East Carolina University | Board of Trustees
Health Sciences Committee Meeting | February 18, 2016
Agenda

I. Approval of November 19, 2015 Minutes  Action

II. Health Sciences Division - Dr. Phyllis Horns  Discussion
    A. College of Nursing Enrollment - Dr. Sylvia Brown
    B. Brody School of Medicine Update - Dr. Paul Cunningham
       1. Electromagnetic Navigational Bronchoscopy Presentation -Dr. Mark Bowling & Dr. Carolos Anciano
       2. ECU Physicians Financial Performance - Mr. Brian Jowers

III. Closed Session  Action

IV. Health Sciences Informational Updates  Information
    A. College of Allied Health Sciences
    B. College of Nursing
    C. School of Dental Medicine
    D. Laupus Library
    E. Brody School of Medicine & Medical School Class Size Consultation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Health Sciences Committee</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible Person</td>
<td>Vern Davenport, Chair</td>
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<td>Agenda Item</td>
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<td>Item Description</td>
<td>Approval of minutes – November 19, 2015</td>
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Health Sciences Committee – Open Session
ECU Board of Trustees
November 19, 2015
Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms 1 & 2

Board Members Present:

Vern Davenport (Committee Chair)
Deborah Davis (Committee Vice Chair)
Edwin Clark (Committee Member)
Mark Copeland (Committee Member)
Max Joyner (Committee Member)
Danny Scott (Committee Member)
Leigh Fanning
Steve Jones
Mark Matulewicz
Terry Yeargan

Others Present:
Chancellor Ballard
Bill Bagnell
Elizabeth Baxley
Nicholas Benson
Michelle Brooks
Gregory Chadwick
Paul Cunningham
Christy Daniels
Steve Duncan
Jason Foltz
Virginia Hardy
Phyllis Horns
Brian Jowers
Kathryn Kennedy
Beth Ketterman
Bob LaGesse
Bob Lust
Cheryl Marsh
Ron Mitchelson
Mark Notestine
Donna Payne
Dan Sweat
John Tucker
Michael Van Scott
Gary Vanderpool
Kathryn Verbanac

Recorder: Cindy Reaves

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Davenport called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm., and read the conflict of interest statement required by the State Government Ethics Act. No conflicts were identified. The minutes of September 24, 2015 were approved.
Health Sciences Division Update:

Dr. Horns reviewed the status of the College of Allied Health Sciences Dean Search and the William Laupus Health Sciences Library Director Search. The CAHS Dean Search was deemed unsuccessful, but will be reopening with a new search firm and new committee in the near future. The William Laupus Health Sciences Library Director Search has been closed for now and a new Interim Director, Ms. Elizabeth Ketterman, has been named to this role. Ms. Ketterman is an accomplished researcher and administrator and brings a wealth of experience to the role as Interim Director of the William Laupus Health Sciences Library. The search process for this position is scheduled to resume in 2016.

Dr. Horns announced that the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) site visit for the Pediatric Dentistry residency program at the School of Dental Medicine just concluded and went very well.

Health Sciences Research & Innovation Update:

Dr. Verbanac presented an update on the discussion at the 2015 Health Sciences Research Retreat that was held in August 2015. The retreat was very productive and had the support and participation of the Vice Chancellors and Health Sciences leadership. The retreat was focused on growing the research enterprise and discussing what the challenges are that research is facing today. Some of the many key accomplishments highlighted during the retreat included the appointment of full-time Associate Deans of Research in Allied Health, Nursing and Dental Medicine and the establishment of the Health Science Research Council initiated by Dr. Horns. One of the duties of the Health Science Research Council will be to refine the action goals that were developed in FY15. ECU’s total grant awards were $44.4M and 63% of those were within the Health Sciences Division. Beyond Tomorrow extramural award goal for all of ECU is $60M per year by 2019. In Research’s strategic plan, the Division of Health Sciences awards will increase from $28M to $47M per year. For the fiscal year 2014-2015, the HS grants and contracts consisted of BSOM (84%), College of Nursing (7%), College of Allied Health Sciences (4%), School of Dental Medicine (3%) and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences (2%). In making research a strategic priority, the focus will be on working to make changes in the areas of faculty, organization/structure and culture. After the retreat, the focus areas have included research administration, clinical trials, indirect costs policy and grants and contracts reassigned time. A few of the many areas that provide opportunities for growth in extramurally funded research include cardiovascular disease, oncology, public health and agromedicine. Many metrics were developed to see how well they have been achieving the goals set during the retreat. They include reviewing the efforts in faculty recruitment, scholarship presentations, and funding awards. The current 6-year average of total sponsored activity in the Health Sciences Division has been $27.8M with the goal of $47M by fiscal year 2018-2019. Mr. Davenport asked that updates be given to the committee on the findings and progress of these efforts at future meetings.
Brody School of Medicine Update:

Dr. Cunningham reviewed data from the informational report on monitoring the progress of graduates entering primary care presented to the Board of Governors in October. The report provides information from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, Duke University School of Medicine and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. Five years after graduation, the ECU Brody School of Medicine is leading the four schools listed within the report with graduates practicing in primary care at 43%. The BSOM is and will continue to be a mission-driven school. Dr. Cunningham reiterated some of Dr. Verbanac’s comments in regards to research and the need for it to be focused on strategically, where BSOM currently is and where it needs to go in the future. Dr. Cunningham commended Dr. Benson and Mr. Jowers on their efforts with Huron Consultation and stated that they would be presenting a snapshot of the work being done with this firm.

ECU Physicians Financial Performance Update:

Mr. Jowers reviewed the financial year-to-date information as of the end of September 2015. The net non-operating income (losses) indicated an improvement of 47.1% from the prior year. Over a 12-month period, the cash reserves had increased from 66 days to 77 days and approximately $4.8M. The total operating revenues had decreased by approximately $1.8M and the total operating expenses had increased by approximately $1.2M. The ECU Physicians Practice Management Indicators reflected a 2.3% improvement in the number of credentialed providers (MD/DO).

Performance Indicators Review:

Dr. Benson introduced Dr. Jason Foltz, Associate Medical Director of ECU Physicians (ECUP), and Mr. Robert LaGesse, Chief Operations Executive of ECUP, to the committee and thanked them for assisting in pulling together the ECUP performance indicators that will be used as the key measures for ECUP practices to achieve for ongoing success. This includes the four categories of quality indicators, operations, finances and short-term focus. Dr. Benson reviewed some of the specific quality measures and explained that many specific items will be listed under the meaningful use attestations for physician verification. In an effort to improve the transmission of data and communication to/from the patient, they are striving to increase the number of patients who are active in the patient portal account (“MyChart”). Another indicator that was discussed was the appointment fill rate that shows the percentage of clinic appointments that were filled at capacity each day. The ECUP performance indicator report will be updated every year to account for a change in focus as the efforts shift over time.

$8M Planning Workgroup Update:
Mr. Vanderpool presented an overview of the $8M Sustainability Appropriation Spending Plan and thanked those that helped with the BSOM obtaining this funding. Dr. Cunningham charged a group across the school to gain a broad-based approach focused on education in the development of this plan. Mr. Vanderpool outlined the 6 areas of medical education, simulation and clinical skills expansion, research investments, IT upgrades, facility upgrades and faculty and student recruitment and retention and the amounts allotted to each. Special interests in these areas include start-up funding for new faculty researchers, replacing audio-visual equipment, improving patient education (web-based) and becoming more competitive in recruitment efforts. This nonrecurring funding provided for the current biennium is a small step forward for the BSOM. Mr. Joyner stated that a strategy needed to be developed in the near future to work towards having the $8M be given on a recurring basis. Dr. Ballard expressed the need for widespread support in these efforts and that the work needs to be done now in educating the BOG of this financial need for next fall. Dr. Horns has been working on a strategy with Ms. Brooks in obtaining these funds on a recurring basis. It was requested that Ms. Brooks present an update on the efforts that can be taken with the legislature to support a long range financial plan for the BSOM.

**Update on Huron Consultation:**

Dr. Benson and Mr. Jowers gave an update on the Huron Consultation work. After a productive meeting with the consulting firm and leaders from Vidant Health this week, they are currently looking at the data and the next step will include a final vetting of the numbers. Both the ECU BOT and Vidant BOT will be engaged in working on the details of the next steps. The intense work in what is projected to be the “1100 day plan” to implement the model ultimately chosen is targeted to commence next summer. The plan is to present an update at the February meeting of this committee that will include an overview of the sequence of engagement of approval of the proposal. Dr. Benson expressed his appreciation of the interest and enthusiasm that the committee has exhibited at each stage of this process.

