

# Hospital wins high acclaim

BY MICHELLE WILLIAMS  
STAFF WRITER

UNC Hospitals once again ranks among the best medical centers in the country, according to U.S. News & World Report.

The magazine's 14th annual edition of "America's Best Hospitals" recognizes 203 medical centers in 17 different specialties, such as cancer, digestive disorder and gynecology.

UNC Hospitals, ranked every year for the past decade, made the top 50 list in eight of the 17 categories.

"We just have outstanding faculty and nurses, and we work very hard," said Jeffrey Houpt, dean of the School of Medicine and CEO of the Health Care System.

In addition, 52 of the hospital's doctors were recognized by various organizations as some of the top physicians in the nation.

Karen McCall, vice president of public affairs and marketing at the hospital, added that UNC was identified as one of four academic medical centers that excels in both research and primary care.

"Because of the mission and amount of research and how it gets translated to medical care, (it) means that we are innovative," she said.

What further sets UNC Hospitals apart from the rest of the pack is how it combines teaching with patient care to allow patients to select from a wide range of options, the report said.

In addition, Houpt said, recent program expansions, the construction of new facilities such as the Women's Hospital and the Children's Hospital, and the hiring of new department heads have led to UNC's success.

The research areas that made the top 50 were the programs in cancer (24th), digestive disorders (18th), ear, nose and throat (37th), geriatrics (48th), gynecology (21th), hormonal disorders (37th), kidney disease (36th) and respiratory disorders (42th).

In order for a hospital to make the rankings, it needed to be a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals, have affiliation with a medical school or have at least nine of the 17 specified items of medical

technology.

The categories are broken down further by the medical center's reputation, mortality ratio, nursing care and technology availability.

McCall said last week's opening of the UNC Heart Center in Meadowmont, the hospital's new "stork entrance" and the fact that the digestive diseases program continues to lead the Southeast in clinical trials and research will help UNC maintain its status as a medical leader.

Houpt added that the hospital will continue to improve in a number of different areas. "We will put a lot of efforts in patient safety."

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# Committee begins dean, CEO search

BY GREG HORN  
STAFF WRITER

The UNC Health Care board of directors announced Monday that it has formed a committee to search for its next chief executive officer and the next dean of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

Jeffrey Houpt, who currently holds the positions, announced in May that he will be stepping down next year. Houpt was the first CEO of the UNC Health Care System when it was created in 1998.

Under pressure to have a new CEO by next May, the board of directors and the UNC-CH Board of Trustees created the 13-member committee, headed by Charles Sanders, former chairman and CEO of Glaxo Inc.

"(The boards) have put together a qualified committee," said Karen McCall, vice president of public affairs and marketing for UNC Health Care.

Provost Robert Shelton said the search will prove difficult because the position is multifaceted, encompassing not only the posts of dean and CEO but also UNC-CH vice chancellor for medical affairs.

The new dean must "understand academic medicine in a national context of health-care

delivery in this era of managed care," he said. In addition, a candidate needs to understand the specific context of North Carolina in terms of the priorities of the state and its lawmakers, Shelton said.

He mentioned as an example the impasse in the N.C. General Assembly about the proposed \$180 million UNC-CH cancer center, when the House walked away from negotiations. "(The) CEO will be a strong voice in cases like that one."

Houpt also said the position requires versatility and the "ability to balance the teaching and the research."

According to a press release, the search committee will select two finalists and then will recommend them to Chancellor James Moeser, the board of directors and the UNC-system Board of Governors.

UNC-system President Molly Broad will give the final approval. McCall said she hopes the committee will select the finalists by the first quarter of next year.

And while the May deadline is ambitious, Shelton said, he has faith in the committee.

"I am pretty confident they will get it done."

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## RECRUITING

FROM PAGE 1

sign 10, you hope you get five. It's a contingency plan of oversigning by a little bit to make sure your roster stays intact to make sure you can win year in and year out."

Like in the NBA, baseball teams have hordes of money to shower on young players, and Sferra accepts that losing a committed player is simply a part of college baseball.

"If Major League Baseball wants to pay a kid \$1 million, we say, 'Congratulations, good luck to you and invest wisely,'" Sferra said. "How many times has somebody waved \$1 million in front of you?"

## Getting the call

While baseball and basketball coaches find out at the last minute when a player decides to go pro, college soccer coaches generally have time to plan for player absences.

Elite male and female collegians often play for U.S. national teams, too. During a world championship year, such as 2003, college coaches have to step aside when a national

coach calls a player up to the squad.

However, the national team schedules are usually set at the beginning of the calendar year, allowing college coaches plenty of time to plan for a player's absence.

This fall, North Carolina women's soccer coach Anson Dorrance will likely be without defender Catherine Reddick for the first half of the season. Reddick is a virtual lock to play for the United States in the FIFA Women's World Cup, Sept. 21-Oct. 12 in the U.S..

