

READDI Leadership Team

READDI brings together the world's brightest scientific, business and policy minds to meet the critical challenge of pandemic preparedness.



James Rosen, MSPH, MBA CEO and Director

Jimmy has 35 years of research, finance and operational experience across the healthcare and life sciences sectors. He has served as CEO of Artizan Biosciences, a biotech spinout from Yale University; deputy director of venture investing at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and a partner with Intersouth Partners, investing in early-stage life science companies.



Ralph S. Baric, PhD
Co-founder and Scientific Adviser

Ralph is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and professor in the UNC School of Medicine. One of the world's foremost authorities in the study of coronaviruses, noroviruses and dengue viruses, he is responsible for UNC-Chapel Hill's leading role in coronavirus research. Ralph is a member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Fletcher Fairey, JD, MA
Executive Vice President of Business

Fletcher is responsible for creating and implementing READDI's business development strategy. An attorney, he has more than 20 years of experience in technology development and commercialization at research universities and companies. He was general counsel and vice president of operations at Julz Co., a venture capital firm funding early-stage life science companies. Most recently, Fletcher served as general counsel at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia.



Mark Heise, PhD
Co-founder and Scientific Adviser

Mark is a professor in the UNC School of Medicine's genetics department. His research is focused on understanding how viral and host genetic factors interact to influence virus-induced disease. Mark is currently studying alphaviruses — mosquito-borne RNA viruses that cause encephalitis and infectious arthritis in humans — as well the respiratory viruses influenza A and SARS-CoV-2. He uses a combination of molecular virology, viral immunology and systems genetics approaches in his research.



Nathaniel Moorman, PhD
Co-founder and Scientific Adviser

Nat is an associate professor in the UNC School of Medicine's microbiology and immunology department. His research includes studying how viruses hijack cellular machinery to facilitate their replication. Nat uses a combination of new technologies and traditional molecular virology techniques to investigate host-pathogen interactions, especially the ways viruses alter cell signaling pathways to drive viral protein synthesis. In addition, he is leading multiple efforts to discover and develop novel direct-acting and host-targeted antiviral drugs for viruses of pandemic concern.



Logan WardDirector of Communications

Logan has worked in higher education communications for UNC-Chapel Hill and as a magazine journalist and brand storyteller specializing in science, innovation and design. He was senior science correspondent for *Popular Mechanics* and has written for *The Atlantic, National Geographic Adventure* and the *New York Times,* among other publications. His institutional clients include the Field Museum of Chicago, Massachusetts General Hospital and UNICEF.



READDI Board of Directors



John Bamforth, PhD

Executive Director, Eshelman Institute for Innovation, UNC-Chapel Hill

At the Eshelman Institute for Innovation, John leads a team whose mission is developing novel therapeutics and launching new digital health companies in North Carolina. Originally from the United Kingdom, John spent nearly 30 years with Eli Lilly and Company, where he was chief marketing officer, recognized as a builder of global brands and leader of highly engaged teams.



Richard Burr

Principal Policy Advisor/Chair, Health Policy Strategic Consulting practice, DLA Piper, Former U.S. Senator, North Carolina

At DLA Piper Richard provides policy advice, strategic consulting and a wide range of related services to life sciences and healthcare clients. Having served nearly three decades in federal service — five terms in the House of Representatives and three terms in the Senate — Richard is widely known as one of the foremost government authorities in healthcare and life sciences policy. His many legislative accomplishments include the 1997 FDA Modernization Act and the Pandemic All Hazards Preparedness Act, which created the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and was critical in the rapid development of the COVID-19 pandemic vaccine.



Barbara Stephenson, PhD

Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Chief Global Officer, UNC-Chapel Hill

Barbara advances a pan-university global strategy to enhance UNC-Chapel Hill's global reach, impact and reputation. She came to Carolina after serving as a U.S. Foreign Service officer for more than three decades. She was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Panama in 2008 and later became the first woman to serve as deputy ambassador and acting ambassador at the U.S. Embassy in London. She served as president of the American Foreign Service Association and dean at the Foreign Service Institute.



Laurent Fraisse, PhD

Research & Development Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative

Laurent drives scientific strategy and oversees all research and clinical activities worldwide for DNDi, which was founded by Médecins Sans Frontières, the World Health Organization and five international research institutions to discover, develop and deliver new treatments for neglected patients around the world. An experienced biotechnology and pharmaceutical executive and a leading expert in infectious diseases, Laurent has led R&D for large pharmaceutical firms, including Evotec and Sanofi.



Andy Johns

Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, UNC-Chapel Hill

Andy oversees strategic planning, research policy, infrastructure and operations, and elements of regulatory compliance for UNC-Chapel Hill's research enterprise. He focuses heavily on the complexities associated with biomedical research, addressing challenges and barriers to growth of the research enterprise, both from a logistics and policy perspective.



Perrin W. Jones, MD

Anesthesiologist and partner, East Carolina Anesthesia Associates

A member of the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees, Perrin served as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives from October 2019 through December 2020 and was in the U.S. Navy Reserve from 2000 to 2008. He is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and was President of the North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists.





Nathan Knuffman

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer, UNC-Chapel Hill

At UNC-Chapel Hill, Nate oversees campuswide financial planning and budgeting; treasury and risk management; facilities planning, construction and operations; real estate development; purchasing; auxiliary services; transportation and parking; and energy services. He previously served as vice president for financial planning and analysis at the UNC System Office, where he was a member of the senior team advising the UNC System president and supporting the UNC Board of Governors in finance and business matters.



Lydia Ogden, PhD, MPP, MA

Global Public Health R&D Policy and External Engagement Leader, Johnson & Johnson

Lydia is a proven leader with three decades of experience in predicting and managing health system change and enabling impactful health partnerships spanning the globe. Before joining J&J, Lydia directed U.S. and ex-U.S. vaccines policy, partnerships and government relations for Merck. She also worked at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she led domestic and international HIV/AIDS policy and data-driven prevention programs, implemented PEPFAR (the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief), served as the agency's deputy chief of staff for policy, and headed the Office of Health Reform following passage of the Affordable Care Act.



Tom Shanahan, JD

Chief Legal Officer, UNC Health

Tom is responsible for the oversight and direction of UNC Health's legal affairs. He served as acting chief administrative officer for UNC-Chapel Hill during 2021 and 2022. Earlier, he was senior vice president for Legal, Risk, and Compliance and general counsel for the 17-campus UNC System. He came to the UNC System from the U.S. Department of Labor, where he served in various leadership positions, including deputy regional director in the Employee Benefits Security Administration. He is an adjunct professor at the UNC School of Law.

