

Department of Genetics Townhall Meeting

11 MAY 2020

General Stuff

- Rules for the meeting:
 - All participants will be muted
 - Send questions using the “CHAT” box in zoom
 - If you wish to ask a question, please unmute and introduce yourself
- Pay attention to updates from the university, the state and the CDC
- Practice social distancing
- Pay special attention to avoid infecting those at risk for serious disease: the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions
- Be kind

Faculty Meetings

- Will continue every other Wednesday at 12pm
- Next meeting on May 20
- Please plan to attend for important updates
- Last week's slides are posted on intranet in Faculty Meetings folder

Highlighted Paper

- Identification of type 2 diabetes loci in 433,540 East Asian individuals. *Nature* 06 May 2020. Mohlke – co-senior author
 - Largest study of its kind in any non-European population
 - Identified 301 distinct genetic signals at 183 loci associated with type 2 diabetes in people from East Asia

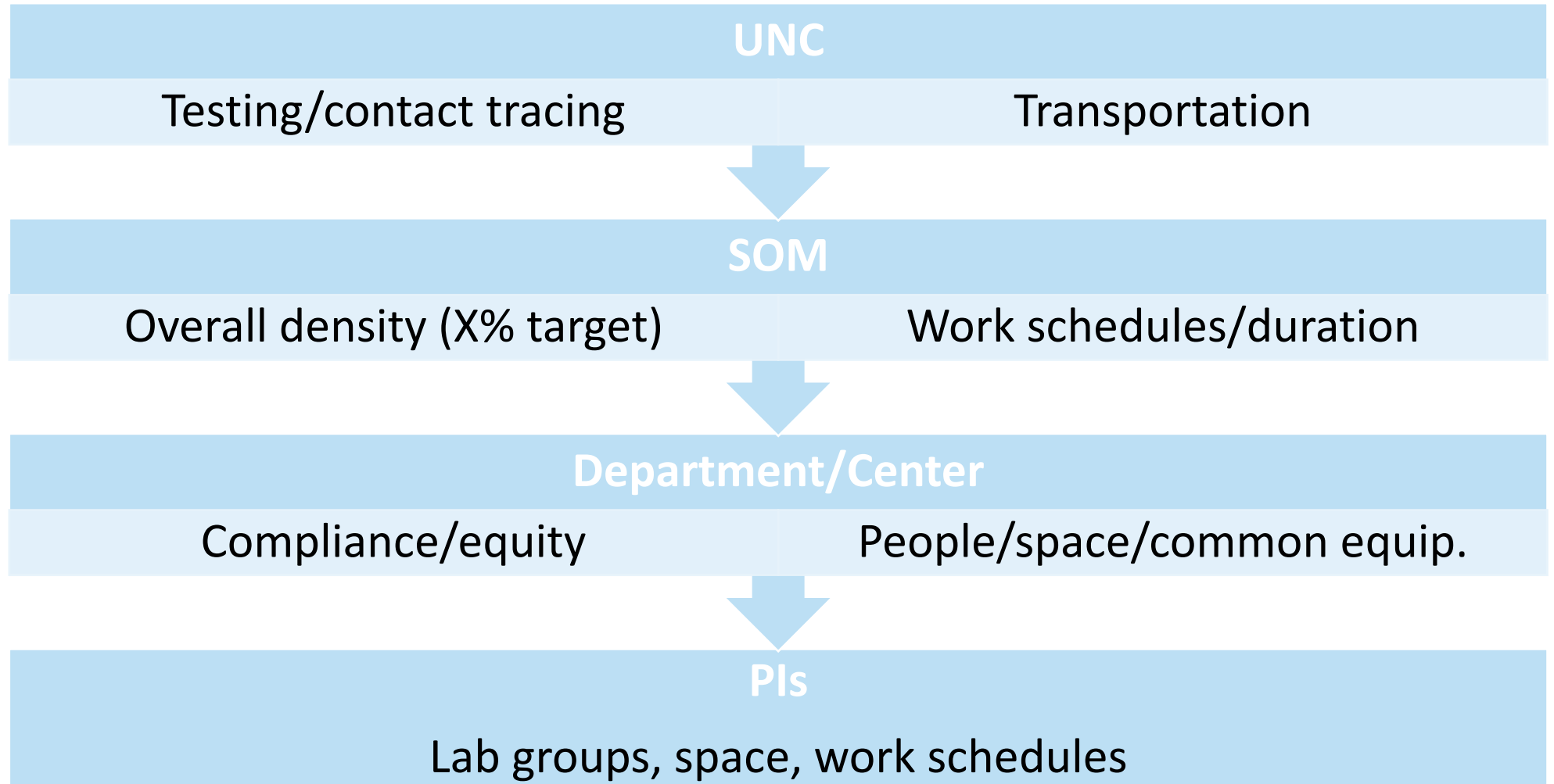
State of NC Guidance – 5/5 update

- Phase One transition began at 5pm on May 8 - through May 22
 - Removes distinction between essential and non-essential businesses
 - Bars, personal care businesses, entertainment venues and gyms remain closed. Restaurants can only serve take-out or delivery
 - Gatherings of 10 or more prohibited
 - Remote working still encouraged
 - Wear a mask, wash your hands, wait six feet apart

