

# Department of Genetics Town Hall Meeting

09 DECEMBER  
2020

# Agenda

- Highlights and Awards
- Compliance Reminders
- Ongoing Procedures for Positive Cases
- Testing Guidelines for 2021
- Holiday Break
- Q & A

# Highlights and Awards from FY20

- **Folami Ideraabdullah**, PhD elected to US DOHAD Council
- **Paola Giusti-Rodriguez**, PhD named 2019 Human Genetics Scholar by ASHG
- **Kristy Lee**, MS, CGC named “Genetic Counselor of the Year” by National Hemophilia Foundation
- **Drs. Hoadley, Parker, Mieczkowski, Perou, Sullivan, Ting** named as “Highly Cited Researchers” by Thomson Reuters
- **Virginia Miller**, PhD elected to ASM Board of Directors
- **Folami Ideraabdullah**, PhD named to list of “100 Inspiring Black Scientists in America” by Cell Press
- Department of Genetics **ranked #1** for federal funding among public SOM Genetics departments
- **Laura Raffield**, PhD named NHLBI “BioData Catalyst Fellow”
- **Yuchao Jiang**, PhD received Teaching Excellence and Innovation in Biostatistics Award
- TCGA members **Drs. Hoadley, Parker and Perou** recognized with AACR Team Science Award
- **Dominic Ciavatta**, PhD received UNC Kidney Center “Maestro Award” for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring
- **Jenny Ting**, PhD named President of the American Association of Immunologists
- **Lisa Tarantino**, PhD named Faculty Director of BBSP
- **Katie Hoadley**, PhD received Marion R. Wright Award for Scientific Excellence from BCRF

# Highlights and Awards from NOV-DEC 2020

- GENETICS editors highlighted paper by **Drs. Crouse, Kelada and Valdar** in December 2020 issue
- Genetics faculty members **Drs. Hoadley, Mieczkowski, Parker, Perou, Sullivan and Ting** named to Clarivate's 2020 List of Highly Cited Researchers
- **Dr. Katarzyna Kedziora**, postdoctoral researcher in Purvis lab, received Chan Zuckerberg (CZI) grant to support increased collaboration and innovations in imaging technology research
- **Dr. Karen Mohlke** (Professor) received Award for Excellence in Basic Science Mentorship from the Office of Graduate Education
- Department of Genetics labs (**Drs. Fernando Pardo-Manuel de Villena and Marty Ferris**) together with **Dr. Leonard McMillan** (Computer Science) led an international consortium, including 69 researchers from UNC (15 departments and 6 centers/programs) and investigators from 6 other institutions, to design, develop and test the MiniMUGA genotyping array - published in GENETICS

# Reminder - Guidance from OVCR for Laboratory Research

- Physical distancing
  - 6 feet
  - 150 sq feet per person
- Safety practices, including PPE and cleaning
- Reduce number of users in DCM facilities
- Cores must focus on cleaning equipment, surfaces before and after use
- Re-arrange equipment to ensure physical distancing
- Symptoms monitoring – each employee must perform a daily health check for Covid-related symptoms before coming to work
- Researchers who can work remotely should continue to do so

# Reminders

- Given the increasing rate of COVID-19 cases in NC, the department requests that you perform a lab safety refresher meeting with your lab. This includes both on campus and remote workers. Once you have reviewed the policies with your lab, please sign and date the checklist and return to Cara Marlow by December 23, 2020, [cara\\_marlow@med.unc.edu](mailto:cara_marlow@med.unc.edu).
- Please remember, all new lab members need to complete the checklist and return within one week of joining the lab. This includes undergraduates and rotating graduate students.

