

# Hospice & Palliative Medicine

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RESIDENCY PROGRAM AT  
**Grand Strand  
Medical Center**

# Welcome to the Hospice and Palliative Medicine at Grand Strand Medical Center

The Hospice and Palliative Medicine Program at Grand Strand Medical Center is part of the HCA Healthcare Graduate Medical Education network. HCA Healthcare is the nation's leading provider of quality, patient-centered care. We are also the leader in graduate medical education, all brought together by a single mission:

**Above all else, we are committed to the care and improvement of human life.**

ACGME ID: 5404512124

## Tracks & Positions

Tracks	NRMP #	Available Positions
N/A	N/A	00

## Salary

<b>PGY4</b>
\$59,730 + \$950 on call meal stipend

Thank you for taking a few moments to look at our program in palliative medicine. We hope to spark your interest in our program and look forward to having a dialogue with physicians interested in our fellowship program.

Our program is based at Grand Strand Medical Center (GSMC) in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The Myrtle Beach area is a coastal area experiencing rapid growth as a golfing mecca, retirement hot-spot, and tourist haven. There are active, accredited residency programs in Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Surgery, and a Transitional Year program. Our fellowship program will be a one-year fellowship with two fellows per year; the fellows will be part of a teaching program with over 130 residents in training.



I trained in internal medicine and geriatric medicine in the 80s. In the late 1990s, I participated in the Medicaring project, trying to design programs to improve end-of-life care for patients with advanced heart failure and/or severe pulmonary disease. The work done in that project was incredibly satisfying as we adapted the cancer/AIDS model of hospice of that time to include other life-limiting diseases.

As we start our program in 2021, we have two other board-certified palliative care physicians and a fellowship-trained physician taking the initial board exam in 2020. Dr. Lisa Smaldone and Dr. Henry Saunders both took the initial subspecialty exam in 2010, and bring years of experience in the home hospice and long-term care setting. Dr. Stephen Meyer completed his fellowship in palliative medicine last year and directs the inpatient consult service at Grand Strand Medical Center.

Sincerely,

**Don Courtney, MD, FACP**  
Fellowship Program Director

## Our Faculty



**Don Courtney, MMD, FACP**

Fellowship Program Director

- Medical School: Univ. of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, KS
- Residency: Eastern Virginia Grad. School of Medicine
- Fellowship(Geriatrics): Univ. of Tenn.-Memphis
- Dr. Courtney enjoys having interesting patients in front of him and interested trainees beside him. He's been involved in research of health care delivery and outcomes research almost every year of practice, in addition to patient care and teaching responsibilities. He was part of the Medicaring project in 1999-2001 that demonstrated innovative palliative care programs for patients with advanced heart disease or advanced lung disease could have major impacts on quality of life. He's also interested in improving care at the end-of-life for patients with degenerative neurological diseases.



**Renee Bentley, MBA**

Notary Program Coordinator

- Mrs. Bentley has been with Grand Strand Medical Center since July, 2016 in several roles in GME. She will be responsible for the Hospice and Palliative Care Fellowship, in addition to her GME Finance role. She is originally from a small town in Iowa, very close to where the American Picker's TV show is filmed. She and her husband are enjoying the beach lifestyle in sunny Myrtle Beach, SC much more than snow and 20 below weather in Iowa!



### **Stephen Meyer, MD**

Core Faculty

- Medical School: Windsor University School of Medicine, Basseterre, St. Kitts
- Residency: Mt Sinai Hospital, Chicago, IL Fellowship: Hospice and Palliative Medicine – Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, WI



### **Lisa Smaldone, MD**

Core Faculty

- Medical School: Northeastern Ohio Medical University, Rootstown, OH
- Residency: Summa Health Systems, Akron, OH IM/PEDS
- Dr. Tarbert-Smaldone has practiced medicine on The Grand Strand for over 16 years, as a Pediatrician, a Hospitalist and in Hospice and Palliative Care.



