The University Cancer Research Fund: North Carolina Arms Researchers for the Battle

Established by the North Carolina General Assembly last July, the University Cancer Research Fund (UCRF) was created to accelerate the battle against cancer in North Carolina. Well into its first year, the UCRF is shaping a range of cancer initiatives at UNC, many of which will transfer to communities across North Carolina. “Cancer control is a public health issue,” says UNC School of Public Health Dean Barbara K. Rimer, a member of the UCRF Governance Committee. “The University Cancer Research Fund is tangible evidence that our legislature is committed to invest substantial resources in preventing cancer, finding it early and treating it optimally. Researchers at the UNC School of Public Health are true partners in these initiatives. I’m also thrilled that some of the funds we have all supported will be committed to cancer control research.”
The fund—established to accelerate the battle against cancer at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine and its Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center—received $25 million in 2007; $40 million in 2008; and is slated to receive $50 million in 2009. A number of faculty, professors and benefactors of professorships, scholarships, and endowed chairs have been named, which will optimally. Researchers at the UNC School of Public Health plan to use the UCRF funds to develop cutting-edge programs and technology; enhance health behavior and health education at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Health Sciences, and the College of Arts and Sciences; and develop leading-edge programs and technology; enhance health behavior and health education at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Health Sciences, and the College of Arts and Sciences. The fund is focused on recruiting faculty and staff, developing innovative research projects, and funding grants to support these initiatives. I’m also thrilled that some of the funds we have all supported will be committed to cancer control research.”

Dr. Vangie Foshee, associate professor of health behavior and health education at the School of Public Health, received one of 18 Innovation Awards given through the UCRF. She received funding to conduct preliminary studies to determine if contextual factors (i.e., characteristics of the family, peer, school, and neighborhood environments) can be useful or less effective in helping those living with the disease. An estimated 11,000 people in the Caribbean living with the disease. An estimated 11,000 people in the Caribbean died of AIDS in 2007, and AIDS remains a leading cause of death among persons ages 25 to 44. The new Institute—funded by the Global AIDS Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—will use onsite and distance learning activities, individual assessment and coaching, team projects, and a competency-based curriculum to train public health leaders in ways to improve regional HIV/AIDS programs. The program is scheduled to launch on June 3, 2008, in Jamaica, where 25 participants from across the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean will begin their training. The N.C. Institute for Public Health (NC/IPH) is providing consultation and technical assistance to staff at the University of the West Indies (UWI) to design, conduct and evaluate the new program. UWI staff spent several days in Chapel Hill, N.C., in December 2007, working on program design with staff from both NC/PH and the Center for Creative Leadership—a Greensboro, N.C.-based leadership development organization.

In February, three UWI staffers completed a five-week “train-the-trainer” program in Greensboro, titled “Leading Across Boundaries.” The session brought together four individuals from Africa, India and the Caribbean who work in leadership development roles.

Dr. Brendan Bain will direct the new Institute. Bain is professor of community health at the UWI, lead coordinator for the University’s HIV/AIDS Response Program and regional director of the Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training Network.

First ‘Global Obesity Business Forum’ convenes at UNC-Chapel Hill

Senior executives from 14 major global food and beverage companies participate

Senior food industry executives and leading international nutrition scientists and medical experts convened Oct. 29-30, 2007, at UNC-Chapel Hill for the first Global Obesity Business Forum to discuss solutions to one of today’s most dangerous global health issues—obesity.

The forum is an initiative of the UNC-Chapel Hill Interdisciplinary Obesity Center (IDOC). “A large number of countries, as well as most major global food companies, are grappling with ways to address this major global problem,” says Dr. Barry Popkin, director of IDOC and Distinguished Professor of global nutrition in the UNC Schools of Public Health and Medicine who specializes in studying the food industry’s role in grappling with ways to address this major global problem. The event was organized and funded by the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on the Assessment of the Evidence for Food Regulation to combat obesity. The forum brought together 140 representatives from over 30 countries and 200 organizations to discuss solutions to one of today’s most dangerous global health issues—obesity.

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Dr. Barry Popkin

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SAVE THE DATES!

Thursday, September 25th, 2008
6:30 p.m.

World of Difference Dinner
Honor current members of The Rosenau Society and benefactors of professorships, scholarships, specialty endowments and facilities Rosenau Society membership levels are: Dean’s Circle $1,000 - $1,999 Chancellors Circle $2,000 - $4,999 Presidents Circle $5,000 - $25,000 Gifts for 2007-2008 membership are due prior to June 30th, 2008.

Friday, September 26th, 2008
11:00 a.m.

Naming Ceremony and Celebration
(when we become the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health)

For more information about these events, please contact the Office of External Affairs at (919) 966-0198 or jerry_salak@unc.edu.

The event was chaired by Henry J. (Jack) Cardello, a former executive with Coca-Cola, RJ Raisbach, and General Mills, who serves as the forum’s industry executive sponsor. Corporate participants included senior vice presidents and other senior executives from most major global food and beverage companies, including Cadbury Schweppes, Campbell Soup Co., Coca-Cola, Danone, General Mills, Hershey Co., Kellogg’s, Kraft Foods, Nestle, McDonald’s, Mead Johnson Nutritional, Starbucks, Unilever and Wyeth Nutrition.