UNC HEALTH Foundation

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear Friends,

My name is Margaret Ann Bollmeier, and it is a tremendous honor to share with you our UNC Health Foundation FY25 Annual Report. In my first months as president of the Foundation and chief philanthropy officer of UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine, I have had the chance to meet so many individuals – faculty, staff, students, donors, alumni and friends – who share a deep passion for advancing our mission to transform healthcare throughout North Carolina and around the world.

That shared passion runs through everything we do here in Chapel Hill and across our statewide healthcare system. Your support for more than 50,000 UNC Health teammates and our School of Medicine drives innovation, powers game-changing science and, most importantly, provides hope for countless patients and families who depend on us every day.

I am thrilled to share that in the past fiscal year you helped raise more than $140 million in gifts and commitments in support of UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine. Additionally, under the leadership of my predecessor Leslie Nelson-Bernier, you and our UNC Health Foundation team helped provide more than $46 million in programmatic support to bolster health outcomes across North Carolina and beyond.

As you read the stories of impact in this report, I hope you will share my tremendous pride in being part of a group of dedicated supporters who make all of this possible. Thank you for your continued generosity and your relentless passion for helping your friends, families and neighbors create a healthier future for our state.

With sincere gratitude,

Margaret Ann Bollmeier
Chief Philanthropy Officer, UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine
President, UNC Health Foundation

Invested in Rural Care

Meet the First Moretz Scholar

The Moretz Scholarship, established in 2022 through the Frank H. Moretz, MD '75 Western North Carolina Health Impact Fund, supports UNC medical students committed to practicing in Western North Carolina. The scholarship has already begun to make its impact, starting with the first recipient, Andy Leake, now in his fourth year at UNC School of Medicine.

The legacy gift from Frank Moretz, MD, a former Asheville anesthesiologist, provides robust tuition support for MD students, aiming to build the medical pipeline and close the care gap in western North Carolina (WNC). "The scholarship is for students who either want to practice in Western North Carolina or are originally from the region," said Moretz, noting that students from rural areas are especially likely to return and serve their communities. Leake's experiences and goals reflect exactly what the scholarship was meant to support—and his story brings that vision to life in a meaningful way.

The Asheville native's path to medicine was a bit like a mountain trail, with switchbacks and scenic detours that ultimately led him back home. After graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill, he worked at Asheville Brewing Company before joining the Peace Corps and teaching math and science in Guinea, West Africa. Though the pandemic cut his service

LEFT: Andy Leake at a "BeLoved Asheville" service day following Hurricane Helene in 2024

Frank Moretz, MD and Andy Leake at the 2025 UNC School of Medicine Scholarship Brunch

short, the experience opened his eyes to global health disparities and sparked a passion for medicine.

Back in the U.S., Leake moved to rural Virginia to help his uncle navigate some complex health needs. During this time he began to set his sights on medical school and began studying for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Seeing the challenges of accessing care in underserved areas both abroad and at home helped to grow his dedication to rural health. While he was working as a COVID screener at the Asheville VA Medical Center, Leake learned he had been accepted to his first choice school, UNC School of Medicine.

Leake was grateful to be able complete most of his rotations and training in Asheville, allowing him to stay close to home. It also gave him the chance to serve the communities he knows, places where he hopes to make a lasting impact.

During the Hurricane Helene response in Asheville, Leake joined in with local clinicians to help bootstrap care in parking lots and makeshift clinics. While he had always felt connected to WNC, he said the experience was "the most formative period of my medical school career," and that it rooted him even more in his community. Receiving the Moretz Scholarship a few months later was another key moment.

> *"Being recognized by doctors from Western North Carolina who share my values was incredibly meaningful. And knowing that this support is tied to the area I care about and grew up in makes it even more special."*
>
> – Andy Leake, Moretz Scholar and UNC School of Medicine student

Leake plans to pursue his psychiatry residency and eventually practice in Western North Carolina. His interest in mental health is personal—his older brother's experience with schizophrenia in a region with limited psychiatric care left a lasting impression.

Moretz is thrilled that Leake is the first Moretz Scholar. When the two met at the 2025 School of Medicine Scholarship Celebration, Moretz was surprised to discover that Leake is from the Leake family he had known during his years of practice in Asheville. He is encouraged by Leake's commitment to psychiatry and rural service and sees him as a promising addition to the region's pipeline for care.