### **Henry Saunders, MD**

Core Faculty

- Medical School: Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, VA
- Residency: Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, HI, Internal Medicine



### **Tyler Kilgore, MD**

Core Faculty

- Medical School: University of Louisville School of Medicine
- Residency: Grand Strand Medical Center, Myrtle Beach, SC Fellowship: Virginia Tech Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital; Roanoke, VA

## Current Fellow



**Stephanie Anderson, DO**

Fellowship Class of 2021-2022

- Medical School: West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine-  
Lewisburg



# Awards, Accreditations and Certifications

Grand Strand Health is a multi-facility health system located on the coast of the Grand Strand community and has facilities throughout the region to provide quality, convenient healthcare. Our awards and recognitions include:

- American College of Surgeons Verified Level 1 Adult Trauma Center Designated by SCDHEC
- Level II Pediatric Trauma Center Designation by SCDHEC
- DNV-GL Certified Comprehensive Stroke Center
- Pediatric Ready Hospital Recognition by SCDHEC
- College of American Pathologists (CAP) Accreditation for GSMC, SSMC and NSER Labs
- CNOR Strong designation
- Leapfrog Safety Score Straight A's – Fall 2018 through Spring 2021
- IBM Watson Top 50 Cardiac Hospital 2021
- IBM Watson #9 Teaching Hospital in the U.S.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield BlueDistinction Award for Cardiac Care & Maternity Care
- National Certified Gold Safe Sleep Leader Award by Cribs for Kids
- AHA Get with the Guidelines – Gold Plus:
  - Stroke – Target Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus
  - Advanced Therapy
  - Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll
- Joint Commission (TJC) Certified:
  - Chest Pain Center
  - Sepsis Center
  - Knee Replacement & Hip Replacement
- SCHA Certified Zero Harm Award
- American College of Radiology Accreditation for Radiation Oncology, US, MRI, CT, NM and Breast Imaging
- Outstanding Performance Award from the South Carolina State Healthcare Coalition for Healthcare Emergency Management
- Healthgrades Quality Awards:
  - America's 250 Best Hospitals
  - Patient Safety Excellence Award 2017-2021
  - Among Top 5% in the Nation for Patient Safety 4 Years in a Row
  - Among Top 5% in the Nation for General Surgery 2021
  - One of Healthgrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Orthopedic Surgery in 2020
  - One of Healthgrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Spine Surgery in 2020-2021
  - One of Healthgrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for General Surgery in 2021
  - Five-Star Recipient for Treatment of:
    - Stroke 2021
    - Heart Failure 2021
    - Defibrillator Procedures 2021
    - Pneumonia 2021
    - Sepsis 2021
    - Diabetic Emergencies 2021
    - Pacemaker Procedures 2020-2021
    - Respiratory Failure 2020-2021
    - Total Hip Replacement 2018-2021
    - Colorectal Surgeries 2021
    - Bowel Obstruction 2021
    - Spinal Fusion Surgery 2020-2021
    - Pancreatitis 2020-2021
  - GI Care Excellence Award 2020-2021
  - Critical Care Excellence Award 2021
  - General Surgery Excellence Award 2021
  - Among Top 10% in the Nation for Overall GI Services 2020-2021
  - Among Top 10% in the Nation for Critical Care 2021
  - Among Top 10% in the Nation for General Surgery 2021



# About the Program

## Curriculum

### Required Rotations - Fundamental Clinical Skills

We are an Internal Medicine based Hospice & Palliative Care Fellowship Program here at Grand Strand Medical Center. Through the course of the year, our fellows will complete 52 weeks of 'required rotations' in-line with ACGME's Fundamental Clinical Skills (FCS).

The rotations are as follows:

- 20 weeks Inpatient Palliative Care Consults
- 4 weeks Administrative/Research time
- 4 weeks Home Hospice
- 4 weeks Inpatient Hospice Unit
- 4 weeks Long-term Care
- 8 weeks Geriatrics Consults
- 4 weeks Pediatrics Hospice

## Electives

The remaining 4 weeks, we allow you to choose from a variety of electives depending on what you want out of your year.

Current Electives:

- Adult Oncology
- Anesthesia (interventional)
- Cardiology (heart failure)
- Chronic Pulmonary Disease
- Hospice Management
- Radiation Oncology



## Program Aims

- Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellows provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate and effective for the dignity, and the graceful management of end of life care according to each patient's and family's desire.
- Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellows demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.
- Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellows have the ability to use methods and scientific evidence to investigate, evaluate, and continuously improve patient care based on constant self evaluation and lifelong learning.
- Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellows demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills in the effective information exchange and collaboration with patients, families, and health professionals.
- Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellows demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care and the effective ability to call on other resources to provide optimal health care.
- Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellows demonstrate a commitment to professionalism and adherence to ethical principles at a time when it may matter the most to our patients and families.

