



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Avow Joins NCH to Train Hospice and Palliative Care Physicians Through Fellowship Program**

**Naples, Fla. (April 24, 2023)** – Avow has joined NCH’s fellowship program to train physicians in hospice and palliative medicine. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) oversees the program.

“As Southwest Florida continues to grow in population and more people choose to retire in Collier County, there is an increased need for trained physicians in palliative and end-of-life care,” Avow President and CEO Jaysen Roa explains. Avow's census for hospice and palliative care patients have seen dramatic growth in recent years based on increased need in the community.

Dr. Ryan Perdzock, who is the associate vice president of medical services for Avow and the director of the fellowship program at NCH, coordinates the incoming doctors.

“In Naples, I've seen a lot of complex and chronic illnesses that come with a host of symptoms,” said Dr. Perdzock. “The focus on training more physicians in this field is to keep more of our residents functional and increase their quality of life.”

Training includes specific rotations preparing the fellows for board certification in hospice and palliative medicine – a field where there is a shortage of trained physicians. Nephrologist Dr. Teresa Liccardi and internal medicine specialist Dr. Sanjivani Sathe are the first NCH fellows to rotate at Avow as part of the new affiliation.

“NCH continually strives to help those we serve live longer, happier, healthier lives, as well as bring better quality to those lives,” said Mark Rasnake, MD, Program Director, NCH Internal Medicine Residency Program. “Working with Avow to better train more of our area’s physicians on palliative care, will do just that.”

Roa added, “Avow aims always to be ready to serve this community, particularly with the expansion of care in palliative medicine, which is predicted to grow exponentially in the coming years.”

### **About Avow**

Avow was founded in 1983 as Collier County's original nonprofit hospice. Today, Avow's nonprofit companies provide palliative care consultations for adults who face chronic or severe illness, hospice care, and bereavement support services for children and adults. To learn more about the scope of services provided by Avow, call (239) 261-4404 or visit [avowcares.org](http://avowcares.org).

### **About NCH**

NCH is a not-for-profit, multi-facility healthcare system located in Naples, Florida, and is a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. The System is more than just two hospitals (referred to as the NCH Baker Hospital and NCH North Naples Hospital) with a total of 713 beds. NCH is an alliance of 775 physicians and medical facilities in dozens of locations throughout Collier County and southwest Florida that offers nationally recognized, quality health care to our community. NCH delivers 3,500 babies and houses the only pediatric ER in Collier County serving more than 19,000 children every year. We take pride in caring for the next generation of leaders. Our mission is to help everyone live a longer, happier, healthier life. For more information, visit [www.NCHmd.org](http://www.NCHmd.org).

**-END-**

**Media Contact:**

Reneé Stoll, Avow Director of Communications, 239-261-4404, [Renee.Stoll@avowcares.org](mailto:Renee.Stoll@avowcares.org)