faculty.

Professional school is very expensive, especially medical school. I mean the cost keeps going up and up, so we find where a lot of people from poor communities just can't afford to go to professional school anymore. So we're really working hard at finding scholarship monies to help those students, to encourage them to dream, at least to dream, that this can be a possibility, that they can become doctors.

The University of Florida was one of the innovators in developing and designing the first human patient simulators. And we have a dream for a new biomedical simulation center where nurses, physicians, dentists, pharmacists will all be able to learn in the same environment at the same time.

The technologies that we have available now and are trying to develop throughout the medical school provide us with the opportunities to go to places and make discoveries that we had only hoped to do in years past.

The research in my lab is focused on understanding the disease processes caused by infectious agents, and in particular we're studying Human Immuno-deficiency Virus or HIV1. The cause of one of the worst epidemics or pandemics that the world has ever seen.

We conjecture about what epidemics might face us in terms of infectious disease, but I can say with assurance now we face an epidemic of diabetes in this country. Right now in the United States approximately 21 million individuals have diabetes.

What we're doing in this laboratory is looking at how type 1 diabetes develops in children and young adults. The scientific knowledge in many fields is literally exploding, and people from different disciplines from cell biology, from immunology, from endocrinology are really working together on these problems.

It isn't just a job, it's a commitment. Because if we can figure out how to get a vaccine that works against HIV then we can apply that to making vaccines against other types of viruses and infectious agents, and we don't know yet what's going to be coming over the horizon.

And we have gathered a very good team. However, in order to do the next experiment we'll always need more money. We need money programmatically. We need money to recruit and retain the best possible people.

The major objective of our research is really to find a multi-tier approach to cancer and immunotherapy. We are trying to boost the patient's immune system so that the immune system can fight the cancer that the patient is diagnosed with. We are determined to find the new cures for cancer.

Florida will soon become the third most populous state in the United States, and many of our patients are in their elderly years. So that presents both challenges of aging, challenges of the diseases that occur later in life, as well as quality of life issues.

Our program involves research, education, and healthcare. It's a comprehensive program that spans across all colleges at this campus. Our goal is to attract expertise from other disciplines to respond to one single question. What is the cause? What is a way to prevent and rehabilitate from disability and maintain independence in older adults?

The Brain Institute's an incredible place. It's one of a kind. Here researchers and clinical investigators and clinicians now are mobilizing everything available to try to actually regenerate brain tissue for all the diseases that are daunting and we have to deal with. Included within that, of course, is Parkinson's disease, neuro-degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, and brain tumor research.

Addiction is a brain disease. Drugs change the brain, change behavior, change people from the, the people we knew before to something different. I'm the Chief of the Division of Addiction Medicine, and we're looking at the problems that are causing deaths and disabilities every day in the United States and try to understand how is it that drugs change people. What can we do to make a difference? We've been quite successful in making progress, but a lot of progress is yet to be made.

When I think of Florida Tomorrow and what it would look like to me, I see a world that's free of diabetes, a world free of insulin injections, a world free of blindness that's caused by the disease.

A place where there is no infection of anyone by HIV and the people who are infected will be cared for and treated with treatments that will allow them to live long and productive lives despite their infection.

Every person is touched by alcohol abuse, addictions in general, but the funding necessary to solve those problems lags well behind. Florida Tomorrow could be a place where we would offer help and healing to the millions of people who suffer from addictions.

Scientific ideas are translated into new drugs, into new therapeutics and Florida Tomorrow will be a place where we have access to cutting edge therapies particularly for cancer patients and patients with other intractable diseases.

Florida Tomorrow will definitely be a place where all children will be fully immunized. All children will have easy access to healthcare. A Florida whose healthcare professionals reflect the population of the state improving the healthcare that's available to our diverse population.

Florida Tomorrow is a place in which older persons know how to get the best care. But primarily that they know where to get this care.

Now the time for private support, through gifts, endowment money and these sorts of investments, becomes even more crucial to do the cutting edge experiments and find things completely out of the box, and that's going to require a huge amount of investment. A campaign like this will certainly help us in that cause.

Florida Tomorrow means that we have expert physicians who are compassionate, intellectually disciplined, collaborative, and practicing with the highest quality of care and the highest ethics of the profession. Expert teams who develop novel treatments for diseases, novel treatments for detection and prediction of diseases, and novel means for allowing these treatments to be adopted in the community.