

## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

### UTHSC Faculty Senate Meeting

Zoom Monthly Meeting  
April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Attendance:* (senators, administrators, and faculty)

*Attending:* Alex Schaller, Alicia Barnes, Alisa Haushalter, Anna Bukiya, April Hilsdon, Ashton Brooks, Ayman Al Dayeh, Ben Maddox, Brett Wilson, Calla France Walters, Carrie Harvey, Chalet Tan, Charles Snyder, Chris Wood, Cindy Russell, Dan Young, David Hamilton, David W Petersen, Donna Lynch-Smith, Fatima Ahmed, Fuming Zhou, Hassan Almoazen, Helmut O Steinberg, Hitesh Sandhu, Ioannis Dragatsis, James M. Lewis, Jacqueline D , Venturin, Jayc Sedlmayr, Jeffry Bieber, Jess Wesberry, Jessica Snowden, Jillian McCarthy, Karen J Derefinko, Katherine L March, Kim Carter, Kimberly Morris, Kristen Bettin, Laura T Reed, Laurentia Nodit, Lawrence Pfeffer, Laxmichaya Sawant, Lin Wu, Lisa Beasley, Liza Makowski, Maria Carrillo, Mary Erickson, Mary Freeman, Mary Patton, Michelle Lynn Abramovitz, Mike McDonald, Montrese P. Alleyne, Nina K Sublette, Paul C Gahn, Paul J Koltnow, Phyllis Richey, Rachel Barenie, Rajashekhar Gangaraju, Rajasingh, Ramesh Narayanan, Ranjit Philip, Rebecca Reynolds, Richard John Kasser, Rima Zahr, Rob Williams, Ron Espinal, Sandeep Chilakala, Scott Hollis, Sharon Little, Shelley White-Means, Stephen Pishko, Stephen Rauls, Steven M Doettl, Tauheed Ishrat, Ted Cory, Terrance G Cooper, Tracy McClinton, Twisha Oza, Twisha Oza, Tyler Melton, Valarie Fleming, Vickie Baselski, Vrushali Abhyankar, Yanhui Zhang, Yi Lu, Yochim, Zheng Fan

### Faculty Senate Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm CDT/5:00 pm EDT

## **Presiding: Dr. Tracy McClinton, President**

### **Business Discussion with Dr. Tracy McClinton Vote on Senate By-Law supplement change on the conduct of FSEC elections (Appendix A)**

- Faculty Senate Executive committee is voted on by members of each individual college
  - In the past the vote was conducted by the FSEC member, which was viewed as a potential conflict of interest
  - Change would have the Faculty Senate President Elect reach out and conduct the FSEC elections
- The floor was opened for discussion for the Faculty Senate By-Law supplement change on the conduct of FSEC elections. No edits were recommended. Dr Terry Cooper motioned to accept the request as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Nina Sublette
- Poll Everywhere Vote:
  - Approve: 46
  - Do not approve: 0
  - Abstain: 1

### **Request for addition of Self-Evaluation for Digital Measures components (Appendix B)**

- Request to administration for addition to APPR in Digital measures: would allow faculty to provide a self evaluation for each component of faculty elements for their position
- The floor was opened for discussion for the Faculty Senate to request from administration that self evaluation be added for the elements of the APPR in Digital measures. No edits were recommended. Dr Terry Cooper motioned to accept the request as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Shekhar Gangaraju
- Poll Everywhere Vote:
  - Approve: 40
  - Do not approve: 5

