

UNC School of Medicine Office of Research

2019-20 Academic Year Bi-Annual Report

June 2019—January 2020

Message from the Vice Dean for Research

Reflecting on the second half of 2019, we are very proud of everything we have accomplished as a School of Medicine (SOM) and the new initiatives related to the *Forward Together* School of Medicine Strategic Plan that are in place. For example, we are excited about our new Physician Scientist Training Program that will help recruit physician scientists to the SOM. The program will recruit the first trainees in Spring 2020. Additionally, we have launched a strategic initiative for basic and clinical joint faculty hires in the spirit of increasing research collaboration and integration of basic and clinical scientists. We are also reinvesting in our research infrastructure, including pilot funding, technology and core facilities. In order to bolster the engagement of junior clinician scientists in research, we have launched a program to provide funds to clinical departments for each externally-funded K awardee to help alleviate the clinical obligations that can limit the ability of clinical departments to expand their support for early physician-scientists. We also officially announced that we will establish a new Clinical Research Support Office which will advance clinical research by providing process improvement and increased efficiencies. The SOM is also exploring options for developing an Academic Research Organization to coordinate large clinical trials. We are very excited to continue working towards these and other aspects of our strategic plan in 2020.



*Blossom Damania, PhD
Vice Dean for Research*

The SOM has undergone organizational restructuring, and has established a new Academic Council to oversee six committees that function to support the Clinical, Research, Education, and Faculty Development missions in the SOM. As Vice Dean for Research, I chair the Research Leadership Committee which meets monthly with a variety of stakeholders to strategize on important research initiatives. I also chair the basic science chair committee and co-chair the basic / clinical chairs committee, to strategize on how SOM moves forward with respect to our research mission. Regular communications with Chairs and Center Directors will continue to ensure that information is shared with leaders and their faculty across the SOM.

Finally, we cannot be more proud that the SOM surpassed \$500 million in research funding in the last fiscal year, which reflects a \$48 million dollar increase compared to the previous year. This is comprised of a \$23.4 million increase in NIH total costs and a \$15.9 million growth in direct costs from the NIH. This marks a major milestone for the SOM's growing research enterprise, and is a testament to the outstanding research done by faculty, students, and staff in all of our departments. In addition to our new strategic plan, we have welcomed several new Chairs in the second half of 2019 and will be welcoming several more new leaders in 2020. We thank all of you for your continued dedication to research and the School of Medicine, and we look forward to what 2020 will bring.

Table of Contents

New Leadership in the School of Medicine	Page 2
SOM Strategic Plan Highlight—Bioinformatics and Analytics Research Collaborative	Page 5
School of Medicine and Office of Research Highlights	Page 5
Office of Research Updates	Page 7
Office of Graduate Education Updates	Page 8
Upcoming Award Deadlines Offered by the Office of Research	Page 8
Office of Research Award Recipients	Page 8
UNC SOM Faculty Recognized for Highly Cited Research	Page 9
SOM Dean’s Office Research Award Recipients	Page 10
School of Medicine Faculty Recipients of Prestigious Awards	Page 12
Innovation and Commercialization in the School of Medicine	Page 15
Thank you to Joanne Jordan and Remembering Jeffrey Houpt	Page 16

New Leadership in the School of Medicine—Dean’s Office



Nathan Thomas—Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Nathan (Nate) Thomas, PhD, was named Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of the UNC School of Medicine effective March 16, 2020. Thomas joins us from The University of Missouri Kansas City School of Medicine where he is serving as the Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion. He also previously served as Vice Provost for Diversity and Equity at the University of Kansas. Thomas has over 25 years of experience in higher education, health, and government, and has an exemplary track record in developing and implanting diversity, mentoring, and leadership initiatives. In his new role, Thomas will work closely with leaders and administrators to promote and advance diversity in the school by overseeing the Office of Inclusive Excellence and helping to implement the diversity initiatives of the *Forward Together* Strategic Plan. Thomas succeeds the late Paul Godley, MD, PhD, MPP.

Julie Byerley—Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

Julie Byerley, MD, MPH, has been named UNC School of Medicine’s Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. In this expanded role, Byerley will oversee the UNC School of Medicine’s educational enterprise as well as faculty affairs and leadership development. Byerley will continue to report to the Executive Dean, Cristy Page, MD, MPH. Byerley has served as a senior leader within the School of Medicine since 2013 when she was named Vice Dean for Education. In her new role as Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Byerley will have oversight of medical education along the continuum of pipeline programs, undergraduate education, graduate medical education, and continuing medical education (joint with UNC Hospitals). Byerley will also be responsible for the Office of Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development.



Karlina Matthews—Associate Dean for Administration

In July 2019, **Karlina Matthews, MBA**, was named the UNC School of Medicine’s Associate Dean for Administration, succeeding Katie Eimers, MEd. Matthews has been part of the SOM since 2002, and previously held several roles of increasing responsibility within the Department of Psychiatry, including the Associate Chair for Administration since 2015. In her new role, Matthews will oversee all administrative practices in the SOM, including the Offices of Human Resources, Information Technology, Space Planning, and Professional Service Contracts and Affiliations. Matthews is consistently recognized for her outstanding

leadership and brings a wealth of knowledge and skill to this role.

Steve Bogdewic—Executive Leadership Coach

The School of Medicine Office of Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development brought **Steve Bogdewic, PhD, MA** onboard to help implement an executive coaching program, refresh the New Chair's School, and revitalize the Foundation Series for faculty and leadership development. Bogdewic has extensive experience facilitating faculty development workshops and delivering coaching consultations on a national scale. Prior to coming to UNC, Bogdewic served as Executive Vice Dean at the Indiana University School of Medicine.



New Leadership in the School of Medicine—Department Chairs

Russell Broaddus—Chair, Department of Pathology



Russell Broaddus, MD, PhD, came to UNC from MD Anderson Cancer center in Houston where he served as Professor of Pathology, and accepted leadership of the Department effective September 16, 2019 succeeding Charles Jennette, MD, and interim chair, Ron Falk, MD. Throughout his career, Broaddus has held numerous leadership positions including Division Director of Clinical Operations and Medical Director of Solid Tumor Molecular Diagnostics; Co-Director of the MD/PhD Program, and Co-Principal Investigator for the NIH-funded Endometrial Cancer Sponsored Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) at MD Anderson. Broaddus' research efforts are focused on the molecular pathogenesis of endometrial cancer, one of the most common gynecologic cancers in the Western world.

Paul Dayton—Interim Chair of the UNC / NCSU Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering

Paul Dayton, PhD, succeeded Nancy Allbritton, MD, PhD as the Interim Chair of the UNC/ NCSU Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering on November 1, 2019. Dayton is an internationally recognized world leader in biomedical ultrasound imaging, ultrasound-targeted therapeutic drug delivery, and using ultrasound imaging to assess tissue perfusion and response to therapy. He is also an expert in translational science and holds multiple patents, clinical trials, and has co-founded three companies including SonoVol, Inc. Before accepting this leadership position, he served as the Associate Chair of the Department since 2012. He also currently serves as the Associate Director for Education for the UNC Biomedical Research Imaging Center and is the Co-Director for the Certificate Program in Biomedical Imaging Science. The Provosts of UNC and NC State are overseeing the current search for the new BME Chair.



