NSU Florida

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
Progressive technology transforms medical education.

NEW DEGREE PROGRAM
Master's degree curriculum offers intriguing options.

ARTFUL ALUMNUS
Oculofacial plastic surgeon lives his dream.

KPCOM LINK

Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

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HOW IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRANSFORMING MEDICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE?

Because of the growing popularity of artificial intelligence (AI), medical school education and the healthcare industry have had to adapt to this transformative technology. AI focuses on the development of computer systems that are able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, and decision-making.

"AI is transforming medical education and training in many ways, including through virtual reality and augmented reality," said Farzanna S. Haffizulla, M.D., MACP, FAMWA, associate professor of internal medicine. "These technologies allow medical students to practice surgeries and other procedures in a safe, virtual environment. AI can also create personalized learning plans for students that adapt to their learning styles and paces."

When AI began impacting medical education, NSU's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (KPCOM) was at the forefront of incorporating the technology into its curriculum. "The future of educating medical students looks so very different from past formats," said Rebecca Cherner, D.O., professor and chair of the college's Curriculum Committee. "We have been utilizing innovative, immersive technologies in our curriculum using many different modalities."

According to Cherner, immersive learning at the KPCOM includes augmented reality, virtual reality (VR), and mixed reality, including 3D visualization/hologram models. "We partnered with Meta using Quest 2 VR Headsets for first- and second-year students in their preclinical years and labs and in their clinical years for immersive virtual rotation experiences," she explained. "Elizabeth Oviawe, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S.B.I., M.M.I.S., M.Sc., director of the KPCOM Division of Institutional Technology, and her team are leading the charge, both in educating our faculty members in how to use these modalities and in how to integrate them into the classroom."

Haffizulla, who has been a presenter at various conferences about the growing impact of AI in health care and medical education, stressed the increasing importance of incorporating AI topics into the medical school curriculum. "By incorporating AI-related topics into medical education, students are better equipped to navigate the evolving healthcare landscape, make informed decisions, advocate for ethical practices, and provide

high-quality, patient-centered care in an AI-driven healthcare system," she explained.

"Medical students need to understand how AI technologies work and how they can impact patient care and safety," she added. "By learning about AI-related issues, medical students can better understand the strengths, limitations, and potential risks of AI applications in healthcare. This knowledge allows them to critically evaluate AI-generated recommendations, make informed decisions, and ensure patient safety."

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Another crucial educational aspect centers on how AI in healthcare raises various ethical considerations, such as privacy, bias, transparency, and accountability. "Medical students need to know these ethical implications and understand how AI can impact physician moral autonomy, fairness, and the doctor-patient relationship," Haffizulla said. "By learning about AI-related ethical issues, medical students can develop a framework for responsible and ethical AI implementation in their future practice."

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are some of Haffizulla's recommendations to stay abreast of the AI revolution in healthcare as the technology deepens its impact on the industry.

Data is key. AI relies on vast amounts of data to learn and make accurate predictions. Collecting and organizing high-quality, unbiased healthcare data is crucial for successfully implementing AI in this field.

Collaboration is essential. Health care professionals, researchers, and AI experts need to collaborate closely. By combining their expertise, they can develop AI algorithms and systems that are both accurate and clinically relevant.

Ethical considerations are paramount. As AI becomes more integrated into healthcare, it is crucial to address ethical considerations, such as data privacy, algorithm transparency, and potential biases. Ensuring that AI systems are used responsibly and with patient well-being in mind is paramount.

AI is a tool to use, not a replacement. AI should be seen as a tool to augment health care professionals' capabilities, rather than as a replacement for human expertise. The human touch and critical-thinking skills are irreplaceable in this field, and AI should only be used to support and enhance these qualities.

Continual learning and adaptation are critical. AI algorithms should be continually updated and improved, based on real-world feedback and new data. This iterative process ensures AI systems stay accurate and current with the latest medical knowledge.

"It's important to remember that successfully integrating AI into healthcare requires careful planning, collaboration, and a focus on ethical considerations," Haffizulla summarized. "We can revolutionize healthcare and medicine by harnessing AI's power, while keeping patient well-being at the forefront." ■

KPCOM ESTABLISHES M.S. IN FOUNDATIONAL AND INTEGRATED MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (KPCOM) recently unveiled its latest degree program—the Master of Science in Foundational and Integrated Medical Sciences.

The new program provides students with two potential points of entry into the D.O. program, while also affording them an opportunity to earn a master's degree in the integrated medical sciences in areas such as couple and family therapy, disaster and emergency management, health informatics, medical education, nutrition, and public health. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher in the degree program to obtain their M.S. degree.