- Abstain: 0

## **Office of Research update with Vice Chancellor for Research Jessica Snowden (Appendix C)**

- Federal updates
  - Indirect rate change on hold
  - DEIA still working through court system
  - NIH restructuring likely
    - Will likely result in changes in grant submission strategies
  - Still seeing delays in grant reviews, new awards, and updated NOA for grants
    - Includes renewals of grants
  - Are going through entire portfolio of grants to make sure they are aligned with new priorities
  - 5 terminations of grants have occurred at UT Health Science Center so far
    - All subawards so far
  - UT system has requested that PIs do not request appeals on grant terminations without working through Office of Research
- DASH rollout in process
  - Plan for IRB in Summer
  - Effort reporting changes are going live soon
- 5 Day submission timeline going more smoothly
- Faculty have been actively engaged with leadership regarding facilities
- New programming coming
  - All of us campus visit May 19-22, 2025
  - Research Fundamentals series
  - Grant writing seminar
  - CIMER mentoring seminar
  - F award boot camp
  - Core facility review
- Research office hours will be continuing on a monthly basis
- Questions

- Core use for expensive but underused facilities?
  - Part of evaluations in terms of core facilities
- Ledgers on DASH issues
  - DASH ledgers are visible in DASH, but do not cover all of the information that is needed, including salary encumbrances, core facilities, and animal charges
  - Need for administrative effort to train people on these capabilities
  - There are some core issues with what DASH is available to do, need for secondary sheets for this access
  - PI working group meeting with system level administration to discuss issues with DASH
- Working through research strategic planning
  - Identifying focus areas and priorities
  - Working to figure out current landscape of opportunities and strengths
  - Assessing publications, funding, impact of research
  - Coalescing around cardiometabolic health, cancer, neuroscience, infectious disease
  - Day of giving is coming for external support
    - We have one of the highest rates of cancer mortality in TN
- Questions
  - How will giving day support researchers
    - Part of funding will go towards resources for these areas: faculty, equipment, pilot grants, etc.
  - How do we work with changes in funding priorities
    - Need to pay attention to what restructuring looks like

- Pay attention to Make America Healthy Again priorities for research
  - Chronic disease, prevention, etc.

### **Honor Code update and student conduct with Vice Chancellor for Student Success Charlie Snyder**

- Honor code revision has been going on for a long time
  - Meetings with Senate Ed committee
    - Wanted more faculty involvement, clarity on honor v conduct, training, responsibility of investigators
- Stakeholder conversations
  - CASA, associate deans, peer institutions, SGAEC, office of the General Counsel
  - Revisions and voting for revisions began November
- Changes to the honor code
  - Jurisdiction clarity, impact of withdrawal (students who withdraw and come back to programs would face the cases again), grades during honor proceedings (students to receive incompletes, which can be changed after the end of the cases), AI (should only be used by students as told by faculty for the class, is a violation otherwise), due process for respondent and complainant (need to be able to bring a complaint forward, and be supported by an advisor)
  - New faculty options for resolution (adding the possibility of cases to be resolved in a class, depending on the size of a complaint, , investigations to be done by conduct officers (currently done by a student, students are not trained investigators, can not be supported by office of general counsel. New honor code has the investigation done by a trained investigator, who is an employee), faculty on hearing panels (guidance of faculty on the process is necessary, has not been part of the process to date), Honor code officer (recommended by faculty senate,

appointed by Chief academic officer, will work with conduct office and is an option for students who are accused of honor code violations)

- Next steps
  - Currently being reviewed by the office of general counsel
  - Draft will be circulated again once office of general counsel has reviewed, then has to undergo the public rulemaking process, which can take time
  - Needs to be approved by UT board of trustees, then can be implemented
  - Likely 26-27 academic year
- Questions
  - Concerns with an honor code officer, why can't students be trained to be investigators, and students should be trained to police their profession
    - Accusations for honor code violations are severe, and should be investigated by someone with training. There is significant legal risk for investigators in these cases
  - How many faculty are going to be involved in the process on panels
    - Current disposition is at least 2 faculty and 4 students, can be decided by colleges

