

Dear UNC Physicians and Providers,

This past weekend, President Trump announced his intent to appoint Norman (Ned) Sharpless, MD, director of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, as Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). View the announcement at <http://uncmedne.ws/sharpless-nci>.

We should be proud that our institution has now produced both the director of the NIH (Francis Collins, UNC School of Medicine class of '77, UNC Internal Medicine resident from 1977-1981) and the Director of the NCI (Dr. Sharpless, UNC class of '88, UNC School of Medicine class of '93).

UNC Physicians is comprised of providers who have joined our organization in many ways (employed by a UNC affiliate hospital, member of UNC Physicians Network, or member of UNC Faculty Physicians). Regardless of the pathway you followed in joining UNC Physicians and regardless of how long you have been affiliated with UNC, I think there are two key take away points:

1. The outside world views the UNC medical community as a high-quality provider organization.
2. Those who achieve highly within our system are among the nation's and world's best, and are worthy of important roles like Director of the NCI, which one can argue is the most influential position in the world for Oncology.

Thanks for what you do every day to help care for the people of North Carolina and to advance our teaching and research missions. Please join me in congratulating Ned.

Best,



- Matthew G. Ewend, MD, FACS
President, UNC Physicians
Chief Quality and Value Officer, UNC Health Care
Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, UNC School of Medicine