

The following was included as an item as part of the Consent Agenda at the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees' meeting of October 29, 2025:

“FY 25 Annual Reports of Endowed Chairs (UConn Health)”

RECOMMENDATION:

That the UConn Board of Trustees approve the Annual Reports for the following Endowed Chairs for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025:

1. Infectious Diseases
2. Human Genetics
3. Transfusion Medicine

As indicated by the minutes from said meeting, on a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee O’Keefe, the Board voted unanimously to approve this item.

The resolution is presented in the agenda of the October 29, 2025, meeting in Attachment 7.

Nicole Gelston

Nicole Fournier Gelston
Executive Secretary

October 29, 2025

UConn HEALTH

October 29, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: UConn Health Board of Directors
RE: FY25 Annual Reports of Endowed Chairs

RECOMMENDATION:

That the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees approve the annual reports for the following Endowed Chairs for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

1. Infectious Diseases
2. Human Genetics
3. Transfusion Medicine

BACKGROUND:

Section 10a-20a of the Connecticut General Statutes established a fund within the Office of Higher Education known as the Endowed Chair Investment Fund. The statute authorizes the UConn Board of Trustees to apply for the establishment of an endowed chair to be supported by a grant from the Fund and a matching nonstate contribution. The three endowed chairs referenced above were established during FY89 pursuant to this statute.

Subsection (g) of the statute requires the Board of Trustees to submit annual reports to the legislature's Higher Education Committee and other state offices concerning the management of the endowed chairs established under the statute. The reports presented today represent those annual reports, showing financial activity associated with the three endowed chairs through FY25 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025).

The UConn Health Board of Directors met on September 8, 2025, and voted to recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the FY25 Endowed Chairs Reports. If approved by the Trustees today, the Reports will be provided to Government Relations for filing with the State pursuant to the statute.

State of Connecticut Board of Governors for Higher Education Chair in Infectious Diseases

Kevin Dieckhaus
dieckhaus@uchc.edu



I would like to thank the board of Governors for Higher Education for the opportunity to serve the state of Connecticut in this unique capacity, and for the resources to promote infectious diseases-related research within the University of Connecticut.

What does it mean to you to hold this position?

This endowed chair provides flexibility, support, and direction for a wide variety of global health-oriented and local research development programs that enhance learner skills as well as promote opportunities that will be of long-term benefit to the University and state.

In your position, how are you making an impact at UConn, in the State of Connecticut, and/or the greater world?

In addition to the programs noted above, addressing very direct needs in a global sense, one important impact of the chair has been the support of mentorship of medical trainees across a wide variety of research, education and clinical topics. The result is development of a compassionate, knowledgeable and worldly physician workforce to serve the people of the state of Connecticut. Towards this end, over 100 UConn trainees have now visited Uganda under the umbrella of this program to participate in a variety of medical immersion experiences and socially conscious research.

The development of the global health program at UConn Health has fostered numerous other immersion experiences across the globe in Haiti, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Peru, Uganda, India, Sri Lanka, China, and Guam, and is continuing to expand. These experiences provide valuable training in public health, medical knowledge, and interaction with marginalized populations... skills that continue to be very relevant and are easily transferable to practice experiences within Connecticut.

What exciting projects have your students worked on this year, and how has your position played a positive role in their outcomes?

This past year, I have been privileged to work with the number of students on a variety of research projects both locally in Connecticut as well as internationally. Locally, we have been focusing on determinants of health in our HIV population in Hartford, doing an assessment of real-world needs of our disadvantaged population. This project is evolving into enhanced clinical care and social support in this population. I was able to work with a group of medical students assessing the impact of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in hospitalized patients in the Hartford area, demonstrating the impact of comorbidities on hospital outcome, and emphasizing the role that vaccination may play to prevent morbidity and mortality for this illness. Internationally, I have been fortunate to work with medical students pursuing on the ground research in Uganda assessing important aspects of syphilis transmission, perinatal safety, and identification of rheumatic heart disease in this setting. Two students have returned from Sri Lanka where they have studied the impact of dengue virus on families as well as assessing hesitancy towards dengue vaccination.

How has your role influenced students' journeys beyond UConn?

