

CAMPUS

Center to aid in fight against birth defects

By Karen F. Peterson
Staff Writer

National Institutes of Health officials believe the newly approved Birth Defects Center at UNC "could be a model for the nation," according to a recently released memo by UNC-system President C.D. Spangler.

"The institution expects that the center will serve as a catalyst to significantly increase external support for birth defects research," the memo states.

To fund the center, which the UNC Board of Governors approved at its May 8 meeting, the University will reallocate about \$30,000 a year for five

years from existing revenues to establish the center.

UNC faculty members hope the center will strengthen their present efforts and research related to birth defects.

In 1988, North Carolina had the highest infant mortality rate of any state in the nation, health officials said. Birth defects are the leading cause of infant deaths statewide and more than 80 percent of the malformations are from unknown causes.

"What we are trying to do with a birth defects center is to have our basic science and clinical faculty members working together to learn more about how these congenital defects appear and to

better diagnose, treat and prevent them," said Garland Hershey, vice chancellor for health affairs.

The center will focus on research, clinical work and education, Spangler's memo states.

The center's research unit will focus on collecting clinical and laboratory data about birth defects. The data will be used to determine the causes of malformations and to develop better prevention and treatment methods.

"There are already a number of success stories," said Dr. Thomas Sadler, acting director of the Birth Defects Center. "For example, with maternal diabetes, we have been able to reduce the incidents of malformations because we know that they are induced very early in pregnancy."

The clinical unit of the center will focus on providing comprehensive

health care for children with birth defects, while the education component will train and inform physicians, scientists and the general public.

Sadler said he hoped the center would "serve as a resource to educate physicians and the public in ways to treat and prevent birth defects."

"Physicians themselves often aren't aware of what kinds of things can cause malformations," he said. "We want to educate the public, as well, to let them know what kinds of things can have an impact on babies. ... We can have an impact on these malformations."

The center will allow birth defects experts to consolidate their work, Sadler said. "By bringing everyone together we hope to provide a more coordinated and more efficient way to accomplish these goals," he said.

Bicentennial Progress Report July 1 - May 12, 1992

Unit	Goal	% of Goal Reached	Total Committed	Future Support
Ackland	\$1,000,000	181%	\$1,810,232	\$105,000
Arts & Sciences	50,000,000	41%	20,361,781	2,941,073
Botanical Garden	800,000	69%	554,969	0
Business	35,000,000	102%	35,538,944	1,089,592
Dental	6,000,000	84%	5,025,294	0
Education	1,600,000	41%	652,127	0
Graduate School	4,200,000	2%	68,204	0
Information & Library Science	1,200,000	11%	132,501	200,000
Journalism	3,800,000	74%	2,801,946	0
Law	9,000,000	66%	5,957,243	100,000
Library (Academic)	10,000,000	46%	4,572,151	2,191,335
Library (Health)	3,500,000	0%	6,475	0
Medicine (School/Foundation)	47,000,000	51%	23,770,752	300,000
Morehead Planetarium	500,000	6%	27,055	0
Nursing	2,000,000	62%	1,249,981	0
Pharmacy	5,500,000	64%	3,533,249	12,000
Public Health	6,600,000	49%	3,250,107	1,210,000
Social Work	5,000,000	59%	2,949,090	0
WUNC	1,000,000	60%	599,704	0
PAN University and Undesignated	126,300,000	73%	91,663,926	2,278,275

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Bicentennial

spite the school's poor early showing, Moran said she was certain it would reach the \$1.2 million goal.

"I know a lot of schools are ahead of us, but we're not worried," she said. "We started very late but we're confident we'll make our goal."

Donald Stedman, dean of the School of Education, which has received 41 percent of its goal, said his school's fundraising efforts had met with greater success during the past year.

"We've come a long way from where we were," he said.

"Heck, I'm not discouraged, I'm optimistic."

The graduate school's poor showing stems from the tendency of alumni to support the school where they received their undergraduate education, Hardin said.

Most UNC alumni who received both undergraduate and graduate degrees at Chapel Hill choose to support undergraduate programs, he said.

Several departments, including the School of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences, get a great deal of their support from non-private sources.

Stedman said the School of Education had received more than \$2 million in federal grants and was in the process of talking to officials from several endowment and grant programs.

"The problem is that those funds don't count when you're really count-

ing Bicentennial Campaign brownie points," Stedman said.

"We don't have to look to the alumni to carry the big weight."

Despite the low total for several schools, Hardin said he was not discouraged by the semiannual report.

Hardin cited the success of the Kenan-Flagler Business School, which has gone over its goal of \$35 million and the Ackland Art Museum, which has received 181 percent of its \$1 million goal, as examples of the campaign's success.

Some departments may need help from the University's undesignated contributions, Hardin said.

As of May 12, \$91.6 million had been donated to the University's undesignated fund.

Campus Calendar

THURSDAY
5:15 p.m. The Black Interdenominational Student Association will sponsor a bible-study fellowship meeting in the BISA office, located in the Wesley Foundation Building, 214 Pinesboro St.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3
11:30 a.m. The Campus Y will hold a discussion on "Workers in Hamlet, N.C." in the Campus Y lounge.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
The UNC Vegetarian Club sponsors free vegetarian dinners every Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. across from the Franklin Street post office.

The Black Interdenominational Student Association sponsors bible-study fellowship meetings every Thursday at 5:15 p.m. at the BISA office in the Wesley Foundation Building. For more information, contact 962-3333.

The Campus Y is holding a series of brown bag lunch-time discussions featuring resource facilitators

throughout the summer. Contact the Campus Y at 962-2333 for more information.

International Student Orientation Counselor applications are available at the International Center, next to Great Hall in the Union. Undergraduate and graduate students who are willing to return to Chapel Hill Aug. 19 and who would like to assist newly arrived foreign students should apply.

Seniors and Graduate Students: If you have accepted a job or will be going to graduate or professional school next year, please stop by UCPPS, 211 Hanes, and complete a follow-up form. If you are still job hunting, be sure you have resumes on file at UCPPS, and call 962-CPPS frequently to hear job openings.

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes submissions to Campus Calendar. Please let the community know about your group's events or meetings by placing an announcement in the box outside the DTH's Student Union office.

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