



WHMC

NEWSLETTER

SPRING
2024

About Us!

The Women's Health Multidisciplinary Consortium is a student led organization here at UNC.

Our mission is to create a trainee-focused, unified community of faculty, clinicians, and researchers with a vested interest in women's health research and sex-specific pathologies.

Upcoming Events

First Week Aug

Applications for WHMC Journal Club Open

Open to all student trainees at UNC

03 Sep

Journal Club: Gyn Cancers 5:00 PM

24 Oct

Journal Club: Mental Health 5:00 PM

14 Nov

Journal Club: Abortion 5:00 PM

05 Dec

Journal Club: Trainee Led Topic 5:00 PM

Hot Off the Press!

This month's Women's Health in the news is featuring the new FDA approval for HPV self-swabs as a collection method.

Already successful in European countries, this swab will be covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance, and work alongside current HPV screening methods taken during pap smears. There is hope that this will help reach underserved and rural patients, with potential expansion to at-home swabs soon.

[Click here to read more.](#)



Warm welcome to Dr. Melinda Yates, PhD, the new Faculty Advisor for WHMC!

EVENT WRITE-UP: CAROLINA WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH NETWORK SEMINAR

BY KATE ABERMAN
MEDICAL STUDENT,
WHMC COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT CO-LEAD

I don't know if you know this, but research in North Carolina must hold a special place in First Lady Jill Biden's heart because our research triangle was the location of her special announcement for women's health. On March 20th earlier this year, Biden cited the need for improved comprehensive women's research and announced a new \$200 million NIH funding increase for women's health research, as part of the broader White House Initiative on Women's Health Research. You can read the exciting remarks [here](#).

I got to hear more about this endowment and where new grants are showing up through the **Carolina Women's Health Research Network Seminar** put on by the [UNC Office of Research and Development](#) on May 14th. There were great talks about funding opportunities, support on campus, and ways we can better collaborate. I also learned about research around the UNC campus through some amazing lightning

talks by [Dr. Soma Sengupta](#), [Dr. Indriati Hood-Pishchany](#), [Dr. Abigail Hatcher](#), and WHMCs own advisors [Dr. Russell Broaddus](#) and [Dr. Melinda Yates](#).

If your lab is looking for funding or developing ideas, I definitely recommend looking into how these resources highlighted at the event might help:

Increasing funding opportunities:

[UNC Ideas Grants](#)

[NCATS CTSA](#)

[National Science Foundation](#)

[Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs](#)

[CMS, CDC](#)

[ARPA-H Women's Health Sprint](#)

Groups on campus:

[UNC ORD](#)

[Fast TraCS](#)

[Institute for convergent science](#)

The White House Initiative for Women's Health is an amazing step toward achieving our mutual goals of comprehensive understanding and justice within the realm of women's health, and we're already seeing reachable opportunities stemming from this new funding.



Launching Fall 2024:
An official Women's Health Scholarly Concentration Program at the UNC SOM, with faculty advisors Dr. Marcella Willis-Gray, MD, and Dr. Asha Talati, MD, MSCR



MEMBER INTERVIEW: DR. CHERISE GLODOWSKI, PHD, MPHIL WHMC CO-FOUNDER



Tell us a little about your background and how it shaped your academic interests:

Let's see, I grew up in California and was a ballet dancer and when I was 15, I found myself in a situation where I was having to go get this health work done and people were just really unhelpful. I was also talking to all these other girls I did ballet with, and everyone seemed to have problems that were not being taken very seriously, and that didn't sit right with me. I realized there wasn't much research there, so that inspired me to figure out the answers. And so, I went to college and got an undergraduate degree in nutrition, biochemistry and classics and I worked in a developmental nutrition lab, looking at epigenetics and nutrient deficiencies and how that impacted different developmental outcomes. I ended up getting a degree in genetics with the University of Cambridge in the UK, and I loved that I got to study very early development and different gene expression involved in gastrulation.

I really wanted to tie that together again with Women's Health, so I got a job working in a fertility clinic, which was a very cool marriage of Women's Health and infertility and early embryology.

And then I wanted to do more, so I decided to go get my PhD at UNC Chapel Hill in the Pathobiology and Translational Science Program. I wanted to do something more focused on precision medicine. I ended up working in Chuck Perou's lab doing breast cancer and pharmacology, looking at how different treatment options work on triple negative breast cancer. I want to apply that sort of precision medicine model to other Women's Health issues. Halfway through that I went OK, I love this, I love the research and I really miss people and I always wanted to study medicine, so now I'm in my first year of medical school, hoping to be an OBGYN and take all of those different experiences that I've had and infuse more research into patient provider interactions than there was when I was 15.

INTERVIEW, CONTINUED

What is a dream project or collaboration idea you have?