As mentioned, there are two potential points of entry into the D.O. program. In option one, students complete 18 semester hours, obtain a 500 MCAT score by May 1, and have either a minimum, cumulative GPA of 3.6 for a guaranteed D.O. acceptance or 3.3 for a guaranteed interview. After completing their first year, students who matriculate into the D.O. program can continue to complete the master's degree concurrently with the D.O. degree (five years maximum).

In option two, students who do not matriculate into the D.O. program will continue taking 18 semester hours of coursework in their second year. If they achieve the 3.6 GPA requirement at the end of their second year, with a 500 or higher MCAT by May 1 of their second year, students will again be eligible for transition into the D.O. program. Students who earn a cumulative 3.3–3.59 GPA at the degree's conclusion and have obtained a 500 or higher MCAT score by May 1 will be guaranteed an interview.

Year one of the program must be completed at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus, while year two can be taken at either the Fort Lauderdale/Davie or Tampa Bay Regional campuses.

"The program is designed to offer students a strong foundation in medical sciences, providing them with a more advanced understanding of key concepts needed for their first year in medical school," said Phyllis Filker, D.M.D., M.P.H., executive associate dean of undergraduate, graduate, technology, and community education. "This solid base can potentially lead to increased performance during the initial year, as well as provide students with a more well-rounded, holistic approach to clinical medicine. In addition, the knowledge and skills gained through the master's degree program may give students an edge when competing for residency positions." ■

SHOIB MYINT: OCULOFACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY SUPERSTAR

Like many physicians before him, Shoib Myint, D.O., FAOCO, a class of 1991 Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (KPCOM) alumnus, was compelled to follow in his father's impressive footsteps and pursue a medical career.

"I became interested in medicine by watching my father spend time at his office," said Myint, who was born in Rangoon, Burma, but spent many of his formative years in Tampa, Florida. "Watching his amazing ability to connect with his patients, and the joy he received in serving them, was the seed."

Myint's interest in osteopathic medicine was stirred while he was doing volunteer work at an emergency room in Tampa where his father was on call. "I befriended a physician who was a D.O. and an actor," he explained. "I was very impressed with the holistic approach toward patients, and he turned me on to the osteopathic philosophy."

During his time as a KPCOM student, Myint was introduced to the specialty that would soon become his life's work—oculofacial plastic surgery. "My interest started when I was on a surgical rotation," he said. "I was lucky enough to spend time with an ophthalmologist who was performing oculoplastic procedures, and I was immediately hooked."

Once Myint discovered that the best ophthalmology and oculofacial plastic surgery residency and fellowship programs were in Michigan, he set his sights on earning spots in both programs. "There are around 900 fellowship-trained oculofacial plastic surgeons in the United Sates, so I was thrilled to get into these programs," he said.

Today, Myint is living his dream as the owner of two thriving practices in Beverly Hills, California, and Las Vegas, Nevada. "They say that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder," explained Myint, who is married to wife Dahlia, a successful entrepreneur, and has a 13-year-old daughter named Sophie. "I have been blessed with great training and artistic talent to have the ability to perform reconstructive and cosmetic procedures around the eyes and face to create this beauty for the beholder."

Although he's busy running a practice in two states, Myint also found time to publish five oculofacial plastic surgery textbooks that have been used by surgeons worldwide. "As clinicians, one of the most powerful tools we have is the gift of educating others." he said. "I love to arm my patients and colleagues with knowledge."

As a longtime osteopathic physician, Myint is thrilled to see how the D.O. profession has grown in esteem over the decades. "I have seen osteopathic physicians dominate in so many areas in the medical field, and I am so proud of each and every one of them. I think the future of medicine is bigger and brighter than ever before." ■

UPDATES IN MEDICINE RETURNS AFTER HIATUS

On November 3–5, the KPCOM held its fifth Updates in Medicine continuing medical education (CME) weekend—a family-oriented gathering for the college's clinical and underserved medicine leadership, preceptors, administration, alumni, faculty and staff members, and student volunteers from the Photography Club. The event was held at the Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach in Florida and attracted more than 300 attendees. During the weekend, attendees had the opportunity to earn five CME credits and honor the classes of 1993 and 2003. ■

Kayvan Amini, D.O., FACC ('01), an adviser on Florida's Health Information Exchange Coordinating Committee, was featured on national news/radio broadcasts such as Sirius XM to discuss the "Role of Artificial Intelligence in Electronic Health Records." He was also named president-elect of the Broward County Medical Association.

Robert Coppola, D.O. ('17), is the new associate director of the Palm Beach Multiple Sclerosis Center at Palm Beach Neurology in West Palm Beach, Florida. In this role, Coppola brings a fresh perspective and a passion for providing exceptional care for individuals living with multiple sclerosis and other neurological disorders.

Jason Faucheux, D.O. ('17), joined the Avala Physician Network at its Avala Care clinic in Covington, Louisiana. Faucheux will provide wellness and physical exams, immunizations, and management of acute and chronic medical conditions. He completed his family medicine residency training in Orlando, Florida, and served as a U.S. Air Force physician for several years.