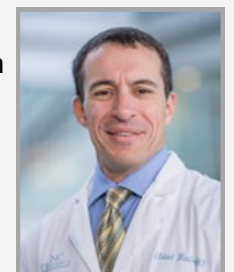
Gwenn Garden—Chair, Department of Neurology



Gwenn Garden, MD, PhD, assumed the role of Chair of the Department of Neurology on August 19, 2019, succeeding Larry Marks, MD, who served as the Interim Chair since May of 2018 after the retirement of William Powers, MD. Garden joined us from the University of Washington where she served as the Vice Chair of the Department of Neurology. Her research focus is in neuroinflammation, neurodegeneration, and dementia with the hopes of elucidating the cellular interactions that occur between immune and neural cells in ischemia, trauma, seizures and neurodegenerative diseases. Garden has earned significant funding while producing an impressive bibliography of publications.

Eldad Hadar—Interim Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery

Effective September 20, 2019, **Eldad Hadar, MD**, succeeded Matt Ewend, MD, FACS, and assumed the role of Interim Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery. Hadar is Director of both the Epilepsy Surgery and Functional Neurosurgery Programs, and has been a member of the UNC Spine Center since 2002. Before taking on this position, Hadar served as the Department's Vice Chair and Section Chief of Functional Neurosurgery. He supports Neurosurgery education in his role as Residency Director, and is actively involved in the education and training of medical students and residents. Hadar is highly regarded at UNC Health Care for both his internal and national accomplishments and has received numerous teaching awards and honors. Hadar also serves on numerous multidisciplinary hospital committees focused on



the quality and improvement of patient care.

Samantha Meltzer-Brody—Chair of the Department of Psychiatry

Samantha Meltzer-Brody, MD, MPH, assumed the role of Chair of the Department of Psychiatry on October 1, 2019, succeeding Gary Gala, MD who served as interim chair since July 2019 when David Rubinow, MD stepped down as Chair. Meltzer-Brody brings a wealth of clinical, research, and administrative experience to this position, and is the Founder and Director of the NC Perinatal Psychiatry Program of the UNC Center for Women's Mood Disorders. She also served as the academic PI of the brexanolone clinical trials which led to the FDA approval of ZULRESSO, the first drug to receive approval for treatment of postpartum depression.



Matthew Nielsen—Interim Chair, Department of Urology



After Raj Pruthi, MD, MHA, FACS, stepped down as Chair, David Zvara, MD, FAHA, assumed the role of Interim Chair on September 11, 2019 while continuing his role as the Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Chief Operating Officer of the UNC Faculty Physicians. Effective January 1, 2020, Zvara passed the torch to **Matthew Nielsen, MD, MS, FACS**, who has been part of the Department since 2009. Nielsen is a urologic oncologist and has served in the department as the Physician Service Leader, Director of Urologic Oncology, and Vice chair for Academic Affairs. He is currently an Associate Director of the UNC Institute for Healthcare Quality Improvement, and is a Clinical Investigator in the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research outside of UNC, and Chair of the Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Committee for the American Urological Association.

J. Keith Smith—Interim Chair of Radiology

J. Keith Smith, MD, PhD, was appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Radiology effective on September 2019. Smith is a Professor of Radiology and Neurosurgery and has served as Executive Vice Chair of Radiology since 2018. He is also the Department's Director of Faculty Development for Clinical Faculty. Throughout his tenure at UNC, he has held a variety of leadership roles including the Vice Chair for Clinical Research, Vice Chair of Diagnostic Services, and Director of Clinical Research. Smith's research interests include physiologic imaging of brain tumors, and he is board-certified in Diagnostic Radiology and Neuroradiology. Smith succeeds Matthew Mauro, MD, FACR, FSIR, FAHA, who has led the Department since 2007.



Jennifer Wu—Interim Chair, and Genevieve S. Neal-Perry—Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology



Succeeding Daniel Clarke-Pearson, MD, **Jennifer Wu, MD, MPH**, was named Interim Chair of the Department Effective July 1, 2019. Wu has been part of UNC since 2013 and serves as Director of the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery. She also serves on the Board of the American Urogynecologic Society, is Assistant Editor of the Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Journal, and her research interests include Pelvic Organ Prolapse, Urinary and Fecal Incontinence, Surgical Outcomes, and Clinical Trials. Wu will continue in her role until April 15, 2020, when we will welcome **Genevieve Neal-Perry, MD, PhD**, to UNC. Neal-Perry will come to UNC from the



University of Washington, where she currently serves as Director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, and Director of the Cancer and Reproduction Clinic at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. Neal-Perry also holds several national leadership roles including Basic Science Vice President for the Endocrine Society and member of the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Division of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has published more than 50 publications in the field of reproductive science and her research is designed to understand how nutrition, aging, and ovarian hormones regulate fertility and brain function.

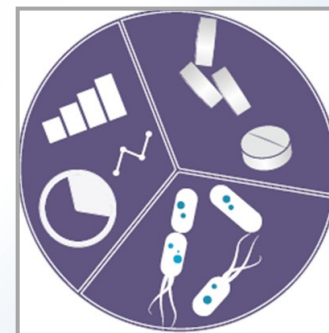
SOM Strategic Plan Highlight—Bioinformatics and Analytics Research Collaborative

As part of the Forward Together SOM Strategic Plan, we recognize the growing need for Bioinformatics and analytical support. Resources have been dedicated to the launch of a new “Bioinformatics and Analytics Research Collaborative” (BARC) core. Spearheaded by **Corbin Jones, PhD** and **Chris Gregory, PhD**, the BARC will serve research in the SOM by providing consultations, bioinformatics analysis, data analysis, application development, image analysis, and training services. The BARC will also connect other bioinformatics resources across campus by providing referrals to best serve individual projects. The BARC will function as a recharge facility and investigators will be able to purchase time of an analyst as a service, or support a percentage of effort on a grant if long-term assistance will be needed. The BARC is expected to grow to meet the high level of demand for flexible, cost-effective bioinformatics expertise. The BARC is anticipated to launch in the first quarter of 2020 and will have a website available with more information and service requests. We hope that all of our Departments will find this resource useful. If you have any questions or comments about the BARC, please direct them to [Corbin Jones](#) or [Trisha Dant](#).

School of Medicine and Office of Research Highlights

Networking Symposium on Hot Topics: Opioids, the Microbiome, and Data Science

The Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Public Health jointly hosted a Symposium on October 4 to highlight three high-priority research areas: Collaborative Science on Opioid Addiction, Transdisciplinary Research on the Microbiome, and Data Science. The purpose of this Symposium was to highlight the complementary strengths in each School and to foster discussion about new interdisciplinary research collaborations. The Symposium day was broken into three sessions, one for each topic, and each session featured talks from speakers from all the schools, as well as a facilitated discussion with the speakers and the attendees, and time for Networking afterwards. The speakers and facilitators were chosen by each School based on their substantial research efforts in these areas.



