The UNC Health Care System is a not-for-profit integrated health care system, owned by the State of North Carolina and based in Chapel Hill. It exists to further the teaching mission of the UNC and provide state-of-the-art patient care. A distinguishing characteristic of UNC Health Care is its association with the UNC School of Medicine, a nationally eminent research institution. This relationship gives UNC Health Care a powerful pathway for moving the results of biomedical research from medical school laboratories to the patient care settings. UNC Health Care has been granted broad powers by the North Carolina General Assembly to assure its management flexibility and competitiveness in a rapidly changing health care business environment. The enterprise is governed by a board of directors appointed by the University of North Carolina. As North Carolina’s only state-owned acute care facility, UNC Hospitals has trained nearly a quarter of the state’s practicing physicians and continues to serve as the primary referral center for all 100 counties in the state.

The UNC Hospitals are the flagship home for clinical care and translational and clinical research activities at UNC-CH. The three inter-related missions of the UNC Health Care System– education, research, and patient care–aim to improve public health, advance medical knowledge, and provide care for individuals with diseases or disabilities. UNC Health Care currently comprises UNC Hospitals and its provider network, the clinical programs of the UNC School of Medicine, and eleven affiliate hospitals and hospital systems across the state. On-campus components of the UNC Health Care System include: NC Memorial Hospital (first opened in 1952); a Neuroscience Hospital (opened in 1996); the UNC Women’s Hospital and the UNC Children’s Hospital (both opened in 2002); an Ambulatory Care Center (opened in 1995); UNC Student Health Services; a stand-alone NC Cancer Hospital (opened in 2009); and a Burn Center. A two-story, glass-enclosed pedestrian concourse connects the front entrances and lobbies of the NC Memorial Hospital, the NC Neurosciences Hospital, the NC Women’s Hospital, and the NC Children’s Hospital, with more than 950 beds available in these four hospitals. The N.C. Memorial Hospital is the only state-owned teaching hospital and focuses on adult medical-surgical care. The Women’s Hospital is a 450,000 square foot facility that brings into a single structure nearly all the resources dedicated to the provision of women’s health care services located immediately adjacent to the emergency room. The Children’s Hospital is a major referral center for children with complex conditions, and every year provides specialty care for more than 70,000 children. The nine-floor Neuroscience Hospital offers inpatient and outpatient clinics for Neurology, Neurosurgery, ENT, and Psychiatry; as well as a roof-top helipad. The Ambulatory Care Center houses three floors of outpatient clinics as well as outpatient surgical facilities. The NC Cancer Hospital, the state’s only public cancer hospital is comprised of a 315,000 square foot facility that was paid for through an $180 million authorization of funds from the N.C. General Assembly that tripled the amount of space available for treating cancer patients. More than 135,000 patient visits per year are made to the NC Cancer Hospital. A Hillsborough Campus of the UNC Health Care system houses an additional 86 beds for emergency care, outpatient surgery, and a range of inpatient services. In late 2018, ground was broken for a new 330,000 square foot surgical tower at the UNC Medical Center that is set to open in 2022 with modernized operating rooms, top notch technology, and improved accommodations for recovering guests. Other recent expansion efforts include a new 50-bed hospital in Holly Springs, NC, and the new Eastowne Medical Office Building in Chapel Hill, both scheduled to open in 2021. In 2020, the UNC Health Care System was responsible for 3.5 million clinical visits. Clinical care in the UNC Health Care System is provided by more than 1700 faculty physicians plus a house staff comprised of more than 700 residents and postdoctoral fellows.

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