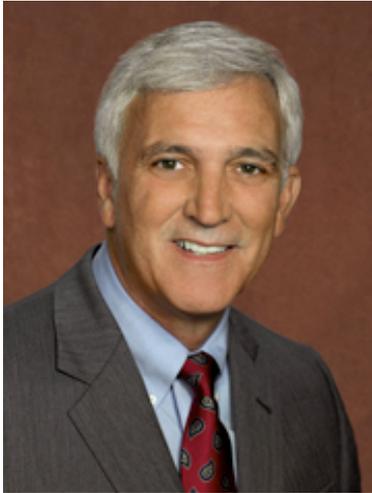


Ricardo Gonzalez-Rothi, MD

HSHP Board Member
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“First, follow their passion. Second, don’t forget their roots.”

This is what Ricardo Gonzalez-Rothi, MD, tells his students at Florida State University’s School of Medicine. The advice is simple but speaks volumes, the latter especially, considering that 16 percent of the College of Medicine’s class is Hispanic.

“The *abuelita* analogy,” said Dr. Gonzalez-Rothi, “If someone was seeing your grandma, how would you want them to treat her?”

Serving the Hispanic community has been a priority for Dr. Gonzalez-Rothi since his early years following medical school. He had the opportunity to work in rural areas and with migrant farm workers, witnessing firsthand the effects of low access to health care.

“This may be politically incorrect but there are lots of people who are undocumented, and they still get sick and they end up in emergency rooms. They’re afraid and under the radar.”

Dr. Gonzalez-Rothi experiences in the field prompted him to get serious about his commitment to his community and to increasing diversity in the health workforce. In many ways, it’s what led him to FSU’s College of Medicine.

Considered among the Top 10 colleges for Hispanics according to Hispanic Business magazine, FSU’s College of Medicine operates on a community-distributive model designed to train future physicians in a primary care career, stay in the state of Florida, and serve the people of Florida – one out of five being Hispanic.

FSU’s College of Medicine has a 16 percent Hispanic student body, over 180 of presumed Hispanic faculty, an active Latin Student Medical Association, and FSUCares, a medical student-service learning organization dedicated to providing health services to underserved and underprivileged populations,

specifically the homeless in Tallahassee and migrant farm workers on the Florida Panhandle. Dr. Gonzalez-Rothi serves as a clinical advisor for FSUCares.

“The mission of FSU was something that rang true for me. They have walked their walk and talked their talk.”

Dr. Ricardo Gonzalez-Rothi leads the Department of Clinical Sciences, one of the five academic departments at FSU's College of Medicine, and represents FSU as a board member for HSHPS. Earlier this June, the AAMC Group on Student Affairs appointed him as the Hispanic Liaison to the Group on Student Affairs Committee on Diversity Affairs. He will be responsible for keeping well-informed of issues of recruitment, retention, and professional development and advancement that are especially important to the Hispanic community and may arise among diversity affairs

Despite these high-ranking leadership roles, Dr. Gonzalez-Rothi believes that he's at a point in his career where he's “been there, done that.” So where does he go from here?

“I thoroughly love being able to mentor students - ‘This is what you need to do, what you don't need to do.’ This is not a 9-5 job. Every week, a little great thing happens,” he said.

On a recent meeting with a student: “I got back the most incredibly diary of experiences - a number of epiphanies. When you see that joy in a person, I think, ‘This is where I want to be.’”