The Moretz Scholarship is helping to shape the future of healthcare in Western North Carolina, beginning a legacy that will bring excellent care to communities across the region for years to come.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Bill Roper, MD, pictured with UNC medical students Chelsea Onyegi, Theresa Ann Dickerson and Kelsey Rich, has inspired an exciting new fund to support UNC Children's.

Roper Fellows Fund to Support Patients and Families at UNC Children's

A generous anonymous gift in honor of Bill Roper, MD, has established a new fund designed to bolster patient support services at UNC Children's.

The William L. Roper, MD Fellows Fund was established thanks to a $500,000 anonymous gift in honor of the longtime University of North Carolina and UNC Health leader. Roper came to UNC in 1997 as dean of the School of Public Health before taking over as CEO of the statewide healthcare system in 2004.

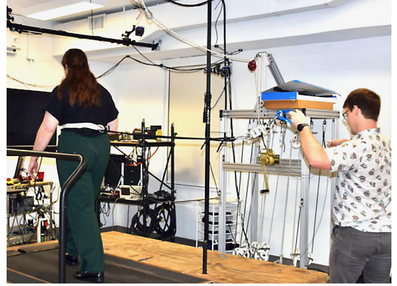
"It is a great honor to be associated with this generous support which will make a real difference for our most vulnerable patients and families," Roper said. "Knowing that others share my passion for supporting children's health in North Carolina is very special, and I know that this fund will create many opportunities to raise the level of compassionate care our UNC Children's team can provide."

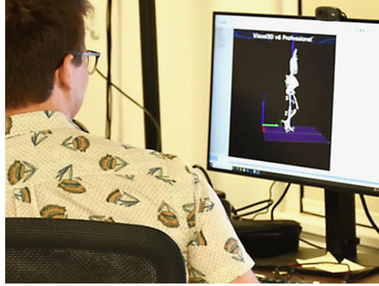
Roper's tenure was highlighted by a significant expansion of both the UNC Health system and UNC School of Medicine, extending their collective reach and impact on the health of all North Carolinians. His career has been dedicated to serving others and improving the health of all patients, particularly children.

It was that dedication to children's health as well as Roper's long history of public service that inspired this new gift. The donors were particularly excited about the opportunity to support UNC Children's while also honoring the legacy of such a dedicated and humble healthcare leader.

> *"We wanted his legacy to prevail in North Carolina because he's had such a profound impact on both the quality of medicine and the care for children in the state."*
>
> – Anonymous donors, The William L. Roper, MD Fellows Fund

The Roper Fellows Fund will provide needed support for patients and families who come to UNC Children's at a truly challenging time in their lives. Through this investment in Child Life specialists, patient navigators and other non-medical resources that are so important to families, UNC Children's is committing to providing the best experience possible at every step of the care process.





Ben Killen in the ReGaiN Lab, headed by Michael Lewek, PT, PhD, in the Department of Health Sciences' Division of Physical Therapy

Steps Toward Change

Research Targets Mobility in Parkinson's Disease

As a second-year PhD student in the Department of Health Sciences' Human Movement Science Curriculum, Ben Killen works in the ReGaiN Lab (Recovery of Gait and Neurorehabilitation), where he is exploring a new approach to improve mobility in people with Parkinson's disease (PD). His research focuses on a specific biomechanical challenge: reduced hip extension forces, which contribute to shortened step lengths and slower walking speeds—two key barriers to mobility for those living with Parkinson's.

To address this, Killen is piloting a treadmill-based intervention that uses resistance bands to encourage stronger hip extension. As participants walk, they receive real-time visual feedback via a bar graph that shows the force they're generating. The goal is to help people with PD learn to produce these forces independently, potentially improving their gait and overall mobility.

"This is a very early, single-session experiment," Killen said. "But if it shows promise, we hope to develop it into a training paradigm and compare it to standard physical therapy."

Killen's journey to research began after earning his physical therapy degree in 2020 and working clinically for four years. While studying for his neurologic clinical specialist certification, he became deeply interested in the research behind rehabilitation. That curiosity led Killen to UNC School of Medicine and the ReGaiN lab run by Michael Lewek, PT, PhD, where he now contributes to cutting-edge movement science.

Support from the Giuliani-Wellman PhD Scholarship Fund, made possible by donor Priscilla Raasch-Mason, has been instrumental in Killen's progress. Established to honor Carol Giuliani, PT, PhD, the fund provides financial assistance to PhD students in the Human Movement Science Curriculum, particularly those focused on geriatrics and neurology.