I am proud to have been a positive influence on our medical trainees' lives as development as global citizens. This has been highlighted recently by a former medical student who I mentored in a community research experience in Nicaragua with "Salud Toto Paros". She has now completed a residency in pediatrics and is a faculty member at another institution and has reestablished relationships with the Nicaraguan program, now organizing medical support and ongoing visits between her current University and that program. A former resident physician who traveled with me for a medical immersion experience in Uganda completed her fellowship in oncology with a special emphasis in Global Oncology, and has returned to the University of Connecticut as a faculty member, pursuing global partnerships for clinical care and education in hematology-oncology.

What social, global, or industry challenge(s) are you trying to address through your research?

Through the chair, numerous global and social health-related challenges are being addressed. In the SubSaharan African context, issues under investigation have including diagnosis and management of rheumatic heart disease, perinatal medical management and imminent safety related to meconium aspiration and perinatal asphyxia, identification and management of syphilis especially focused on pregnant women and perinatal transmission, pediatric safe sleeping environments to limit malaria exposures, and the intersection of subclinical malaria on children who have sickle cell anemia. In Sri Lanka, studies have evaluated vaccine hesitancy related to dengue vaccine as well as the impact of dengue virus infection on family dynamics.

How have you enhanced the academic programs here at UConn through your endowed position?

This chair supports the development of trainees interested in infectious diseases at all levels of medical training. Specifically, during the last year, it facilitated the on-site tropical medicine training provided to seven medical residents and one medical student in Southwestern Uganda by supporting necessary UConn faculty oversight of the clinical experience.

The Uganda clinical immersion promotes acquisition of direct medical skills as well as valuable cross-cultural and integrative skills important for any physician practicing in a multiethnic world. This collaboration is evolving to a longitudinal program, including a rheumatic heart disease screening in the rural district of Kisoro in collaboration with the Ugandan Heart Institute.

The chair has supported a recent MOC with the University of Gulu, Uganda. A site assessment visit led to a research collaboration that has resulted in three recently completed projects in perinatal safety, syphilis, and rheumatic heart disease. Going forward, this collaboration is continuing with programs in rheumatic heart disease and the intersection of malaria and sickle cell anemia. Two UConn medical students are pursuing research in Gulu in summer, 2025, as result of these activities. At a faculty level, collaboration in public health-oriented research assessing male sex workers in Gulu Uganda is underway. The chair has supported the various IRB fees and publication fees associated with processing and disseminating research findings.

The chair has supported expanded opportunities for collaborative research as well as immersive opportunities for learners in locations including Dominican Republic and Peru, where numerous medical resident physicians have experienced clinical immersion experiences to broaden their knowledge of healthcare in international settings, as well as working with diverse populations.

The chair has supported an assessment visit and development of a memorandum of cooperation with the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences in Kaunas, Lithuania. As result of this engagement, a UConn medical student is pursuing cardiology-focused research at LUHS in summer 2025, and is engaging with Lithuanian investigators to provide laboratory-based immersions in the microbial pathogenesis lab at UConn Health.

The Chair has supported UConn medical student-directed research focusing on important public health issues in Connecticut as well. Collaboration with Hartford Hospital and St Francis have led to an evaluation of the impact of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in hospitalized patients. Working within our HIV/AIDS clinic populations, we are formally assessing determinants of health that may be amenable to intervention in this vulnerable population, with plans to evolve this project into public health-oriented research and support programs. These evaluations and programs are set to expand from the Farmington-based HIV clinic to the north end of Hartford, a particularly disadvantaged demographic in Connecticut.

What is your favorite thing about being an endowed faculty member at the University of Connecticut?

My favorite thing about being an endowed faculty member at the University of Connecticut is that this provides validation to pursue my passion to develop opportunities for our learners that are outside of more usual educational pathways, leading to individualized and valuable student-focused experiences.

Looking Ahead

I will continue to pursue global partnerships to benefit the University. I am especially excited with the partnership with the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, where we have collaborated on an international symposium focusing on European and American Lyme disease and tick-borne infections, held in Kaunas Lithuania, and are now expanding the collaboration to include bilateral exchange of researchers. Additionally, the collaboration with Gulu University in Uganda is evolving to include development of a Masters of Science program in microbial diseases at Gulu as well as expanding public health research opportunities in northern Uganda.

