

# Doctors Give Back to the Community Through the Jacksonville Sports Medicine Program

**D**ozens of physicians volunteer their time to make sure that student-athletes receive quality, much-needed medical services, through the Jacksonville Sports Medicine Program (JSMP).

Started in the 1980s, JSMP is a collaboration of Wolfson Children's Hospital, Baptist Health, the Duval County Medical Society, the Duval County Public Schools, and Nemours Children's Clinic, Jacksonville. The goal is to support the health and safety of student-athletes in Duval County.

More than 60,000 high school and middle school athletes have received athletic physicals over the years by volunteer physicians during JSMP's annual back-to-school physicals, which are provided every August. More than 1,200 students are examined yearly by about 80 volunteer physicians from many practice areas, such as pediatrics, cardiology, family practice and orthopaedics.

"It's a good way for physicians to give back to the community, and it's an excellent physical exam for the students," said Stephen Lucie, MD, founder and president of JSMP and orthopaedic surgeon with Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute.

JSMP also helps arrange for physicians to volunteer as team physicians for all Duval County high schools at events such as home football games and wrestling matches.

JSMP offers monthly seminars to physicians and other healthcare professionals for continuing medical education credit. A variety of topics are explored, such as heat illness, head injuries, and sickle cell anemia in student-athletes.

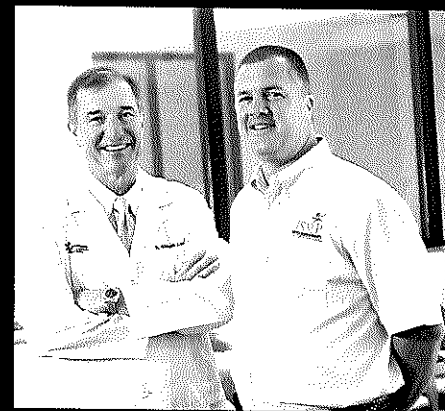
During the summer, JSMP also provides education for personnel of Jacksonville Fire/Rescue and community ambulance services in how to respond to the injured student-athlete with a suspected head or spinal cord injury.

The organization helps develop guidelines and policies for student-athletes, which are disseminated to coaches.

"We're always looking for doctors to help out," Dr. Lucie said, adding there are many ways for physicians to volunteer. "The volunteerism of doctors is what helps make the Jacksonville Sports Medicine Program work."

## How to get involved:

To help provide athletic physicals for student-athletes in August or to volunteer as a high school team physician, please contact Barbara Braddock with the Duval County Medical Society at 904.355.6561, ext. 107. To learn about upcoming educational seminars, please visit [www.jsmp.us](http://www.jsmp.us).



*R. Stephen Lucie, MD, president of the Jacksonville Sports Medicine Program (JSMP), with Robert R. Sefcik, executive vice president/executive director of JSMP. The program helps keep Duval County student-athletes safe and injury-free.*