## Useful Links

Life in Myrtle Beach <https://www.myrtlebeachareachamber.com/aboutthearea>

Benefits: <https://mygrandstrandhealth.com/physicians/graduate-medical-education/benefits.dot>

HCA Resident Handbook: <https://hcahealthcare.com/physicians/graduate-medical-education/resident-and-fellow-manual.dot>



**Grand Strand Medical Center** is a 371-bed acute care hospital serving residents of Horry and surrounding counties. Our hospital offers the only cardiac surgery program, neurosurgery program and pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) in Horry and Georgetown counties and is a designated Level I Adult Trauma Center and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center by South Carolina DHEC. Our hospital is also the only Comprehensive Stroke Center in the service area, certified by DNV-GL. You will be exposed to a broad range of pathology to provide you excellent training while learning evidence-based care approaches with a focus on high quality, efficient and safe patient-centered care.

**Grand Strand Medical Center** is recognized by the Joint Commission, a leading accreditor of healthcare organizations in the United States, for the following programs: chest pain, knee and hip replacement, and sepsis. In addition, we have received awards from the American Heart Association for our treatment of heart attacks and stroke.

**North Strand ER** is a 24-hour emergency department located in the North Myrtle Beach area.

**South Strand Medical Center** features a 24-hour emergency department, imaging, lab, wound care program and **Behavioral Health Center**.

**The Advanced Wound Center** is an outpatient facility for the treatment of chronic non-healing wounds and hyperbaric technology.

**The Breast Care Center** provides outpatient diagnostic services including X-ray, CT scan and ultrasound. A dedicated women's center provides digital mammography (including 3D), breast education, bone densitometry, ultrasound and x-ray services.

**Carolina Forest Imaging Center** offers outpatient procedures including CT scan, MRI/Breast MRI and digital mammography (screening).

**Health Finders** is Grand Strand Health's community health information resource center, located in the Coastal Grand Mall. This facility offers a wide range of seminars, hospital and health information, free and no-cost health screenings, wellness classes and special events.



# Simulation at Grand Strand

## State-of-the-Art Simulation Center

Simulation is an integral component of medical education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. It allows residents to experience difficult, dangerous or uncommon events in a safe, reproducible and controlled environment where learning is maximized and patient care is not affected. Simulation also allows residents to practice their task-related skills to optimize real life performance, leading to improved outcomes. Key points about Grand Strand Health's Simulation Center:

- Mission: To improve patient safety, quality of care, and clinical outcomes by integrating medical simulation based education for all residents, physicians, and clinical staff at Grand Strand Medical Center.
- Provides ongoing training for all our residency programs, and spans entire length of training.
- Two fully operational simulation rooms and a dedicated skills lab to include high and low fidelity simulation as well as robotic VR simulation.
- Simulation scenarios specialized for each of our residency programs. Each program has dedicated time each week/month for residents to share the learning experience.

## Simulation Center Team

- **Jilian Sansbury, MD, FACP** Simulation Director
- **Christopher Bryant, NRP, CHSE** Simulation Coordinator

