Jacksonville, as one of the largest cities in Florida, has long been a center for health care, rich in hospitals and a center for public health administration.

JHEP was founded in 1958 as the Jacksonville Hospitals Education Program when six of Jacksonville’s hospitals formed a cooperative agreement to offer better training for interns and residents, who had access to opportunities offered at each hospital. Physicians at each hospital also had access to a richer pool of resources, especially through the shared library system.

The hospitals that formed JHEP included Baptist Memorial, Brewster Methodist, Duval Medical Center, Hope Haven Hospital, St. Luke’s and St. Vincent’s.

Residency training in 1960 usually included a mix of time spent in the private hospitals and at Duval Medical Center. The Medical Center was the county hospital that was renamed University Hospital when it moved into new quarters in 1971.

JHEP became the Jacksonville Health Education Program and in 1969 became a division of the UF Health Science Center. With this agreement, JHEP began to develop relationships with other colleges in the UF Health Center. In 1988, it changed its name to UF Health Science Center Jacksonville.