# Ongoing procedures for positive cases

- Regarding whether unit heads are notified when there is a positive case in their space:
- ***EHS do not do this unless they see more than 3 cases in a work unit that appear to be related. They would then do a cluster investigation and possibly mass testing. There is a privacy issue and only close contacts are informed that they were exposed to a positive. Overwhelmingly, UNC-CH employees who have tested COVID+ have a clearly identified exposure to a COVID+ community contact (e.g., household member, close contact). Due to UNC-CH faculty, staff, and student compliance with our community standards, over 50% of the contact tracing results in no additional occupational COVID-related absences beyond the initial positive case.***

# Ongoing procedures for positive cases

- EHS procedures regarding positive cases:
- ***UNC Employee Occupational Health is handling all case investigation and contact tracing for faculty and staff that self-report. The University Employee Occupational Health Clinic (UEOHC) is specifically responsible for identifying close contacts in the workplace. If a UNC-CH employee tests positive, any close contacts they have outside of work are contacted by their county health department where they reside. Campus Health reports all positive tests they receive for student employees to the UEOHC.***
- ***Case investigation and contact tracing is performed for all COVID+ employees. Employees are interviewed to see if their interactions with other faculty, staff, or students would meet the definition of community contact and those UNC-CH employees are then contacted. UNC-CH uses up-to-date contact tracing definitions from the NC DHHS and the CDC- at this time, the definition of a close contact is anyone who is within 6 feet of another person for more than 15 minutes (cumulative). General examples: Two people wearing masks who are 6ft apart would be considered low risk. Eating and drinking with other individuals without masks would be considered high risk.***

# COVID Testing Guidance

<https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/carolina-together-testing-program/#chapter-3>

Starting in January, UNC-Chapel Hill will have the Carolina Together Testing Program, a robust testing process that allows students, faculty and staff to conveniently be tested on campus and process results efficiently. Testing is an important part of preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our campus and local communities, but it is only one piece of a comprehensive approach.

# How often do I need to test?

Group	Testing Frequency
<p><b>Group 1: Undergraduate Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Having in-person class(es) OR</li> <li>•Living in campus housing (dorms) OR</li> <li>•Living in a domicile with 10 or more people OR</li> <li>•Living in the Granville Tower complex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Prior to arrival</li> <li>•Re-entry</li> <li>•2x week <b>mandatory</b> asymptomatic evaluation testing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group 2: Undergraduate Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Not having in-person classes or living in one of the locations identified in Group 1, but living in Chapel Hill or Carrboro (even if only doing remote learning)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Prior to arrival</li> <li>•Re-entry</li> <li>•1x week <b>mandatory</b> asymptomatic evaluation testing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group 3: Graduate and Professional Students, Post-Doctoral Fellows</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Accessing campus to teach OR</li> <li>•Having in-person class(es) OR</li> <li>•Living in a domicile with 10+ people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•1x week <b>mandatory</b> asymptomatic evaluation testing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group 4: Graduate and Professional Students, Post-Doctoral Fellows</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Living in Chapel Hill or Carrboro, not in Group 3 or not accessing campus OR</li> <li>•Living in Chapel Hill or Carrboro but not accessing campus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•1x week voluntary asymptomatic evaluation testing*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group 5: Faculty and Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Accessing campus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•1x week voluntary asymptomatic evaluation testing#</li> <li>•<b>Mandatory</b> daily symptom checking</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group 6: Faculty and Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Working remotely and not coming to campus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testing not included in program</li> </ul>

\*Exception for graduate students in programs where daily symptom checks are required and monitored (i.e., Health Professions Programs). This exception exists because this system has been proven to be effective from May until now. For these students, testing is voluntary, up to 1x/week

# Staff and faculty who are accessing campus will be expected to perform daily symptom check regardless of whether they participate in testing. For those staff and faculty working completely remotely, symptom checker does not need to be completed daily and testing will not be provided.

# Where do I go for testing?

## **CURRENT ArtSpace + Studio**

123 W Franklin Street, Chapel Hill

Hours:

Monday-Friday, 7 am-6 pm

Saturday and Sunday, 11 am-5pm

Free parking available in the parking deck for up to 45 minutes.

## **Frank Porter Graham Student Union, gallery space, side closest to Davis Library**

209 South Road, Chapel Hill

Hours:

Monday-Friday, 7 am-6 pm

Saturday and Sunday, 11 am-5pm

## **UNC Rams Head Recreation Center, multi-purpose room, closest to dining hall**

340 Ridge Road, Chapel Hill

Hours:

Monday-Friday, 7 am-6 pm

Saturday and Sunday, 11 am-5pm

**If you are experiencing symptoms, do not go to an asymptomatic testing location.**

**Students**

If you are experiencing symptoms, or believe you may have been exposed to covid-19, immediately self-isolate and contact Campus Health.

