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NEWS RELEASE

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(For immediate release)

FMC TO OFFER FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM THAT WILL BE CO- SPONSORED BY OHIO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

LANCASTER, Ohio (June 9, 2009) – Fairfield Medical Center (FMC) has received approval from the American Osteopathic Association for a Family Medicine Residency Program, which will be co-sponsored by the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. The first participants, family practice residents, will begin in July of 2010.

Jack Brose, D.O., Dean at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OUCOM) commented on the recent approval of the family medicine residency program at Fairfield Medical Center, "OUCOM is pleased to co-sponsor this primary care training program with FMC. At a time when our country is faced with a physician shortage, it is important to provide opportunities for medical school graduates to receive quality training in the very settings where they will practice medicine. Fairfield Medical Center will benefit from this new residency by having the opportunity to retain these young physicians to serve the community's needs."

"Fairfield Medical Center is committed to increasing medical educational opportunities for the benefit of people in our community and surrounding communities," said Dr. Jeffrey Ayers, Director of Medical Education. "I am glad to be a part of this program that will have an impact on so many people."

The program has been approved for a total of twelve positions; typically four residents will be accepted each year for this three-year training program. Recruitment efforts will begin this summer for the first four residents who will begin in July of 2010. Each year, fourth year medical students and hospitals submit their preferences for each other in January and match results are announced in March. Those students graduate in the spring earning their Doctorate of Osteopathy (D.O.). The new doctors then begin their residency programs in July.

When asked why such a focus was put on establishing this residency program at FMC, Janice Brenstuhl, Medical Education Coordinator responded, “ We applied for a residency program in response to medical staff interest in teaching. Also, since an increase in physician recruitment opportunities is one of the benefits of residency programs, this effort will enable us to recruit physicians to expand services in our area. We are considering adding residency programs in other specialties in the near future to meet the needs of our community.”

Additionally, a Medical Education Resource facility is being constructed within FMC to add to this program and the growth and development of our future healthcare professionals who will serve our community. This new state of the art facility will include a medical library, classrooms, skills labs, a conference room, and medical education office space. To keep up with the latest technology, FMC has purchased videoconference equipment that will allow lectures, skills labs, and other interactive learning to be shared with other hospitals and education resources.

Fairfield Medical Center joins a large consortium of osteopathic training institutions around the State of Ohio as an associate member of the Centers for Osteopathic Research and Education (CORE). Research indicates that quality of care is better in teaching hospitals according to an Associate of American Medical Colleges report published in 2003. "This is the result of teaching hospitals demonstrating the latest in technology and continually educating their faculty alongside their physician trainees. We are pleased to have Fairfield Medical Center as a CORE Member and delighted to see additional primary care training programs in Southeast Ohio," says Keith Watson, D.O., Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education at OUCOM.

Mina Ubbing, FMC Chief Executive Officer, commented, “Congratulations to Dr. Jeff Ayers, Director of Medical Education; Dr. John Stevenson, Medical Director; Dr. Jerome Roche, Chief Medical Officer; Dr. Troy Hampton, Family Medicine Program Director; and Janice Brenstuhl, Medical Education Coordinator, whose efforts were instrumental in securing approval for this program. It is of great benefit to people in our community and goes to show how committed to education we are here at Fairfield Medical Center.”

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