Recent Awards, Publications, and Recognition

Two medical students have received a Ben Kean travel fellowship through the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene to pursue their research: <https://www.astmh.org/awards-fellowships-medals/astmh-sponsored-fellowships/benjamin-h-kean-travel-fellowship>. One medical student has received a Grant for Emerging Researchers/Clinicians Mentorship Program (GERM) through the infectious disease Society of America: <https://www.idsociety.org/practice-resources/grants-and-funding/g-e-r-m/>.

I have been recognized in media and print publications on relevant topics in infectious disease, global/tropical medicine, and public health, including TIME magazine: (<https://time.com/7094419/vaccine-shots-side-effects-meaning-fever-fatigue/>) and variety of news reports related to tropical diseases (specifically recent increases in “sloth fever” internationally) and changes in public health funding within Connecticut

Recent Publications

Book chapters (14):Dieckhaus K: "Enterobiasis, Trichuriasis, Ascariasis, Necatoriasis & Ancylostomiasis, Strongyloidiasis, Taeniasis saginata, Taeniasis solium, Hymenolepiasis, Diphyllbothriasis, Helminth & Protozoal Diseases, Ameobiasis, Gut microbiome, Proctologic Conditions: Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Diseases seen in HIV/AIDS," In: Reynolds et al: The Netter Collection of Medical Illustrations - Volume 9, Digestive System, Part II - Lower Digestive, 2025

Kostka J, Maharjan AS, Kumar S, Hackenyos D, Krause PJ, Dieckhaus K. "Absence of Anti-Babesia microti antibody in commercial intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG)," PLoS Negl Trop Dis. 2024 Mar 14;18(3):e0012035. doi: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0012035. PMID: 38484010; PMCID: PMC10965045.

Victoria L, Maharjan AS, Kostka J, Assenso-Bediako R, Merkert W, Chirch L, Dieckhaus K: "Prevalence of Hepatitis B Core Antibody in Intravenous Immunoglobulin Products by Chemiluminescent Microparticle Immunoassay," J Clin Transl Hepatol. 2025 Apr 28;13(4):358-360.

UConn Health
 Endowed Chair in Infectious Diseases/AIDS Research
 631129-10141-10

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Beginning Cash Balance	\$67,944	\$71,169	\$71,169	\$84,371	\$128,505
Receipts :					
Interest Transferred from DHE:	\$5,887	\$2,162	\$19,330	\$59,459	\$74,459
Total Receipts	\$5,887	\$2,162	\$19,330	\$59,459	\$74,459
Expenditures :					
Salaries and Wages					
Fringe Benefits					
Purchased Services	\$2,047	\$1,548	\$5,928	\$13,381	\$19,906
Supplies	\$615		\$200	\$1,944	\$0
Equipment					
Change in accruals		\$614			
Total Expenditures	\$2,662	\$2,162	\$6,128	\$15,325	\$19,906
Ending Cash Spendable Balance	\$71,169	\$71,169	\$84,371	\$128,505	\$183,057

Health Net, Inc. Chair in Human Genetics

David Rowe
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Because my human genetics chair was not funded by a single donor, my message is to recognize Dr. James Mulvihill, who died last May 2024 and who, as Executive Director of UCHC, initiated the endowment of more than 25 academic chairs, of which my chair was one of the first awards.

What does it mean to you to hold this position?

It is a great honor to have received this award, and now that it has grown to a significant financial resource, it has provided opportunities that would otherwise not have been unobtainable.

In your position, how are you making an impact at UConn, in the State of Connecticut, and/or the greater world?

Besides the development of the digital histological imaging and analysis protocols that we have shared with the greater scientific community, we are following the requirement of NIH to develop computer repositories of the rodent-based studies performed globally that speak to the factors that impact skeletal health. Dr. Peter Maye, a member of our Skeletal Biology Center, designed and developed the proposal to meet this NIH goal. Having recently received NIH funding for this goal, we are working in collaboration with our computer science colleagues at the Storrs and Farmington campus to create the software, while utilizing the amazing computer hardware of UCONN for this international repository, which we have named ROSSA (Repository of Skeletal System Analysis). Once implemented, it will underscore the role of UCONN as an international leader in the study of skeletal system in both health and disease.