The speakers for the session on the Collaborative Science on Opioid Addiction were **Zoe McElligott, PhD** (Departments of Psychiatry, Pharmacology), **Elisabeth Johnson, FNP, PhD** (Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology), **Steve Marshall, PhD** (Department of Epidemiology), **Rebecca Naumann, PhD**, (Department of Epidemiology), **Delesha Carpenter, PhD, MSPH** (Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy), **Casey Tak PhD, MPH** (Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy). The session was facilitated by **Lisa Tarantino, PhD** from the Department of Genetics.

The speakers for the session on the Transdisciplinary Research on the Microbiome were **Janelle Arthur, PhD** (Department of Microbiology and Immunology), **Jenny Ting, PhD** (Department of Genetics, Microbiology and Immunology), **Kun Lu, PhD** (Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering), **Ian Carroll, PhD** (Department of Nutrition), **Sam Lai, PhD** (Division of Pharmacoengineering and Molecular Pharmaceutics) and **Aaron Anselmo, PhD**, (Division of Pharmacoengineering and Molecular Pharmaceutics). The session was facilitated by **Andrea Azcarate-Peril, PhD** from the Department of Medicine.

The speakers for the session on Data Science were **Samuel Cykert, MD** (Department of Medicine), **Chuck Perou, PhD** (Department of Genetics), **Alexander Tropsha, PhD** (Division of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry), **Joshua Thorpe, PhD, MPH** (Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy), **Michael Kosorok, PhD** (Department of Biostatistics), and **Stephen Cole, PhD** (Division of Biostatistics). The session was facilitated by **Timothy Elston, PhD**, from the Department of Pharmacology.

The Symposium was convened and supported by **Blossom Damania, PhD** Vice Dean for Research of the School of Medicine, **Kim Brouwer, PharmD, PhD** Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Education from the Eshelman School of Pharmacy, and **Penny Gordon-Larsen, PhD**, Associate Dean for Research in the Gillings School of Global Public Health. We also thank NC TraCS for their significant support of this Symposium.

SOM Representation at UNC Research Week

From November 4-8, UNC celebrated Research Week, an annual celebration of Carolina's research excellence. The SOM Office of Research (OoR) held two events in honor of Research Week.

To showcase one of our newest research capabilities, the SOM hosted an Open House for the UNC Cryoelectron Microscopy Core Facility on November 8. Visitors had the opportunity to meet **Joshua Strauss, PhD**, Director of the Facility, visit the Talos Artica, and learn more about the UNC collaborations with Duke and NIEHS that will maximize cryoEM research capabilities at UNC and the research triangle region.

OoR solicited applications for an Art in Science Competition to showcase the outstanding biomedical research in the SOM and the beauty that is reflected in science. Three winning images were selected and on display in the Bondurant Lobby during UNC Research Week. Congratulations to the **Caron**, **Gilmore**, and **Deshmukh** labs for submitting the winning images. More information about the competition and the science behind the images [can be found in this announcement](#).

"Expecting a Special Delivery" was submitted by **Brooke Matson, PhD**, and **Kelsey Quinn, PhD**, members of the lab of **Kathleen Caron, PhD**, Chair of the Department of Cell Biology and Physiology and member of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"Developing White Matter Pathways in the Infant Brain" was submitted by **Jessica Girault, PhD**, member of the lab of **John Gilmore, MD**, Professor and Vice Chair for Research and Scientific Affairs in the Department of Psychiatry.

"Triple Connections" was submitted by **Selena Romero** and **Matt Geden, PhD**, members in the lab of **Mohanish Deshmukh, PhD**, Professor of Cell Biology and Physiology and member of the Neuroscience Center and the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

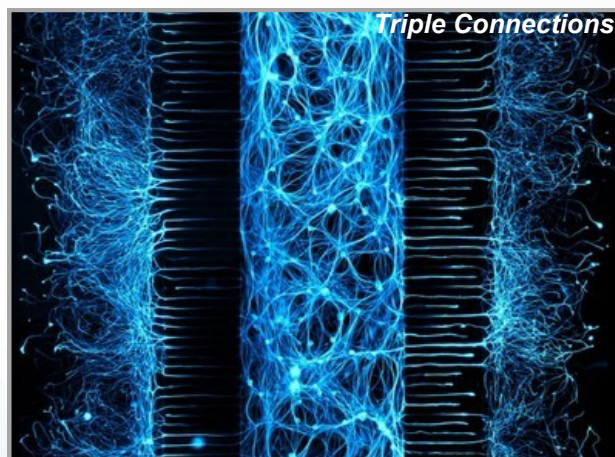
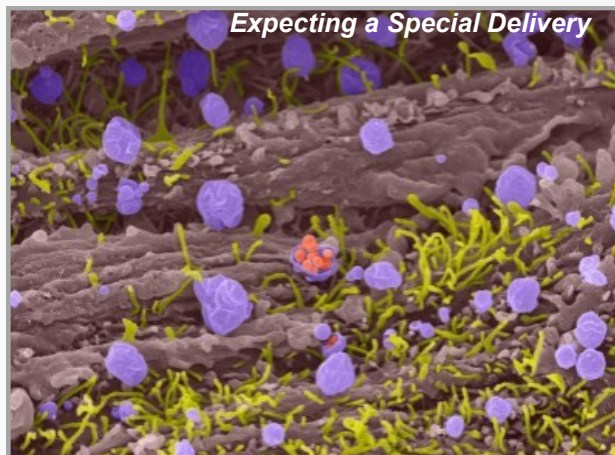
In addition to these two events, the UNC Hettleman Talks featured the two SOM recipients of this past year's Hettleman Prizes for Artistic and scholarly

Achievement: **Li Qian, PhD**, from the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and McAllister Heart Institute and **Greg Wang, PhD**, from the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics and Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

We look forward to a growing presence and showcasing SOM research at next year's UNC Research Week.

2019 Galapagos Seed Grant Recipient

The Galapagos Initiative is a strategic partnership between UNC and Universidad San Francisco de Quito which was created to encourage collaborations between UNC, USFQ, and the Galapagos Islands, and the SOM has partnered with the Galapagos Council to cultivate new research projects in the Galapagos. A collaboration between **John Buse, MD, PhD** (School of Medicine) and **Edwin Fisher, PhD**, (Gillings School of Global Public Health) received a 2019 Galapagos Seed Grant to conduct research in the Galapagos. Their project entitled "Diabetes Prevention & Management—Tailoring Global Models to Galapagos" will develop a series of activities that will lead to adoption, implementation, and evaluation of



global models in the Galapagos for Diabetes prevention and care. We are excited to see what comes from this project, and are happy to grow the SOM presence in the Galapagos. If you are interested in conducting research in the Galapagos or are curious about health concerns, human health, and the environment in the Galapagos, please contact [Trisha Dant](#).

