

From the Board of Trustees

We see positive momentum building at Wood Hudson, with the organization continuing to make advances over these past several weeks, as described in this issue of e-News. In late September, the Board finalized the strategy for the continued support of the mission of Wood Hudson (see second article). As part of the plan to support this strategy, we welcomed Denise Byrum as our Senior Director of Operations and Organizational Development on October 28th (see lead article). Together, these two developments represent a significant step forward for the organization. We are delighted to report that a generous donor agrees with us, and has offered a \$50,000 challenge/matching grant to initiate our year-end fundraising campaign (see third article for details).

In closing, we note that the Celebration of Life for our founder and colleague, Dr. Julia E. H. Carter, was a success. It provided a wonderful moment to hear from the attendees about the impact Dr. Carter had on their lives. Moreover, for the staff and trustees, it provided a reminder of the value of continuing the work of Wood Hudson, and the potential to impact future generations.

Welcome Denise!

On Monday, October 28th, Wood Hudson welcomed Denise Byrum, M.S., M.B.A. as the Lab's first Senior Director of Operations and Organizational Development. Denise comes to Wood Hudson after a notable career in the healthcare field, in which she achieved success in a variety of roles. Denise initially joined the Shriners' Hospital for Children as a Research Specialist. As her career progressed, she stretched herself to take on the position of Research Operations Coordinator and ultimately became the Manager of Research Operations. After over fifteen years in the non-profit arena, Denise spent two years at Thermo Fisher Scientific in the role of Project Manager, Immersive Operations.



Dr. Percy Carter, Board Chair, commented on this important development, saying, "The staff and trustees are all delighted that Denise has joined Wood Hudson in this newly created role, which was designed to enable our new strategy. Her deep experience in research operations and non-profit management will enable her to make an immediate impact and to set us on a strong path for 2025 and beyond."

Speaking of her enthusiasm for what lies ahead, Denise commented, "It is truly an honor to contribute to the legacy of Wood Hudson, and I am excited to help advance the mission of the organization."

Denise holds a bachelor's degree in Biology (Northern Kentucky University), an M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences (University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy), and an M.B.A. with a specialization in project management (Northern Kentucky University). She recently completed her Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification.

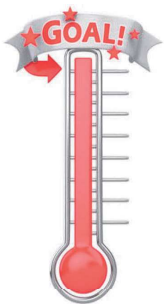
Strategy Finalized

After reviewing and debating five different options for the future of Wood Hudson over the course of several board meetings, the Board of Trustees confirmed their intention to continue the operations of the Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory. Key elements of the strategy include the decision to:

- (1) Maintain a vibrant Undergraduate Research Education Program (UREP), with the next installment starting in Summer 2025.
- (2) Develop further the Wood Hudson Biospecimen Repository and associated external research collaborations.
- (3) Focus the internal research program on human experimental systems, including cancer cell lines and tissues from our biospecimen repository.

In order to enable these efforts, we will create two leadership positions, the first of which we describe in this issue of e-News: the Senior Director of Operations and Organizational Development, a role now filled by Denise Byrum, M.S., M.B.A. The second leadership position – the Senior Director of Research – will be posted in the 4th quarter of 2025. For the next 12 months, Denise, the staff, and the trustees will focus their energies on further developing UREP, the Biospecimen Repository, external collaborations, and the Wood Hudson facilities in Newport, in line with the strategy described above.

Challenge/Matching Grant Announced



In acknowledgment of the decision to continue the operations of Wood Hudson, including the Undergraduate Research Education Program, a donor has offered a contingent grant to help Wood Hudson kick-off its year-end fundraising campaign, which will run over the three months from November 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025. The grant is configured in two parts. In the first portion, the challenge phase, the donor will make a \$25,000 donation to Wood Hudson once an equivalent amount of year-end donations are given in the year-end campaign. If \$25,000 worth of donations are not received by January 31st of next year, then Wood Hudson will forfeit the grant. However, if the challenge is met, the matching phase of the grant will begin, in which the donor will simply match every donation, dollar-for-dollar, up to another \$25,000 worth of gifts.

Mr. Robert Layton, CPA, our Board Treasurer, commented, “We are finishing 2024 in a good position financially. This matching grant campaign has the potential to place the organization on still stronger footing for 2025, and enable us to continue to deliver on the important work of Wood Hudson.” Mr. Layton went on to offer an important reminder, “Please also remember that all contributions to Wood Hudson are potentially fully tax deductible, whether it is in the form of cash or marketable securities (such as stocks that you have held for over one year). We encourage you to speak to your tax advisor if you have specific questions about your personal tax situation.”

Please help Wood Hudson achieve the full potential of this \$50,000 challenge by planning to give during the year-end campaign!