

## **The Medical School of Temple University/St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network Will Address the Physician Shortage**

*The new Medical School of Temple University/St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network will increase the number of physicians practicing in the Greater Lehigh Valley:*

- As the 5<sup>th</sup> largest provider of professional education in the United States, Temple has a strong history of programs that have provided students and professionals of all health disciplines with access to medical technology and trailblazing research.
- Significantly, 50 percent of students who train at Temple University School of Medicine stay in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to train and later to practice.
- Based on these projections, the new Medical School of Temple University/St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network is expected to add 150 or more qualified, well-trained practicing physicians to our community in 10 years.
- Additional experienced physicians will choose to practice in the Lehigh Valley because of an enhanced academic environment.

### **Shortage of physicians nationally:**

*As a result in an increasing and aging population, the United States is facing a national shortage of physicians.*

- It is estimated by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) that there will be a shortage of at least 90,000 physicians by 2020, and a shortage of 124,000 physicians by 2025.
- The AAMC has recommended -  
The United States increase the number of graduate medical students by 30 percent by 2015 and the expansion of both the number of medical schools in the United States as well as an increase in the size of current medical school classes.

### **Pennsylvania, particularly, will suffer a physician shortage:**

*A number of trends have raised concerns regarding the future supply of physicians, according to "The State of Medicine In Pennsylvania: An Overview of Pennsylvania's Physician Marketplace," a report by the Pennsylvania Medical Society.*

*The report points out -*

- The physician workforce in Pennsylvania is old, with 50 percent of physicians over the age of 50 and less than eight percent of physicians under the age of 35.
- With increasing demand for health services outpacing supply, physicians are needed to work more hours and this negative trend could make retention and recruitment more problematic.
- Specialty-specific physicians have been on the decline since 1997, especially in areas of family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pathology, cardiology, orthopedic surgery and neurosurgery.

*An analysis derived from data collected by the Pennsylvania Department of Health found -*

- Pennsylvania has lost between 838 and 1,632 physicians who provided direct patient care during the period from 2004 to 2006. The biggest statewide gaps occur in orthopedics, radiology, cardiology, family practice, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatrics.

*The analysis "Pennsylvania's Physician Supply: Gaps and Concerns" by the Pennsylvania Medical Society and The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) reports -*

- Only 34.8 percent of active physicians who graduated from a medical school in the commonwealth have remained in practice in the commonwealth. This ranks Pennsylvania 31<sup>st</sup> among the states that retain physicians that graduated from an in-state medical school.
- More than one of every five (22.6 percent) physicians in active practice is 60 years or older.
- Almost 11 (10.7) percent of the physicians providing direct patient care service anticipate ending their practice in Pennsylvania in the next five years or less.
- Almost 30 (28.9) percent of the physicians who have practiced 10 years or less say they will leave Pennsylvania in five years or less.
- As the population grows older, the demand for physician services will increase.

*According to data from the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau report -*

- Pennsylvania is the second oldest state in the nation, with 15.6 percent of U.S. residents age 65 or older.