

Division of Health Sciences Unit Plan 1990 - 1993

VISION STATEMENT

The Division of Health Sciences, comprising the schools of Allied Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, and the Health Sciences Library, prepares individuals for service in a broad range of health professions. The Division is well placed to address contemporary health needs and issues in Pitt County, eastern North Carolina, and throughout the United States. To this end, the schools of the Division continually seek realistic community experiences as models of the best practice. Special emphasis is given to training for service among groups currently underserved. In cooperation with other groups and agencies, the Division is a central resource for improving health standards in the region.

The Division has a strong commitment to scholarship with special reference to applied clinical research, study of health outcomes, and the exploration of issues often poorly addressed by the health professions. These include seeking a better understanding of the health problems, concerns, and needs of the elderly, the poor, the underprivileged, and individuals in underserved communities. The Division seeks a national leadership role in contemporary health issues.

During this planning period, the Division of Health Sciences will focus on increasing the range and quality of scholarship.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

1. *Achieve distinction in undergraduate education*

● Ensure that programs continue to prepare individuals for independent practice where appropriate

b. Ensure that undergraduate education provides a suitable foundation for graduate or professional training

c. Seek efficiency in teaching of basic health sciences by coordinating offerings given to different professional classes

d. Ensure that health professional students have appropriate general education

2. *Strengthen the commitment to excellence in teaching*

a. Introduce methods of instruction most appropriate to professional education

b. Share educational resources among health science schools whenever possible

c. Monitor all affiliated programs to ensure the quality of education

d. Increase emphasis on education in ambulatory and out-of-hospital settings

e. Provide educational experiences which encourage students to practice in underserved, including rural, areas

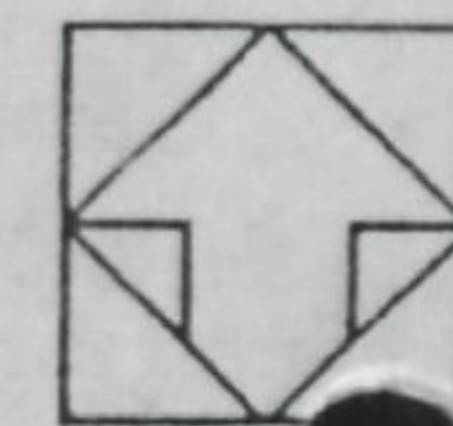
f. Ensure competency in all clinical courses

g. Encourage shared educational interactions among professional students to encourage coordinated, cooperative health practice modes

h. Ensure high standards of clinical teaching by requiring high levels of clinical competence on the part of faculty

i. Provide first-rate continuing education for teachers through University activities or Eastern Area Health Education Center

j. Ensure that all faculty maintain professional skills and experiences



3. *Develop a university culture based on respect for individual rights and human diversity*

- a. Recognize the important cultural and social issues in health care and ensure that the divisional culture recognizes the changing patterns of societal evolution
- b. Provide opportunities for professional education for underrepresented or minority groups and technically impaired persons
- c. Mold courses suitable for professional education of nontraditional students, persons seeking career advancement, or those embarking on second careers
- d. Build a culture which welcomes and encourages retention of minority faculty
- e. Build an academic climate based on integrity and traditional professional values

4. *Expand doctoral programs*

- a. Expand existing PhD programs and explore new programs suitable for the professional needs of allied health and nursing
- b. Create an environment of strict scientific discipline in doctoral training

5. *Strengthen the commitment to research, scholarship, and creative activity*

- a. Require participation by all faculty in scholarship in their area of expertise
- b. Develop appropriate research support systems to encourage faculty research
- c. Encourage cooperation and sharing of research and creative projects among departments or schools
- d. Encourage all types of research, including clinical and education projects, technology assessments, and outcomes
- e. Improve the cooperation between schools, the Division, practicing communities, and health service facilities in the region in the development of research projects

f. Seek further sources of seed monies to help initiate faculty research and increase all external research sponsorship

g. Nurture an environment of scientific and professional integrity in the Division

h. Ensure informed study of the particular health problems of eastern North Carolina

i. In conjunction with Pitt County Memorial Hospital, establish a regional clinical information system suitable for health policy and outcomes research

6. *Improve teacher education and stimulate improvement in public schooling*

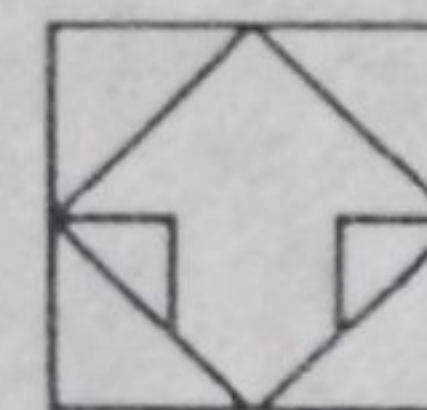
- a. Make available resources from the Division of Health Sciences to ensure greater student understanding of health and scientific subjects
- b. Provide, where appropriate, professional services to assist the handicapped and disadvantaged school children
- c. Be available as a resource to help ensure mental, physical, and emotional health of students

7. *Recruit and support academically proficient and talented students*

- a. Develop integrated recruiting materials and programs to attract students to all the health sciences schools
- b. Extend the nature and scope of preparatory programs aimed at nontraditional students
- c. Ensure flexibility of programs to allow self-pacing to enrich studies
- d. Monitor and revise course times and locations to provide maximum convenience for existing professionals returning to study

8. *Advance the University effectively to external publics*

- a. Establish the image of the Division of Health Sciences as a significant academic health center by coordinating its activities with Pitt County Memorial Hospital



- b. Emphasize and explore health issues in relation to agriculture, so called agrimedecine, in cooperation with the School of Agriculture at North Carolina State University
- c. Work together with Eastern Area Education Health Center to improve the quality of the knowledge and experience of health providers in rural areas
- d. Provide leadership in relation to some of the major problems facing health care delivery including rationing of care, the persistent problems of the underserved, problems of the elderly, issues of teenage pregnancy, infant mortality, drug abuse, accidents, and injuries
- e. Emphasize the economic benefits to the community of the existence of an academic health center

9. Develop and use expanded information resources

- a. Improve communication and information resources, including the Health Sciences Library, as essential components of Division activity
- b. Identify, evaluate, and exploit appropriate communication and information tools in support of clinical education and research goals
- c. Implement programs designed to improve the quality of information available to persons providing health care at sites remote from the academic health center
- d. Implement programs designed to develop and enhance student and faculty skills in accessing, utilizing, and evaluating information resources
- e. Strengthen information flow by increasing familiarity with worldwide information networks through the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina
- f. Develop reliable data bases as resources for clinical practice education and research by establishing information networks linking the Division, Pitt County Memorial Hospital and health providers in the region

10. Provide effective stewardship of the University

- a. Explore incentive schemes such as practice plans which encourage faculty efforts and increase resources
- b. Consolidate an effective academic health center by ensuring maximum efficiency, interaction, and cooperation among units
- c. Move deliberately towards improvement of physical facilities by the evolution of a strategic and site planning process
- d. Contribute to the problems of health care delivery and health costs by requiring clinical efficiency in the medical center, eliminating waste, and endorsing only cost effective interventions