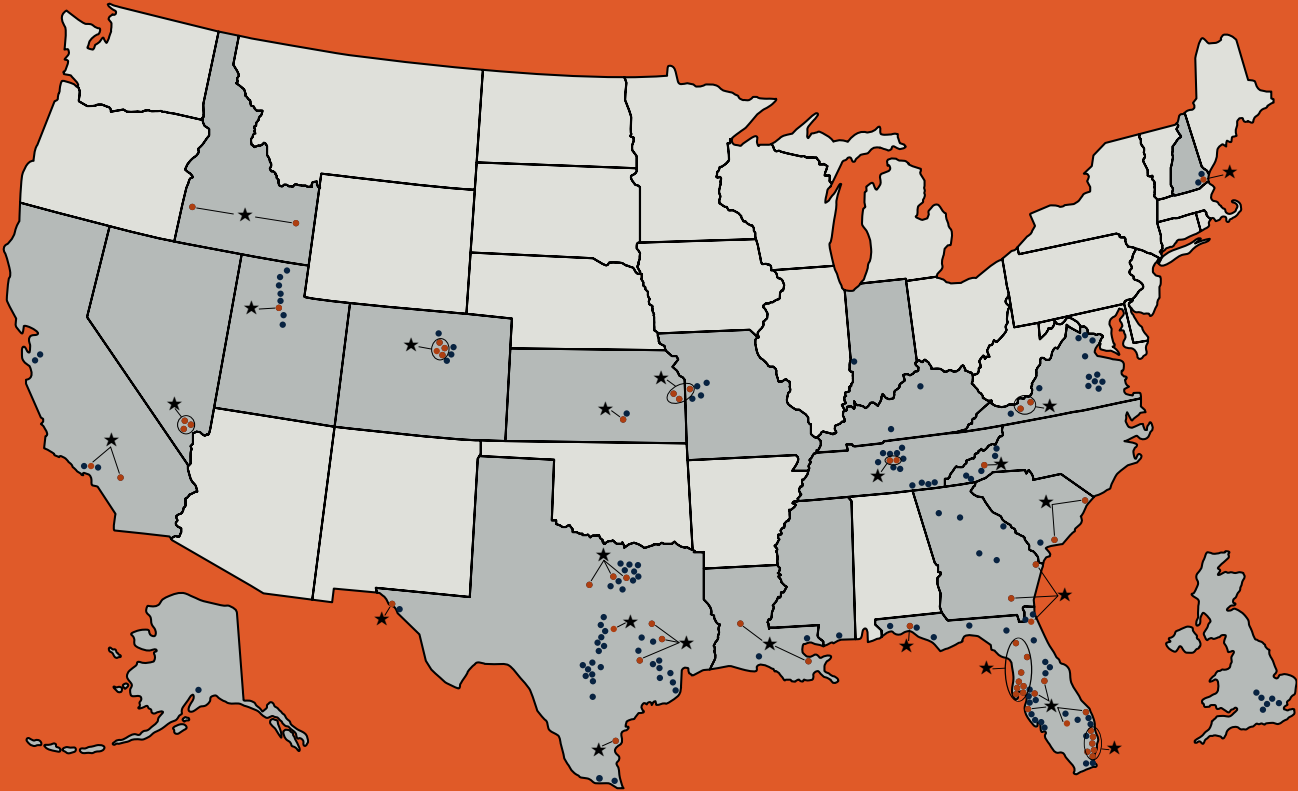
# About HCA Healthcare GME

HCA Healthcare is a comprehensive healthcare network with over 275,000 colleagues across more than 2,000 care facilities all committed to creating a positive impact every day. We continually invest in our colleagues and facilities to better serve our patients and local communities. The Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs seek to inspire tomorrow's physicians to care for and improve human life by focusing on patient-centered approaches to practicing the latest evidence-based medicine.

**To learn more about the benefits and expectations of training with an HCA Healthcare program, view our [Resident and Fellow Manual](#).**



Our residency and fellowship programs are in **59**  
hospitals located in **16** states



- ⊙ Residency or Fellowship Program
- HCA Healthcare Hospital



## Size

HCA Healthcare Graduate Medical Education is the largest sponsor of residency and fellowship programs across the nation.

**4,637**  
residents

**289**  
fellows

**218**  
specialty programs (residencies)

**79**  
sub-specialty programs  
(fellowships)



## Scholarly Activity

HCA Healthcare Graduate Medical Education provides a critical link between vigorous scholarly activity and real-world patient care from a sophisticated data repository of more than 32 million patient encounters each year.

**2,500+** HCA Healthcare GME scholarly activities in 2020-21.



## Clinical Training

Each year approximately five percent of all U.S. hospital services happen at an HCA Healthcare facility, including:

