**Research Integration of a New Strategic Partnership: Wake Forest School of Medicine and Atrium Health**

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**IAP Goal:** Lead an enterprise-wide strategic planning and implementation process to create research capacity & culture for our newly formed academic learning healthcare system.

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**Background**

- **April 10, 2019:** Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and Atrium Health signed a memorandum of understanding towards “creating a next generation academic learning health care system”
- **October 9, 2020:** Officially joined as a single enterprise Atrium Health, Inc. a non-profit corporation governed by a 16-member board of directors.

**Academic Highlights of Partnership:**

- 2nd Med School with 3,500 students & 100 programs
- Infusion of ~$70M in research to support strategic priorities

**Economic Impact**

- Exceeds $32B and 180,000 jobs

**Key Players:**

- **Mr. Gene Woods**, President & CEO of Atrium Health
- **Dr. Julie Freischlag**, Chief Academic Officer, CEO of WFBH & Dean of WFSM
- **Dr. Greg Burke**, Sr Assoc. Dean & Chief Science Officer
- **October 13, 2020:** Research Executive Committee

**Overall Research Goals:**

- Improve the health of patients & communities, emphasis on health equity
- Increase national recognition and extramural funding
- Create a single, collaborative, efficient research infrastructure

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**Results**

- Research Executive Committee, Oct 2020
  - Assoc. Dean for Research March 2021
- Research Plan of Excellence, April 2021
- Launched pilot funding, May 2021
- Initiated Research Symposium Series
- Collected detailed data on existing research activities/structure (ongoing)
- Initiated transition to a fully integrated research organizational structure
- Assessment of Faculty (faculty interest)

**Next Steps**

- Staff the new Enterprise Research Org
- Launch steering/subject committees
- Faculty appointments/Hir Assoc Dean(s)
- Implement single research support entity

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**Data Collection**

- Stakeholder interviews (n=12)
- Research funding (intra & extramural)
- Assessment of portfolio (SWOT)
- Survey of research faculty @ Atrium (n=54)

**Strengths & Opportunities**

- Shared commitment to pts, comm, health equity
- Shared commitment to national recognition
- Strong academic leadership/culture (WFSM)
- NIH research portfolio (NIH)
- Clinical trials/pharma portfolio (Atrium)
- Infusion of resources ~$70M

**Weaknesses & Threats**

- Enterprise-wide infrastructure
- Lack of extramural $ culture
- Anxiety about ‘next steps’

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**Strategic Priority Areas**

- Health Equity
- Lifespan
- Neuroscience
- Alzheimer’s Disease
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular
- Diabetes & Obesity
- Aging & Mobility
- Regenerative Medicine

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**Extramural research funding has increased by 50% in the last 5 years. This positive momentum positions us to further expand the research enterprise.**

**Goal: Double Extramural Portfolio**