SOM Presence at the Rally for Research

Two UNC SOM researchers, **Scott Magness, PhD**, from the Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Cell Biology and Physiology, and **Liz Jalazo, MD**, a Clinical Fellow in the Department of Pediatrics participated in the Rally for Medical Research on Capitol Hill to advocate for more federally-funded medical research. Magness and Jalazo were part of a group of researchers from UNC and around the country who met with Congressional leaders to emphasize that funding for the NIH is a national priority and to support continued investment in medical research. They both met with Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr, Representative David Price, and other Congressional leaders from around the nation. We are proud to have two of our outstanding researchers speak up for continued funding for both basic and clinical research. If you are interested in participating in next year's rally, please contact [Jennifer Brennan](#).

Dean's Performance Award Winner

The Dean's Performance Awards honor UNC School of Medicine staff members whose exemplary work has contributed to UNC achieving its vision of becoming the nation's leading public school of medicine. The Office of Research would like to congratulate our Director, **Jennifer Brennan, PhD**, for receiving the Research Category award for her tireless support of the School of Medicine's research endeavors. Please join us in congratulating Jennifer for her exceptional leadership and dedication to growing our research portfolio. We are so thankful of her remarkable efforts in leading the office.



T32 Postdoctoral Professional Learning Community for Under Represented Groups

Led by **Virginia Miller, PhD**, Professor of Genetics and Microbiology and Immunology, this professional development program for trainees from under-represented groups supplements training provided by T32 and other similar programs. This is the first program of its kind dedicated to biomedical postdoctoral trainees on campus, and the SOM is very supportive of this important endeavor. This program provides monthly lunch meetings for trainees, which include minority academic faculty, recent hires and members of search committees, and/or other relevant guests, to discuss important career and professional development issues. Additionally, as the program continues to grow it is anticipated that there will be a competitive application for travel funds that trainees in this program could use to meet potential collaborators and position themselves for the next steps in their careers. We look forward to the growth of this program, and are confident that this will provide valuable resources to under-represented postdoctoral trainees.

Office of Research Updates

Office of Research- 2019 Research Roundup

The OoR has just published the inaugural edition of an annual "Research Roundup" summary of the year's research highlights contributed by each of the SOM departments. The 2019 issue can be accessed on the [OoR website here](#).

Researcher Signature Series

We believe that the UNC SOM is home to brilliant researchers across the many research domains of our Departments and Centers. To highlight the breadth of expertise in our School, we have launched the Research Signature Series. This publication will be released at regular intervals and each issue will feature a different faculty researcher from a different discipline. [Links to the series can be found on our website here](#). Our first highlight featured **Terry Magnuson, PhD**, Professor of Genetics and Vice Chancellor for Research while our second highlight featured **Stephanie Gup-ton, PhD**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Physiology. Look for our next issue in Spring 2020.

The Office of Research is now on Twitter

It is critical for us to disseminate SOM research to other campus units, trainees, and the general public for us to grow our research enterprise. Therefore, our office has launched a Twitter account: [@OoR UNC](#). We use this account to highlight different research endeavors, SOM rankings, award deadlines, and important events—follow us to stay updated.

Office of Graduate Education Updates

BBSP admissions committees are currently reviewing a new record high number of applications. OGE received 1903 total applicants this year, nearly 11% more than 2018 which was the previous record high. Admissions activities include more than 70 total faculty and the entire OGE staff. The research community is grateful for their hard work and dedication. A select group of applicants has been invited for interviews on campus Jan 31, Feb 7, Feb 14 and Feb 21st. Interviews are scheduled based on individual faculty selected by the applicants in advance of the campus visit.

One of the two student wellness counselor positions shared between OGE and OME recently became open, and a hiring committee is currently reviewing candidates to refill the position. Faculty and staff should continue to send students in need to the [student wellness program for guidance](#). Other resources for students and faculty are linked at the [BBSP Resources pages](#).

Upcoming Award Deadlines Offered by the Office of Research

Below is a list of some upcoming funding opportunities to keep on your radar. All of these opportunities as well as limited award submissions in the SOM are listed on the [OoR website](#) as well as in the funding opportunities section of the Vital Signs weekly newsletter.

Translational Team Science Awards – Phase I Feasibility Proposals due March 24, 2020. The teams invited to submit Phase I Feasibility Proposals must provide their proposals by March 24, 2020. The current RFA and more [information can be found here](#).

Faculty Collaborative Research Chat Awards – April 10, 2020. The Faculty Collaborative Research Chat awards fund meetings to help units foster new interdisciplinary collaborations. More information about the FCRC awards can be [found here](#).

Bridge and Boost Awards – April 22, 2020. The last round of Bridge and Boost Funding for FY2020 will accept applications until April 22nd. More information about these awards [can be found on our website](#).

“Forward Together” Research Initiative for Basic and Clinical Joint Faculty Hires – May 21, 2020. This new initiative supports joint faculty hires in research between clinical and basic science departments. Look for an RFA this Spring. [Visit our website here for more information about this program](#).

“Forward Together” Initiative to Support Clinician Scientists – July 15, 2020. This program will provide clinical departments resources based on their external K awardees to grow their support for physician scientists. Look for the RFA later this Spring. Please [visit our website here](#) for more information.

Office of Research Award Recipients

“Forward Together” Initiative to Support Clinician Scientists

As part of the *Forward Together* Strategic Plan, the SOM began a new initiative to bolster the engagement of junior clinician scientists in research. The Office of Research allocated funds to clinical departments with externally funded K awardees to help alleviate the clinical coverage burden to allow clinical departments to expand their support for early career physician scientists. In our first year of this program, we have already provided **\$283,750.00** to departments with K awardees. The following departments received funding in FY20: **Department of Psychiatry, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Department of Pediatrics, Department of Ophthalmology, and the Department of Medicine.**

“Forward Together” Research Initiative for Basic and Clinical Joint Faculty Hires

The SOM is host to an exceptional array of scientists across all of our basic and clinical departments, and we recognize that increased research collaboration and integration of basic and clinical scientists will fuel discovery and innovation to improve human health. Consequently, funds provided by the *Forward Together* Strategic Plan are dedicated to the support of joint recruits between Basic Science and Clinical Departments. In our inaugural year, the OoR provided two awards of \$300,000 each for recruitments in 2019-20.

- => A recruit between the **Department of Cell Biology and Physiology** and the **Department of Orthopaedics** will target expertise in translational research in scoliosis and osteoarthritis.
- => The **Department of Medicine (Division of Cardiology)** and the **Department of Cell Biology and Physiology** successfully recruited **Robert Wirka, MD**, from Stanford who will be starting his lab at UNC next fall using innovative single cell approaches to study cardiovascular disease and atherosclerosis. In addition to his joint appointment, Wirka will be a member of the McAllister Heart Institute.