### **Vote to authorize the creation of a Faculty Senate Clinical Excellence Award**

- Clinical affairs committee is charged to promote clinical excellence. Goal is to develop an award promoting Clinical Excellence
  - Other awards exist on campus for teaching, but fewer opportunities for clinical faculty
- The floor was opened to authorize the creation of a Faculty Senate Clinical Excellence Award. No edits were recommended. Dr Chris Wood motioned to accept the

request as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Terry Cooper

- Poll Everywhere Vote:
  - Approve: 48
  - Do not approve: 0
  - Abstain: 2

### **Vote to authorize the production of an infographic by the UT Health Science Center Faculty Senate**

- Goal is to capture all the activities that faculty are involved in throughout the UT Health Science Center
- The floor was opened to authorize the creation of an infographic on the activities of the Faculty at the UT Health Science Center. No edits were recommended. Dr Shelley White-Means motioned to accept the request as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Nina Sublette
- Poll Everywhere Vote:
  - Approve: 38
  - Do not approve: 1
  - Abstain: 4

### **Discussion and Approval of the March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes**

- The floor was opened for discussion of the March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting minutes. No edits were recommended. Dr. Shekhar Gangaraju motioned to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Terry Cooper
- Poll Everywhere Vote:
  - Approve: 39
  - Do not approve: 0
  - Abstain: 0

### **New business Announcements**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm CDT/6:06 pm EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Ted Cory  
Faculty Senate Secretary

## Appendix A

### **Proposed Revision to Faculty Senate Bylaws Supplement Section 5.2**

Representatives to the FSEC are elected between April 1-May 1. The FSEC president-elect notifies the Faculty Senate members of each individual college of their responsibility to elect a senator from their college to serve on the FSEC and invites nominations. From the slate generated, senators from the individual colleges then vote on their choice of the senator to represent them on the Executive Committee by anonymous/confidential electronic ballot, with the election administered by the President-Elect. For these purposes, the faculties of basic science and clinical medicine departments in the College of Medicine and unaffiliated departments are regarded as separate colleges. No term limits exist for FSEC members provided they are senators. Results of the election are recorded by the host of the electronic program or electronic poll, transmitted to the full Senate, and recorded by the Secretary for entry into the minutes.

## Appendix B

The UTHSC Faculty Senate requests that the Administration make provision in Digital Measures for self-ratings of the four specific elements of the APPR, teaching, research, service, and clinical practice be included in addition to the self-evaluation of the overall review. The Senate further requests that these provisions be made available to the faculty for the 2025 APPR occurring in January 2026, and expresses its appreciation for this action.

## Appendix C: UT Health Science Center Federal Updates and Research Strategic Planning

## Appendix D: Honor Code Updates



# **UT Health Science Center Federal Updates & Research Strategic Planning**

# Federal Updates

- Indirect rate change on hold
  - Submitting at our current rate
- Diversity, equity, inclusion & access still working through court system
- NIH restructuring likely
- Still seeing delays in grant reviews, new awards, and updated NOA for ongoing grants
- 5 terminations at UT Health Science Center to date
  - All subawards; related to COVID & health disparities for 3 / 5

# UT Health Sciences Updates

- DASH rollout in progress
  - Thanks to our research faculty for helping with actionable feedback for the system team
  - Plan for IRB in summer (Office of Research will have specific advice re timing & communication soon)
  - Effort reporting changes – see messaging from Office of Research
- 5-day submission timeline going more smoothly
- Faculty actively engaged with leadership regarding facilities

