



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Mike Burke
(850) 416-1153

Pediatric ear, nose and throat doctor joins Sacred Heart, UF Health

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Pediatric ear, nose and throat doctor [James Coticchia, MD, FACS](#), has joined the faculty of the University of Florida College of Medicine, which is affiliated with The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart. Beginning in June, Coticchia will see patients in The Children's Hospital and in his outpatient office, located at 1657 Trinity Drive on Sacred Heart's Pensacola campus.

As a pediatric otolaryngologist – or ENT doctor – Coticchia diagnoses and treats problems such as recurring ear infections, enlarged tonsils, hearing loss, chronic ear disease, congenital neck masses, congenital airway problems and sinus issues. He is specially trained to perform procedures such as ear tube placements and tonsillectomies. In addition, he has specialized training to perform image-guided endoscopic sinus surgery and congenital ear surgery, and he uses minimally invasive techniques for management of cervical masses and endoscopic airway surgery. To schedule an appointment with Coticchia or other pediatric specialists at Sacred Heart, call 850-416-1575 or visit sacredheartmedicalgroup.com.

Coticchia is a fellowship-trained and board-certified pediatric ENT doctor. He graduated with his medical degree from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio. Coticchia completed residency training in surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. After an otolaryngology research fellowship at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Coticchia completed residency training in otolaryngology at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, where he served as the chief resident and received the resident research award for the department of otolaryngology. He completed a fellowship in pediatric otolaryngology at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania.

Coticchia has been published more than 50 times in peer-reviewed journals and has contributed to seven medical textbooks. He is the current editor-in-chief for *Frontiers in Pediatric Otolaryngology*. He has also served as editor or reviewer for seven medical journals.

Throughout his career, Coticchia has been awarded more than \$1.8 million worth of research grants, including two from the National Institutes of Health. He has served as principal investigator on studies focusing on hearing loss and hearing screenings, and he has been invited to speak at 28 national and international medical society meetings.

He previously served as director of the Pediatric Hearing Loss Center at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio; research director at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio; and director of pediatric otolaryngology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Coticchia is a member of the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology, the American Academy of Otolaryngology, the Association for Research in Otolaryngology, the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons.

In 2017, Sacred Heart formed an affiliation with UF Health to provide an expanded range of specialized pediatric care. Since then, UF and Sacred Heart have hired 22 physician specialists, providing care in pediatric cardiology, pediatric endocrinology, pediatric gastroenterology, pediatric hematology/oncology, pediatric infectious diseases, pediatric nephrology, pediatric orthopedic surgery, pediatric otolaryngology, pediatric pulmonology, pediatric surgery and pediatric urology.

UF Health Shands Children's Hospital is recognized among the nation's best hospitals by U.S. News & World Report in six pediatric medical specialties. In addition to pediatric specialty care, Sacred Heart and UF Health have collaborated to launch a new kidney transplant program to benefit the thousands of individuals across the Southeast awaiting a lifesaving transplant. Sacred Heart's pediatric and OB/GYN physician residency programs are also affiliated with the UF College of Medicine.

The expansion of pediatric specialty services coincides with the construction at Sacred Heart of a new four-story children's hospital. The hospital will be connected to the front of the existing children's hospital and will include a pediatric emergency room and trauma center, new procedure rooms dedicated to pediatric surgery, an expanded neonatal intensive care unit, a pediatric oncology unit, a medical/surgical unit, observation beds and a pediatric rehabilitation gym.

The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart is a 117-bed facility that serves as the only children's hospital in Northwest Florida. The Children's Hospital offers a wide range of services to meet all of a child's medical needs, from a pediatric emergency room and neonatal intensive care unit to a medical staff of more than 120 board-certified physicians across 30 pediatric specialties. The Children's Hospital provides quality, compassionate care to children, regardless of their parents' ability to pay. Sacred Heart Health System is a member of Ascension, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system. For more information about the services available at The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart, visit www.sacred-heart.org/childrenshospital.

About Sacred Heart Health System

On the Gulf Coast, Ascension operates Sacred Heart Health System based in Pensacola, Fla. and Providence Hospital and Providence Medical Group based in Mobile, Ala. Together, these Ascension healthcare facilities have served Gulf Coast communities for more than 160 years and they employ more than 6,600 associates. Across the region, Ascension provided more than \$113 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty in fiscal year 2016. Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. Ascension is the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, operating 2,600 sites of care – including 151 hospitals and more than 50 senior living facilities – in 22 states and the District of Columbia. For more on Sacred Heart Health System, visit www.sacred-heart.org.

About University of Florida Health

UF Health is the Southeast's most comprehensive academic health center. With main campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville, UF Health includes six health colleges, nine research institutes and centers, two teaching hospitals, six specialty hospitals and a host of physician medical practices and outpatient services throughout North Central and Northeast Florida. Its mission is to promote health through outstanding and high-quality patient care, innovative and rigorous education in the health professions and biomedical sciences, and high-impact research across the spectrum of basic, translational and clinical investigation.

UF Health includes the UF colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Professions, and Veterinary Medicine, which has both a large animal hospital and a small animal hospital. The system also encompasses several UF research institutes and centers. The full spectrum of patient-care services are provided through UF Health Shands Hospital and UF Health Jacksonville, UF's private, not-for-profit affiliates. UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville includes UF Health Shands Children's Hospital, UF Health Shands Cancer Hospital, the UF Health Heart & Vascular Hospital and the UF Health Neuromedicine Hospital. Two additional specialty hospitals, UF Health Shands Rehab Hospital and UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital, are also in Gainesville. UF Health Jacksonville and UF Health North Hospital are the system's Northeast Florida hospitals. UF Health offers a network of outpatient rehabilitation centers, two home health agencies in Gainesville and Jacksonville, and more than 100 UF physician outpatient practices throughout North Central and Northeast Florida.

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