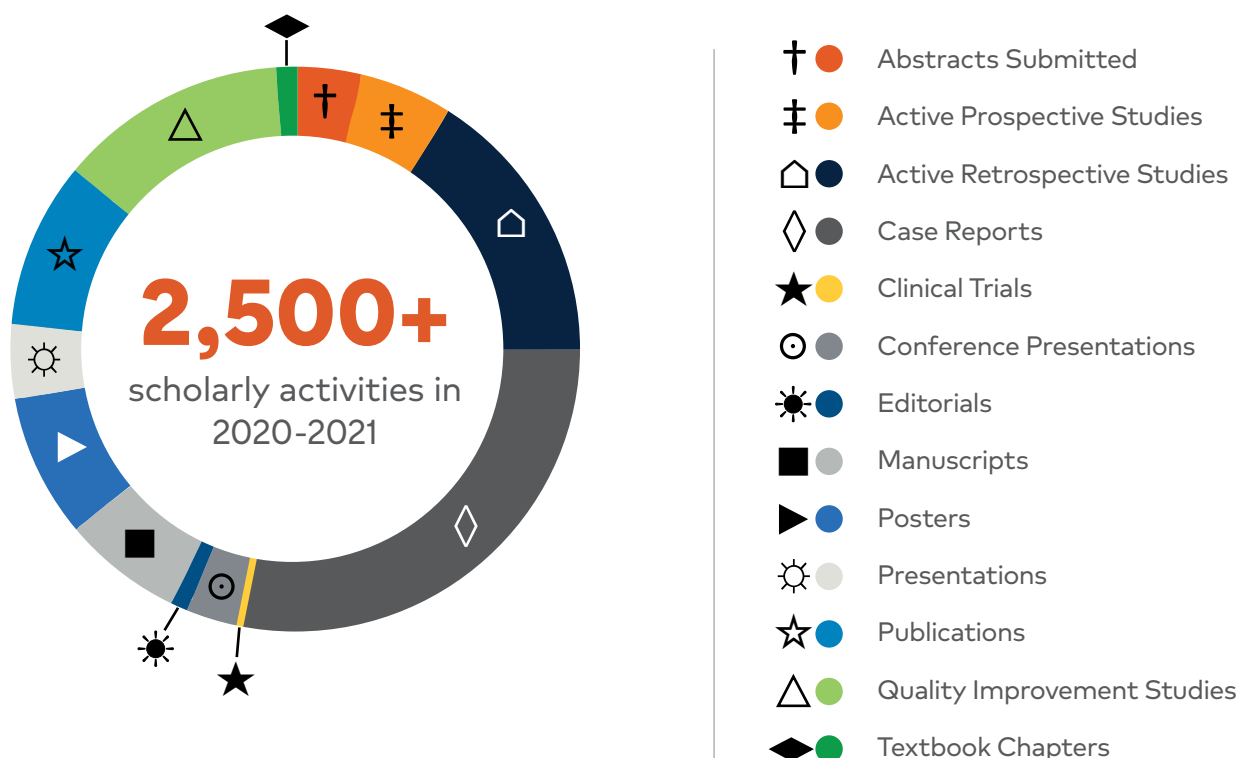
**32+ million** patient encounters  
**7.4 million** emergency room visits  
**215,000+** babies delivered

HCA Healthcare Graduate Medical Education is a leader in clinical experience.

- Nationally known physician expertise across the country
- Investments in facilities allowing the advancement of patient care
- High emphasis on simulation results and low patient incidents
- Higher patient touch than academic facilities
- Annual collaborative mass casualty event team training

# A commitment to scholarly activity

Based on more than 32 million patient encounters each year, our scholarly activity bridges the gap between compelling evidence and exceptional patient care.





Our experiential learning is rooted in evidence-based medicine that leads to innovative, **real-world patient health solutions**.

Merging the rigor of **ACGME** accreditation with high patient touch, our residents and fellows deliver evidence-based care that demonstrates our mission to care for and improve human life.

We offer **National Grand Rounds** that leverage accomplished clinical expertise from across HCA Healthcare, bringing the nation's leading medical experts to our residency and fellowship programs.

#### **Notable Publications**

- *JAMA Internal Medicine*
- *Annals of Surgical Oncology*
- *CHEST Journal*
- *American Journal of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine*
- *Obstetrics & Gynecology*

#### **Notable Presentations**

- American College of Cardiology
- Society of Critical Care Medicine
- American College of Physicians
- Society of Hospital Medicine
- American College of Surgeons

## **Influential Collaboration**

HCA Healthcare residents and fellows have access to talented, highly skilled teams of faculty, industry experts and dedicated researchers to guide them through their journey. Residents and fellows produce evidence that drives future practice by leveraging HCA Healthcare's national clinical data warehouse – the heart of our data ecosystem.

