



UNCW and PPD head new clinical research program

CERI-LOUISE FRIDA
CORRESPONDENT

This past fall UNCW introduced a new program to its already impressive nursing school that makes UNCW one-of-a-kind in the state.

The clinical research program, headed by program coordinator Kris Terzotis and supported by international pharmaceutical giant PPD, is an innovative new major. UNCW and PPD embarked on this partnership because it is expensive for companies to train science graduates in clinical research.

"Graduates who graduate from UNCW will now be ahead of the game," Terzotis said.

Students will take classes in chemistry, pharmacology, scientific writing and specialized areas of clinical research. These courses will prepare them for jobs in fields ranging from hands-on clinical trials of drugs to managerial positions in regulatory affairs.

"It's really the perfect place for someone who wants to indirectly have an impact on humans but doesn't want to be a doctor or an RN," Terzotis said.

UNCW is the only public university in the UNC system that offers this major, making it a hub for students desiring to enter this field. Campbell University, a private institution, and Durham Technical Community College, a two-year college, are the only other schools in the state that offer qualifications in this field.

The major is not for the lazy. It

see CLINICAL page 2

Contraception or abortion:

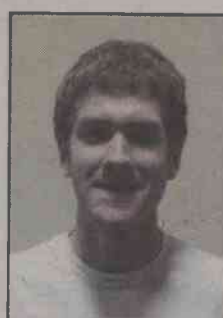
Should the UNCW student health center offer a morning after pill?



Anne Branigin, So.
I have mixed feelings. I think emergency contraceptives should be available to those who need them, but at the same time I wouldn't want to see such measures be abused.



Brian Braswell, Fr.
Yes. The school should not encourage it, but still offer it. It's the person's choice. It'll probably cause more problems than it solves.



Brad Brewer, Sr.
No, I don't think the school should provide them simply considering the possibility that they could be irresponsibly used.



Andrea Elleston, Jr.
Yes, because I feel that the availability of the morning after pill will not promote more sex or change their morals. I think it will provide some relief for those who already are sexually active.

All photos by Lisa Moyer | THE SEAHAWK

Dorm-bound college freshmen urged to get meningitis vaccine

BARBARA J. TWIGG
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Coughing, sneezing, headache, stiff neck and nausea are typical cold or flu symptoms. But they may signal a far more deadly infection: bacterial meningitis.

Meningitis kills 10-14 percent of its 2,000 victims each year in the United States. Eleven to 19 percent of survivors have permanent disabilities, such as mental retardation, hearing loss and even loss of limbs.

Those grim statistics come from the government Center for Disease Control (CDC), which will recommend all dorm-bound college freshmen get a meningitis vaccination before moving to campus.

"Because it can be so deadly, we can't afford to miss this diagnosis or it may well be too late."

-Dr. John Moran

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

"It's terrifying how fast this disease can kill someone," said Dr. John Moran, an epidemiologist at the CDC in Atlanta, Ga., during a telephone interview. "The bacteria are normally carried in a person's throat and spread by sneezing, coughing and kissing."

The CDC's official meningitis recommendation, based on a study by its U.S. Health Department advi-

see MENINGITIS page 2

Students debate Plan-B

HOLLAN PETERSON
STAFF WRITER

"Back up Your Birth Control Day" is the latest manifestation of the ongoing debate among UNCW students regarding reproductive rights.

On Tuesday, March 22, Voices for Planned Parenthood (VOX), a pro-choice student organization, participated in the nationwide "Back Up Your Birth Control Day" by putting posters up around campus urging female students to get Plan-B, commonly known as the morning-after pill, before they need it.

UNCW students have become increasingly active in expressing their views regarding Plan-B. Pro-Life University Students (PLUS) sponsored a display of "The Life Tree" in January and the Feminist Majority Leadership Association's

(FMLA) petitioned for Plan-B to be given over-the-counter status in February.

Plan-B was originally approved by the FDA as a prescription drug in 1999 and has demonstrated to be 75-88 percent effective if taken within 120 hours after sexual intercourse.

Currently UNCW's Student Health Center can prescribe Plan-B and the on-campus pharmacy can fill the prescription. However, in order for women to obtain Plan-B they must first attend an hour-long "Women's Seminar" regarding sexual education.

In addition to arguing that Plan-B should be available over-the-counter, many pro-choice students believe that the majority of student health centers do not do enough to make emergency contraceptives available to students.

"[Plan-B] is a second chance to prevent pregnancy. It's hard to obtain and a lot of women don't have a steady health care provider. It would be more effective if was over-the-counter," said Kristen Guilsh, president of VOX.

Some pro-life students regard Plan-B not as a form of contraception but rather abortion, and therefore believe that the Student Health Center should not offer Plan-B to students.

PLUS President Laura Johnson said, "Plan-B is used after conception has already occurred. For the Health Center to present Plan-B as contraception is a falsehood."

According to the organization's vice president, Josh Ledford, PLUS is currently planning to protest the Student Health Center's policy of providing Plan-B to students.

Viewers desperate for Desperate Housewives, page 8

CONTACT US
Editorial: 962-3229
Ads: 962-3789

www.theseahawk.org

Baseball season looking up, page 9