Thanks to donors like Priscilla, students like Killen are not only advancing science—they're shaping the future of care for patients across North Carolina and beyond.

A Patient-Philanthropist's Vision for New Cancer Research

Barbara Dean and Blake Rushing, PhD

Philanthropy has always played a major role in research at UNC, but Barbara Dean has taken this one step further by being an active participant in supporting those research efforts. Dean's experience working with early-career UNC researchers recently led her to establish the Fund for Innovation in Cancer Research.

Dean has a long relationship with UNC and UNC Health as both a patient and donor, meaningful connections which led her to join the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center's Patient Advocates for Research Council (PARC). As part of her volunteer role on the Council, Dean reviews UNC grant proposals through the lens of a patient advocate.

Patty Spears, Research Manager for PARC and the UNC Lineberger Excellence in Advocacy Program, said that Dean was a perfect fit for the grant review panel. "It was a very good fit for her because she has such an inquisitive mind," Spears said. "She asks a lot of questions. She thinks outside of the box, and she really has a way of challenging research in general just by asking questions.

One of the proposals Dean reviewed was submitted by Blake Rushing, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition at the UNC Gillings Global School of Public Health. Rushing's proposal caught her attention because it related to her own experience as a patient. The proposed research was to investigate links between cancer cell metabolism and resulting metabolites. It would do this by examining the tissue of cancer patients to determine what metabolites are present in cancer cells.

These metabolites, chemical traces of what people eat, can help researchers identify foods and other biochemical factors that promote tumor growth. This could lead to better treatments, possible personalized cures and dietary recommendations.

"Think of cancer cells as separate organisms which have their own dietary needs," Rushing said. "And so that tells us about what nutritional pathways that perhaps we can target in tumors and other similar experimental model systems."

While the proposal was initially not chosen for funding, Dean decided to try to fund the research herself through a personal donation. With the assistance of Spears and the UNC Health Foundation, she provided the pilot funding that Rushing needed.

"I was hopeful that Dr. Rushing's proposed research would bring much needed hardcore bench science to the study of cancer cell metabolism," Dean said. "But there was a problem. Dr. Rushing needed sufficient data to support a grant application and to obtain that data he needed funding. I offered to provide that funding."

The research funded through Dean's initial support produced results and led to insights into potential nutritional and pharmacological strategies that target the metabolites cancer cells rely upon.

"Dr. Rushing's work yielded convincing results and data spilled out, far exceeding expectations," Dean said. "He subsequently received a $3.9 million, five-year RO1 NCI grant to support the development of the Human Cancer Metabolome Atlas. This Atlas will be a publicly available resource for all cancer researchers studying the tumor metabolic landscape. With her work with Rushing as a proof of concept, Dean established the Fund for Innovation in Cancer Research.

"The traditional grant-funded research approach may be the gold standard and highest and best use of tax-supported dollars but it can fall short in supporting more innovative research that could potentially catapult the study of cancer forward at an unprecedented pace. So, I asked, 'Is there another way? Can we be bold? Are we willing to fund failure?'"

Dean believes that a privately funded research program could answer "yes" to all three of these questions. She urges other donors to support the new fund and others like it to help attract and support new researchers and provide opportunities for the kind of innovative research needed to help treat and cure cancer.

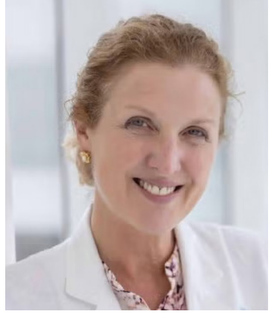
UNC Alumni Mitchener, Massey Establish Eminent Professorship in Melanoma

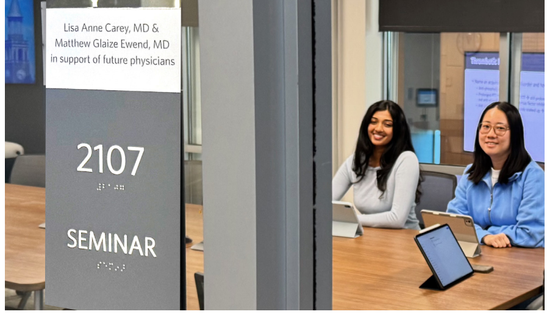
John Mitchener (BSBA '81) and Heath Massey (BA '83)

More than 100,000 people are diagnosed with melanoma each year, and UNC alumni John Mitchener and Heath Massey have established the Calvin C. Mitchener, MD, Eminent Professorship in Melanoma to fund research, clinical care and education into melanoma at UNC.