What is your most impactful experience or memory from the past academic year you've had working with, teaching, or advising students?

I had two computer science students from Dr. Dong-Guk Shin's training program who help me develop python programs that quantify the histological images we produce of skeletal tissues from mouse genetic models of human skeletal disease. While I

learned much from them, I believe it was their first experience to appreciate how their talents can benefit scientists outside their current work environment.

Hopefully, they will consider a career in a non-computer science environment (i.e., not Meta or Google) so that other disciplines can be enlarged by the application of creative computer technologies. After all, it's becoming a digital world for everyone and we will need their expertise to remain competitive.

How has your role influenced students' journeys beyond UConn?

I am currently writing a recommendation letter to a medical school admission committee for an individual who received a Bachelor of Arts degree in East Asian Studies from Wesleyan two years previously, who wanted to pursue a career as a clinical investigator but did not know how to chart a course toward that goal. I hired her as a student employee to gain hands-on experience in animal and laboratory work and she proved to be a very quick and motivated worker. After one-and-a-half years, she took a professional position at Yale Medical School and subsequently in a research associate position at a private psychiatric LLC in New York, which solidified her ultimate desire to direct her career in psychiatric clinical research. Her credentials are impeccable and motivation is tenacious so I believe I was catalytic to an individual who will make a significant contribution to psychiatric medicine.

What social, global, or industry challenge(s) are you trying to address through your research?

Degenerative diseases of the skeletal system (bones and joints) are the largest medical expense category in the U.S., amounting to almost 5% of GDP. Of the multiple combinatorial causes of this degenerative process, genetic factors are the ones, which if identified, could lead to personalized therapies. If applied early in life, these therapies could slow or prevent the onset of these degenerative processes. Our laboratory has taken the approach to identify contributory genes by screening mice with targeted gene inactivation for the early histological and somatic skeletal features that are predictive of susceptibility or resistance to degenerative changes of bone and cartilage tissues. We post the results on a website (<https://bonebase.lab.uconn.edu>) so other investigators can dig deeper into the genetic/molecular basis for these changes.

How have you leveraged this position and its funds to obtain additional support through other grants or funding opportunities?

The histological protocols for imaging mineralizing tissues that our laboratory has developed to understand the physiological dynamics of a skeletal tissue has served as a base line to the development of new methods to explore the molecular/genetic basis of tissue function. We received funding to develop this new technology called spatial transcriptomics as part of a NIH consortium called HuBMAP, which is designed to appreciate the cell heterogeneity at the molecular level in all human tissues. We plan to utilize this new histological development in a new NIH application to evaluate

and better understand the genes that impact skeletal health in our mouse gene knockout project.

What is your favorite thing about being an endowed faculty member at the University of Connecticut?

The award has given me license to explore new pathways toward my research goals that traditional funding agencies would not support. For example, I am now self-learning python computer coding to perform the gene analysis of the thousands of individual cells within a skeletal tissue. I am discovering that although the cells within articular cartilage look the same under the microscope, they are very different in their function.

Looking Ahead

Given the expertise our UCONN faculty has developed in skeletal biology, clinical orthopedics, kinesiology and computer science, and the enormous success we have enjoyed in women's sports, I have proposed the development of an Institute in Women's Sports Medicine to address the degenerative condition of the skeletal system that is much greater in women than men.

We know that sports injuries such as ruptured ACL of the knees and bone stress injury of the leg that occur in elite athletes are predictors of osteoarthritis and osteoporosis as adults. Furthermore, this type of medical history can be observed in other family members across generations. Developing a multidisciplinary program takes a long-term institutional commitment, similar to the effort by Dr. Mulvihill in starting the UConn Children's Cancer Fund in the 1980s. To date, I have not been successful in developing interest in such an effort by university leadership, but as a chair holder with a commitment towards academic excellence and program development in the field of human genetics, I will keep trying.

Recent Awards, Publications, and Recognition

None to speak of this year.

Recent Publications

McMullan P, Maye, P, Root, SH, Yang, Q, Edie, S, Rowe, D, Kalajzic I, Germain-Lee, EL Hair follicle-resident progenitor cells are a major cellular contributor to heterotopic subcutaneous ossifications in a mouse model of Albright hereditary osteodystrophy. bioRxiv [Preprint]. 2024 Jun 21:2024.06.18.599506. doi: 10.1101/2024.06.18.599506. PMID: 38948860; PMCID: PMC11213030.