PPE – On Campus Mandatory

- UNC Healthcare is now asking all mandatory employees who work onsite to wear surgical masks, regardless of patient contact. One mask/two shifts
- “Ear Savers” available – please let Cara/Chris know if you need some and how many. Pick up your masks each week – new batch provided on Tuesdays
- 70% EtOH spray bottles will be provided to GMB 5th floor employees for disinfection purposes
- Department has also purchased Lysol spray, Chlorox wipes, surgical masks, hand sanitizer

Guidance for Re-Opening



Plans for Re-Opening

- Department strongly prefers to set plans by consensus and to agree on the spirit of how we will re-open. We will maintain flexibility (with compliance) but must focus on social distancing and reduced density
- Recommend you use lab safety plan as guide for work plan in your lab (see next slide)
- Plan for long-term duration (until we have a vaccine or treatment)
- Shift work is under consideration – open to ideas
- **Remote work should continue – critical to reduce density**

Considerations for Re-opening Labs



- Consider a lab schedule
- Consider implementation of safe spaces to maintain 6 feet between researchers at all times
- Consider a plan for safe practices in the lab
- Consider a plan for shared equipment
- Consider a plan for interactions with others outside the lab
- Consider a plan for a possible or confirmed case of COVID19 among lab personnel

Faculty and Staff Leave Provisions – 05/08 Updates

- Administrative Leave and Telework
 - All employees who are able to telework should continue to do so.
 - Faculty and staff (permanent or temporary), students and postdocs may receive paid administrative leave if they cannot work for reasons such as their duties cannot be performed remotely, they have childcare needs (and are no longer eligible for FFCRA leave benefits) or have eldercare needs due to COVID-19 related facility closings.
 - Units have the discretion to provide full or partial paid administrative leave to non-student temporary employees, or to end the temporary appointment as deemed appropriate.

Faculty and Staff Leave Provisions cont.

- Communicable Disease Mandatory Employee (CDME)
Compensation for on-site work
 - At UNC-Chapel Hill, onsite CDMEs will continue to earn the 1.5 compensation time for any hours worked (up to 40 hours in a single work week) onsite until May 10, which marks the end of the current bi-weekly pay period.
 - Beginning May 11, the supplementary compensation provision will end, and all employees will be paid standard base pay for any time worked, either onsite or remotely. Regular overtime provisions continue to apply.
 - Employees who earned compensatory time for onsite work over the previous months will be paid out for any remaining time earned in the coming months. More information about plans for payouts will be provided in subsequent updates.

Art Competition Reminder

- The Department of Genetics has opened a competition to select an art piece to be located in the newly renovated Emeritus Conference Room (GMB 5094). The format is flexible but the piece should fit in the proposed space. Painting, sculpture, photography, collage, mixed media and other visual arts are welcome. The department seeks a highly original piece and the subject matter has no restrictions, but some connection (formal or subjective) to the mission of the department or its members is welcome. Pieces that are contrary to the values and strategic framework of the UNC School of Medicine (research, education, faculty, diversity-equity-inclusion, service and administration) will be disqualified.
- **ARTIST.** The artist(s) should have a connection to the department. Direct or indirect connections are acceptable (please ask if you qualify). Art pieces with team authorship that includes one or more members of the department will also qualify.
- **DIMENSIONS.** Maximum dimensions for the piece are: 8' tall, 30" wide (including frame if needed) and 14" deep. Size will not impact eligibility for the prize.
- **PRIZE.** A single prize of \$600.00 will be awarded to the winner. The stipulation for the winning piece is that it will be donated to the department for display in the conference room.
- **SUBMISSION PROCESS.** Artists should submit up to three high-quality photographs of the art (suitable for judging) and include the name of the artist, a short paragraph describing the piece, and the dimensions. Please send submissions by email to Cathy Cornett at: Catherine_cornett@med.unc.edu with the title: Art Competition – “last name”
- **REVIEW AND SELECTION.** Photographs of the submitted pieces will be posted online for review for a period of two weeks. The winner will be selected by popular vote of qualified members of the department using a survey tool that will be provided by email.
- **DATES**
 - Submission Window: May 18-June 1, 2020
 - Review Process: June 1-14, 2020
 - Voting Survey: June 15-19, 2020
 - Award: By June 26, 2020

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

- COVID-19 related funding opportunities of interest to Department of Genetics scientists have been curated and saved to [website intranet folder](#) “COVID-19 Funding Opportunities”. This will be updated on a regular basis so please check back weekly.

Questions??