**Division Updates:**

Dr. Horns reminded the committee that additional informational updates on the College of Allied Health Sciences, College of Nursing, Laupus Library, School of Dental Medicine and the Brody School of Medicine were included in the board packets for their review.

**Closed Session:**

Action: A motion was made by Chairman Davenport that the Health Sciences Committee go into closed session. Mr. Joyner read the motion to go into closed session:
1. Prevent the disclosure of confidential information under N.C. General Statutes §126-22 to §126-30 (personnel information);

2. Consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, or conditions of appointment of one or more prospective and/or current employees and/or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against one or more individual employees; and

3. Consult with an attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege.

Action: Motion passed.

Action: A motion was made by Chairman Davenport to go back into open session at 4:00 p.m. Motion passed.

**Action Items:**

The Health Sciences Committee reviewed one initial appointment with permanent tenure for Dr. David A. Axelrod. A motion was made to approve the initial appointment with permanent tenure as approved by the Chancellor and as presented in the Board materials. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.
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<td>Responsible Person</td>
<td>Dr. Phyllis Horns, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences</td>
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<td>Agenda Item</td>
<td>II.</td>
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<td>Item Description</td>
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| Responsible Person | Dr. Sylvia Brown  
Dean, College of Nursing |
<p>| Agenda Item | II. A. |
| Item Description | College of Nursing Enrollment |
| Comments | |
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| Notes | |</p>
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| Responsible Person | Dr. Paul Cunningham  
Dean, Brody School of Medicine |
| Agenda Item | II. B. |
| Item Description | Brody School of Medicine Update |
| Comments | |
| Action Requested | Update |
| Disposition | |
| Notes | 1. Electromagnetic Navigational Bronchoscopy Presentation - Dr. Mark Bowling & Dr. Carolos Anciano  
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| Responsible Person | Dr. Phyllis Horns  
Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences |
<p>| Agenda Item | III. |
| Item Description | Closed Session |
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Updates from the College of Allied Health Sciences:

**Occupational Therapy Students Teach Driving Skills to Teens with Autism**

A driving program and “bootcamp” developed by five graduate students in the Department of Occupational Therapy helped a group of teens with autism become more independent.

Students launched the week-long boot camp last year by assessing each teen’s driving abilities and setting specific goals for improvement. Because many of the participants had no previous driver education, they started with the basics: how far a driver should sit from the steering wheel, how high the headrest should be, how to check mirrors before moving, and how one’s feet should rest on the gas and brake pedals. An interactive computer program helped participants improve their eye-hand-foot coordination by measuring reaction time to audible cues. They used a large, touchscreen board where lights challenged them to divide their attention and respond to multiple stimuli. Participants also practiced with a driving simulator. For those not ready to drive, community mobility exercises taught participants to navigate the ECU and Greenville transit systems.

Dr. Anne Dickerson, professor of occupational therapy and expert in mobility skills, continues to hear positive feedback from parents whose children participated in the boot camp. She hopes they will be able to offer the boot camp again this year.

**PA Studies Student Serves Veterans through Navigate Counseling Clinic**

Physician Assistant Studies student Foster Hunt used a service-learning project last year to reach homeless veterans. He decided to collaborate with the Navigate Counseling Clinic - provided by the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies - because PA Studies and Navigate both assist underserved populations.

Hunt volunteered with the Mobile Clinic for Homeless Veterans. Transportation is a primary barrier to providing services for homeless veterans, so Navigate’s outreach efforts involve taking medical and counseling services to the vets through the mobile clinic – literally “meeting them where they are.” The unit is also equipped with satellite and telecounseling technology to provide services to veterans in more rural areas of Beaufort, Craven, Cumberland, Edgecombe, Nash and Onslow counties.

Collaborations like this between Physician Assistant Studies and Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies are paving the way for more interdisciplinary learning experiences for health sciences students. That workforce training will ultimately affect clinical practice in eastern North Carolina – improving access to care for the veterans and better clinical outcomes.
PT Students Aid Veterans at Annual Event

Students from the Department of Physical Therapy supported this year’s Pitt County Stand Down, held October 23 in Greenville. Sponsored by the QSA Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps homeless and low-income veterans, the four-hour event offered medical treatment, employment opportunities, and other resources to many in need.

A total of 31 students volunteered as part of a community outreach project to promote physical therapy and wellness. Veterans typically have myriad orthopedic pains due to years of rigorous physical demands while serving in the military. Students worked in teams and performed screenings, evaluations and treatments for 18 individuals.

