

Scripps and Tenet Plan Academic Medical Center

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The Scripps Research Institute and Tenet Healthcare Corp. said they would collaborate to build an academic medical center in Palm Beach Gardens, near Scripps' Florida campus in Jupiter.

The nonprofit research institute and the for-profit hospital operator (NYSE: THC) submitted a letter of intent to the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration, seeking the construction of an 80-bed hospital on 30 acres along Donald Ross Road near Interstate 95. That land has long been planned as an extension of Scripps' research facilities.

Scripps received more than \$500 million in state, county and other local funds to support its Florida operation. The county estimated that the economic impact of the new medical center would be \$402 million over five years. It would also create 150 to 200 construction jobs and, after its completion, 250 to 300 health care jobs.

Services offered in the hospital would include orthopedics, oncology, senior care and digestive diseases. It would offer residency and internship slots for medical students at Florida Atlantic University, which hosts Scripps on its campus and runs a joint M.D.-Ph.D. programs with Scripps.

This would be the 10th hospital campus in South Florida for Tenet, which also owns the nearby Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center. The new facility would be less than 5 miles south of nonprofit Jupiter Medical Center, which recently launched an expansion campaign.

When considering hospital certificates of need, AHCA looks at the current and projected demand for health care services in the area and whether existing facilities are able to serve them. Gov. Rick Scott, who oversees AHCA, voiced his support for the project.

John Couris, CEO of Jupiter Medical Center, said there is no need for another hospital in the area because existing hospitals have enough bed capacity.

"The location of a cutting-edge medical center next to our current research facilities in Florida would help us continue to build bridges between science and medicine," Scripps Research President Dr. Richard A. Lerner said in a news release. "This collaboration offers opportunities to further key aspects of our mission: to create knowledge in the biosciences to improve human health, as well as to train the next generation of scientific leaders."