



UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE

College of
Health Sciences
2011 Strategic Plan

*first in health sciences
through research and education...*





UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Our vision

The College of Health Sciences at the University of Delaware will be nationally and internationally known as a hub of interdisciplinary research, education, and public outreach dedicated to advancing human health.

Partnering in significant initiatives with other educational and medical institutions, government agencies, and private foundations, our researchers will further understanding of chronic diseases and pioneer the development of advanced treatments and rehabilitation protocols.

We will be leaders in advocating interdisciplinary, team-based learning for students in experiential and discovery learning settings. As we transition the College to **the Health Sciences Complex at UD's new Science and Technology Campus**, we will synergistically unite all of these signature activities in an environment that will enable us to significantly advance the University's Path to Prominence™.





Research that matters



UD's Early Learning Center is the "test track" for an interdisciplinary project aimed at providing mobility to children who can't crawl or walk.

While the work initially focused on the design and development of custom robotic devices, the researchers are now adapting ride-on toy cars for children as young as 12 months.

The babies and toddlers are literally driving their own social and intellectual development as they become part of the action at home, in the daycare center, and on the playground.

GOAL 1: To grow the research enterprise within the College, by fostering interdisciplinary and translational research, with the objective of improving the health and well-being of people.

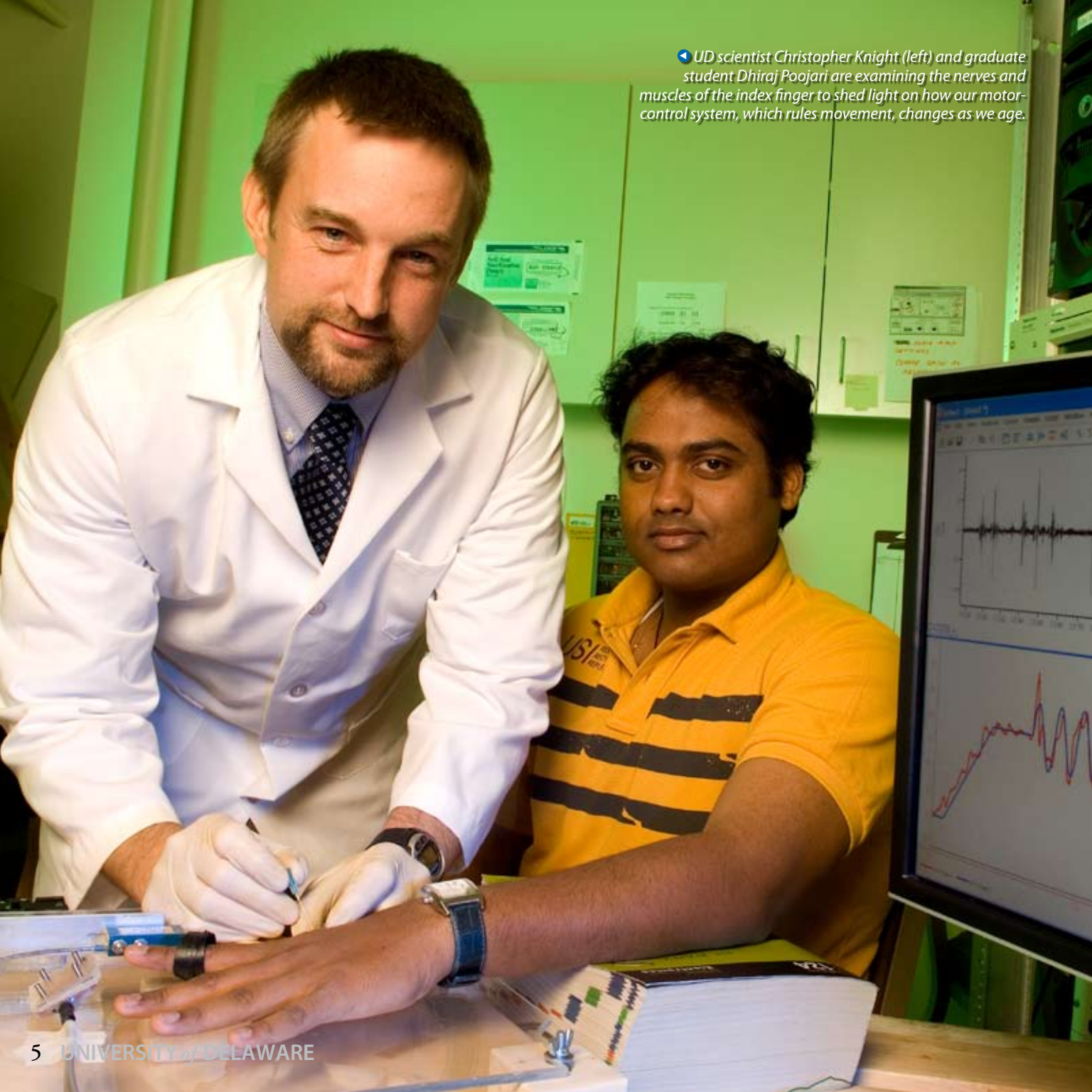
Strategies:

1. Working with architects, plan the College's transition to the Science and Technology Campus to ensure that the administrative infrastructure, laboratory space, equipment, and personnel are in place to provide a supportive environment for the research efforts of both individual faculty researchers and interdisciplinary teams.
2. Ensure that College policies support recruiting, rewarding, promoting, and retaining identified core groups of researchers with high capacity to contribute to the research mission of the College.
3. Promote Delaware Health Sciences Alliance partnerships to facilitate development of productive collaborative relationships among faculty researchers and practicing healthcare clinicians to improve the quality of healthcare delivery, especially to underserved populations.
4. Host international priorities conferences that further advance collaborative and interdisciplinary research opportunities.