Faculty Collaborative Research Chat Award Recipients

Faculty Collaborative Research Chat Awards provide \$300 dollars to cover expenses for two to three meetings between collaborators to facilitate novel interdisciplinary research endeavors. The goal of this program is to encourage interactions and collaborations between basic and clinical scientists, and conversations between new and established faculty at UNC. These awards are offered twice a year, and four PIs received awards in response to the Fall 2019 RFA:

- => **Kim Boggess, MD** (Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology): *Interdisciplinary Translational Investigation of Placental Function*
- => **Rob Maile, PhD** (Department of Surgery): *Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to Ameliorating Inflammation and Pain*
- => **Joyce Besheer, PhD** (Department of Psychiatry): *Establishment of a Collaborative Network of Addiction Scientists and Clinicians*
- => **Stephan Moll, MD** (Department of Medicine): *Athletes and Blood Clots*

Bridge and Boost Awards

Two of OoR's most popular funding mechanisms are the Bridge and Boost Awards. Bridge funding provides continued support for successful research projects that suffer a lapse in funding, while Boost funding is designed to increase the chances of funding for an NIH grant (or similar) that has been reviewed favorably but needs additional revisions and preliminary data in order to be funded on resubmission. In 2019 alone, the Office of Research provided **\$275,000** in Bridge Funding and **\$236,207** in Boost Funding. We are happy to provide this continued support of SOM research with the next deadline for funding on **April 22**. More information can be found [here](#).

UNC SOM Faculty Recognized for Highly Cited Research

The annual list of Highly Cited Researchers from Thomson Reuters recognizes the most influential research of the past decade, demonstrated by the production of multiple highly-cited papers that rank in the top 1% by citations for field and year in Web of Science, and we are so proud that 21 SOM faculty members were part of this selection! The faculty who were named in the 2019 Thomas Reuters List of Highly Cited Researchers are: **Wesley Burks, MD** (Dept. of Pediatrics), **John Buse, MD, PhD** (Dept. of Medicine), **Mike Cohen, MD** (Dept. of Medicine), **Lisa Carey, MD, FASCO** (Dept. of Medicine), **Aravinda de Silva, PhD** (Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology), **Joseph Eron, MD** (Dept. of Medicine), **Katherine Hoadley, PhD** (Dept. of Genetics), **Xi-Ping Huang, PhD** (Dept. of Pharmacology), **David Margolis, MD** (Dept. of Medicine), **Piotr Mieczkowski, MSc, PhD** (Dept. of Genetics), **Ed Miao, MD, PhD** (Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology), **Joel Parker, PhD** (Dept. of Genetics), **Diana Perkins, MD, MPH** (Dept. of Psychiatry), **Chuck Perou, PhD** (Dept. of Genetics), **Barry Popkin, PhD** (Dept. of Nutrition), **Bryan Roth, MD, PhD** (Dept. of



Pharmacology), **Sidney Smith, MD, FAHA, FESC, FACP, MACC**, (Dept. of Medicine), **Patrick Sullivan, MD, FRANZCP** (Dept. of Genetics), **Jenny Ting, PhD** (Dept. of Genetics), **Ralph Baric, PhD** (Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology, primary appointment in the Gillings School of Global Public Health), and **Leaf Huang, PhD** (Dept. of Biomedical Engineering – primary appointment at the Eshelman School of Pharmacy).

Congratulations to all listed in this prestigious ranking.

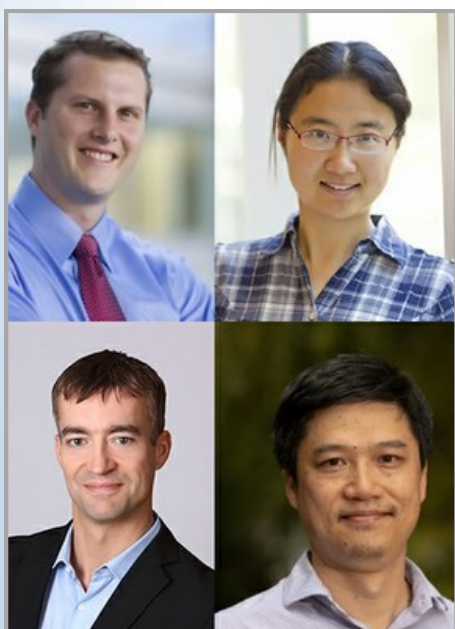
SOM Dean's Office Research Award Recipients

2019-20 Hyman Battle Distinguished Cancer Research Award

This award was established in 2007 by the Battle Foundation of Rocky Mount to recognize sustained, exceptional cancer research over a career by a faculty member in the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. **Aziz Sancar, MD, PhD**, Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics and 2015 Nobel Laureate, was selected as this year's recipient. Dr. Sancar was recognized for the significant contributions he has made over the course of his career that have advanced the understanding of the fundamental molecular mechanisms of DNA excision repair, and delineating the circadian clock and its molecular links to DNA repair. His work has provided a foundation for new approaches to cancer chemotherapy.



2019-20 Yang Family Biomedical Scholars – Chad Pecot, Li Qian, Gregory Scherrer & Greg Wang



These awards are made possible by a donation from Lenovo Chairman and CEO Yuanqing Yang with additional financial support from Mr. To Hing Wu, and recognize the transformational research achievements of the most promising young tenured faculty in the SOM. The fourth annual class of the Yang Family Biomedical Scholars are **Chad Pecot, MD, Li Qian, PhD, Gregory Scherrer, PhD, and Greg Wang, PhD**.

Pecot is known for his innovative ideas and collaborative team science in the field of therapeutic RNA interference, sophisticated modeling of cancer metastasis and the tumor microenvironment, and the integrative use of complex bioinformatics and system biology approaches to uncover key nodes in cancer networks. Pecot is a rising leader in cancer research, and his work uses lung and triple-negative breast cancers as disease models to fuel new discoveries that will fundamentally impact treatment paradigms in all aggressive malignancies.

Qian researches the basic mechanisms of cellular differentiation, and her work is making strides in the field of regenerative medicine and heart health. Qian uses stem cell technology to understand the molecular basis of cardiac muscle cell function and consequently restore function after a

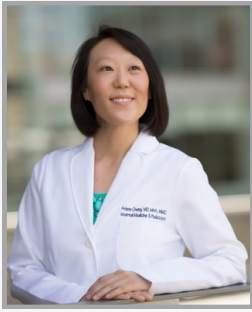
heart attack. Her groundbreaking work is illuminating the clinical applicability of cellular reprogramming in heart disease, and is creating paradigm shifts that change how we think about cellular differentiation.

Scherrer joined UNC in 2019 from Stanford University, and his lab investigates the neurobiology of pain perception and the mechanistic action of opioids. His goal is to elucidate the mechanisms by which the nervous system generates the dimensions of pain, and to understand how opioids alter activity in neural circuits to reduce pain but also lead to deleterious side effects. His exciting work in this high-priority topic is vastly expanding our understanding of pain neurobiology and providing vital information needed to develop solutions against chronic pain and the opioid epidemic.