# New Programming Coming

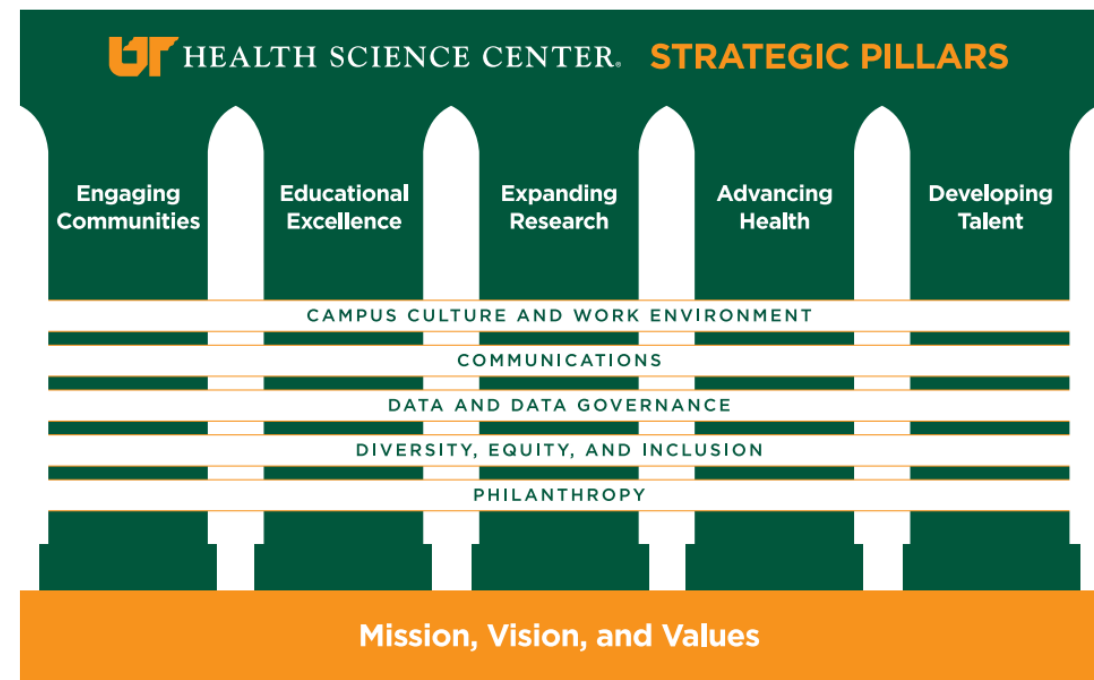
- All of Us campus visit May 19-22, 2025
- Research fundamentals series
- Grant writing seminar
- CIMER mentoring seminar
- F award boot camp
- Core reviews

Other ideas welcome -



**GOAL:** UT Health Science Center will enhance collaborative statewide efforts in research, scholarship, innovation, and entrepreneurship, focusing on identified priority areas.

- Strategically evaluate the research portfolio and determine research and scholarship priorities.
- Develop and support the UT Health Science Center research ecosystem.
- Create a collaborative statewide presence in scholarship, innovation, and entrepreneurship.



# Determining Position

## Opportunities

- What are the biggest health vulnerabilities of our state?
- What are our external opportunities with funders / collaborators?

## Strengths

- Scientific areas of excellence
- Existing investments / resources

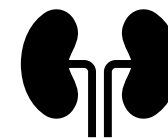
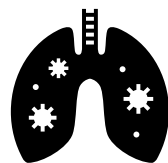
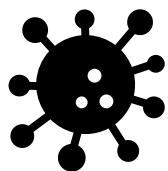
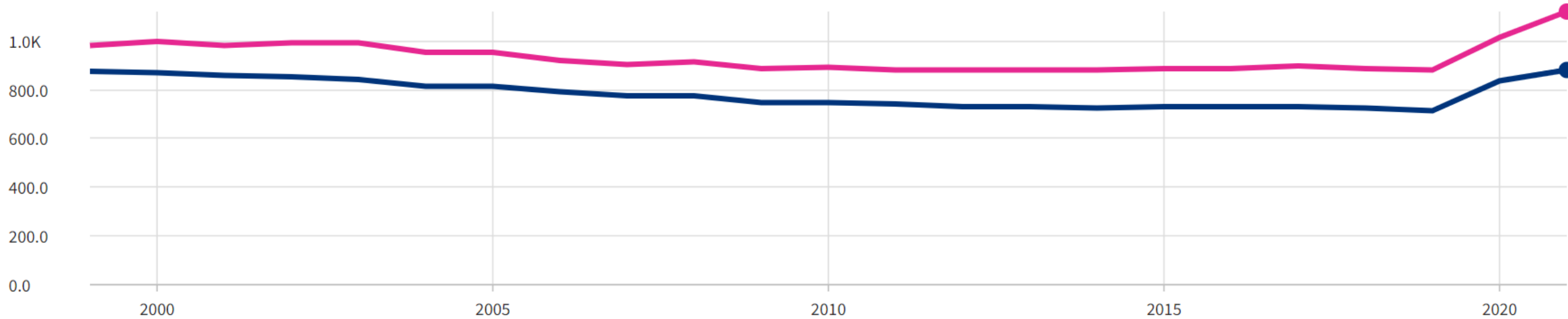