David Edwards, left, and William Farquhar have received NIH funding to investigate the role of salt in impairing vascular function. With them are Jennifer DuPont, in the lab coat, and "patient" Jody Greaney. ▶



UD scientist Christopher Knight (left) and graduate student Dhiraj Poojari are examining the nerves and muscles of the index finger to shed light on how our motor-control system, which rules movement, changes as we age.



Experiential learning

GOAL 2: To educate future leaders in health and exercise promotion, health care, and health-related research through high -quality didactic and experiential learning that enhances interdisciplinary understanding and interactions.

Strategies:

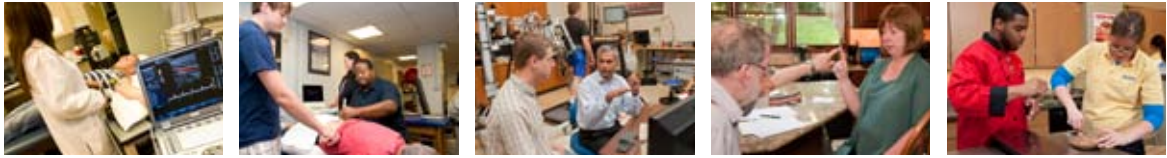
1. Utilize reality-based learning environments and simulations to enhance students' understanding of their fields of academic or professional study and to ensure that students can effectively work as members of an interdisciplinary team.
2. Provide meaningful experiential, service learning, and undergraduate research opportunities for students.
3. Identify a core underlying knowledge base and skill set for all students in the college to promote continuity of understanding and performance across disciplines.
4. Promote growth and enhanced quality of graduate and professional programs in the College.



A unique simulation developed at UD is helping coaches and skaters explore “what-if” positioning and movement scenarios to help competitive skaters fine-tune their jumps.

One of the first Olympic skaters to use the technology performed his first quadruple jump after implementing the suggested changes. The work is supported by U.S. Figure Skating and the U.S. Olympic Committee.





Cultural competence: A cornerstone



Students from various health science majors are developing individual exercise, nutrition, and weight-training programs for people with limited mobility through Yes U Can™, a local nonprofit that now has an extension program on the UD campus.

The program provides students with insights that classroom work can't provide, and the experience has motivated some of the students to change their career plans.

GOAL 3: To recruit and retain talented and diverse faculty, staff, and students.

Strategies:

1. Increase the recruitment of faculty from underrepresented groups through targeted position advertising, nominations, and invitations to deliver campus seminars.
2. Partner with other campus units and clinical partners to engage in joint hires of well-qualified minority faculty.
3. Partner with University Admissions to increase recruitment of talented students from underrepresented groups through greater faculty involvement in student recruitment activities.
4. Increase the retention of underrepresented, low-income, and international students through enhanced faculty advising and student mentoring programs.



◀ Led by Lisa McBeth-Snyder, instructor and coordinator of UD's Maternal-Child Simulation Lab, 30 junior and senior nursing majors spent UD's 2011 Winter Session in South Africa. In addition to working six hours a day in hospitals and clinics, the students volunteered at orphanages populated with babies abandoned by HIV-positive mothers. They also helped raise money for these organizations and donated supplies.

Theatre students playing the part of sick patients are cared for by students in the nursing and physical therapy programs. Theatre student Zachary Jackson feigns a head injury. ▶



Power of partnerships

GOAL 4: To strengthen interdisciplinary faculty and student outreach activities and partnerships in the local, national, and global communities.

Strategies:

1. Develop a virtual center that provides a database of CHS community outreach activities and lists opportunities for volunteerism.
2. Identify public needs that can be served by students and faculty in the College and initiate outreach programs that address those needs, capitalizing on faculty strengths and student interests.
3. Strategically target international institutions for development and expansion of collaborative agreements promoting faculty and student exchanges, study abroad sites, and collaborative research.
4. Utilize DHSA partnerships to enhance educational opportunities for students and faculty.



UD's Standardized Patient Program, a collaboration between the College of Health Sciences and the Theatre Department, is a unique way to prepare students for their roles as healthcare professionals.

Undergraduate theatre minors are trained to portray patients and family members so that health sciences students can practice in realistic scenarios without compromising the standard of care.

The program has recently been extended to UD's clinical partners at Christiana Care Health System and Nemours/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children.



be first to make health history...



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Health Sciences

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