Wang's extremely successful research program focuses on the epigenetic changes that occur in cancers and the development of potential new therapeutics. He uses cutting-edge technologies including CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genomic editing and genomic profiling, to dissect and understand the mechanisms and pathways by which a gene alteration leads to aggressive cancers. His work spans the fundamental fields of epigenetic and genetic regulation to translational works in drug discovery.

In celebration of these exceptional investigators, we held a seminar and reception on February 14, 2020.

2019 Jefferson-Pilot Fellowships in Academic Medicine



The Jefferson-Pilot Fellowships in Academic Medicine are provided through the Jefferson-Pilot Corporation and honor promising junior faculty in the SOM. This public recognition of their achievements demonstrates the full confidence of the SOM for continued success in their disciplines. In June of 2019, it was announced that **Arlene Chung, MD, MHA, MMCI**, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and **Jiandong Liu, PhD**, Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine were selected as the 2018-19 Jefferson-Pilot Award Recipients. The award is accompanied by research funding to support their scholarly endeavors.

Chung was selected to receive this award for her research that seeks to develop new statistical and visualization approaches to enable precision lifestyle recommendations. Chung and her team plan to develop innovative preprocessing, machine learning, and visualization methods to leverage patient-generated health data more effectively. Additionally, she will develop a software platform called Precision VISSTA for data exploration through interactive visualization to examine patient-generated health data from wearable devices. Chung also maintains an active primary care clinical practice focused on the care of complex patients with cancer and multiple chronic conditions, and her laboratory is primarily focused on patients with inflammatory bowel diseases.

Liu conducts research to determine the role of neuroregulation in cardiac innervation, and the potential of loss of neuroregulin function in the development of cardiac arrhythmias. His research laboratory combines genetics with molecular and cell biology to study the molecular mechanisms that link mechanical forces and genetic factors to cardiac morphogenesis. A particular focus of his lab is the role of ventricular innervation in ventricular structure maturation, and how targeted genetic alterations of innervation leads to changes in complexity of trabeculation of the ventricles. Liu is also a member of the McAllister Heart Institute at UNC.



2019 Dr. James W. Woods Junior Faculty Award



The goal of this award, established by the late Dr. James W. Woods, is to support and retain promising young members of the medical school clinical faculty. The awards support the recipient's research and scholarship endeavors. The 2018-19 James W. Woods Junior Faculty Award was provided to **Natalie Bowman, MD, MPH**, Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases. This important achievement demonstrates the high level of respect the recipient holds from colleagues and the School.

Bowman's research focuses on HIV and vector-borne and parasitic infections in Latin America. Her project supported by this award will use samples collected in Bolivia and analyzed at UNC to determine whether gastrointestinal manifestations of Chagas disease are associated with particular alterations of the gut microbiome.

NeuroSpark Research Awards

The Neuroscience Center hosted the inaugural NeuroSpark symposium on December 19, 2019 which highlighted eight teams competing for plot funding to support their research projects. Each team presented a 15- minute overview of their proposed project and Neuroscience members in the audience voted on the top four teams. Each team listed below received \$25,000 in funding. Funding for the annual event is provided by the SOM Strategic Plan to bolster Neuroscience research.

- => *"Building a Resource of Genetically Diverse Human Post-Mortem Brain Tissue"*
Jason Stein, PhD (Dept. of Genetics), **Hyejung Won, PhD** (Dept. of Genetics), **Leigh Thorne, PhD** (Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)
- => *"A Pilot PET/MR Study of Neuroinflammation in Autism"*
Gabriel Dichter, PhD (Dept. of Psychiatry), **David Lalush, PhD** (Dept. of Biomedical Engineering), **Erin Walsh, PhD** (Dept. of Psychiatry)

=> *"Illuminating Organelle Dynamics in Alexander Disease"*

Natasha Snider, PhD (Dept. of Cell Biology and Physiology), **Sarah Cohen, PhD** (Dept. of Cell Biology and Physiology)

=> *"Targeting Sleep Disruption in the Progression of Alzheimer's Disease"*

Graham Diering, PhD (Dept. of Cell Biology and Physiology), **Todd Cohen, PhD** (Dept. of Neurology)

School of Medicine Faculty Recipients of Prestigious Awards

To celebrate all of our faculty throughout the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, below is a quick list of prestigious awards received by SOM faculty that were featured in UNC Health Care and UNC School of Medicine Vital Signs Publications from June 2019 through January 2020.

2019 Alexandra Symonds Award: **Samantha Meltzer-Brody, MD, MPH** received this prestigious award from The American Psychiatric Association for her exceptional achievements in the field of women's health.

2019 Beckman Young Investigator Award: **Wesley Legant, PhD**, Assistant Professor in the UNC-NC State Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Department of Pharmacology received this prestigious early-career award for his work in developing new fluorescence microscopes for rapid three-dimensional imaging.

2019 Humanitarian Award: **Harry Stafford, MD**, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, received this prestigious award from Christ Saves Hearts for his continued efforts in sports medicine and heart health. His efforts continue to impact our local communities and student-athletes across North Carolina.

2019 Marian W. Fischman Lectureship Award: **Hendrée Jones, PhD**, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology received the prestigious 2019 Marian W. Fischman Lecture. This award recognizes the contributions of an outstanding woman scientist in drug abuse research.

2019 Outstanding Faculty Mentor Awards: **Bob Duronio, PhD**, Director of iBGS and Associate Dean for Research and **Juan Song, PhD**, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Neuroscience Center, and **Susan Henning, PhD**, Emeritus Professor of Medicine (retired) received Outstanding Faculty Mentor awards for their excellence in postdoctoral fellow mentoring from the UNC Office of Postdoctoral Affairs.

2019-20 Yang Family Biomedical Scholars: **Chad Pecot, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine, **Li Qian, PhD**, Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, **Gregory Scherrer, PhD**, Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Physiology, and **Greg Wang, PhD**, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics received this prestigious award in recognition of their outstanding research achievements.

2019-2020 Tideswell Emerging Leaders in Aging Scholar: **Maureen Dale, MD**, Division of Geriatric Medicine received this award in May 2019 from The Tideswell program that recognizes leadership for initiatives in aging. Tideswell scholars participate in a year of program activities.

2020 Association of Chiefs and Leaders of General Medicine Leadership Award: **Shana Ratner, MD, FACP**, Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine will receive this award in recognition of her efforts to advance general internal medicine, leading the division in patient centered care, engaging clinicians, staff and learners in quality improvement, and spreading innovations across the UNC Health Care system and nationally.

2020 Outstanding Mentor Awards: The Office of Graduate Education provides these important awards to recognize excellence in basic science mentoring. The recipients of the 2020 awards were **Tony Amelio, PhD**, LCCC/Dental Ecology, **Bob Duronio, PhD**, iBGS/Biology/Genetics, **Ian Davis, MD, PhD**, Pediatrics/Genetics/LCCC, and **Mike Emanuele, PhD**, Pharmacology.

