The Department of Social Medicine is an academic unit that incorporates the long-standing interest of the University of North Carolina and the School of Medicine in community medicine and health care delivery systems. It supports 19 primary faculty members and 7 permanent staff. The mission of the Department is to inform the work and thought of physicians on: (1) the social conditions and characteristics of patients, the social causes of illness and the social barriers to effective care; and (2) the social responsibilities of the medical profession. Members of the faculty apply their various disciplines to problems of the poor, elderly, chronically ill, and other categories of people with special health and medical care needs; questions of allocation, distribution, organization and financing of health resources; and health and medical care problems of North Carolina. The Department carries out its mission through a variety of educational, research and service activities in several venues and almost always in interdisciplinary collaboration throughout the Chapel Hill campus. The Department’s research and on-going interests include: cultural anthropology and health, epidemiology, health economics, history of medicine and public health, literature and medicine, medical care organization, biomedical ethics, medical sociology, medicine and the law, preventive medicine, and public policy in health and medical care. Social Medicine is a bridge between medicine and public health, and between medicine and the arts and humanities disciplines and unlike other departments in the University, serves as an interdisciplinary department, and employing faculty and researchers from across the campus and beyond to accomplish its mission.

*Updated: 10/2/16*