FoodMASTER Workshop Teaches Hands-On Science

FoodMASTER, a National Institutes of Health SEPA-funded resource for middle grade science classrooms, hosted a teacher training workshop for 25 teachers at the Natural Science Museum on Raleigh in early November. The 10-unit resource uses food as a tool to teach hands-on science to seventh and eighth grade students.

Participants experienced the FoodMASTER approach while completing scientific inquiry learning labs and exploring ways to incorporate FoodMASTER materials into the middle grades science classroom. Housed within the Department of Nutrition Sciences, FoodMASTER provides outreach opportunities for students interested in nutrition and health professions.

Allied Health Professor Joins National Academy of Inventors

Dr. Joseph S. Kalinowski of East Carolina University’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is among 168 named this year as fellows of the National Academy of Inventors. Election to the academy’s fellow status is a high professional distinction accorded to academic inventors who their peers believe have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society.

Kalinowski is named as an inventor of seven U.S. and 18 international patents, of which three U.S. patents and their international families have been licensed to two university start-up companies. His pivotal patents relate to treatments for stuttering and other fluency disorders.

The NAI Fellows will be inducted April 15 as part of the Fifth Annual Conference of the National Academy of Inventors at the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria, Virginia. Fellows will be presented with a special trophy, medal and rosette pin in honor of their outstanding accomplishments.
In December the College of Nursing graduated the following students:
- 113 Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- 53 RN to BSN
- 18 Accelerated Second-Degree in Nursing
- 85 Master of Science in Nursing
- 14 Post-Master of Science in Nursing
- 18 Doctor of Nursing Practice

The college has received a $2.1 million grant from the Versant Center for the Advancement of Nursing (Vcan). The three-year project, which began Jan. 1, 2016, is titled “Building a National Research Project for the Advancement of Nursing.” The project addresses the Vcan call to advance nursing science by evaluating nurses’ contributions to patient safety organizational capacity-building, organizational sustainability, and economic benefit. Dr. Elaine Scott and Dr. Mel Swanson serve as Co-PIs on this grant.

The College of Nursing was among four online graduate programs at ECU to be ranked among the nation’s best by *U.S. News and World Report*. ECU’s College of Nursing programs were ranked 23rd out of 147 schools. This fall, 316 students were enrolled in the college’s six online graduate options: adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialist, neonatal clinical nurse specialist, neonatal nurse practitioner, nursing education, nursing leadership and nurse midwifery.

The ECU College of Nursing is ranked Number 3 out of 50 Best Value Online DNP programs by BestMedicalDegrees.com and the online RN/BSN program was ranked 6th by TopRNtoBSN.com in its published 2016 listing of the 50 top online RN to BSN programs for nursing schools.

The PhD in Nursing program has added several new options to facilitate students’ progression into the program. The new DNP to PhD program makes ECU one of only six schools in the country to offer the opportunity. Read more at [www.ecu.edu/news/NursingPhD.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/news/NursingPhD.cfm).

Collaborative Nursing Research Day will be held Feb. 12 at the East Carolina Heart Institute. This year marks the 25th anniversary of this event co-sponsored by the college, Vidant Health, Sigma Theta Tau-Beta Nu Chapter and Eastern Area Health Education Center. Our speaker will be Dr. Cindy Munro, associate dean for research and innovation at the University of South Florida College of Nursing. Her topic will be “Collaborating for Research Excellence.”


Faculty member Dr. Donna Lake was a presenter on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing webinar, “Bridging the Transition from Military to Academic Nursing Faculty” in November.

The college’s Golden Lamp Society recognizes individuals who support it on an ongoing basis. Members include any donor who has made a gift of at least $100 for two consecutive years or more. This year’s inductees are listed on our website at www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nursing/golden_lamp.cfm.

This spring the college will host the following upcoming events:
  o The college, in partnership with ECU Continuing Education Office, will offer the popular Nursing Education Educator Development course. Details at http://bit.ly/NEEDSECU16.
  o The annual Pirate Nurse 5K on Saturday, April 2. This event raises funds for nursing student scholarships. Registration is available at www.runtheeast.com.
  o A screening of “No Evidence of Disease,” a film that highlights “below-the-belt cancers.” Attending the ECU showing will be Dr. John Boggess, who is featured in the film. Details at http://bit.ly/NEDECU16.
Highlights

• Student and resident clinics in Ross Hall and Hospital Dentistry currently have a database of just over 12,000 patients of record. The seven community service learning centers operating across the state (Ahoskie, Elizabeth City, Lillington, Robeson County, Davidson County, Spruce Pine, and Sylva) have a database of just over 15,700 patients of record.

