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PRESS ADVISORY

For immediate release

St. Joseph Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program Announces Second Class of Residents *New Program Now Boasts 12 Physicians*

Eureka, CA (July 7, 2020) – The St. Joseph Hospital of Eureka Family Medicine Residency Program, a medical training alliance between St. Joseph Hospital – the sponsoring institution – and Open Door Community Health Centers, is pleased to announce its second class of residents to the North Coast rural medicine program.

Dr. Shenoda Abd Emaseh, Dr. Joshua Echeverria, Dr. Milad Najjar Ranjbar, Dr. Yehuda Fox, Dr. Ramir Geluz and Dr. Jesus Mendez began their clinical assignments on June 29th in the fully accredited program under the direction of Residency Medical Director, May Hong, M.D and faculty. In addition to the six new first-year students, Dr. Zachary Nankee joins the program for his second year of residency training.

“We see this program as not only a critical way to build the ranks of our local physician population, but an opportunity to leverage the exceptional professional experience of local physicians and teach the next generation of physician leaders in Humboldt County,” said Dr. Hong.

The family medicine residency program represents a transformational moment for the medical community on the North Coast. Core faculty from Open Door Community Health Centers, specialists from St. Joseph Health Medical Group, select independent physicians affiliated with St. Joseph Hospital and hospital leaders, collaborate to educate the new physicians.

The three-year program has a holistic primary care focus, with an emphasis on rural family medicine. Residents have a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in rural medicine with the support of a Regional Medical Center and live as an integral member of the community.

“It has been great to learn in a patient-centered and team oriented medical community that focuses on optimal outcomes for all aspects of patient well-being,” said first-year resident, Sean Purtell, M.D.

In addition to experiencing the full spectrum of family care, residents receive training in complex, hospital-based medical care and work with community-based services, including home health, hospice and support services. The residency program is supported through various funding channels including St. Joseph Hospital, generous community donations and government grants.

During their training, resident physicians see patients under the supervision of the faculty, and after their three years of training, national statistics suggest many will stay within 50 miles of their residency location. By 2021, the program will feature a total of 18 residents in training.

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(photo, L-R: Nankee, Geluz, Mendez, Ranjbar, Fox, Abd Elmaseh, Echeverria)

About the St. Joseph Hospital of Eureka Family Medicine Residency Program

The St. Joseph Hospital of Eureka Family Medicine Residency trains residents to treat individuals in a way that recognizes their needs a whole person, and as a community member. We accomplish this mission by teaching residents how to address the unique challenges of a rural, underserved community. St. Joseph Hospital of Eureka residents learn to be resourceful, autonomous providers and leaders in family medicine. The St. Joseph Hospital of Eureka Residency is an unopposed 6-6-6 residency program that launched in July 2019.

About St. Joseph Health, Humboldt County

St. Joseph Health, Humboldt County (SJHS-HC) is committed to meeting the highest standards in health care delivery while ministering to the needs of the whole person – body, mind and spirit. This commitment to the people of the North Coast is expressed in the Providence St. Joseph Health System's five core values – Compassion, Dignity, Excellence, Justice and Integrity. St. Joseph Health, Humboldt County offers a comprehensive network of specialty care and services including a Level III Trauma Center, Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and a Cancer Center Accredited by the Commission on Cancer. The health care ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange began in Humboldt County during the flu epidemic of 1918. The Sisters opened the first St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka in 1920 and committed to continually improving the health and quality of life of the people served. This commitment continues today and has been further defined by the vision of Providence St. Joseph Health – “Health for a Better World.”

About Open Door Community Health Centers

Open Door started as a single clinic in 1971. At that time there wasn't enough access to quality health care in Humboldt and the surrounding counties. The founders of Open Door Community Health Centers shared the vision of providing excellent health care and education to all members of the community. Open Door has 13 clinics, and 3 mobile clinics, spread throughout Humboldt and Del Norte counties, serving approximately 50,000 patients a year and employing over 500 members of the community. Open Door continually seeks to promote the development of a health care system which meets the needs and enhances the health of all members of our community.

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