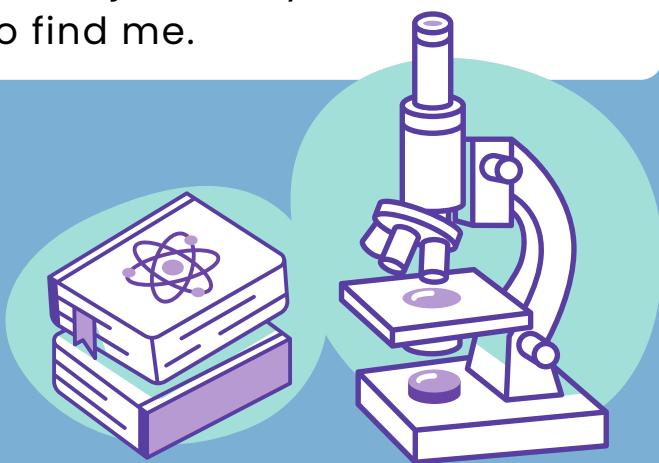
A Women's Health Research Center that has got research labs and clinical sciences, all associated with a university or academic hospital. The whole focus of it is to study under-studied Women's Health issues and so there's a huge translational bench to bedside all within the same compound, and you have all these different labs across the world who are associated with it. I just want to shatter all the silos that keep Women's Health from moving forward and keep us from advancing the care of women because there's so much to research and study for so many different conditions, that's what I want to build. So, if anyone would like to join me, you know where to find me.

Who inspires you academically or otherwise?

One that comes to mind is Dr. Russell Broaddus, MD, PhD specifically because he's always believed in this, but he does such a good job at showing up for people. He is super passionate about this work, and he is amazing at connecting people and building networks. You always feel like he has time for you even though you know he's super busy, and I just really admire that. He's also brilliant so that helps a lot.

What would you like to learn more about from other professionals?

I'd like to learn more about the business building and management side of things. Like what makes something go from being a really good idea to being an actual living thriving entity that has longevity and can affect real change. I'd want to know more about the legal and business side of things so that this isn't just an academic pipe dream, how it can turn into something big that lives long past me.



MONTHLY CALENDAR



JUNE 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					A blue rounded rectangle containing the text "HAPPY PRIDE MONTH" in white and yellow, with small yellow stars on the sides.	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Two small American flags crossed in the center of the cell. Below them is the text "Flag Day".	15
16 A stylized orange and blue "Father's Day" logo.	17	18	19 A circular logo for Juneteenth Freedom Day with the text "JUNETEENTH" and "FREEDOM DAY" around a central figure.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Medical School Returns July 31st!
Pharmacy School Returns August 1st!
School of Public Health Returns August 26th!

Women's Health Fun Fact



You might know that the Pap smear is named after George Papanicolaou, but did you know Andromache "Mary" Papanicolaou, George's wife, took samples of her own vaginal fluid every day for 21 years to use in his research? These samples allowed George to move from research in guinea pigs to research on human subjects, allowing for the eventual development of the Pap test. Mary also stained her samples and worked as George's lab manager - she even recruited her friends to give samples for the research!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

<https://forms.gle/rhHNiKqXJoMbVxTJ9>



It's your WHMC
communication
engagement team
here!



Sarah Rebbeor

We're looking for your submissions! This is a space for a community bulletin – a place to look for research or work positions, fill professional needs, submit shoutouts, and submit photos to be used in future newsletters!

Share the WHMC listserv with others:



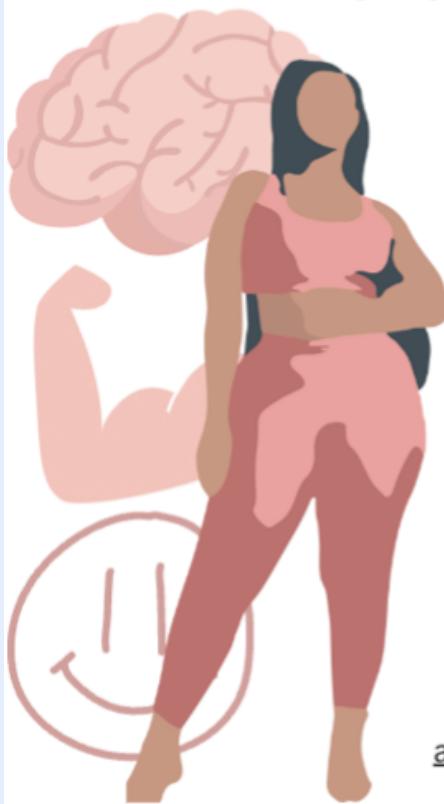
And visit our website [here](#)

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



**LOOKING TO LEARN
ABOUT YOUR MUSCLE,
MIND, & BODY ACROSS
MENOPAUSE?**

The Applied Physiology Lab is looking for females who are:



> 38 yrs with irregular periods
BMI: 28-40 kg/m²
Not currently on hormone replacement therapy

The purpose of this study is to understand the impact of nutrition and exercise in perimenopausal women.

3 visits to the APL

Interested?
Scan or email us at
aplresearch@unc.edu with
Subject: PERI Interest



IRB #: 23-2338 IRB Phone: 919-962-1663

Let us know if you have research you would like us to promote!