

**AGENDA**  
**Health Sciences Committee**  
**September 10, 2020**

- I. Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2020
- II. Review of Operational Metrics
- III. Informational Items
  - A. Health Sciences Division Update – Dr. Mark Stacy
    - 1. Research and Community Outreach Response to COVID-19
  - B. College of Nursing Update – Dr. Sylvia Brown
  - C. College of Nursing Student Remarks – Ms. Lisa Lashley
- IV. Closed Session



**Health Sciences Committee**  
September 10, 2020

Agenda Item: I. Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2020

Responsible Person: Tom Furr  
Committee Chair

Action Requested: Action

Notes:

**Health Sciences Committee – Open Session**  
**ECU Board of Trustees**  
**July 9, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Board Members Present:**

Tom Furr (Committee Chair)  
Fielding Miller (Committee Vice Chair)  
Tucker Robbins (Committee Member)  
Angela Moss (Committee Member)  
Jim Segrave (Committee Member)  
Vern Davenport  
Jason Poole  
Leigh Fanning  
Bob Plybon  
Scott Shook  
Vince Smith

**Others Present:**

Interim Chancellor Mitchelson	Jenny McKellar
Bill Bagnell	Brian Muzyka
Paul Bolin	Wayne Poole
Josie Bowman	Peter Schmidt
Michelle Brooks	Rob Spahr
Sylvia Brown	Mark Stacy
Greg Chadwick	Sara Thorndike
Paul Cook	Gary Vanderpool
Chris Dyba	Kathryn Verbanac
Virginia Hardy	Amanda Williams
Grant Hayes	Ying Zhou
Lisa Hudson	

**Recorder:** Cindy Reaves

**Call to Order and Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Furr called the meeting to order at approximately 12:45 pm and read the conflict of interest statement required by the State Government Ethics Act. No conflicts were identified. The minutes of April 2, 2020 were approved.

## Health Sciences Division Update:

Dr. Mark Stacy reviewed the Health Sciences Division metrics that were selected for the dashboard. For ECU Physicians' financial performance, we were on track for a very good year however decreased charges March through May will result in significant revenue hits in the August – October time period. Although this fiscal year ended in good financial standing, we will see challenges in the first two quarters of FY21. For total wRVUs, across the practice wRVUs are ahead of last year through Feb and were on track to get close to a very aggressive annual productivity goal. In Jan & Feb wRVUs were significantly impacted by the loss of a dermatologist and decreased trauma surgery volume. March began the COVID disruption, many of the issues experienced nationally included:

- Shut down of elective surgery cases at VMC
- Reduced ED volume (Minor ED was closed)
- Providers testing positive and others at high risk unable to work through April
- Reduced volume in dermatology because new provider just starting in April
- Reduced clinic visits and overall volume in ECU-P (lost patient visits b/c patients not yet comfortable with telehealth, but not willing or able to personally attend a provider visit)
- Outreach sites staffed by ECUP providers were closed for a period of time

Although face to face volumes are picking up, it may take a couple of months to reach/exceed pre-COVID levels. A percentage of patients are still using telephone and video for their visits.

Many area physician practices are dependent on a single specialty service line for their revenue and have had to furlough and otherwise reduce staffing. Because of our diverse services and strong financial position, we have been able to avoid this so far. In fact, this has been an opportunity for us to recruit highly trained staff (RN, APP, CMA & revenue cycle staff) who have lost their job to fill key vacancies that have previously been difficult to fill. Employees with these skill sets are in high demand for medical offices in Greenville/Pitt County because of limited supply. This allows them to go to the jobs with the best pay. However, we believe that once in our network, we will be able to retain these staff through our generous benefits.

Patient experience continues to be above 90% despite the difficult environment. This speaks volumes about our staff who essentially redesigned patient flow and care delivery in a matter of weeks if not less while maintaining a patient-centered and patient friendly environment. The aggregate for willingness to refer is 91.10%. Although we did ok this year, one issue was our ability to schedule timely to certain specialties (i.e. Neurology, Endocrine, Dermatology).

We've seen a significant jump in the number of published manuscripts since the beginning of the calendar year. We've contracted for 25% time of a scientific writer to assist faculty in their publishing efforts. Additionally, we are seeing more COVID-related publications and expect that trend to continue. It is possible that the increase is related to more writers spending time at home and having more time to write, so we may see

more publications as a result. I think that phenomenon will be studied and reported on. Fifty-five manuscripts were published in June bringing the 8-month period total to 300 for the division, which exceeds our goal.

Dr. Mark Stacy provided a brief Health Sciences Division update in which he discussed the current state with regard to COVID-19. In looking at a 29-County Region Report Card for NC, it would be the 40<sup>th</sup> most populous state with NC being the 14<sup>th</sup> largest and ENC being the 39<sup>th</sup> largest in cumulative cases. Students are beginning to return to campus and to re-enter the clinical environment. We are working diligently with our clinical agencies for fall semester and most are accommodating our requests for students to return in the fall. We are being careful to ensure that our learners are in a safe environment that requires appropriate PPE and adheres to other guidelines that promote safety. Lost revenues and additional expenditures have totaled \$12,817,000 through May 31<sup>st</sup>. Federal recovery funds are being actively pursued.