The $5 million gift is in honor of John's late father, Dr. Calvin Mitchener, a UNC graduate and dermatologist, who passed away from melanoma in 1997. The endowed professorship will support a researcher dedicated to advancing treatments of the cancer.

"This gift will ensure that Carolina remains a national leader in skin cancer treatment and research," said UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Lee H. Roberts. "We are particularly pleased when our alumni give back, and we are grateful to John and Heath for this extraordinary support."





LEFT TO RIGHT: Lisa Carey, MD, and Matt Ewend, MD; Students in the Roper Hall seminar room sponsored by Dr. Carey and Dr. Ewend

Creating Space for Service

Faculty Leaders Invest in the Future

Lisa Carey, MD, L. Richardson and Marilyn Jacobs Preyer Distinguished Professor for Breast Cancer Research and chief clinical research officer, UNC Clinical Research Partners, and Matt Ewend, MD, chief clinical officer, UNC Health and president, UNC Physicians, have spent more than 25 years as faculty and leaders at UNC School of Medicine. Though neither trained here, UNC has become their professional and personal home—a place where they've witnessed the life-changing impact of education, mentorship, and care.

To honor that legacy, Carey and Ewend made a meaningful gift to name a seminar room in Roper Hall, UNC's medical education building that opened in the fall of 2023. Their gift reflects a deep belief in the mission of UNC Health, the safety-net health system for North Carolina, and the School of Medicine, the state's leading training ground for future physicians.

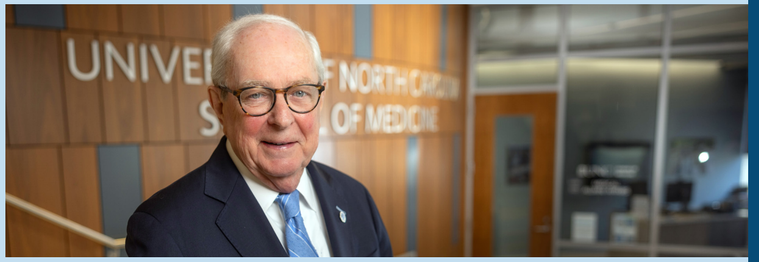
> *"We've seen firsthand how UNC transforms lives across the state. Naming a space is our way of supporting the next generation of physician leaders who will carry that mission forward."*
>
> – Lisa Carey, MD, L. Richardson and Marilyn Jacobs Preyer Distinguished Professor for Breast Cancer Research

The gift is especially personal for their family. Two of their children have chosen careers in medicine, and their son Kelly is currently in his seventh year of the MD/PhD program at UNC.

With this gift, the Carey-Ewend family is helping shape the future of medical education—ensuring that UNC continues to inspire and prepare those who will serve North Carolina for decades to come.

Wesley C. "Butch" Fowler, Jr., MD '66

Shaping Cancer Care and Future Physicians



After 52 years of service, Wesley "Butch" Fowler retired from UNC School of Medicine in 2025, leaving behind a legacy that transformed gynecologic oncology and mentored generations of physicians. A native of Dunn, North Carolina, Fowler began his journey at UNC as a math major and football player before pivoting to medicine. He was proud to be a Triple Tar Heel, completing his residency and his fellowship at UNC.

Fowler founded UNC's Division of Gynecologic Oncology and led it for 31 years, establishing a fellowship program that trained dozens of specialists. His research, supported by 34 grants, advanced treatment for ovarian and cervical cancers and uncovered links between synthetic estrogen and rare cancers in women.

Known for his humility and mentorship, Fowler believes mentees should choose their mentors. His approach has fostered deep, lasting relationships with students, residents and fellows, many of whom consider him a second father. "He made you feel like the most important person in the room," said Olivia Myrick, MD '15. "That's how I aspire to mentor others."

Fowler's influence extended beyond the clinic. As associate dean for Alumni Affairs, he championed excellence across the School of Medicine. His leadership style—empowering others, avoiding the spotlight, and celebrating the success of those he trained—continues to shape the field.

In honor of Fowler, the Wesley C. Fowler, Jr., MD '66 Loyalty Fund Scholarship was established to celebrate his decades-long legacy in gynecologic oncology, medical education, and mentorship at the UNC School of Medicine.

