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ECU Physicians, Vidant partnering to preserve neurosurgery services for Eastern NC

GREENVILLE, N.C. (8/22/14) – East Carolina University and Vidant Health leaders are engaged in final discussions to transition the operations of neurosurgery services from ECU Physicians, the clinical practice of the Brody School of Medicine, to Vidant Medical Group.

The discussions are part of ongoing efforts by Brody leadership and Vidant Health to identify sustainable models for critical regional services in response to changes in health care.

Neurosurgery is an integral part of the Level 1 Trauma Center which ECU and Vidant partnered to establish in the mid-1980s in order to meet the region's trauma needs.

“Vidant Health is committed to providing tertiary comprehensive neurosurgery to eastern North Carolina,” said Brian Floyd, executive vice president, Vidant Medical Center. “We are working with ECU to ensure that these highly-skilled surgeons have even greater resources to achieve the care our patients need, from complex spine surgery to high-risk brain tumors.

Floyd pointed to the installation last year of the new Perfexion stereotactic radiosurgery system at its Gamma Knife Center as an example of Vidant's commitment to tertiary comprehensive neurosurgery in eastern North Carolina. This is the only facility in the region, and one of just two in the entire state, offering this non-invasive treatment of brain disorders, such as metastatic brain tumors, meningiomas, trigeminal neuralgia and vascular malformations.
“We’re committed to ensuring our patients continue receiving the best care available right here in eastern North Carolina and to the future of the Brody School of Medicine,” said Dr. Nicholas Benson, medical director of ECU Physicians.

The ECU Physicians neurosurgery practice today consists of five physicians and approximately 25 staff in Greenville, with an additional two doctors and five staff operating a satellite office in Goldsboro. The practice treats patients with brain and spinal tumors, pituitary tumors, spinal disorders such as cervical and lumbar disc and degenerative disease, along with some forms of stroke.

Neurosurgery patients should see no change in services provided. Officials expect an agreement to be reached soon with the goal of an Oct. 1 transition date.

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