## Death rate in Tennessee (age-adjusted)

In 2021, the age-adjusted death rate in Tennessee was 1,121.3 deaths per 100,000 residents.

Select to highlight

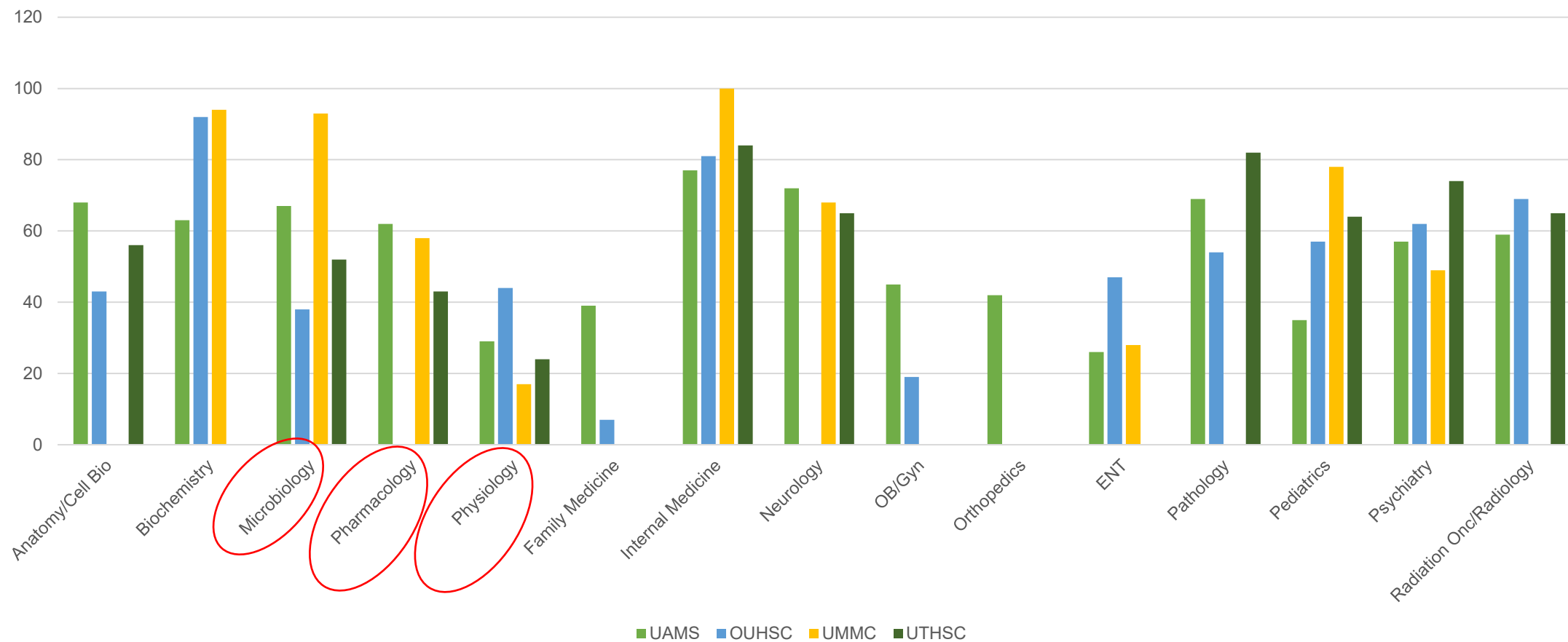