Your Generosity in Action

Scholarships That Shape Futures

Every year at UNC School of Medicine, scholarships and additional awards help hundreds of students access an exceptional education in our MD and health professional programs.

Thanks to our dedicated donors for investing in health leaders, reducing financial barriers, and building the pipeline of care.

$15,380,763
Total scholarships and awards

1,062
Scholarships and awards given

590+
students received scholarship support or additional funding

Andrew Satterlee, PhD, and David Kram, MD, MCR

Isabella Santos Foundation Grant to Support Pediatric Brain Cancer Research

UNC Health leaders in rare pediatric cancer research and treatment received a grant of $171,382 this spring from the Charlotte-based Isabella Santos Foundation through the organization's TORCH Initiative.

ISF's TORCH (Transformational Outcomes for Rare Cancer Heroes) Initiative is a bold extension of ISF's legacy, dedicated to improving the lives of young patients battling rare cancers. Leveraging ISF's robust network and community engagement, TORCH goes beyond Charlotte, igniting meaningful change for children and families facing the unimaginable.

"This grant is specifically to test on a really complex kind of therapy," said Andrew Satterlee, PhD, associate director of the Brain Slice Technology Platform at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and himself a brain cancer survivor. "With the tool that we are making in my lab, we can take tumors right from the operating room and take them back into our lab and keep them alive on our special platform. We can put the drug right on that living tumor."

Satterlee has partnered with David Kram, MD, MCR, a pediatric neuro-oncologist at UNC Children's and associate professor of pediatric hematology-oncology.

> *"Cancer research is like any long process. You can think that it's slow, but every day things are happening. We've gone forward so much in the past six months, the next year with this partnership with ISF and the TORCH initiative, it's going to take us so much farther."*
>
> – Andrew Satterlee, PhD, associate director of the Brain Slice Technology Platform at the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy

"One of the things that we really are excited about is this unique aspect of a research and clinician partnership," Kram said. "To find a research partner as a clinician is hard, and I know the researchers will say the same thing about finding clinicians."

The partnership between Kram and Satterlee is giving hope to patients and families impacted by glioma and other rare pediatric cancers that are often overlooked when it comes to research funding.

"For pediatric cancer research, funding is so, so important because it's really hard to get," Kram said. "It's literally not doable without organizations like ISF."

Clarke-Pearson Professorship Extends Women's Health Legacy

Genevieve Neal-Perry, MD, PhD, and Jeffrey S.A. Stringer, MD, with Drs. Katchy and Dan Clarke-Pearson

Long-time faculty member and former UNC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology chair Dan Clarke-Pearson, MD, and wife Katchy Clarke-Pearson, MD, have established the Drs. Daniel and Kathleen Clarke-Pearson Distinguished Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynecology to help support the next generation of faculty members in global women's health.

The inaugural professor will be Jeffrey Stringer, MD, FACOG, director of the department's Global Women's Health division. Stringer also serves as associate director for research within UNC's Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases, who Dan Clarke-Pearson recruited in 2012.

"Jeff is a visionary leader in women's health research whose innovative work continues to shape the future of obstetrical care," said Genevieve Neal-Perry, MD, PhD, current chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

“Hope Grows Here”

New Chapter for Mental Health Community in Pittsboro

The Lamont Family (left) with Thava Mahadevan, John Gilmore, MD, and Wesley Burks, MD, at the Tiny Homes Village Community House groundbreaking ceremony

On a warm summer morning, community members, advocates and healthcare leaders gathered at the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health’s Tiny Homes Village to witness the groundbreaking of a Community House—a space that promises to be a cornerstone for individuals living with severe mental illness.

But beyond the ceremony, the moment held deep personal meaning—especially for Wesley Burks, MD, former CEO of UNC Health, and longtime supporters Jim and Karen Lamont, whose generosity helped bring the project to life.

“This is truly extraordinary,” Burks said as he welcomed attendees. “This community house will be an integral part of our residents’ lives here.” For Burks, the occasion was more than professional—it was personal. His friendship with the Lamonts spans over two decades when their daughters became close friends.

“Through that, we became a family of friends,” he shared. “That was long before I came to UNC to work. I’ve heard about this community through them—not through work—for over 15 years.”

The Community House is the latest evolution of a vision that began over 15 years ago, when John Gilmore, MD, and his team at the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health sought to redefine recovery.