Randall Gehle, D.O., FAAFP ('89), was promoted to chief of staff of the W.G. "Bill" Hefner Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina. In this role, he oversees the health care of more than 100,000 people.

Jeffrey Grove, D.O., FACOFP *dist*. ('90), *right*, and **Michael Jackowitz,** D.O. ('90), are producing two Broadway musicals that recently premiered in New York. Joining *A Beautiful Noise, The Neil Diamond Musical*, which opened in fall 2022, are the *Harmony* and *How to Dance in Ohio*.

Robert T. Hasty, D.O., FACOI, FACP ('00), was named 2023–2024 president of the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI) at its annual conference held October 11–14 in Tampa, Florida. Hasty has been an ACOI member for more than 23 years and earned the distinction of ACOI Fellow (FACOI) in 2006.

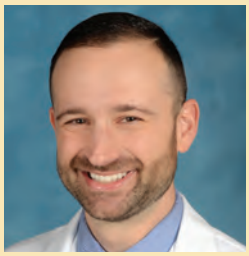
Eric Hegybeli, D.O., FACN ('95), was made a fellow of the American College of Neuropsychiatrists (ACN)—formerly the American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists. Additionally, he was elected as the fellows representative to the ACN board.

Marc G. Kaprow, D.O., M.H.A., MACOI ('01), was promoted to chief medical officer for Florida Medicaid at Simply Healthcare, where he "looks forward to working with an amazing team to serve Florida's most vulnerable people."

Christopher Keel, D.O., FACS ('09), was named chair of the Department of Urology at the University of South Alabama's Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine. Keel, a board-certified urologist at USA Health University Urology, had served as interim chair of the department since it was established in 2022.

CHIEVEMENTS

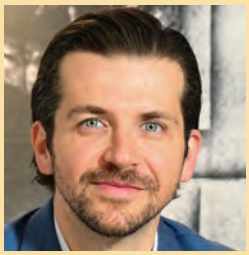
Rochelle Samarasekera, D.O. ('16), joined the Holy Cross Health Medical Group—a multispecialty group of more than 130 physicians who provide services throughout Broward County in South Florida. Samarasekera, a family medicine physician, focuses on adult medicine, annual wellness visits, preventive care, care management, preoperative evaluation, and school/work physicals.



Ian D. Singer, D.O., J.D. ('19), was appointed medical director for Holy Cross Health's new Perioperative Medical Clinic in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He was also named chief of the Department of Family Medicine. Additionally, he was selected to serve on Holy Cross's Physician Advisory Council and CME Committee.

Ajith "Rob" Susai, D.O. ('16), joined the Apogee hospitalist program in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He has quickly risen to the top of the curve, becoming an invaluable member of the team who has taken the lead by getting involved in multiple committees. His efforts have led to an appreciable improvement in the delivery of excellent patient care.

L. Michael Waters, D.O., FACOFP ('07), was elected secretary/treasurer of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Society. He was also named interim assistant dean of clinical education at PCOM-GA and is serving as president of the Georgia Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.



Ruslan Zhuravsky, D.O., FAOCO ('11), a facial plastic surgeon, recently relocated his practice from the New York/New Jersey area to Aventura, Florida. He specializes in everything from high-end cosmetic plastic surgery, such as facelifts and rhinoplasty, to minimally invasive procedures that involve Botox and fillers.

IN MEMORIAM

Miguel A. Argueta, D.O. ('96), a family physician who was born in Honduras, passed away at the age of 60 in Lakeland, Florida, on December 30.

Charles Friedman, D.O. ('86), of Clearwater, Florida, who was board certified in anesthesiology, addiction medicine, and interventional pain medicine, passed away unexpectedly on December 2 at the age of 69 while warming up to play in a tennis tournament in Kona, Hawaii.

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WAYS TO SUPPORT

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With a minimum gift of $25,000, which can be paid over multiple years, individuals or companies can establish an endowed fund to support the general operations, student scholarships, or research projects or outfit a space/area with the latest technology. Endowed funds can be named for the donor, the donor's family or business, or in memory of a loved one.

NAME A ROOM, LAB, OR COMMON AREA IN THE NEW SIMULATION COMPLEX (SimCom)

Individuals can name a specific room, lab, training space, or common area in the SimCom for themselves or a loved one. Companies interested in branding their business or product in a high-traffic area can secure a naming opportunity for up to five years.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Leaving a legacy gift is simple and, in most cases, does not impact your current financial situation. We accept gifts of life insurance, retirement assets, and bequests. Our advancement professionals will work with you (and your legal and financial advisers, when appropriate) to create a philanthropic plan customized for you.

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Connect with fellow graduates, **expand** your professional network, employ or offer **mentorship**, and **stay engaged** with your KPCOM community.

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