### **COVID-19: Front Lines Perspective:**

Dr. Paul Bolin and Dr. Paul Cook of the Department of Internal Medicine of the Brody School of Medicine presented an update on the front line's perspective in regard to COVID-19. Physicians from East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine and Vidant Health are performing a clinical procedure that uses antibodies from people who have recovered from COVID-19 to treat patients suffering from the novel coronavirus.

On April 23, a COVID-19 patient at Vidant Medical Center was one of the first in North Carolina to receive antibodies from a plasma donor – through a process called plasmapheresis – who previously had a documented case of COVID-19. Many local patients have received the antibody serum, but the clinical investigation is part of a collaborative effort with the Mayo Clinic and major clinics nationwide that have many more patients in the study. Results thus far in the study have been encouraging. The academic nature of the ECU and Vidant partnership has helped provide patients in ENC with access to potential clinical treatments and has enabled them to bring the processes and lessons learned in places such as New York, China and Italy to bear locally.

Dr. Paul Cook discussed the details and enrolling data of clinical trials that they are using. The sponsors of the trials are Eli Lilly & Company and Janssen. Dr. Cook also discussed the details of the drug that is being used to treat patients and the effects of COVID-19 on the lungs.

### **Closed Session:**

Action: A motion was made by Chairman Furr that the Health Sciences Committee go into closed session. Mr. Miller read the motion to go into closed session:

1. to prevent the disclosure of confidential information under N.C. General Statutes §126-22 to §126-30 (personnel information) and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; and
2. to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, or appointment of prospective and/or current employees and/or to hear or investigate a complaint or grievance by or against one or more employees.
3. to prevent the disclosure of competitive healthcare information under N.C. General Statute 130A-45.11; G.S. 131E-97.3.
4. to consult with an attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Committee.

Action: Motion passed.

**Action Items from closed session to be announced in full BOT open session:**

*Request - The Board approve the following motion:*

I move that:

- The Board approve the initial appointment with tenure for Dr. Thomas A. Sporn in the Brody School of Medicine as presented in board materials.

*Request - The Board approve the following motion:*

I move that:

- The Board approve the initial appointment with tenure for Dr. Wenjian Zhang in the School of Dental Medicine as presented in board materials.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:46 pm.**



**Health Sciences Committee**  
September 10, 2020

Agenda Item: II. Review of Operational Metrics

Responsible Person: Dr. Mark Stacy  
Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences Division  
Dean, Brody School of Medicine

Action Requested: Information

Notes:

CEO Tracking Sheet  
 Fiscal Year - 2020  
 Health Sciences Committee

KPI	Measurement	Prior Year	Target	Variance	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total			
ECUP Financial Performance to Budget	Budgeted Profit (Loss)	\$17,050	(2,576,084)	Plan	(1,856,688)	(2,031,645)	1,674,235	(2,084,800)	(325,005)	3,462,256	(2,338,270)	(410,333)	1,748,413	(2,067,495)	(2,153,059)	3,806,308	(2,576,084)			
				Actual	(3,599,597)														(3,599,597)	
				+/-	(1,742,909)															(1,742,909)
				YTD +/-	(1,742,909)															-
Total wRVUs	Work Relative Value Units (wRVU's), are used nationally to measure physician/provider work effort	1,550,605	1,746,902	Plan	140,884	135,340	142,292	142,672	138,697	150,294	149,388	153,963	153,978	149,539	148,920	140,935	1,746,902			
				Actual	114,106														114,106	
				+/-	(26,778)															(26,778)
				YTD +/-	(26,778)															0
Patient Experience/Willingness to Refer	Patient survey question indicating patient's willingness to recommend ECUP to others	91%	91.7%	Plan	90.50%	91.00%	91.10%	91.15%	91.20%	91.30%	91.40%	91.45%	91.50%	91.55%	91.60%	91.70%	91.70%			
				Actual	91.00%															
				+/-	0.50%															
				YTD +/-	-0.70%															
Published Manuscripts	Scholarly articles published in peer reviewed journals	300*	414 (↑3.5%)	Plan	34	34	34	34	34	34	35	35	35	35	35	35	414			
				Actual	37	38													0	
				+/-	3	4														
				YTD +/-	3	7														

\*8 mos data





**Health Sciences Committee**  
September 10, 2020

Agenda Item: III. Informational Items

Responsible Person: Dr. Mark Stacy  
Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences Division  
Dean, Brody School of Medicine

Action Requested: Information

Notes: A. Health Sciences Division Update  
!. COVID-19 Discussion



**Health Sciences Committee**

September 10, 2020

Agenda Item: III. Informational Items

Responsible Person: Dr. Sylvia Brown  
Dean  
College of Nursing

Action Requested: Information

Notes: B. College of Nursing Update



**Health Sciences Committee**  
September 10, 2020

Agenda Item: III. Informational Items

Responsible Person: Ms. Lisa Lashley  
Student  
College of Nursing

Action Requested: Information

Notes: B. College of Nursing Student Remarks



**Health Sciences Committee**

September 10, 2020

Agenda Item:

IV. Closed Session

Responsible Person:

Tom Furr  
Committee Chair

Action Requested:

Notes: