



**KERN NATIONAL NETWORK**  
FOR FLOURISHING IN MEDICINE  
*Character. Caring. Practical Wisdom.*

**2024 KNN CONFERENCE**  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL | September 4-6, 2024**

## Growing attendance and representation

From September 4-6, 2024, the KNN hosted its third annual national conference, bringing together nearly **230** individuals from **75** unique organizations across the health ecosystem to share work, ideas and innovations for cultivating healthcare environments where all can flourish. This year's conference saw not only growth in the number of attendees but also a significant uptick in the number of organizations represented as compared to 2023, which drew more than 200 participants from 54 organizations.

## Collaborating with partners in new geographies

Serving as a destination for learning and engagement at the headwaters of the movement, this year's conference intentionally branched out beyond its typical locale to meet KNN partners where they are and grow the collective mission to transform medicine. Held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this year's event engaged two KNN local partners: **Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine (NSU MD)** and the **University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine**.

### 2024 KNN Conference Local Partners



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
**MILLER SCHOOL**  
of MEDICINE

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College  
of Allopathic Medicine  
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

**NSU**  
Florida

## Uplifting leaders from within the movement

The three-day event provided an array of dynamic discussions, catalyzing conversations, skill-building workshops and a poster symposium focused on the application of the interconnected elements within the KNN Framework for Flourishing. The program design intentionally highlighted leaders and partners from within the movement. As one example, assigned facilitators for concurrent sessions helped draw connections between the work presented and KNN Framework concepts, an important contribution for the many first-time attendees. Additionally, the opening and closing sessions highlighted work and perspectives from a variety of partners, as well as different ways to engage with the KNN.

The opening session, **"Shaping the Future: Creating the Conditions for Flourishing,"** featured three deans from medical schools within the

## 2024 KNN Conference Participation



**230**

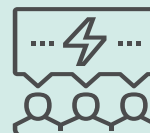
participants

representing



**75**

unique  
organizations



**65%**

first-time  
attendees

*This year's conference saw an increase in overall attendance and, importantly, a broader variety of organizations represented — and for many, it was their first KNN Conference.*

movement: Latha Chandran, MD, MPH, MBA, of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, Sonia N. Chimienti, MD, FIDSA, of Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, and Deepthiman Gowda, MD, MPH, MS, of Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine (KPSOM).

The panel shared how KNN Framework concepts are coming to life at their organizations. Dr. Gowda described flourishing as “an active and constant state of becoming,” and described influencing culture at KPSOM through curricular space for health and flourishing. Dr. Chimienti spoke to creating environments in which people can flourish by using the KNN Framework as a North Star for transforming institutional policies, cultivating practical wisdom, and showing care toward medical students. Dr. Chandran emphasized the responsibility of educators to be transformational leaders by engaging and supporting learners through professionalism courses, coaching and care.



Day two featured Roshini Pinto-Powell, MD, of Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and Kimberly Gifford, MD, of Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, during the opening session on **“Integrating Character, Caring and Practical Wisdom Toward a Wholeness of Being and Doing.”** Dr. Gifford spoke to the different and personal pathways that lead to flourishing, and the key to transforming professional identity formation into a more beneficial process for learners — using parts of a tree as a metaphor where learner identity and values are the roots while coaches, mentors and advisors serve as gardeners. Dr. Pinto-Powell emphasized building practical wisdom through reflection, service and ethical discussions. She also stressed how flourishing cannot exist without a place of great character, and the role medical schools must play in providing character education.



With a significant learner presence (nearly 70 students, residents and fellows), the conference posed an opportunity to highlight the KNN Learner Network. This year, the KNN partnered with The Good Listening Project (TGLP) to engage and follow learners into their residency years. Through meaningful interactions and creativity, TGLP collaborated with residents in capturing their lived experiences through compassionate listening and poetry.

Residents took the stage during the Wednesday and Thursday opening sessions to read a variety of the poems that were produced by a team of listener poets, which reflected character, caring and practical wisdom inside and out of the clinical space. Evoking emotional responses from attendees, residents expressed their purpose in medicine through an exploration of challenges, humbling experiences and profound moments throughout their journey in residency.

The closing session incorporated perspectives from Karen Peterson Corash, Artistic Director and Founder of Karen Peterson and Dancers, presenting on physically integrated dance that includes people with and without disabilities. A moving video of performances reflected the importance of curiosity through improvisation, the dancers’ dedication to education and presentation of the work, and flourishing through inclusivity.

Abraham M. Nussbaum, MD, followed with his presentation **“Companion Planting”** — demonstrating the importance of



## Connecting and inspiring change agents nationwide

Spaces for exchanging ideas and building community can be transformative, and this year's conference made a difference, as results from the post-conference evaluation show. Most importantly, conference attendees appreciated the opportunity to connect, reflect and collaborate, as evidenced by a word cloud created from participant responses.



## Highlights from Post-Evaluation Feedback on 2024 KNN Conference



96%

gained new insight  
and understanding of  
Framework concepts

96%

gained new knowledge and skills they plan to apply in daily work and life

97%

**agreed participation positively impacted their personal and professional development**

## Broadening and deepening the movement

Along with making a difference for individual participants, the conference also strengthened the movement itself. For instance, when asked to name the single most valuable takeaway from the conference, many specifically



## From Curiosity to Commitment: KNN Partner Perspective

*I can't help but reflect on the incredible journey I've been on since attending my first KNN Conference back in 2022. I initially joined as an attendee, curious about the concept of "flourishing" in medicine and how it could be applied to learners.*

*Fast forward to today, I'm honored to attend as someone embedded in the KNN community and actively driving meaningful change at our institution. The idea of fostering well-being and flourishing in medicine has evolved from an inspiring concept into a driving force behind my work. I'm excited to continue collaborating with others to create lasting impacts on learner wellness and institutional culture!*



referenced the growth of the movement, richness of the KNN Framework, depth of the work happening nationally and the importance of systemic approaches. Responses included:

- There is a needed national movement underway!!!!
- Be thinking like a gardener when designing your systems for flourishing
- Interest across the nation to build flourishing
- The framework, examples, and the positive energy
- The potential for KNN to transform the health care system through its stakeholders
- The need to integrate human flourishing throughout programs/curricula rather than merely “grafting” it onto them
- Theoretical and pragmatic application of Framework
- That the flourishing movement is growing nationally, that learners are creatively engaged and embracing it, and that the KNN Framework for Flourishing is as grounded in evidence as it is inspiring
- Ways to get more connected to KNN
- The extent of good practical work to implement KNN ideas being done at KNN schools
- Greater understanding and appreciation of the framework
- Learning more about the KNN model

In addition, the conference generated a number of new opportunities for potential collaborations.

## Looking ahead

We are deeply grateful to the Kern Family Foundation, whose steadfast partnership and transformational investment make the work of the KNN possible — creating vital, meaningful opportunities to reshape the profession of medicine. We also would like to express our appreciation for all who contributed to the conference, including our 2024 conference sponsors, the KNN program office team, and our partners, presenters and participants.

Looking ahead, the 2025 KNN Conference will take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota — [sign up here](#) to receive updates on the call for submissions, registration and more!

## Thank You to Our 2024 Sponsors!



## Select Words of Gratitude from Conference Participants

*It was a wonderful conference, **rejuvenating** and **inspiring**, with incredible **community** and **kindness**.*

*Wow, what a wonderful conference! I was so inspired by the **amazing work** the KNN and so many others are doing around flourishing in medicine. And I made so many wonderful **connections**!*

*I want to express my sincere **gratitude** for the fantastic opportunity to attend the KNN Conference in Florida. I am truly **refreshed** and **encouraged** by the wealth of possibilities to engage in the **Framework for Flourishing**.*

*Truly **inspiring**. I have been a pediatrician for many years and **committed** to the concepts of humanism. It was so refreshing to find colleagues equally committed to **important principles**.*

*Superb facilitation and flexibility, meeting participants where they were while creating **an experience that built bridges** in the present moment.  
Thank you!*

*I loved the conference! I loved the discussions of flourishing through adversity. I also really enjoyed meeting others so **passionate** in this space.  
What a lovely **community**!*

*This was my first national conference and I loved **connecting** with individuals from my own institution and those across others. **I look forward to staying involved** for the rest of my career/life.*