

Department of Genetics Town Hall Meeting

27 JAN 2021

Agenda

- Suffering During the Pandemic and Inspiration
- Good News and Announcements
- Budget for FY21
- Testing and Vaccine Guidelines for 2021

Inspirational Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mTmTdOgv0M>

Highlights since our DEC 2020 Meeting

- Dr. James Crowley (Associate Professor) was awarded a collaborative R01 NIMH for his project titled “Rare Genetic Variation and Risk for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder”.
- Dr. Samir Kelada (Associate Professor) was awarded bridge funding from the UNC SOM Dean’s Office for his project “Genome-wide analyses of gene-environment interactions with the air pollutant ozone”.
- Welcome to new faculty: Hao Guo, PhD and Katarzyna Kedziora, PhD
- Promotions and Tenure
 - Folami Ideraabdullah, PhD – Associate Professor with tenure
 - Yuliya Pylayeva-Gupta, PhD – Associate Professor with tenure
 - Terry Furey, PhD – Full Professor
 - William Valdar, PhD – Full Professor

Announcements

- Department to add staff members to Genetics Advisory Committee (Scott Young and NaEshia Ancalade)
- Genetics Advisory Committee, DEI Committee, dept. administrators to attend Racial Equity Institute (REI) Phase I training in spring 2021
- Department committed to support female faculty to participate in AAMC Leadership Development Seminar
- Department committed to support the NIH FIRST program for cluster hiring

Budgets for FY21 and FY22

- Two weeks ago the University announced budget cuts for FY21 and FY22.
- From the Dean's Office (01/15/21): *“There will be no impact to any of the SOM units for FY2020-21 as the Dean's Office will absorb these changes. We are still assessing the impacts relative to FY2021-22 budget plans and will work with you to determine how we will approach handling the suggested changes going forward. Please know that more information and many discussions with unit leaders will be forthcoming very soon.”*
- Budget planning for FY22 is underway at the department level

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
- Remember to train newly hired lab staff on safety protocols

Faculty/Staff Guidance from HR/EOC

- All onsite students and employees must follow the [Carolina Together Community Standards](#).
- Masks are required and will be provided, if needed.
- Employees working onsite must fill out a daily assessment at ehs.cloudapps.unc.edu/UEOHC/covid19wellness. For more information about daily checks, go to carolinatogether.unc.edu/community-standards.
- Voluntary asymptomatic testing will be available at three testing centers for faculty and staff once a week. For more information, visit the [Carolina Together Testing Program page](#).
- Employees referred for testing because of a close contact or as a result of contact tracing will be directed to testing through the University Employee Occupational Health Clinic.

Vaccine Guidance – sent 18JAN2021

- **For UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine Co-Workers, Faculty and Staff, Medical Staff, Students and Volunteers:**
UNC Health and the UNC School of Medicine uploaded all co-workers, faculty and staff, medical staff, students and volunteers not already identified in Phase 1A into the DHHS database on Monday, Jan. 18, and these individuals should have received an email from DHHS last week to confirm they are registered with the state's database.
- **If you are working from home *OR* do not have any potential direct/indirect contact with patients or infectious materials, please wait until you receive further notice to schedule your vaccine.** Save the email you receive from DHHS and stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.
- **For all others ([see detailed list here](#)), including those previously identified in Phase 1A and any co-workers age 65+, you are immediately eligible to receive a vaccine and should:**
 - Confirm your eligibility using a link you will receive in an email from DHHS. Then, visit the appropriate link below to schedule your vaccine appointment:
 - [UNC Health co-workers and providers](#): UNC Health login required
 - [UNC School of Medicine & UNC Chapel Hill Health Sciences faculty and staff](#): University ONYEN login required

Volunteers Needed for Vaccine Effort

- 100 volunteers per day needed.
- The roles are varied and include runners, wayfinders, greeters, CVMS registrars, and front desk/scheduling.
- Epic knowledge is welcomed, but not required and volunteers can work at the Friday Center, Medical Center, Hillsborough Hospital and our other PN sites.
- As an added bonus, volunteers are immediately eligible to receive the vaccine and many received their first dose this week.
- Please let Cara Marlow know if you would like to volunteer.

Q & A

Discussion?