Zhang, C, Wang, H, Hong, SH, Olmer, M, Swahn, H, Lotz, MK, Maye, P, Rowe, D, Shin, DG. vSPACE: Exploring Virtual Spatial Representation of Articular Chondrocytes at the Single-Cell Level. Bioinformatics. 2024 Oct 1;40,1-5.PMID: 39363499; PMCID: PMC11483105.

Sun, H, Patel, N, Ridwan, SM, Lottinger, C, Chen, L, Rowe, D, Kuhn, L. Tricolor Transgenic Murine Model for Studying Growth Plate Injury. *J Vis Exp.* 2024 211. doi: 10.3791/66841. jove.com/video/66841 PMID: 39311607.

UConn Health
 Endowed Chair in Human Genetics
 300041-10600-10

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Beginning Cash Balance	\$252,898	\$168,110	\$93,769	\$105,425	\$155,325
Receipts :					
Interest Transferred from DHE:		\$1,577	\$14,102	\$43,377	\$54,320
Interest Transferred from UCONN Foundation:	\$79,522	\$84,669	\$86,692	\$80,870	\$78,804
Total Receipts	\$79,522	\$86,246	\$100,794	\$124,247	\$133,124
Expenditures :					
Salaries and Wages	\$17,941	\$87,613	\$17,559	\$21,953	\$39,587
Fringe Benefits	\$1,383	\$15,567	\$2,677	\$5,320	\$10,728
Purchased Services	\$61,721	\$63,031	\$54,458	\$39,161	\$16,670
Supplies	\$8,854	(\$5,722)	\$13,023	\$7,913	\$1,809
Equipment	\$68,964	\$100	\$1,420	\$0	\$11,081
Change in accruals	\$5,447	\$0			
Total Expenditures	\$164,310	\$160,588	\$89,137	\$74,347	\$79,875
Ending Cash Spendable Balance	\$168,110	\$93,769	\$105,425	\$155,325	\$208,574

Health Net, Inc. - American Red Cross Chair in Transfusion Medicine

Biree Andemariam
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What does it mean to you to hold this position?

This endowment has not only symbolized recognition of my work but has also enhanced my ability to contribute to the field of hematology. This is a domain that, despite its critical importance, remains underserved, facing a scarcity of experts amidst significant clinical demands and vast research opportunities. At the UConn School of Medicine, the programs I oversee for sickle cell disease and thalassemia provide a stark illustration of the urgent needs in this field. Together, these programs account for an astounding 50% of all blood transfusions administered annually at our institution. For many patients, these transfusions are nothing short of lifesaving. In cases of stroke or acute chest syndrome, prompt transfusion can mean the difference between life and death. For others, particularly those with thalassemia or severe manifestations of sickle cell disease, transfusions serve as a vital lifeline, compensating for the body's inability to produce sufficient blood.

Yet, for all the advances in medicine, alternative treatments for these conditions remain underdeveloped, perpetuating a heavy reliance on transfusions. This reliance brings with it a host of challenges and risks, particularly when transfusions are administered unnecessarily. In the realm of sickle cell disease, unnecessary blood transfusions are an all-too-common occurrence. This often stems from a lack of familiarity among some physicians with the nuances of managing steady-state anemia in these patients. Many do not realize that restricting transfusions to specific, clearly defined clinical scenarios represents the current standard of care. Importantly, the overuse of transfusions can lead to a cascade of complications. Beyond the individual patient, unnecessary transfusions strain the already limited blood supply. Every unit of blood given unnecessarily is a unit that could have gone to someone in critical need—a reality that must remain at the forefront of clinical decision-making.

This endowed chair has empowered me to address these challenges head-on, driving impactful initiatives in three key areas: education, blood donation, and research. It is my hope that through these efforts, we can not only improve outcomes for patients with sickle cell disease and thalassemia but also strengthen the resilience of our broader healthcare system.

In your position, how are you making an impact at UConn, in the State of Connecticut, and/or the greater world?

