



WHMC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER
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

02
Sep

Journal Club applications due!

19
Sep

Journal Club Kickoff: From Abstracts to Insight 5:00 PM

24
Oct

Journal Club: Clinical Topics in OB/GYN 5:00 PM

14
Nov

Journal Club: TBA 5:00 PM

05
Dec

Journal Club: Trainee-Led Topic 5:00 PM

See next
page for
details!

Hot Off the Press!

Artemisinin, used in the treatment of malaria, is being investigated as a treatment for Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS).

PCOS is a condition characterized by increased levels of androgens, leading to menstrual irregularity and fertility issues, and is also associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus and risk of mental health conditions.

In a study by Liu et al. earlier this year, 19 women who took artemisinin for 12 weeks “had a substantial reduction in hormone levels, an ultrasound scan showed a reduction in follicle activity, and regular periods were restored in 12 of the participants (63%), with no reported negative side-effects.” The study suggests artemisinin blocks testosterone production in the ovaries.

While these are early findings, development of this treatment could be impactful as PCOS affects 1 in 10 women, and current treatment is supportive and varied, involving lifestyle change, oral contraceptives, and androgen-blockers.

Read the Guardian article [here](#).
Read the publication in Science [here](#).



Women's Health Multidisciplinary Consortium Journal Club



Mission Statement:

Working together 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.



Why Join Us?

- **Collaborate** : Connect with professionals and trainees from across different disciplines
- **Learn** : Deepen your understanding of key topics in women's health and sex-specific pathologies
- **Discuss** : Engage in stimulating discussions with experts and peers
- **Grow** : Enhance your knowledge and skills in a supportive and collaborative environment

What To Expect?

- **Journal Article Discussions** : In-depth discussions of recent and impactful research articles
- **Guest Speakers** : Insights from leading experts in women's health
- **Networking Opportunities** : Build connections with professionals across various disciplines
- **Skill Development** : Improve your critical appraisal and research interpretation skills

Application:

1. **Submit** : Complete the brief online application form (scan the QR code or via Google form).
2. **Review** : Applications will be reviewed by our committee.
3. **Decision** : Successful applicants will be notified via email.

<https://forms.gle/hXAY5X9NVPyYgRZx9>

**Application Due Date : September 2,
2024**

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY!

Apply now to be part of a vibrant community dedicated to the advancement of women's health research and practice.

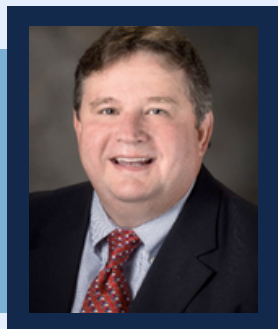


Scan the QR code below to apply



The Women's Health Multidisciplinary Consortium (WHMC)

MEMBER INTERVIEW: DR. RUSSELL BROADDUS, MD, PHD, WHMC ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Could you tell us briefly about your background and how it shaped your academic interests?

Both my parents were educators (dad – history professor at a university for nearly 40 years; mom – English professor then student activities director at a high school for many decades). Neither pushed me into academics. However, both demonstrated to me by example the impact of being a good teacher and mentor. Growing up, strangers (at least to me) were always greeting my parents and invariably thanking them for either their mentorship or for being great teachers. They would then always look at me and state, “You are so lucky to have these parents.” After hearing this hundreds of times while growing up, you begin to realize that being a good teacher is actually valued. And, these episodes have continued well into my adulthood. I gave a research seminar at the University of New Mexico Medical School a number of years ago. Afterwards, two nurses from the UNM Hospital introduced themselves to me.

Both had my father for history as undergrads and told me how much they appreciated his teaching. Both sat through 60 minutes of my lecture just so that they could meet me afterwards and tell me about my father’s teaching. Through these life experiences, I have come to believe that being a teacher is truly the highest good. It serves as a lesson to all of us – take the time to teach, take the time to mentor. The payoff is not immediate, as the impact of this is often much farther down the road.

What research or other work in women's health are you involved in currently?

I have spent much of my career studying endometrial cancer, cancer of the epithelial lining of the uterus. It is the most common gynecological cancer in the US and developed world. In contrast to other types of common cancer, its annual incidence and mortality are increasing. Amongst all cancer types, it is the one most tightly linked to obesity.