2020 President of the Society of Directors of Research in Medical Education: **Beck Dallaghan, PhD**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics has been elected the 2020 president of the Society of Directors of Research in Medical Education. This society is dedicated to enhancing the quality of education in medical schools.

2020 Secretary/Treasurer for the National Academic Pediatrician Association: **Michael Steiner, MD**, Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics will join his newly elected colleagues to further the APA mission to nurture the academic success and career development of child health professionals to enhance the health and well-being of all children.

2020-2021 Vice President of Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants: **Janelle Bludorn, MS, PA-C**, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Allied Health Sciences received this prestigious distinction from SEMPA, an organization that strives to advance, protect, and promote the role of Emergency Medicine PAs through education, advocacy, collaboration and research.

A.B. Baker Teacher Recognition Award: **Nina Browner, MD**, from the Department of Neurology received this prestigious award from the American Academy of Neurology for her significant contributions to neurology education.

American Geriatrics Society Fellow: **Lindsay Wilson, MD, MPH, FACP**, Division of Geriatric Medicine received this award for her demonstrated professional commitment to geriatrics, her contributions to the progress of geriatrics care, and her participation in the Society's activities.

American Society of Clinical Investigation- Institutional Representative: **Jonathan Juliano, MD, MSPH**, was selected to serve as the UNC Institutional Representative of ASCI as part of ASCI's Institutional Representatives program. This program is intended to strengthen interaction between ASCI and participating institutions in order to best support and enhance the careers of physician-scientists.

American Society of Clinical Oncology: **Lisa Carey, MD, FASCO**, was named a fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in June 2019. This prestigious distinction recognizes ASCO members for their volunteer service, dedication, and commitment to the organization.

American Society of Hematology Scholar Award: **Erica Sparkenbaugh, PhD**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine will receive this prestigious award to support her dedication to hematology research on the mechanisms of thrombin generation and end-organ failure in sickle cell disease.

Appointment to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force: **Katrina Donahue, MD, MPH**, Professor and Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Family Medicine is one of this prestigious task force's newest members. The task force is a panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine.

ARRS 2020 Gold Medal for Distinguished Service: **Mauricio Castillo, MD, FACR**, Distinguished Professor from the Department of Radiology received this career-honoring award from the American Roentgen Ray Society for his exceptional leadership and commitment to education.

Craver Medical Student Teaching Award: This prestigious SOM award will be given to **Benny Joyner, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, who is an outstanding, innovative, and enthusiastic educator who has impacted numerous students throughout his career. This award honors outstanding teachers who inspire and changes the lives of medical students through teaching.

David Martin Carter Mentor Award: **Luis Diaz, MD**, Department of Dermatology received the David Martin Carter Mentor Award for his influence on the field of dermatology as a distinguished researcher, mentor and educator, and for his excellent impact on the next generation of students pursuing investigative dermatology.

Edward Kidder Graham Faculty Service Award: **Giselle Corbie-Smith, MD, MSc**, Professor of Social Medicine and Internal Medicine, received this prestigious award that recognizes distinguished service to the state, the nation, and the university by a faculty member.

Faculty Development Award from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology: **Onyinye Iweala, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine received this 3-year Faculty Development Award to explore the role of glycolipids in the development of alpha-gal syndrome.

Fellow of the American Medical Informatics Association: **Arlene Chung, MD, MHA, MMCi**, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics was inducted into the 2nd cohort of Fellows of the Medical Informatics Association in recognition of her informatics skills, knowledge within her professional setting, demonstrated professional achievement and leadership, and her sustained commitment to the betterment of the Association.

Giant of Cancer Care: **Chuck Perou, PhD**, Professor of Genetics, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and UNC LCCC member was named a 2019 Giant of Cancer Care for his scientific achievements that have advanced the field of cancer diagnostics. He is one of fifteen clinicians and scientists who received this recognition in 2019.

H. Fleming Fuller Award: **Bob Strauss, MD**, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology received this year's H. Fleming Fuller Award for his lifelong commitment to patient care, teaching and community.

Hettelman Prize: **Li Qian, PhD**, Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and **Greg Wang, PhD**, Associate Professor in the Biochemistry and Biophysics Department were among the 4 recipients of these prizes for groundbreaking and innovative research and future career promise.

Hyman Battle Distinguished Cancer Research Award: **Aziz Sancar, MD, PhD**, Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics and 2015 Nobel Laureate, was acknowledged for his sustained contributions to cancer research.

Jacob P. Waletzky Award: **Thomas Kash, PhD**, Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology and member of the Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies, received this award from the Society of Neuroscience for his research on the neural basis of addiction-related behaviors and illuminating potential paths for treating behaviors associated with addiction.

James W. Woods Junior Faculty Award: **Natalie Bowman, MD, MPH**, Assistant Professor of Medicine received this prestigious award that supports promising young members of the school's clinical faculty early in their academic career. This award will support Dr. Bowman's research and proposed studies.

Jefferson-Pilot Fellowships in Academic Medicine: **Arlene Chung, MD, MHA, MMCi**, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and **Jiandong Liu, PhD**, Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine were both named Jefferson-Pilot Award Recipients. These awards are given to promising junior faculty to further their research and scholarly work.

Klingenstein-Simons Fellowship Award in Neuroscience: **Hiroyuki Kato, PhD**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry received this award to study how recurrent circuits in the mammalian cerebral cortex shape sensory information processing in the brain. This fellowship funds highly promising early career investigators in neuroscience.

Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Education: **Daniel Clarke-Pearson, MD**, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology received this award from the UNC SOM Academy of Educators. This award is given to exceptional faculty member who has sustained excellence in teaching and mentoring of medical students for over 10 years.

Lifetime Achievement Award: **Patricia Rivera, MD**, Professor of Medicine received this award from the American Thoracic Society for her outstanding scientific contributions in the field of thoracic oncology, and her long-lasting service to the organization, including recently serving as chair of the Thoracic Oncology Assembly.

Memorial Lectureship Award: **Richard Loeser, MD**, Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Director of the UNC Thurston Arthritis Research Center received this award at the 2019 Meeting of the American College of Rheumatology. This award is given to a single researcher who is recognized as an outstanding investigator in rheumatology.

Ming Tsuang Lifetime Achievement Award: **Patrick Sullivan, MD**, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Genetics and Director of the Center for Psychiatric Genomics received this award for his significant and sustained contributions to the advancement to the field of psychiatric genetics.

National Academy of Medicine: **Adaora Adimora, MD, MPH**, Distinguished Professor of Medicine was elected to the National Academy of Medicine for her integral work in the field of HIV prevention. Election to this organization is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine.

National Cancer Advisory Board Appointment: **Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD**, Distinguished Professor of Surgery was appointed by President Trump to the National Cancer Advisory Board. Her role on the board will be to advise and assist the NCI Director on the activities of the National Cancer Program.