■ Tennessee ■ United States



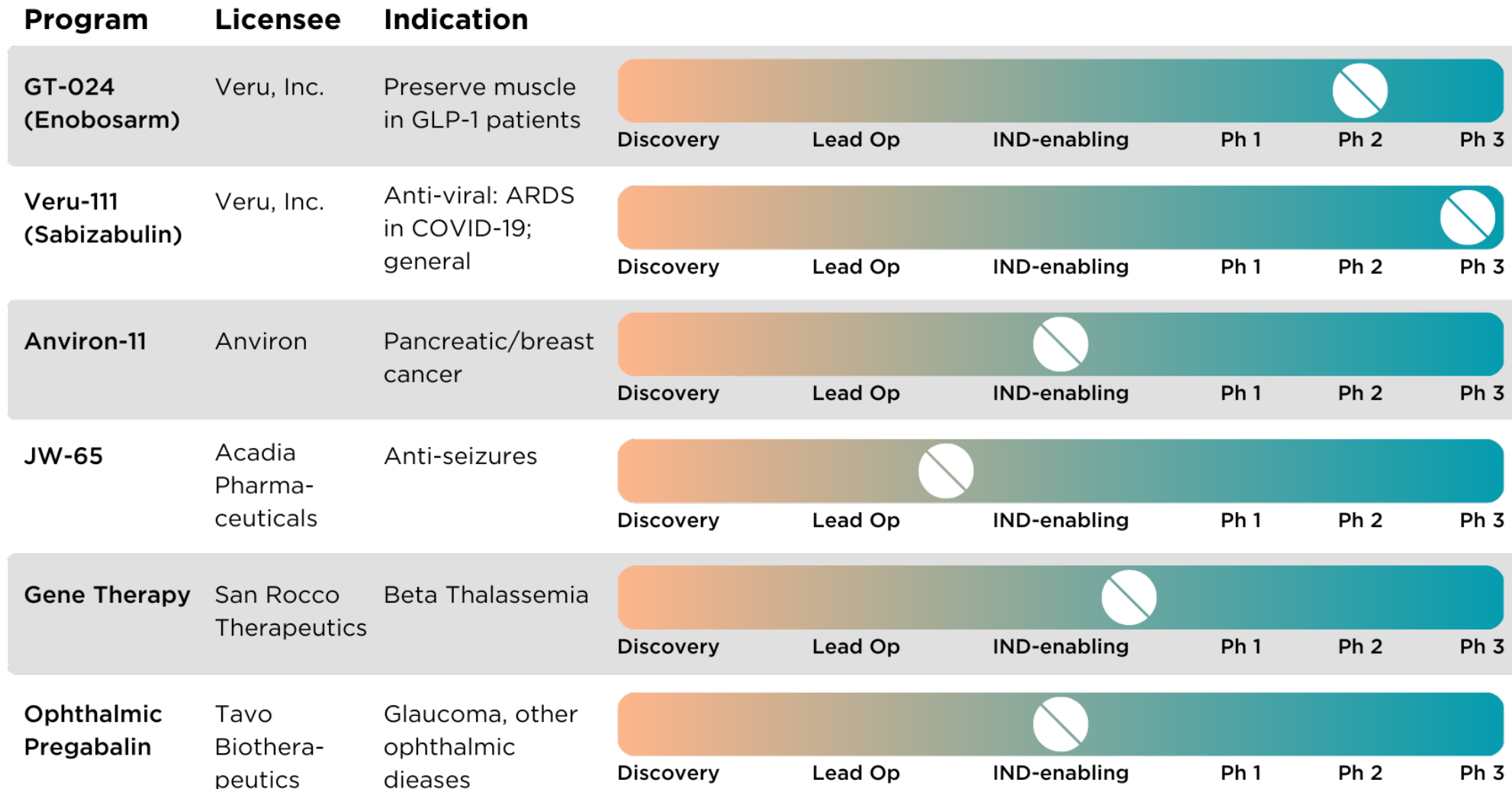


# 2023 Blue Ridge Rankings Relative to Neighboring Institutions

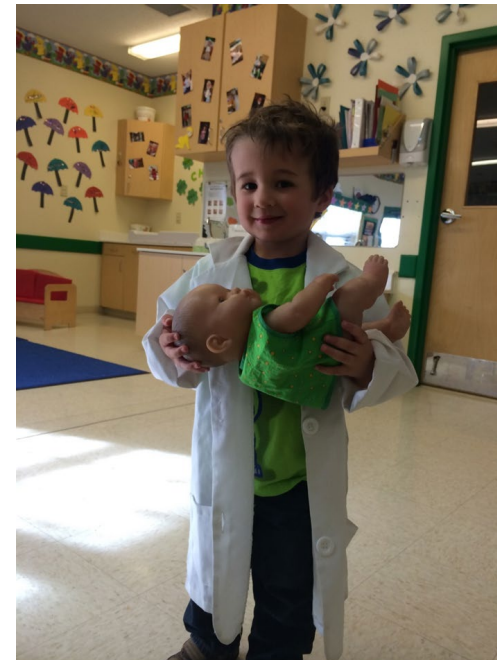
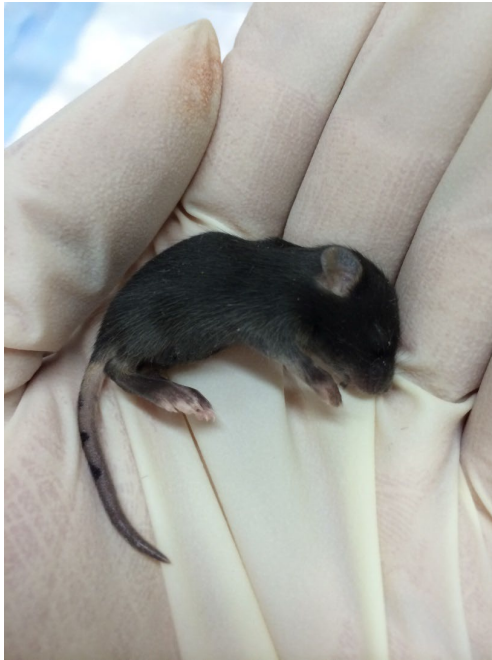