> *“We realized that recovering from serious mental illness required a lot more than just medication and psychotherapy. It required a good place to live, good food, a good community—safety. That’s what made Thava’s vision so successful.”*
>
> – John Gilmore, MD, UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health

That vision belongs to Thava Mahadevan, a former refugee who turned his own experience with housing insecurity into a lifelong mission. “Housing has always been such an important part of recovery,” he said. “Whether you’re recovering from addiction or struggling with mental illness, you need an anchor. And for people with serious mental illness, that anchor is often missing.”

The Lamonts have been instrumental in helping that anchor take shape. Their journey into mental health advocacy started when their son began struggling with his mental health 17 years ago.

“It was our pediatrician who said, ‘Run, don’t walk to the UNC STEP Clinic,’” Karen Lamont recalled. “That advice changed our lives.”

Over the years, the Lamonts became steadfast supporters of the Center and its mission. Their belief in the vision—and their transformative gift—made the Community House attainable.

“This wouldn’t be possible without long-term supporters like Jim and Karen,” said Mahadevan. “They totally believed in our vision. There was nothing here, but they still believed in us and made sure we had all the resources we needed.”

Karen described the UNC Farm at Penny Lane, where the Tiny Homes Village is located, as a place where individuals are accepted and empowered. “It’s a place where participants receive a holistic approach to care. They learn healthy life skills and practice wellness. It works—and it works really well.”

The Community House will serve as a gathering space, a resource hub, and a symbol of belonging. And thanks to the tireless efforts of the team and the support of donors like Jim and Karen Lamont, construction will soon be underway.

As the first shovels broke ground, the theme of the farm—Hope Grows Here—felt more tangible than ever. Thanks to the Lamonts’ generosity, the vision of a healing, supportive community is no longer just a dream, it’s being built one brick at a time.

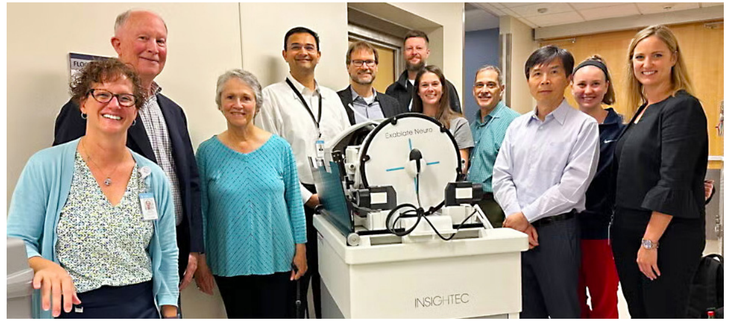
Chewning Family Helps Transform Brain Surgery

Thanks to a generous gift from Nancy and Tom Chewning, UNC Health is now among a select group of health systems nationwide equipped with a full spectrum of focused ultrasound technology for image-guided brain surgery. Their support enabled the acquisition of a low-frequency (220 KHz) focused ultrasound system, expanding UNC's ability to explore new therapeutic applications, including a promising clinical trial for glioblastoma patients.

"We've seen the growing importance of focused ultrasound," said Tom Chewning. "We believe in the people at UNC and the technology, and we're delighted it can help patients."

The Chewnings have long supported focused ultrasound research and were inspired by UNC Health's expanding program and the leadership of Vibhor Krishna, MD. Their gift builds on the success of UNC's high-frequency ultrasound system, which treated its first patient in late 2023.

Glioblastoma patients typically require surgery, but determining tumor biomarkers beforehand is challenging due to the blood-brain barrier. UNC researchers are now using focused ultrasound and FDA-approved microbubble contrast agents to temporarily open the barrier, allowing tumor DNA to enter the bloodstream. This enables a non-invasive "liquid biopsy" through a simple blood draw, potentially accelerating diagnosis and personalizing treatment.



Nancy and Tom Chewning with researchers and physicians in the focused ultrasound program at UNC Health

> *"We've seen the growing importance of focused ultrasound. We believe in the people at UNC and the technology, and we're delighted it can help patients."*
> – Tom Chewning

UNC Health is enrolling patients in a clinical trial at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center to evaluate this approach. Led by neuro-oncologist Yasmeen Rauf, MD, and neurosurgical oncologist Dominique Higgins, MD, PhD, the study could transform how brain tumors and other neurological conditions are diagnosed and treated.

> *"This acquisition reflects our commitment to offering cutting-edge treatments and clinical trials."*
> – Yasmeen Rauf, MD

Krishna continues to lead the focused ultrasound program, having already treated many patients with essential tremor and Parkinson's disease using high-frequency ultrasound—a non-invasive procedure with no incisions and minimal recovery time.

