The Department of Genetics integrates basic research with clinical care, focused on catalyzing breakthroughs in understanding the mechanisms, diagnosis and therapy of disease through integrating UNC’s formidable strengths in basic science, clinical medicine and high-throughput analysis. Terry Magnuson chaired the department from 2000-2016. His leadership resulted in a rich research environment where mammalian and human geneticists serve as the translational arm for genomic medicine, bringing practical applications from genomics into the clinical arena. The interim chair of the department is Fernando Pardo Manuel de Villena who will maintain this focus while UNC conducts a global search for a new chair.

The Department of Genetics embraces a unified program devoted to outstanding research, clinical care and teaching in all areas of genetics with a particular emphasis on the relationship of genomics to disease within animal models and on through human and clinical genetics. The department includes sixty-two primary faculty and twenty-one additional joint or secondary faculty, drawn primarily from clinical department faculty conducting genetics-related research and/or clinical work. The 2015 Blue Ridge Institute NIH rankings placed the Department as fifth in the country for genetics departments. Due to a generous gift from Vaughn and Nancy Bryson in 2005, the department was able to launch the “Bryson Program in Human Genetics.” A Central goal of the Bryson Program is to aid the integration of genetics into the clinic. In 2005, genetics clinics were created in coordination with nephrology and ophthalmology followed soon after by cardiology and dermatology genetic consult clinics.

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