"We're already prepared for (losing Reddick)," Dorrance said. "It's not as complicated as everyone thinks. On every roster, you've got reserve personalities and ambitious, talented kids who are dying to play. So all that happens is a kid that normally wouldn't have a chance to start or play as much is now thrust into that role."

UNC men's soccer coach Elmar Bolowich will also be without key players during the 2003 campaign.

Freshmen Corey Ashe, Michael Harrington and Jamie Watson will be unavailable until September, while sophomore Ford Williams will miss the postseason because of

separate international tournaments with U.S. national teams.

To Bolowich, the key to making up for personnel losses is depth.

"What I try to do is have 18 capable players on our squad," Bolowich said. "In that event we can afford to have one or two injuries and one or two players at the same time leaving the program for a short period."

Dorrance and Bolowich, like all college coaches, are in the precarious situation of fielding the strongest team possible, while helping players reach their best. Part of becoming the best sometimes means playing for a national team.

"As a coach, you're certainly going to be sensitive to their ambitions," Dorrance said. "Now let's face it: Part of their ambitions are to make these national team rosters. So as a collegiate coach, you're participating in the success of their goals by helping them every way you can."

## Finding a fix

There are no signs that college coaches will get a reprieve in trying to keep their rosters full of the best talent at all times, but is there a sit-

uation in which everybody wins?

"I don't know if there's a total fair situation, but there has to be stability for the coaches," Stansbury said. "Everyone can win a little bit, but I don't see a solution in the near future."

Stansbury said he'd like to see his sport's draft rules mirror baseball's. In baseball, once a player enrolls at a university, he is not eligible for the draft until after his junior season.

That means baseball coaches know they have a player for at least three years. With extensive pro scouting in baseball, coaches are aware well in advance if they're going to lose a player to the draft.

Since soccer is played all year around the world, soccer coaches aren't going to get much help here.

Regardless of any changes, there will never be an end to college athletes prematurely departing school. But if all coaches share Dorrance's perspective, then their programs will do just fine. Said Dorrance, "It's just part of the price you pay when you recruit the elite athlete."

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu).

## GATORADE

FROM PAGE 1

ground." He said obesity is resulting in \$117 billion in medical costs and lost productivity.

He added that the country annually suffers \$132 billion in costs associated with Type 2 diabetes. Three decades ago, Stevens said, only elderly people were afflicted with Type 2 diabetes — but more and more children now are developing the disease due to their sedentary lifestyles.

Zeisel said "Get Kids in Action" will consist of three major components. A research phase will go into

four North Carolina counties and explore potential plans for fighting obesity and ways in which families, communities and doctors can work together.

The project's educational phase will develop tools for obesity and health education, Zeisel said, and an outreach program will provide student athletes with opportunities to motivate children to be more active.

Andy Horrow, Gatorade's director of communications, said UNC and his company are "well-aligned" as partners to help the public understand that childhood obesity is a direct result of inactiv-

ity and not just unhealthy eating and drinking.

Horrow said the \$4 million grant essentially was defined by what the School of Public Health thought it needed to ensure the success of the partnership.

"It's not going to sell Gatorade, and we're OK with that," Horrow said. "We feel great about it, in fact."

The partnership between UNC and Gatorade will count toward the \$1.8 billion goal of the University's Carolina First campaign.

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## COLE

FROM PAGE 1

next project or venture that will add something for our students or will add something for the faculty."

Cole said his plan is to remain on the school's faculty after relinquishing his current post. Even as he nears the point of stepping down, he said, he will work for the continued innovation of the school. "We have a wonderful reputation, and I want to do everything in the next two years that I can do to further that reputation."

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## ASSEMBLY

FROM PAGE 1

If you don't have the money, you have to be responsible."

However, Fulk said the initial proposal for the project called for both the cancer center and stroke center to be funded with a 2 1/2 cent increase in the cigarette tax. "But then we were told the tax proposal would not fly in the House, so then we looked into a different source of revenue," she said.

That different source ended up being North Carolina's share of a national tobacco settlement, which Black said was "not a reliable source."

Black also mentioned that the proposal, which was part of a "technical corrections" bill, shouldn't have been the only major item under debate and that House leaders requested Basnight to first "wrap up the few things we had left."

"There wasn't that much left on the table," he said. "Our members were ready to go home. We had done all that we could do for this session."

Despite the cancer center impasse, lawmakers were able to agree on a bill pushed by Gov.

Mike Easley that shifts \$700 million in highway money to road maintenance and public transit during the next two years. "The roads need help," Black said.

He added that the bill did not pass without some debate because of an amendment proposed by Basnight. The amendment would have required the Department of Transportation to establish a ferry service in the Outer Banks between Corolla and Currituck.

Nevertheless, Black and Fulk both said the session was marked by its speed.

For the first time in three years, lawmakers adjourned before August; previous sessions ended in October and December. It was also the third time in five years that legislators balanced the budget by the start of the new fiscal year July 1.

The Senate will return in September to consider economic development and medical malpractice reform. "I feel good about the session as a whole," said Black, who was in his third year as speaker. "I enjoyed this term as speaker."

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