The UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, founded in March 1897, is the only public school of pharmacy in the state of North Carolina and is one of the oldest in the nation. The School is an internationally recognized leader in pharmacy practice and education and has built a reputation for its rigorous education and training programs, cutting-edge multidisciplinary research, progressive pharmacy practices, and outstanding faculty, staff, and students. UNC’s Pharmacy School was ranked #1 in the nation in U.S. News & World Report magazine’s 2016 edition of America’s Best Graduate Schools. The School also ranked #2 among schools and colleges of pharmacy in both NIH funding and total research funding, with $38 million in research grants in 2018.

The School conducts a wide range of advanced research that aligns with five phases of the drug discovery, development and delivery cycle, each represented by a division within the School: Stage 1, Discovery: Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry; Stage 2, Delivery: Pharmacoengineering and Molecular Pharmaceutics; Stage 3, Optimization: Pharmacotherapy and Experimental Therapeutics; Stage 4: Practice: Practice Advancement and Clinical Education; and Stage 5: Assessment: Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy. The School’s unique environment has also inspired a number of collaborative centers that provide faculty and students with access to sophisticated equipment and numerous opportunities for interdisciplinary research.

The School has experienced unprecedented growth and transformation over the past fifteen years, with 63% increase in faculty, 92% increase in facility square footage, and 206% increase in external funding. Annually, the School educates approximately 600 professional students and more than 100 graduate students, postdocs, residents, and fellows. School graduates work in many dynamic fields, including academia, pharmaceutical sales, drug development and research, community and health-system pharmacy, and long-term and managed-care pharmacy.

In 2014, the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy received a $100 million gift from Fred Eshelman, the largest from an individual in the history of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the largest ever made to a pharmacy school in the United States. The gift established the Eshelman Institute for Innovation, which aims to inspire a culture of innovation where imagination and creative solutions accelerate change in education, research and health care. The institute provides a mechanism for faculty, staff and students to seek funding for bold ideas, and strives to foster collaboration, creativity and innovation and stimulate commercialization of intellectual property and entrepreneurial development.

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