Unlike many universities in which the medical center is miles distant from main campus, the UNC Academic Affairs campus and the Health Affairs campus are contiguous. This proximity fosters ongoing intellectual collaboration between faculty investigators from a wide variety of disciplines, as noted in this application. Among the disciplines under the Academic Affairs division, a number of departments have high national rankings. According to the 2020 US News and World Report’s “Best Colleges,” the departments of Library Science, Chemistry, Social Sciences, Public Affairs, Statistics, Psychology, Social Work, Business, and Computer Science, are all ranked in the top 25 for the quality of their graduate programs. Overall, UNC ranks fifth among US public universities and 28th among all institutions of higher learning. UNC has a strong presence nationally in the medical/academic research community based on national rankings for research universities in the US. UNC ranks 11th among US universities in research support, with > $1 billion in research grants and contracts in fiscal years 2020. More than half of this funding is for multi-investigator projects. UNC-Chapel Hill was fifth among leading private and public research universities for the level of federal funding ($701 million) devoted to research and development in all fields during fiscal 2018 (*NSF*, 2018). Carolina also has an exceptionally strong program of postdoctoral training, with more than 1,200 postdoctoral fellows who have been attracted to Chapel Hill because of its research strengths. According to the most current data available (FY 2018), Carolina is 15th in federal obligations for fellowships, traineeships, and training grants.

UNC is known for its academic exceptionalism. It is one of only three public universities that ranked in the top 50 in all nine measures by the Center for Measuring University Performance (*CMUP*, 2018).Twenty two faculty members have been elected to the National Academy of Medicine and 12 have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Two full-time UNC faculty members have been awarded Nobel laureates: Drs. Oliver Smithies and Aziz Sancar. In 2007, Dr. Oliver Smithies, the Weatherspoon Eminent Distinguished Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the UNC School of Medicine, was co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Smithies, along with Mario R. Capecchi of the University of Utah’s Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Sir Martin J. Evans of the United Kingdom, shared the 2007 Nobel Prize “for their discoveries of principles for introducing specific gene modifications in mice by the use of embryonic stem cells.” Smithies passed away in 2017 after more than two decades as a faculty member at UNC. In 2015, Aziz Sancar, the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, received the 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with Tomas Lindahl of the Francis Crick Institute and Paul Modrich of Duke University, for his work mapping the cellular mechanisms that underlie DNA repair. Aziz Sancar has been a professor and UNC since 1982. UNC is the 21st most cited university in the world (*Center for World University Rankings*, 2018-2019).

*Updated: 9/17/20*