• Student and resident clinics in Ross Hall and Hospital Dentistry have conducted just over 56,000 patient appointments. The seven community service learning centers have conducted just over 60,800 patient appointments.

• The school began interviewing candidates for the Class of 2020 in September 2015. To date, we have received over 400 applications. We extended our first round of offers in early December and will continue to interview candidates through mid-February. The applicant pool is very strong and includes students with wide ranging talents and life experiences from across North Carolina. We expect to enroll 50 students in the Class of 2020 in the fall. The school enrolled its first cohort of students in fall 2011.

• Dean Greg Chadwick received the Outstanding Dental Leader Award from the International College of Dentists in November.

Ross Hall Fourth Floor Construction

The construction project on the fourth floor of Ross Hall is adding 34,000 square feet of research space, faculty and staff offices, conferencing and continuing education space. Currently, the fire alarm system installation is 50% complete; work on lower floors to support the construction is about 98% complete; overhead ductwork is about 95% complete; wall and bulkhead framing is predominantly complete; plumbing rough-ins are ongoing; and sheet rock installation is intensifying. The project is currently on schedule and contractor work should be complete by 7-21-16.
Community Service Learning Centers (CSLCs)
A ribbon cutting and open house will be held Friday, April 29 for the Community Service Learning Center-Brunswick County located in Bolivia, NC. Faculty, staff, students, and residents will begin seeing patients at the center in February. This center is expected to draw patients from the southeast section of the state, including Brunswick, Columbus, Pender, New Hanover, and Duplin Counties.

The CSLC-Brunswick County is the eighth and final CSLC to be constructed by ECU in order to fulfill the mission of preparing dental leaders with outstanding clinical skills and providing enhanced oral health services for underserved North Carolinians. Other CSLCs are located in Ahoskie, Elizabeth City, Lillington, Davidson County, Robeson County, Spruce Pine, and Sylva and serving patients throughout the state.

CITA Examinations
The school will graduate its second cohort of predoctoral students in May. On January 29, the Class of 2016 will participate in the final portion of the regional licensure examination administered by the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies, Inc. (CITA). This clinical exam will provide 156 dental procedures free of charge to members of the community. Upon successful completion of the exam, students will be eligible to apply to the North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners for North Carolina licensure.
Updates from Laupus Library:

Laupus Library Marks 10 Years of Honoring Health Sciences Authors

Laupus Library marked a decade of honoring research and scholarship from across the Division of Health Sciences’ colleges and schools during a Nov.10 event.

The annual Health Sciences Author Recognition Awards celebrates the achievements of faculty and staff who have published peer-reviewed works in the last year. Nearly 100 authors were recognized for their books, book chapters, journal articles and other creative works.

Faculty and staff submitted 316 qualifying peer reviewed publications including 209 journal articles, 72 creative works, 21 book chapters and 14 books published between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. The Department of Nutrition was well represented at the event, with four faculty members publishing books in the past year – its first as part of ECU’s Division of Health Sciences.

The annual recognition ceremony is sponsored primarily by the Friends of Laupus Library.

Friends of Laupus Library Membership Campaign 2016

Enrollment is now open for Friends of Laupus Library membership for 2016. We invite you to enroll or renew your membership and join the friends today. Our goal for 2016 is to increase membership by enrolling at least 100 members. For more information about how you can participate please contact Kelly Rogers Dilda at rogerske@ecu.edu.

Save the Date: Spring 2016 Medical History Interest Group Presentations

Laupus Library History Collections & the Department of Bioethics & Interdisciplinary Studies sponsor the Medical History Interest Group Presentations as an educational service for the East Carolina community. The Library hopes that the speakers and topics selected will promote a greater understanding of the historical and philosophical underpinnings of today’s health care disciplines.

All lectures will be held in the 4th floor Evelyn Fike Laupus Gallery of the Laupus Library. Refreshments will be provided.