National Ranking (Lower rank = Higher funding)



# DRUG DISCOVERY PRODUCT PIPELINE



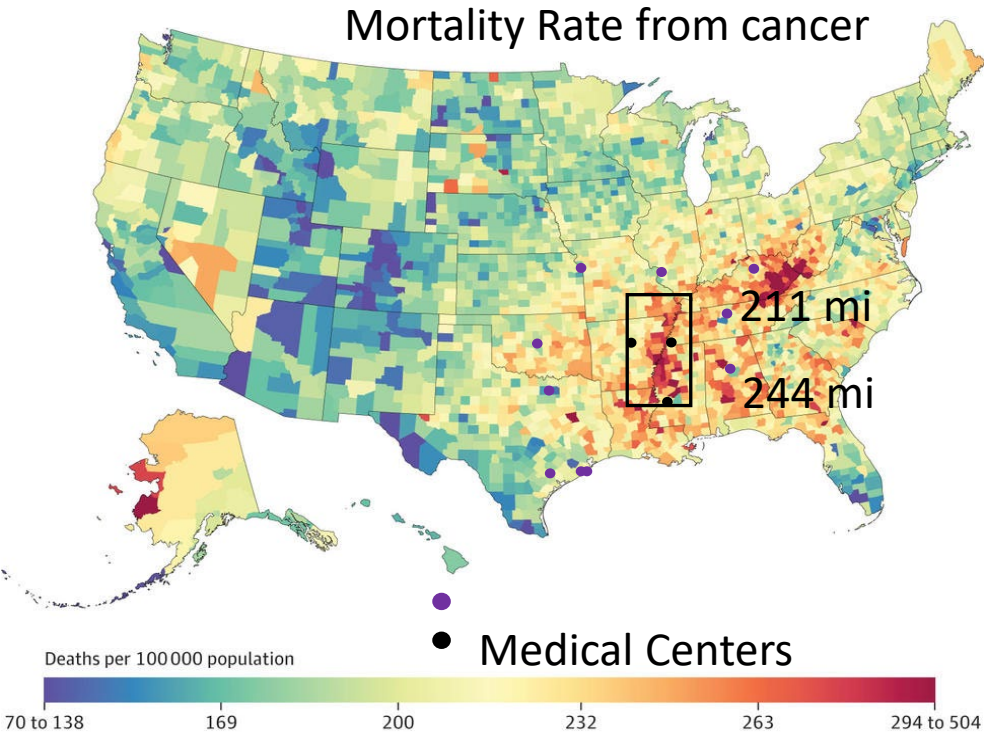
# 6 Colleges & 4 Campuses = Tremendous Bench to Bedside (*& Community*) Potential