"By investing in this technology, we're enhancing patient outcomes and expanding access to advanced care across North Carolina," said Matthew Ewend, MD, chief clinical officer at UNC Health.

The technology's potential extends beyond diagnostics, enabling targeted drug delivery and incisionless neuromodulation, emphasizing its role in translating groundbreaking therapies to patients.

"The Chewnings' gift allows UNC to remain a leader in focused ultrasound treatment," said Nelson Oyesiku, MD, PhD, chair of Neurosurgery. "This technology will impact patient care across multiple disciplines."

Endowing a Legacy of Discovery at UNC's Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies

A Leslie Morrow, PhD, and Michael Lish, MD

Longtime UNC School of Medicine faculty members A Leslie Morrow, PhD, and Michael Lish, MD, have endowed the A Leslie Morrow Distinguished Professorship to support the next generation of researchers at the Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies.

The Bowles Center is one of the world's leading hubs for research on alcohol and addiction research, and the new professorship will fund a scholar with a primary appointment in psychiatry who will focus on research as a member of the center.

Morrow's research as a faculty member into potential therapies for reducing alcohol cravings led to the current clinical trials for the steroid pregnenolone's potential for reducing cravings and stress.

Billie Stallings

Three Decades of Support for Patients at UNC

Billie Stallings with her late son, Edward "Eddie" Evans, Jr.

For the past 30 years, Billie Stallings has supported patients and families seeking treatment for congenital heart disease as a philanthropist, board member, and patient advocate. Working with UNC and the American Heart Association, her work has directly improved the lives of the state's patients by helping UNC Health create an adult clinic so that patients with life-long heart disabilities can receive all of their care within North Carolina.

Stallings' son Eddie was diagnosed with a congenital heart condition at birth. Before his death at 41, he underwent four open surgeries and required lifelong care that required extensive travel to Birmingham, Alabama. While at the clinic, she said that Eddie would visit other patients waiting for surgeries he had already been through and help them understand what to expect.

"He would knock on patients' doors and ask them what they wanted to know that the doctors had not told them," Stallings said.

The travel was expensive and physically exhausting for Eddie. That experience led Stallings and her husband Don to help fund and establish the UNC Adult Congenital Heart Program's clinic in Chapel Hill. Having an adult clinic in North Carolina means that other patients will not have to travel for treatment like Eddie did, reducing the physical and financial stress on families so they can focus on their care.

"That clinic means so much to me," she said. "This is a tribute to him that will always be there."

Alongside her philanthropic support, Stallings has served as chair of the UNC School of Medicine's cardiovascular medicine advisory board and served on the UNC Health Foundation Board of Directors from 2014 until 2025. Stallings plans to continue to work privately with patients suffering heart conditions to help them connect with UNC Health. The process of getting a referral to UNC Health or any specialist care can be difficult, and she works with providers and patients to help ease the transition.

"I've been down that road," Stallings said.

Jersey Mike's Hits $1.2 Million for Pediatric Rehab with Record Month of Giving

Friends and supporters of the Fitch Family Comprehensive Pediatric Rehab Program joined UNC Health and Jersey Mike's representatives to celebrate passing $1 million in total Month of Giving support.

An enthusiastic group of franchise owners, store managers and team members from across the state gathered this summer to celebrate the culmination of Jersey Mike's Month of Giving, which this year raised more than $478,000 for the Fitch Family Comprehensive Pediatric Rehabilitation Program at UNC Children's.

The 2025 initiative marked the most successful Month of Giving yet for this partnership between Jersey Mike's and UNC Children's, bringing the three-year total to more than $1.2 million in support of children recovering from life-changing injuries and illnesses.

Stephanie D. Davis, MD, chair of the Department of Pediatrics, addressed the crowd with thanks and perspective.

> *"At UNC Children's, we serve kids from all 100 counties in North Carolina. The Fitch Program allows us to give them not just care, but continuity, dignity, and a chance to thrive again."*
>
> – Stephanie D. Davis, MD, Chair, UNC Department of Pediatrics

Financials

The UNC Health Foundation, an affiliated entity of UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC Health, is a standalone not-for-profit organization that exists to provide financial and volunteer resources to UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine. The Foundation administers more than 1,900 individual funds which provide support in the form of scholarships, research funding, professorships, patient and family support, and other funding. The Foundation publishes financial statements annually at fiscal year-end that are audited by an independent accounting firm, and the summarized financial results as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, are presented here.