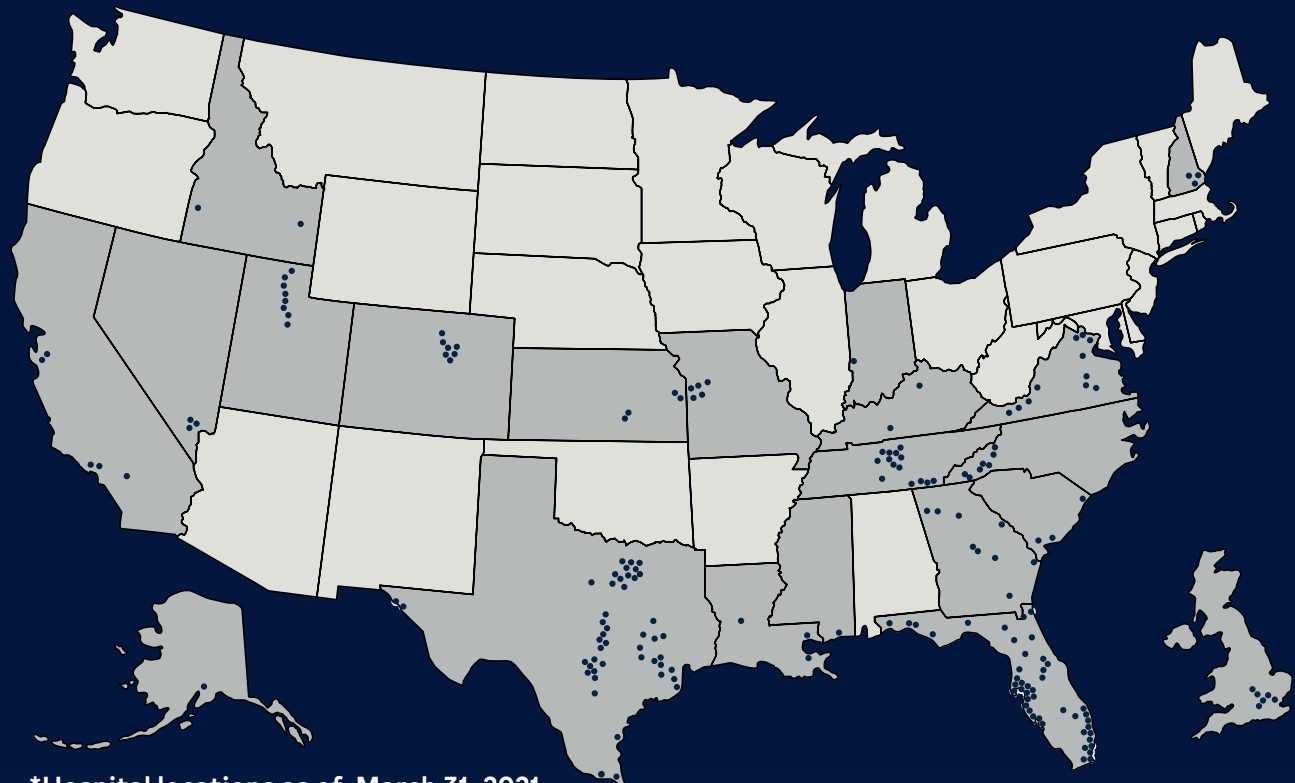
**HCA Healthcare Scholarly Commons** is a platform to collect, share and publish the variety of academic work created by the Graduate Medical Education community. During 2020, readership of those works eclipsed the 25,000 mark. Included on this platform is the **HCA Healthcare Journal of Medicine**, a peer reviewed scientific periodical focused on innovation, enhanced quality and developing new knowledge in clinical care and medical education for the benefit of all patients. In its first year of publication, the journal disseminated 86 articles in six issues as well as a seventh special issue on the COVID-19 pandemic.

# About HCA Healthcare

HCA Healthcare is one of the nation's leading providers of healthcare services and is comprised of 186 hospitals and more than 2,000 sites of care including surgery centers, freestanding ERs, urgent care centers, diagnostic and imaging centers, walk-in clinics and physician clinics in 20 states and the United Kingdom. With its founding in 1968, Nashville-based HCA Healthcare created a new model for hospital care in the United States.



**186** hospitals and more than **2,000** sites of care  
located in **20** states and the United Kingdom



\*Hospital locations as of March 31, 2021

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## Size

**275,000**  
colleagues

**93,000+**  
registered nurses

**47,000<sup>^</sup>**  
active and affiliated physicians



## Patient Care

HCA Healthcare's U.S. hospitals provide approximately 5% of all inpatient hospital services in the country.

In 2020:

**32+ million**  
patient encounters

**7.4 million**  
emergency room visits

**215,000**  
babies delivered

View the **HCA Healthcare Community Impact Report** to learn more about our award-winning programs, technology advances and partnerships with community organizations to fulfill our commitment to the care and improvement of human life.



## Giving Back

**\$3.4+ billion**  
estimated 2020 cost for the delivery of charity care, uninsured discounts and other uncompensated care

**\$45 million**  
in charitable cash contributions provided across the enterprise in 2020

We are committed to expanding our relationships with our communities by investing **\$10 million** over the next three years in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) across our footprint.\*

\*Starting in 2021



## Industry Leader

Sarah Cannon, the Cancer Institute of HCA Healthcare, provides **state-of-the-art cancer care** close to home for hundreds of thousands of patients, a number unmatched by any single cancer center.

HCA Healthcare affiliates deliver healthcare services in **more than 150 languages and dialects**.

HCA Healthcare has treated more COVID-19 inpatients than any other health system in the U.S.

<sup>^</sup>Approximate

