



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 11, 2017**

**Contact: Mike Burke**  
**(850) 416-1153**

## **Pediatric pulmonologist joins Sacred Heart, University of Florida Health**

**PENSACOLA, Fla.** — Pediatric pulmonologist and sleep medicine specialist Dr. Gulnur Com has joined the faculty of University of Florida College of Medicine, which is affiliated with The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart.

Beginning in September, Com will practice on Sacred Heart's Ninth Avenue campus in Pensacola and will treat lung problems and sleep conditions in children, including asthma, prematurity-related lung disease, sleep apnea, sleep-maintenance problems and narcolepsy.

Com is fellowship trained and board certified in pediatric pulmonology. She graduated with her medical degree from Istanbul University in Istanbul, Turkey, and completed her residency training in pediatrics at Michigan State University. Com performed a fellowship in pediatric pulmonology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Com comes to Pensacola from the University of Southern California and Children's Hospital Los Angeles, where she served as associate professor of pediatric pulmonary and sleep medicine, co-director of the cystic fibrosis care center and vice-chair of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Therapeutics Development Network publication committee. She has also worked as an associate professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Arkansas Children's Hospital, where she was the director of the pediatric cystic fibrosis center and the director of the pulmonary outpatient clinic.

Com is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the American Thoracic Society. She has served as principal investigator or co-investigator on 15 clinical trials, and she has been awarded more than \$350,000 in grants to study cystic fibrosis and lung health. Com has been published in peer-reviewed journals and medical textbooks, and she has presented her research findings at national and international professional meetings.

UF Health and Sacred Heart announced in September 2016 a collaboration to provide an expanded range of specialized pediatric care, with the goal of building a regional pediatric physicians' network that ultimately stretches from Pascagoula, Mississippi, to Apalachicola, Florida. In addition to Com, the University of Florida College of Medicine has hired three pediatric specialists since January – pediatric nephrologist Dr. Edward Kohaut and pediatric gastroenterologists Dr. Alan Sacks and Dr. Robert Dillard. Kohaut has relocated his practice to the Sacred Heart Pediatric Care Center, and Sacks and Dillard will join him in July.

UF Health is recognized among the nation's best hospitals by U.S. News & World Report in nine 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 start of 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 29 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](http://www.sacred-heart.org/childrenshospital).

### **About Sacred Heart Health System**

On the Gulf Coast, Sacred Heart Health System based in Pensacola, Florida, and Providence based in Mobile, Alabama, are part of Ascension. 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 2,500 sites of care – including 141 hospitals and more than 30 senior living facilities – in 24 states and the District of Columbia. For more on Sacred Heart Health System, visit [www.sacred-heart.org](http://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, four 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.

###