Monday, February 29 at 4:30 p.m.
Dentistry as Depicted by 17th Century Dutch Masters
Waldemar de Rijk, PhD, DDS, Clinical Assoc. Prof., School of Dental Medicine
Monday, March 21 at 4:30 p.m.
The Athenian Plague and Ancient Greek Medicine
Anthony Papalas, Ph.D., Professor, History (retired)

Monday, April 11 at 4:30 p.m.
Galen’s Zygoma: The Birth of Anatomical Terminology: A Confluence of Medicine, Language and History
Walter Sabiston, M.D.

Art as Avocation Series to Feature Photography

A new Art as Avocation exhibit titled “Visions of Nature” will be on display March 8 through June 1 on the 4th floor of the library. The exhibit will showcase the photography collection of Mr. Steven Lichti, IT specialist for the School of Dental Medicine. An opening reception will be held on March 8 at 4:30 p.m. on the 4th floor of Laupus Library.

“Against the Odds: Making a Difference in Global Health exhibition on display
March 14-April 23, 2016

“Against the Odds: Making a Difference in Global Health” is a traveling exhibition highlighting the role of communities in improving health at home and around the world. The exhibition explores the shared basic needs required for a good quality of life, including nutritious food and clean water, a safe place to live and affordable health care.

Using historical and contemporary photographs, exhibited banners tell stories of collaboration between families, scientists, advocates, governments and international organizations, all taking up the challenge to prevent disease and improve medical care.

As well as recent developments, the exhibition also focuses on historic campaigns that have changed today’s attitudes. This exhibition raises awareness of the sources and effects of health inequalities and invites each of us to join the global campaign for health and human rights.

The experiences described here constitute a legacy of success, often based on the simplest means. Working together, we can make a world of difference. An online web version of the exhibition, including opportunities to get involved, is available at http://apps.nlm.nih.gov/againsttheodds/index.cfm

The exhibit is provided by the National Library of Medicine will be displayed in the 4th floor exhibit gallery.
Research

- Dr. Kymberly Gowdy, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, recently received a $450,000 grant from the Health Effects Institute to boost her research into the influence of environmental chemicals on lung function and the immune system.

- Dr. Christopher Geyer, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, recently received a $438,076 grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue his research into the mechanisms involved in sperm cell production, which could have direct public health implications related to both infertility and testicular cancer.

- A team of ECU faculty, led by Dr. Ruth Little of the Department of Public Health, has developed and tested curriculum for training lay health "coaches" that is proven to improve health outcomes for some of the poorest, sickest individuals in our region. The curriculum is now being offered at Edgecombe Community College and will soon be available statewide via the N.C. Community College System.

Community Service

- In early November, Dr. Thomas Ellis, Department of Family Medicine, was interviewed by WNCT for a segment about the "No-Shave November" men's health awareness campaign and the importance of men scheduling regular physicals, cancer screenings, etc.

- During November, in commemoration of World AIDS Day, several panels of the National AIDS Quilt, all with ties to eastern North Carolina, were displayed in the Brody School of Medicine lobby. Infectious Diseases specialist Dr. Nada Fadul of Brody's Ryan White Program was interviewed by WNCT for two separate segments on the topics of HIV/AIDS diagnosis, treatment, stigma and intervention therapies. ECU Physicians social worker and HIV patient Abby Boyer also participated.
In conjunction with Diabetes Awareness Month in November, bariatric surgeon Dr. Dino Spaniolas and his staff held a well-attended press conference to educate the public about weight loss surgery as a treatment and cure for diabetes. ECU Physicians patient Greg Bethea of Wilson also participated.

As 2015-16 North Carolina Albert Schweitzer Fellows, medical students Alex Baumgarten and Hetal Patel launched a girls’ running group and healthy lifestyles after school program for elementary and middle public school students at the Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center. Classmates and fellow scholarship recipients Elizabeth Rossitch and Haily Vora partnered with the Pitt County Council on Aging to conduct free “Matter of Balance” classes for senior citizens at local community centers.

Clinical Practice

Brody and Vidant Health are deeply engaged in a consultation with Huron Healthcare aimed at providing recommendations about how the two organizations’ physician practices (Vidant Medical Group and ECU Physicians) can become more directly aligned to achieve the mutual goal of providing excellence in patient care for the people of eastern NC. Teams are examining financial data, legal and regulatory issues, and matters important to physicians, such as compensation, reporting structure, and clinical standards. The recommendations, from Huron, that emerge in early 2016, will be vetted by the leadership of both organizations.

To date, ECU Physicians has a contribution margin gain of $5.5 million for the 2016 fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015).

