



Zhihao Zhuang (second from the right), UD assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, is leading research to identify potent, new anti-cancer drugs.

Collaborations and partnerships encourage faculty, researchers, clinicians, and students to reach beyond their comfort zone to link areas that have not previously been connected. These collaborations assist in the challenge of looking at age-old questions in new ways. This approach contributes to the development of innovative solutions and creates an exciting environment for use-inspired research that is approached from a team level-where the barriers of disciplines disappear. As these partnerships are developed, connections are established that will foster discovery and advance the translation of research to clinical practice, shortening the pipeline to applications that can change lives.



Delaware Health Sciences Alliance



The Delaware Health Sciences Alliance is a powerful platform to accelerate interdisciplinary and translational research and education, which will change the lives of people today through its impact on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease.

Please continue to check out the DHSA website to learn about new developments and opportunities: www.delawarehsa.org. I also encourage you to contact me with your ideas and suggestions for the Alliance. We look forward to working together with all DHSA members to accelerate the interdisciplinary and translational research and education in our region.

Kathleen S. Matt, Ph.D.
Executive Director, DHSA
Dean, College of Health Sciences,
University of Delaware
ksmatt@udel.edu



Delaware Health Sciences Alliance



Partnerships to Promote Healthcare Education, Research & Service



Organized in March 2009, the **Delaware Health Sciences Alliance** comprises four partnering institutions:

- ❖ Christiana Care Health System (CCHS)
- ❖ Thomas Jefferson University – Jefferson Medical College (TJU–JMC)
- ❖ Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children (Nemours)
- ❖ University of Delaware (UD)

The DHSA aligns the resources and efforts of these institutions to create a unique, broad-based partnership, focused on establishing innovative collaborations among experts in biomedical research, educating medical and health professionals, and implementing health policy.

The **key priorities** of the Alliance are to develop world-class healthcare education, to enhance interdisciplinary “bench-to-bedside” research, and to provide better healthcare quality and delivery by combining the expertise and resources of the partner institutions to meet those priorities.

In helping to grow Delaware’s life sciences, biotechnology, and health and medical services industries, the Alliance has the potential to be a prime driver of the state’s economy.

A **memorandum of understanding** (MOU) defines the relationship among institutions, indicates a common path forward, and outlines areas of potential collaboration and expectations. The agreement covers the scope of activities, leadership and governance, financial management, grant management, intellectual property, information dissemination, liability and insurance, and conduct of research.

Joint faculty appointments between academic and clinical institutions allow for the hiring of outstanding faculty with academic homes in multiple institutions to facilitate the development of a strong research and teaching engine for the Alliance. These opportunities also provide a foundation for joint graduate programs and enhanced training and learning environments for students.

Joint educational programs allow for increased enrollment, clinical training for students, shared space, and multidisciplinary instruction by capitalizing on the diverse strengths of Alliance partners. Dual degrees maximize learning and enable students to earn two degrees as efficiently as possible while maintaining the integrity and high standards of each program.

Shared **DHSA pilot grants** support multi-institutional research. First-year projects focused on creating a bioinformatics framework to facilitate translational research among DHSA members, discovering compounds that will enable the development of potent new anti-cancer drugs, developing a better understanding of the molecular mechanism of dilated cardiomyopathy, and identifying the mechanisms underlying the development of advanced prostate cancer.