Campus Health may be reached through the HealthyHeels portal, or by calling 919-966-2281.

**Employees**

If you are experiencing symptoms, or believe you may have been exposed to covid-19, immediately self-isolate and contact the University Employee Occupational Health Clinic at 919-966-9119

## How do I prepare for a test?

**We want you to have the least amount of waiting possible and make the test as fast as possible for you. So before coming for your test:**

- Make sure you have the Hall Pass application on your phone. If you do not have a smart phone (or your camera is not working), no worries! We can help when you get to the site
- Register for a Fast Pass time using the Hall Pass application. This will secure you a time to be tested.
- Wear your mask and practice physical distancing while going to and the entire time you are in the test site. The only time you will not need your mask is when you are collecting your specimen.
- Wash your hands! When you get to the site, use the hand sanitizer.

**You will get your test results in less than 48 hours. If your test is positive, you will be contacted by UNC Campus Health employees or the Orange County Health Department. Please make sure to answer the phone when they call since it will be a new number.**

## What type of test will I be having?

All Carolina Together Testing Centers will conduct anterior nares PCR based tests, which means it is not as invasive as other nasal swabs you may have had or heard about. No medical test is 100% accurate, and tests for COVID-19 are no exception. Nevertheless, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests have played a critical role in responding to the pandemic and, where used aggressively, have helped to minimize spread. Among the widely used sample sources for PCR testing, most studies have shown nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs to be most sensitive (i.e., fewer false negative results).

UNC-Chapel Hill will use this sampling method for testing upon students' arrival —as well as for testing for cause in individuals showing symptoms — as it provides the greatest chance of minimizing false negative results. PCR tests for COVID-19 are typically highly specific (i.e., few false positive results) because the tests detect genetic sequences unique to the virus that causes COVID-19. Laboratory results from around the country using the same testing methodology as UNC-Chapel Hill suggest that the false positive rate among people who are actually free of COVID-19 is considerably less than 1%.

# What happens when I get a test?

## Detailed description of nasal swab:

- Clean your hands (using alcohol-based hand gel).
- Scan the barcode label into the Hall Pass web app
- Open the test packet and insert swab into the first nostril (approximately 1 inch) and leave in place for approximately 3 seconds.
- Slowly rotate swab approximately 5 rotations (counting for 5 seconds) and withdraw from your nostril.
- Insert the same swab into other nostril and repeat the procedure:
  - Insert swab in other nostril (approximately 1 inch) and leave in place for approximately 3 seconds
  - Slowly rotate swab approximately 5 rotations (counting for 5 seconds) and withdraw from your nostril.
- Place the swab into the barcode labeled collection tube, then break the shaft at score line and securely re-cap the tube.
- Place the tube containing the swab into the provided specimen bag and seal securely and place into transport cooler.
- Clean your hands (using alcohol-based hand gel) and leave the testing site.

## What is the HallPass App?

- HallPass is a mobile-friendly, web-based application to be used for the Carolina Together Testing Program. HallPass registers members, informs and reminds them about testing and provides a streamlined interface at the testing location.
- Members of the UNC Chapel Hill community will login to [hallpass.unc.edu](http://hallpass.unc.edu) and authenticate with their ONYEN. They will then use the simple interface to confirm vital information including their mobile phone and local address. Once registered, they will see when they need to get a test and can find a location and reserve a time for testing.
- Once at the testing site, members will use HallPass to scan the barcode of the test kit. When the results are available, HallPass will text message the member to login and view results.
- Members can login to HallPass at any time to see when they need another test and to reserve a time at a testing location.
- If a student test positive, the important and necessary information is shared with Campus Health.
- HallPass follows all HIPAA and FERPA data protocols and has completed the Data Security and Risk Assessment. The system uses the latest industry-standard security protocol and protects the member data with ongoing security checks and audits of the system.

# Holiday Break

- Assume everyone outside your bubble is positive
- Maintain social distancing
- Reduce traveling to the minimum
- Mind your bubble

# Q & A

Discussion?