

7-14-2002

## 2002 Commencement - College Of Allied Health and Nursing and College Of Osteopathic

Nova Southeastern University

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*College of Osteopathic Medicine ♦ College of Pharmacy  
College of Optometry ♦ College of Allied Health  
College of Medical Sciences ♦ College of Dental Medicine*

**NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
COMMENCEMENT**

**COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH  
Physician Assistant Department  
Physical Therapy Department**

♦

**COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE  
Master of Public Health Program**

*Sunday, July 14, 2002  
Broward Center for the Performing Arts  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

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Convening the Commencement .....	<i>David H. Rush</i> <i>Member</i> <i>Board of Trustees</i>
Welcome .....	<i>Marla Frohlinger, M.H.S.A.</i> <i>Vice Chancellor for Student Services</i> <i>and Professional Coordination</i> <i>Health Professions Division</i>
Remarks .....	<i>Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D.</i> <i>President</i> <i>Nova Southeastern University</i>
Greetings .....	<i>Fred Lippman, B.Sc., R.Ph.</i> <i>Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost</i> <i>Health Professions Division</i>
Presentation of Candidate for Honorary Degree .....	<i>Mr. Lippman</i>
Address .....	<i>John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.</i> <i>Secretary</i> <i>Florida Department of Health</i>
Conferral of Degrees in Course .....	<i>President Ferrero</i>
Physical Therapy .....	<i>Richard E. Davis, PA-C, Ed.D.</i> <i>Dean</i> <i>College of Allied Health</i>
Physician Assistant .....	<i>Dr. Davis</i>
Public Health .....	<i>Cyril Blavo, M.S., D.O., M.P.H.&amp;T.M.</i> <i>Director</i> <i>Master of Public Health Program</i> <i>College of Osteopathic Medicine</i>
Physician Assistant Oath .....	<i>Julie B. Keena, M.M.S., PA-C</i> <i>Chair</i> <i>Physician Assistant Department</i> <i>College of Allied Health</i>
Adjourn .....	<i>Mr. Rush</i>

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\*Audience Please Stand

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**John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.**  
**Secretary, Florida Department of Health**

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. John Agwunobi has dedicated himself to his chosen profession by focusing his efforts on improving access to health care. Dr. Agwunobi's background is quite extensive. It ranges from health care delivery—to health policy—to managed care and public health. Prior to becoming secretary, he served the people of Florida as Deputy Secretary and Deputy State Health Officer for Children's Medical Services.

Dr. Agwunobi was born in Dundee, Scotland and attended medical school in Nigeria, where his physician father was a professor of surgery. In addition, to his medical degree, Dr. Agwunobi holds an MBA from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He completed his pediatric residency at Howard University Hospital where his training included rotating between Children's National Medical Center and the District of Columbia General Hospital. It was during that training that he became interested in children with disabilities and patients with special needs.

In 1993, Dr. Agwunobi joined the medical staff at the Hospital for Sick Children in Washington, D.C., and in 1998, he was appointed Medical Director. A year later, Dr. Agwunobi was named Vice President of Medical Affairs and Patient Services. As a member of the Health Department's leadership team, he has participated at all levels of public health planning and executive decision-making. Dr. Agwunobi resides in Tallahassee with his wife and their three children. He is proud to say that every member of his family is fully committed to helping to improve the health of Floridians.

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT'S OATH

*I pledge to perform the following duties with honesty and dedication:*

*I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare and dignity of  
all human beings.*

*I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence and justice.*

*I will recognize and promote the value of diversity.*

*I will treat equally all persons who seek my care.*

*I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.*

*I will assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve  
my medical practice.*

*I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances  
in medicine.*

*I will work with other members of the health care team to provide compassionate and  
effective care of patients.*

*I will use my knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.*

*I will respect my professional relationship with the physician.*

*I will share and expand knowledge within the profession.*

*These duties are pledged with sincerity and upon my honor.*



## ACADEMIC PROCESSION AND REGALIA

*The Academic Processional is a longstanding tradition which originated in medieval universities in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Attired in cap, hood and gown, the faculty would present itself and its students to the local community for inspection.*

*The gown was originally thought to be worn for warmth, and to denote authority and privilege. Today, black is the color of the gown for all degrees, although variations represent the difference in the level of the degree.*

*The medieval hood was worn as a protection from the elements or used as a satchel to carry scrolls and books. The modern hood worn today is lined with satin in the colors of the institution conferring the degree (Nova Southeastern University colors are blue and gray). In addition, the hood is trimmed with various colors of velvet facing, each color representing the academic discipline in which the degree has been granted. Teal has been designated to represent physical therapy and salmon to represent public health.*

*The academic cap, at one time worn by freed Roman slaves, signifies the wearer's right to academic freedom and attests to the dignity endowed upon the wearer as well as the responsibility for maintaining the highest practical and ethical standards.*

*During the Middle Ages, the mace was displayed as a symbol to command order during royal gatherings, ceremonies, and university classes. The mace progressed into a symbol of authority and today is frequently used to lead academic processions.*

*The mace was originally a wooden staff carried by royal messengers as a symbol to preserve order and usher royal functions.*

*The early wooden staff of such royal messengers or lead ushers of ceremonial processions was transformed in the 14th century, into an elaborate sterling silver mace. Eventually, in the 15th century, it evolved into a symbol of academic excellence and dignity.*