The Foundation's total assets at the end of the fiscal year amounted to $687.7 million, an increase of $57.8 million, or 9.2%, from a year earlier. Due in large part to contributions and investment gains, the Foundation's combined cash and investment balances increased by $64 million. In fiscal year 2025, the Foundation provided programmatic support to UNC School of Medicine and UNC Health in excess of $46 million. It remains one of the Foundation's most important priorities to become an ever-increasing budgetary resource to these partners.

The Finance and Investment Committee of the Foundation's Board of Directors exercises oversight over the Foundation's finance team and the Foundation's various investment advisors. The UNC Management Company continues to manage the largest share of the Foundation's investments. The Foundation's Long-Term Portfolio experienced a one-year return of positive 11% and the Long-Term Portfolio's 5- and 10-year annualized returns are all solidly in excess of 8%, and outperformed the 70/30 benchmark. The ultimate objective of the Foundation's investment and spending policies remains to maximize investment performance while ensuring an appropriate level of risk, with an eye toward long-term growth, stability and intergenerational equity through the maintenance of the portfolio's purchasing power into the future.

"UNC Health Foundation's commitment to prudent stewardship continues to deliver results. Thanks to the standout work of our Finance and Investment Committee in partnership with the Foundation finance team, we achieved top-decile investment performance relative to our peers over the past decade, supported by a well-diversified portfolio and disciplined financial controls. With no audit findings and a strong financial foundation, we are well positioned to advance our mission and maximize impact for those we serve."

– Bryan Lewis, Chair, Finance and Investment Committee

Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2025

Condensed Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2025 ($ millions)

Cash	$40.3
Investments	$606.5
Gifts and pledges receivable	$28.9
Other assets	$12.0
Total Assets	**$687.7**
Liabilities	$3.8
Unrestricted net assets	$33.4
Restricted net assets	$650.4
Total Net Assets	$683.8
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$687.7**

Condensed Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025 ($ millions)

Contributions	$60.7
Contributed services	$3.9
Net investment gain	$57.4
Other revenue	$1.0
Total Revenue	**$123.0**
Program expenses	$46.7
Fundraising expenses	$10.4
General and administrative expenses	$6.1
Total Expenses	**$63.2**
Increase in Net Assets	**$59.9**

Creating a Brighter Future for North Carolina's Children

UNC Health and Duke Health are partnering to create and build a world-class children's health system, starting with the first freestanding children's hospital in the Carolinas.

North Carolina Children's will be built upon the combined 150 years of expertise, exceptional care, groundbreaking research and teaching excellence provided by both health systems and the Duke and UNC schools of medicine.

Our highest priorities in creating and building NC Children's together are the clinical and emotional needs of our children. From the moment children and families enter the new campus, they will know that they are in a place built just for them. And, most importantly, children with the most complex health issues will have access to the most highly specialized pediatric services—right here in North Carolina.

NC Children's flagship hospital will have approximately 500 acute care beds. The 230-acre campus in Apex will also be home to a comprehensive behavioral health center with dedicated child and adolescent psychiatric beds.

The NC Children's campus will include an ambulatory center of excellence, research and teaching facilities and resources for families. Space is planned for hotels, restaurants and businesses to support children and their families who are traveling for care. When NC Children's opens in the early 2030s, the pediatric programs from both UNC Children's and Duke Children's will move to the new campus. Faculty from the Duke University School of Medicine and UNC School of Medicine will care for the patients at NC Children's, teach students, residents and fellows to provide expert care to our children, and advance research that will impact kids for generations to come.

We are excited to continue sharing information about this project and appreciate your interest in securing a brighter future for our children!

"Over the past year, friends and alumni have continued to support our mission to improve the health and well-being of all those we serve. In the face of a complex and ever-changing healthcare landscape, dedicated and generous supporters have ensured our teammates across UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine are equipped to deliver the compassionate care our patients and families have come to expect while also powering game-changing research and modern, comprehensive medical education. This partnership has been vital in strengthening our role as North Carolina's healthcare system, and I am grateful for the continued dedication of our donors, alumni and friends.

– Cristy Page, MD, MPH, CEO, UNC Health and Dean, UNC School of Medicine

UNC HEALTH Foundation

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unchealthfoundation.org

At UNC Health Foundation, we inspire philanthropic support for UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine that transforms healthcare and provides hope to the people of North Carolina and communities around the world.