



University Council

October 2, 2020

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2020-2021

John Maerz, Chair

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Public Health – Brittani Harmon

Social Work – Harold Briggs

Veterinary Medicine – Susan Sanchez

Graduate School – Wendy Ruona

Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu

Undergraduate Student Representative – Jeremiah de Sesto

Graduate Student Representative – Gerena Walker

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Office of Research to change the name of the Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute to the Biomedical and Translational Sciences Institute will be an agenda item for the October 9, 2020, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

## PROPOSAL FOR ACADEMIC UNIT NAME CHANGE

**Date:** July 23, 2020

**Department/Division:** Office of Research

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2020

**Majors Offered in this Institute:** Neuroscience (Ph.D.)

### UNIT NAME CHANGE:

**Current Name:** Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute (BHSI)

**Proposed Name:** Biomedical and Translational Sciences Institute (BTSI)

### JUSTIFICATION:

The Biomedical Health Sciences Institute (BHSI) is a unit of the Office of Research, and the Vice President for Research, Dr. David Lee, has been serving as the interim director for the past several years. The BHSI was established in 2001 to foster the growth of biomedical and health sciences and to support the development of interdisciplinary programs in these areas. The Institute was conceived to provide the overarching support for basic biomedical research that at other major research universities might be provided by a major medical school. Since then, biomedical and health science research has grown dramatically at UGA, to the point that NIH funding now comprises over half of UGA's sponsored research portfolio, and indeed UGA has more NIH funding annually than Georgia's health sciences university in Augusta. This is due in part to the creation of the College of Public Health and a number of other successful research centers and institutes, including the Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases, Bioinformatics Institute, Regenerative Bioscience Center, Center for Molecular Medicine, Center for Vaccines and Immunology, and Center for Drug Discovery—as well as the contributions of the BHSI to these developments. Additionally, several of UGA's colleges and some of its already well-established centers, most notably the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, have developed biomedical programs, and the interdisciplinary Neuroscience Curriculum was established in order to train graduate students in this important area. In short, UGA's ecosystem for biomedical and health science research has evolved dramatically since 2001, and the BHSI is now in the unique position to focus and leverage biomedical research and education across the campus and state.

There is a strong and expanding emphasis at UGA on developing and promoting translational research in the biomedical and health sciences. The University is poised to play an important role in accelerating findings from basic research into pre-clinical and clinical studies. This goal motivated the establishment of the Clinical and Translational Research Unit on UGA's Health Sciences Campus, as well as UGA's incorporation as an institution into the state-wide Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance (CTSA), a premier NIH-funded program designed to speed new bench discoveries into improved clinical care and outcomes. In addition to supporting clinical trials, the Georgia CTSA funds training and graduate

education for junior faculty, students, and post-doctoral fellows wishing to learn about and engage in clinical and translational sciences. The majority of our peer and aspirational institutions that are CTSA funded have established graduate, post-doc, and workforce training programs in Clinical and Translational Research. Given this growth and ongoing opportunities to lead clinical and translational sciences, we envision a focusing and rebranding of the BHSI to make clear its key role in this important next step. We propose to change the name of the BHSI to reflect this by requesting that it be renamed to the Biomedical and Translational Sciences Institute (BTSI).

## Approvals on File

**Proposal:** Name Change of the Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute to the Biomedical and Translational Sciences Institute

**Unit:** Office of Research

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2020

Unit:

- Director of the Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute, Dr. Bradley Phillips, 9/30/20
- Vice President for Research, Dr. David Lee, 7/23/20

Graduate School:

- Graduate School Dean, Dr. Ron Walcott, 9/23/20