ECU Physicians cash reserves at the end of December 31, 2015 were $40.8M or 93 days of cash on hand. The ECU Physicians Board encourages ECU Physicians to have 90 days of cash on hand at all times.
Leaders at East Carolina University have commissioned the Tripp Umbach group to conduct a feasibility study for class size expansion at Brody School of Medicine during the spring of 2016. A previous feasibility study in 2007 resulted in approval for class size expansion at BSOM in 2008, but the collapse of the national economy prohibited this from happening. After review of that previous study, it was felt that sufficient changes had occurred at both the local and national level to require an updated study to guide a new consideration of expansion in 2016. The Tripp Umbach group was selected because they are one of the leading consultant groups in the nation doing this work, having been actively engaged with more than 30 medical education expansion projects in all regions of the United States over the past decade.

At the outset, leaders at the BSOM set clear expectations with the Tripp Umbach group:

1. Any models to be considered for class size expansion must be consistent with the mission of BSOM to train primary care physicians from a diverse class of students in order to increase the supply of physicians who will practice in rural and underserved areas of North Carolina
2. Expansion of GME (residency) programs in primary care disciplines (Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, OB/GYN) and other specialties of need (General Surgery, Psychiatry) must be considered at the same time as class size expansion. With the expansion of class size at other NC medical schools and the addition of Campbell University with little to no expansion of residency positions in the state, any addition of medical student positions would have to leave the state for residency training if no GME expansion occurred, making it less likely that they would return to NC for practice.
3. A distributed model of medical education is specifically requested for consideration in the models being considered. This would involve partnerships that could come together as a medical education consortium to provide medical student and residency training in areas of eastern NC outside of Greenville. Examples of sites that might be considered include (but are not limited to) New Bern, Jacksonville, Ahoskie, Elizabeth City, etc.
4. Additional expectations for model consideration include:
   - Must not harm existing students
   - Must have access to appropriate clinical training experiences
   - Must have existing faculty support
   - Must have financial resources to support expansion start-up and ongoing operations
   - Must provide benefits to School of Medicine and potential partners

The specific requests for the Tripp Umbach group engagement are as follows:

1. Recommend a model for medical education expansion
2. Determine the most feasible size and scope of expanded programs
3. Develop recommendations related to the establishment and expansion of clinical clerkships and provider relationships
4. Develop recommendations related to the expansion of Graduate Medical Education
5. Evaluate impact of expanded medical education on health care delivery system, physician workforce, and existing Brody School of Medicine programs

Tripp Umbach will provide the following as the final deliverables of the feasibility study:

- Comprehensive report that includes key stakeholder response summary, regional and statewide market data analysis, and key consultant findings and recommendations for the expansion of the Brody School of Medicine.
- Executive Summary of Findings and Recommendations
- Final In-Person Presentation of Study Findings
The Feasibility Study will focus on five key areas:
1. Advantages and disadvantages of expansion models for the Brody School of Medicine.
2. Funding mechanisms to be utilized for the expansion of the medical education program.
3. Clinical partners’ capacity and associated required resources to support an expansion.
4. Community need & support for an expansion.
5. Determining ideal location and model for expansion.

Project Elements will include:
1. Data Collection and Analysis
   - Market Assessment
   - National and Regional Trends
   - Clinical Assessment
2. Key Stakeholder Interviews (Internal and External Stakeholders)
   - Discussion Guide Development
   - Interview Process

The timeline for this engagement is as shown below:

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<tr>
<th>Project Month</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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| **January**   | ▪ **Project planning** conference call.  
                  ▪ **Review of internal and external data** relative to the strategic direction of the Brody School of Medicine, relationships with clinical training partners, educational and clinical capacity for expanded medical education, and physician workforce and community health needs. |
| **January – February** | ▪ **On-site interviews** and meeting with project committee (site visits #1 and #2).  
                              ▪ **Feasibility analysis** completed through data analysis and interviews with key stakeholders. On-site interviews with key players from the client and other parties will allow Tripp Umbach to gain a deep understanding of feasibility impacts resulting from the medical education expansion project. |
| **March -April** | ▪ Site visit #3 to meet with **project steering committee** to gather input and direction for the final deliverable.  
                          ▪ **Final feasibility analysis** based on committee input.  
                          ▪ Development of **draft and final reports**. |
| **April**      | ▪ **On-site presentation** (site visit #4). |