In my position I feel I make a significant impact locally at UConn, regionally across the state of Connecticut, and beyond. Within UConn, I care for patients who have been largely alienated by the healthcare system. I have developed a medical home for individuals with complex and rare hematological conditions who require expertise, experience, swift access to care, and a lot of compassion. I care for patients from across the state and beyond. We have the only center of its kind in the state and in all of New England and perhaps the nation. Globally, I am a recognized researcher and educator having led multicenter trials in sickle cell disease and lectured across the world in the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Through my position and work, the UConn Health name is carried far and in high esteem.

What is your most impactful experience or memory from the past academic year you've had working with, teaching, or advising students?

My most impactful experience teaching this past academic year was when I was invited to lecture and to develop a full day hematology curriculum on sickle cell disease and thalassemia for a conference in Lagos, Nigeria. Nigeria has the highest number of births of babies born with sickle cell disease in the world at a staggering 300,000 per year. Most do not live past the age of 5 years. It was an incredible opportunity to develop a curriculum focused on a disease that so impacts the audience members who were comprised of hematologists, transfusion medicine specialists, nurses, and students. The learning was bidirectional as I had the opportunity to learn from their experiences during the question and answer sessions and panel discussions. I was amazed at their experiences managing individuals with sickle cell disease with such comparably limited resources.

As an endowed faculty member, what do you find most rewarding about teaching?

Hematology is a subspecialty that receives a lesser degree of emphasis in most medical school curricula and training programs. However, it is rich in depth and in cutting edge discovery and therapeutics. I love the opportunity to teach students and trainees about the history of hematology and the advances in diagnostics and treatments in recent years. There is no greater reward than feeling that you have influenced the decision of a young talented future physician to consider a field that has brought you so much personal and professional satisfaction.

What social, global, or industry challenge(s) are you trying to address through your research?

Sickle cell disease and thalassemia are rare blood disorders in the United States that have significant global impact with high morbidity, early mortality, and a dearth of therapies. I am trying to address this challenge by conducting research aimed at identifying new treatments, including alternatives to blood transfusions.

How have you enhanced the academic programs here at UConn through your endowed position?

The success of the niche clinical programs in sickle cell disease and thalassemia at UConn Health stands as a testament to the institution's commitment to delivering exemplary patient care while fostering a thriving research environment. These programs, which I have been privileged to lead, not only enhance patient outcomes but also serve as cornerstones of UConn Health's academic excellence.

The prominence of these clinical programs, coupled with the robust research portfolio that runs concurrently, is frequently highlighted as evidence of the high quality of UConn Health's academic initiatives. The programs have earned recognition not just for their clinical impact but also for their educational and collaborative dimensions. My expertise and leadership in these domains have made me a sought-after representative for the institution in various high-profile contexts, including:

- Media interviews to address advances and challenges in hereditary blood disorders.
- Meetings and hearings with state legislators to advocate for policies and funding that support patients with sickle cell disease and thalassemia.
- Engagements with prospective faculty candidates to showcase UConn Health as a hub of innovation and collaboration.

Sickle cell disease has become a compelling area of research interest for medical students, dental students, and trainees at UConn Health. These students are drawn to the opportunity to engage in mentored research projects, delving into topics that hold the potential to transform patient care and expand their academic horizons. By fostering an environment that encourages inquiry and innovation, I have contributed to shaping the next generation of healthcare professionals and researchers who will carry forward the mission of advancing research in hematological conditions.

A core aspect of my work has been to develop and nurture collaborations among researchers within the university. These partnerships have yielded extraordinary results, with collaborators securing federal and other extramural funding of significant magnitude. These funds not only support groundbreaking research but also elevate the profile of UConn Health as a leader in addressing rare blood disorders such as sickle cell disease. By building bridges across disciplines and fostering a culture of shared purpose, these collaborations have set the stage for transformative discoveries.

The achievements in clinical care, research, education, and collaboration underscore the potential of niche programs in sickle cell disease and thalassemia to drive meaningful change. It is my hope that these efforts will continue to inspire students, attract funding, and expand the breadth of impact, further solidifying UConn Health's reputation as an academic institution of the highest caliber. Together, we are laying the groundwork for a future where innovation, compassion, and collaboration converge to improve lives of people living with sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

What is your favorite thing about being an endowed faculty member at the University of Connecticut?

