

**UNC Health Chief Executive Officer Nomination Statement
by UNC System President Peter Hans
November 20, 2025**

The UNC System is known best for providing a quality, affordable higher education to North Carolinians of all backgrounds. It's our oldest and most prominent mission.

That mission is matched, in so many ways, by our crucial role in providing quality, affordable health care to North Carolinians of all backgrounds. Particularly through UNC Health and ECU Health, our public universities are among the largest health providers in the state, and they carry the most significant obligation for ensuring broad access to care across North Carolina.

When UNC Health was formed in 1998, it reflected a recognition that North Carolina needed not just a top-tier medical school in Chapel Hill; not just a world-class hospital to meet patient needs and serve as a training ground for the next generation of physicians. North Carolina needed a truly integrated system of care that would bring the very best of academic medicine to every part of our state, reaching communities and people who wouldn't otherwise have access to standard-setting medical care.

Creating UNC Health harkened back to the original, public purpose of the School of Medicine in 1951 — the conviction that rural North Carolinians, working-class North Carolinians, taxpaying Tar Heels from the mountains to the sea deserved to benefit directly from the progress being made in medical science. That vision has not only built one of the leading research hubs on the planet right here in the Triangle but also extended the UNC standard of care to clinics and hospitals from Jacksonville to Hendersonville and many places in between.

I grew up in small-town North Carolina. It matters to have access to life-saving care close to home. I know how much North Carolina has benefited from linking cutting-edge research to real-world application, harnessing our ambitions to the wellbeing of our fellow citizens.

And I also know how important it is for UNC Health to continue the tradition of a leader who shares that deep commitment to public service. That is why I am so proud to nominate Dr. Cristy Page as the next CEO of UNC Health. In this role, with the support of the Board of UNC Health, the Board of Trustees, and Chancellor Roberts, she will also serve as dean of the UNC School of Medicine and vice chancellor for medical affairs at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Her entire career, Dr. Page has been an admired leader, a trusted physician, and a tireless advocate for the health and wellbeing of our state. She's a native of Wilmington and a lifelong North Carolinian. After earning a Morehead Scholarship, she chose to study family medicine and complete a master's in public health on the way to earning her MD. I think that background helped drive home her instinct for taking the broad, holistic view of health care and patient

service — seeing the whole patient, the whole sweep of someone’s health challenges, the way policies and institutions can help or hinder broader health goals.

That sweeping vision of care has been evident at every stage of her career. Her time as the executive dean at the School of Medicine saw impressive growth in research funding and impact. She has been critical in forging partnerships with health providers across the state to expand the reach and the benefits of UNC’s expertise. And she has been a champion for improving rural health access, which is perhaps the single most challenging issue facing UNC Health. Her published work focuses on rural health care and workforce development, exploring innovative ways to get more family health practitioners into small towns and rural counties. As a department chair and executive dean, she drove the expansion of residency programs and branch campuses across North Carolina, always looking for ways to maximize statewide impact. And she founded the Rural Graduate Medical Education Center, a national consortium focused on building new pathways into high-need health fields.

In every role she has held — physician, educator, innovator, and mentor — Dr. Page has led with reassuring confidence and a clear sense of purpose. She is the kind of leader who builds trust by earning it, and who reminds us that the heart of health care is service to others. I have been deeply impressed not just by her commitment, but by the sharpness and creativity of her thinking about how to leverage the assets of UNC Health to meet the needs of North Carolina. We could not ask for a better steward of UNC Health’s mission.

We stand at a transformative moment for health care — a time of extraordinary scientific progress but also mounting pressure on our hospitals and clinicians. North Carolina is growing rapidly, yet rural communities still struggle with access to care. Mental health needs have deepened, and the demands on our health workforce are intense. And under the dual role at UNC Health and the medical school, it will be Dr. Page’s job both to answer the needs of today and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow, educating the next generation of physicians and health practitioners and ensuring they have the resources to practice with integrity.

Dr. Page brings both vision and pragmatism to those challenges. She knows that the strength of UNC Health lies in its people — the clinicians who comfort a patient in crisis, the researchers who uncover new cures, the students who take their first steps toward a lifetime of service. She understands that discovery and progress must always be guided by compassion and anchored in community.

In the years ahead, UNC Health will continue to expand its partnerships across the state — working with community hospitals, with ECU Health, with state and local leaders, and with local providers to deliver care closer to home. It will build on the legacy of research and discovery that has made North Carolina a global leader in life sciences. And it will do all of this with a relentless focus on patient outcomes, affordability, and access — the same public interest standard that guides every institution in our System.

Dr. Page understands that connection instinctively. Under her leadership, UNC Health will remain true to its call to serve all North Carolinians — regardless of who they are, where they live, or what they need from our health system. It’s been a privilege to work alongside someone who feels that commitment so deeply, and I am excited for all the great work we have ahead of us.