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**Local Physician Appointed to Statewide Council**

**ORLANDO, Fla...**Dr. George F. Ellis, M.D., M.M.M., F.A.C.S., chairman of Orange County's Primary Care Access Network (PCAN), was recently appointed to the Florida Medical Association's (FMA) Council on Public Health. He is one of two physicians from the Orlando area to serve on the statewide 19-member council. The FMA is the state's largest physician organization, representing 16,000 members.

Dr. Ellis will serve on the council and assist the FMA in preparing policy positions relative to public health. He will also provide advice on professional and public information activities that might be undertaken by the FMA in respect to public health issues.

"I am honored to be appointed to the FMA Council on Public Health," said Dr. Ellis. "Orange County has worked extensively on developing programs in public health, particularly in managing the issue of uninsured/underinsured citizens through the Primary Care Access Network."

Dr. Ellis received his master's degree from Tulane University and his doctorate degree

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from the University of Brussels in Belgium. He began his medical career in 1982 in Syracuse, New York, with residency in general surgery and urology.

Dr. Ellis is a member of a number of professional organizations including the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE) and the Florida Medical Association. He is also secretary of the Orange County Medical Society and is slated to become president in 2006.

The Primary Care Access Network is comprised of public and private health care providers committed to improving the access, quality and coordination of health care services to the underinsured in Orange County. By developing an integrated, comprehensive system of primary care centers, PCAN intends to increase primary care capacity and reduce utilization of the local emergency departments by providing "medical homes" and teaching basic first aid to residents of Orange County.