National Emergency Medicine Junior Faculty Teaching Award: **Christina Shenvi, MD, PhD, FACEP**, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, received the National Emergency Medicine Junior Faculty Teaching Award from the American College of Emergency Physicians.

National Tick-Borne Disease Working Group Appointment: **Scott Commins, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor of Medicine, was appointed by the US Department of Health and Human Services to serve as co-chair of the alpha-gal allergy subcommittee, providing expertise for a report that will make public health recommendations for disease prevention, treatment, and research.

NIH Director's New Innovator Awards: **Wesley Legant, PhD**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Biomedical Engineering and **Hyejung Won, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Genetics were both selected as NIH Director's New Innovator Award Recipients as part of the High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program that funds highly innovative and impactful research proposed by extraordinarily creative scientists.

North Carolina Institute of Medicine Award for Excellence in Health Policy Leadership: **Erin Fraher, PhD, MPP**, Associate Professor of the Department of Family Medicine and Director of the Carolina Health Workforce Research Center received this award for her impactful public health achievements.

Order of the International Federation of Emergency Medicine: **Judith Tintinalli, MD, MS**, Professor of Emergency Medicine received this award recognizing her contribution to the international development of Emergency Medicine.

Packard Fellow: **Wesley Legant, PhD**, Assistant Professor in the UNC-NC State Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Department of Pharmacology received this prestigious fellowship for his research on new kinds of microscopy techniques to further biomedical discoveries.

Polgar Prize: **Mara Buchbinder, PhD**, Associate Professor in the Department of Social Medicine, received this prize that is awarded to a professional medical anthropologist for the best paper published in Medical Anthropology Quarterly during the last year's volume.

SOM Academy of Educators: **Nancy Bagatell, PhD, OTRL/L** and **Linn Wakeford, PhD, OTRL/L** in the Department of Allied Health Sciences division of Occupational Science and Occupational therapy were inducted into the SOM Academy of Educators, an organization that strives to support excellent teaching, fund curricular innovation, and provide a forum for education leadership.

Vice-President of the American Association of Immunologists: **Jenny Ting, PhD**, Professor of Genetics and Microbiology and Immunology was elected to serve as Vice-President for the 2019-2020 term for this prestigious organization.

World Heart Federation's Lifetime Achievement Award: **Sidney Smith, MD**, Professor of Medicine, received this prestigious award for his remarkable contribution to the mission of the World Health Foundation and the entire Cardiovascular Disease community over his entire career.

Innovation and Commercialization in the School of Medicine

The many technologies developed by SOM investigators that are commercialized by the Office of Technology Commercialization are a testament to the translational nature of research done in our School. Below are a few notable commercial efforts of current and former SOM Faculty in the second-half of 2019 that were highlighted in Innovate Carolina's Newsletters:

- => [Immunotherapy company Dualogics entered into a collaboration agreement with Y-Biologics to use their combined expertise to discover and develop novel cancer antibodies](#) (**Brian Kuhlman, PhD**, Biochemistry and Biophysics)
- => [Xona Microfluidics is ramping up operations with two new products used by neuroscientists to study diseases such as Alzheimer's and epilepsy](#) (**Anne Taylor, PhD**, formerly Cell Biology and Physiology)
- => [Two professors have teamed up to keep patients at the UNC Children's Hospital Active using an augmented reality video game designed for pediatric hospital patients called Adventure Squad](#) (**Richard Hobbs, MD**, Medicine and Pediatrics)
- => [FDA to make decision on Epizyme's drug Tazemetostat in Epithelioid Sarcoma by January 2020](#) (**Yi Zhang, PhD**, formerly of Biochemistry and Biophysics)
- => [Liquidia plans FDA filing for hypertension drug](#) (**Joseph DeSimone, PhD**, Pharmacology)
- => [Professor uses 3D printing to address birth control and HIV prevention worldwide](#) (**Rahima Benhabbour, PhD**, Biomedical Engineering)
- => [Eppin Pharma Inc. could soon revolutionize the pharmaceutical industry with an investigational non-hormonal male birth control](#) (**Michael O'Rand, PhD**, formerly Cell Biology and Physiology)

Thank you to Joanne Jordan—Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development

Joanne Jordan, MD, MPH, Joseph P. Archie Jr. Eminent Professor of Medicine and Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development announced her retirement from the School of Medicine effective January 2020.

Jordan joined the SOM community in 1987 after receiving her MD from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completing an Internal Medicine Residency and Rheumatology Fellowship at Duke University. For 30 years, Jordan served as Principal Investigator and Director of the Johnston County Osteoarthritis Project, a population-based study that focuses on disparities in risk factors and outcomes for osteoarthritis and chronic illness. This project has had many scientific and policy implications and has received national recognition for its merit.

Since 2015, Jordan directed the Office of Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development (FALD) and under her guidance and direction the office expanded its offerings including a new focus on career and leadership development across the academic lifespan while also promoting faculty wellness and engagement.

Jordan has also served as Division Chief for Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, and Director of the Thurston Arthritis Research Center.

During her time at UNC, Jordan has been an exceptional leader, clinician, and researcher. Her leadership has greatly enhanced the trajectory and well-being of our faculty while her clinical and research endeavors have brought prestige to UNC and greatly improved lives both within North Carolina and around the world. She has also been regarded as an exceptional mentor of students and faculty which has awarded her numerous accolades including the Excellence in Investigative Mentoring from the American College of Rheumatology and the Inspirational Physician Award from the American Medical Association. Please join us in thanking Joanne Jordan for her dedication to the UNC SOM. She will be truly missed, but we wish her the best in her retirement.



Remembering Jeffrey Houpt—UNC School of Medicine Dean Emeritus

We are both proud and saddened to remember **Jeffrey Houpt, MD**, UNC School of Medicine Dean Emeritus and Former CEO of UNC Health Care, who passed away in January of 2020. Houpt served as Dean of the SOM from 1997 until 2004, and was the first CEO of the UNC Health Care System when it was created in 1998.

Under Houpt's leadership, UNC Health Care acquired Rex Healthcare in Raleigh and opened both the N.C. Women's Hospital and the N.C. Children's Hospital in 2002. The School of Medicine expanded its clinical infrastructure in Chapel Hill, doubled its federal research funding, and greatly expanded the laboratory space and its research capabilities. The SOM also saw the addition of 23 new department chairs and the addition of over 400 new faculty. Houpt was also instrumental in planning the N.C. Cancer Hospital which opened in 2009.

After stepping down as Dean and CEO, Houpt continued to influence faculty and leaders at UNC, and coached and mentored the next generations of leaders through personal relationships, leadership courses, and his book entitled "Learning to Lead in the Academic Health Center".

Houpt was known for the impact that he made as a mentor and teacher, and was most proud of the accomplished teachers, researchers, and clinicians he helped recruit to Chapel Hill and the impacts they have made across the state. The Physician Office Building was recently renamed in honor of his legacy, and is a testament of Jeffrey Houpt's collegial nature and exceptional leadership.