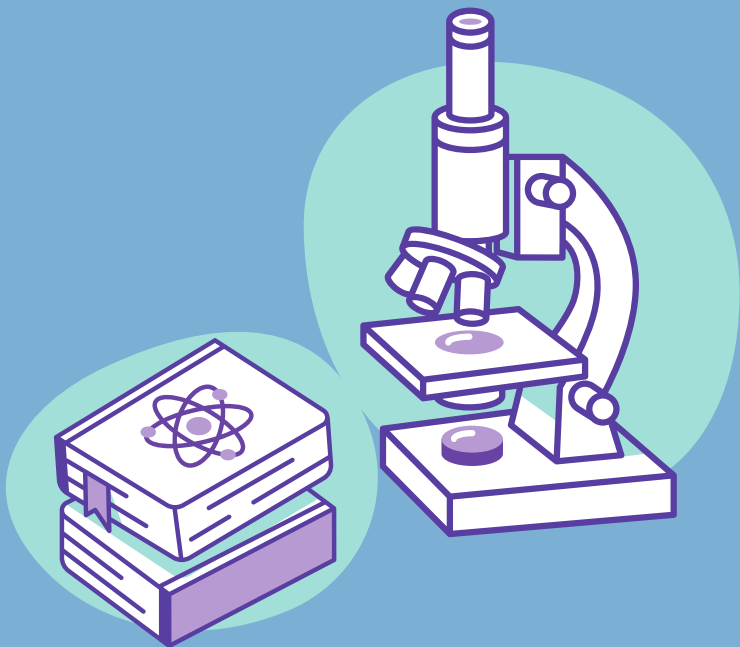
INTERVIEW, CONTINUED

It's a complex health problem, as it is also associated with a significant disparity in survival, with Black patients suffering much worse outcomes. The biology of endometrial cancer is very complex, with features of traditional cancer biology but also hormone biology and endocrinology involved. I frankly think it is too complex of a problem to study just in the confines of a cancer center. It truly requires a multi-disciplinary approach.

Who inspires you academically or otherwise?

Fred Rodgers from the Mr. Rodgers Neighborhood show on PBS was a famous educator. He was given numerous awards over the years, and he would typically start his thank you speech with this quote: "30 seconds of silence to pause and remember all the people who have helped you along. No one of us gets to be a competent adult without other people taking an interest in us."

The big lesson from my experience is that truly learning never stops. I still receive active mentoring and teaching, even though I am a tenured Professor. Be receptive to change and prepare for it by keeping yourself educated.



FUNDING AND EVENT OPPORTUNITIES



Funding Opportunity:

NIH Notice of Special Interest: Women's Health Research

"Interest in receiving research applications focused on diseases and health conditions that predominantly affect women (e.g., autoimmune diseases; depressive disorders, Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Alzheimer's disease-related dementias (ADRD), gender-based-violence), present and progress differently in women (e.g., cardiovascular disease; HIV; reproductive aging and its implications), or are female-specific (e.g., uterine fibroids; endometriosis; menopause)."

[Click here for details](#)

Want to hear more like this? You can subscribe to the [NIH Office of Research on Women's Health](#) emails.

Event Opportunity:

Summit on Reproductive Health and Justice in North Carolina by Physicians for Reproductive Health

Virtual Half-day Summit, Sept 18th
Free registration

"A half-day virtual summit on reproductive health and justice to advance understanding of the impact abortion restrictions have on our North Carolina communities. Medical education for health care professionals will include updates on the legal and public health landscape since Dobbs and SB20, and underscore how abortion bans are connected to the attacks we are seeing on sexual and reproductive health care more broadly, including gender-affirming care, in vitro fertilization and contraception."

[Register here](#)

Be on the lookout next edition for
open positions in the WHMC!

MONTHLY CALENDAR



SEPT 2024

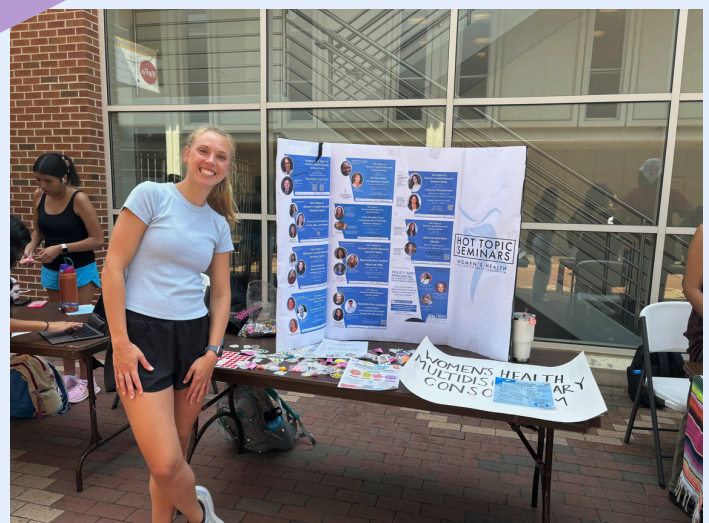
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Virtual Reproductive Justice workshop	19 Journal Club!	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Welcome back to school!

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



Welcome (back) to campus! Your engagement team had such a great time meeting all the new medical, undergraduate, and BBSP students!



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

**WOMEN'S COLONS ARE
AROUND 7-10 CM
LONGER THAN MEN'S**

Women's
Health
Fun
Fact

The study by Utano et al. suggests that women who rated their bowel habits as fewer than one in three days (constipated subgroup) had significantly longer colon length than those with daily bowel movements. As some explanation, the researchers suggested that “hormonal and/or gynecological changes are associated with bowel habits and may subsequently alter the colon length.”

Utano, Kenichi, et al. “Bowel habits and gender correlate with colon length measured by CT Colonography.” Japanese Journal of Radiology, vol. 40, no. 3, 11 Oct. 2021, pp. 298-307, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11604-021-01204-7>.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

<https://forms.gle/rhHNIKqXJoMbVxTJ9>

It's your WHMC
communication
engagement team
here!

Kate Aberman

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](#)