My favorite aspect about being an endowed faculty member at the University of Connecticut is the recognition it provides among my peers when I am able to list it on my opening slide of my presentations. It lets peers know that I am held in high regard within my institution having been granted its highest honor.

Looking Ahead

We have been actively engaged on a path toward being able to offer gene therapy for patients with sickle cell disease and thalassemia. These treatments have the intent to cure patients of their condition and in clinical trials these therapies were shown to eliminate the need for blood transfusions. I have recently recruited a junior faculty member to eventually lead this effort. My goal for the next year is to continue to lay the framework for our institution to be granted qualified treatment center status which would allow us to offer these gene therapies to our patients and to others from outside the institution, locally and nationally. Our expectation is to be able to offer the treatment in 2027.

Recent Awards, Publications, and Recognition

In the last year, I gave 9 invited presentations nationally and internationally including in the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Saint Lucia, and Italy. Additionally, my research was presented in 9 peer-reviewed oral or poster sessions across 4 national and international conferences. I served as the scientific committee chair for an international educational congress on sickle cell disease and thalassemia. In November of 2024, I received an award in Recognition of Outstanding Commitment to Healthcare Excellence in Sub-Saharan Africa by the Impact Africa Summit in Lagos, Nigeria where I lectured on sickle cell disease and developed a full day educational seminar on hematological advances in hemoglobin disorders.

Recent Publications

1. Udeze C, Jerry M, Evans KA, Li N, Jain S, **Andemariam B**. Clinical and Economic Burden of Managing Patients with Sickle Cell Disease Receiving Frequent Red Blood Cell Transfusions in the United States. *Clinicoecon Outcomes Res.* 2025 Apr 11;17:303-313. doi: 10.2147/CEOR.S511996. PMID: 40236792; PMCID: PMC11998934.
2. Idowu M, Otieno L, Dumitriu B, Lobo CLC, Thein SL, **Andemariam B**, Nnodu OE, Inati A, Glaros AK, Bartolucci P, Colombatti R, Taher AT, Abboud MR, Darbari D, Ataga KI, Antmen AB, Kuo KHM, de Souza Medina S, Oluyadi A, Iyer V, Morris S, Yates AM, Shao H, Patil S, Urbstonaitis R, Zaidi AU, Gheuens S, Smith WR. Safety and efficacy of mitapivat in sickle cell disease (RISE UP): results from the phase 2 portion of a global, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet Haematol.* 2025 Jan;12(1):e35-e44. doi: 10.1016/S2352-3026(24)00319-3. Epub 2024 Dec 4. Erratum in: *Lancet Haematol.* 2025 Jan;12(1):e9. doi: 10.1016/S2352-3026(24)00382-X. PMID: 39644907.

3. Herring WL, Gallagher ME, Shah N, Morse KC, Mladsi D, Dong OM, Chawla A, Leiding JW, Zhang L, Paramore C, **Andemariam B**. Cost-Effectiveness of Lovotibeglogene Autotemcel (Lovo-Cel) Gene Therapy for Patients with Sickle Cell Disease and Recurrent Vaso-Occlusive Events in the United States. *Pharmacoeconomics*. 2024 Apr 29. doi: 10.1007/s40273-024-01385-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38684631.

UConn Health
 Endowed Chair in Transfusion Medicine
 300037-100520-10 (and 35021)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Beginning Cash Balance	\$450,927	\$410,633	\$300,935	\$245,323	\$314,488
Receipts :					
Interest Transferred from UCONN Foundation:			\$25,289	\$47,650	\$46,432
Interest Transferred from DHE:	\$2,944	\$1,081	\$9,665	\$29,728	\$37,228
Total Receipts	\$2,944	\$1,081	\$34,953	\$77,378	\$83,660
Expenditures :					
Salaries and Wages	\$32,921	\$81,941	\$67,966	\$5,429	
Fringe Benefits	\$10,317	\$28,838	\$22,599	\$1,401	
Purchased Services				\$1,383	\$4,793
Supplies					
Equipment					
Change in accruals					
Total Expenditures	\$43,238	\$110,779	\$90,565	\$8,213	\$4,793
Ending Cash Spendable Balance	\$410,633	\$300,935	\$245,323	\$314,488	\$393,355