**Far too many  
Tennesseans die each  
year from cancer – what  
would it take to change  
that?**

# Biomedical innovation represents an opportunity to close health gaps in Tennessee



**Figure 1:** Most counties in Tennessee have worse mortality rates than the national average.

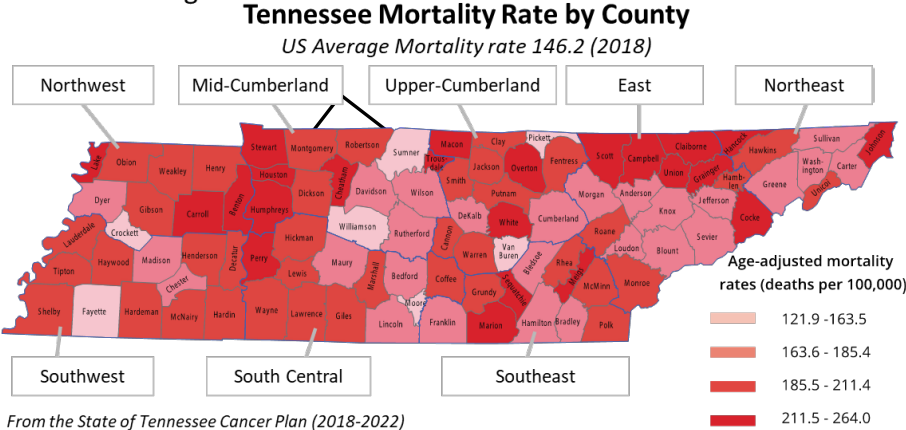


Image courtesy of The JAMA Network®  
© 2017 American Medical Association



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER.

# Honor Code Updates

Charles Snyder, Vice Chancellor for Student Success

# Honor Code Milestones

1. January 2023 Faculty Senate Education Committee
  1. More faculty involvement
  2. Clarity on Honor Vs Conduct
  3. Honor Council Training
  4. Responsibility of Investigator
2. Spring and Fall 2023- Stakeholder Conversations
  1. CASA
  2. Associate Deans
  3. CSAOs and Peers
  4. SGAEC
  5. General Counsel
3. November 2023- Revisions Process
  1. Revisions began
  2. Several rounds of revisions with stakeholder representatives
4. July 2024- FSEC Review/Comment.
5. Current- External Process

# Updates to the Code

- Jurisdiction Clarity
- Withdrawal Impact
- Grades During Honor Proceedings
- AI Use Addressed
- Due Process for Respondent and Complainant
- New Faculty Option for Resolution
- Investigations by Conduct Officer
- Faculty on Hearing Panels
- Honor Code Officer



# Next Steps

- OGC Review
- Draft Circulation
- Public Rulemaking Process
- Approval by UT Board of Trustees
- Implementation

# Questions?