

Foreword

In 1825, Thomas Jefferson established the nation's 10th medical school at the University of Virginia, which has become a nationally recognized academic medical center committed to providing outstanding patient care, educating tomorrow's health care leaders and discovering improved ways to treat disease. Physicians at the Health System serve patients from the regional area, southeastern United States and around the world. Many UVa physicians, nurses and other health care professionals are recognized nationally and internationally as leaders in their fields.

The Office of the Architect (OAU) and the Health System (HS) collaborated to create the Health System Area Plan – the first unified planning effort for this medical center. The Plan comprehensively addresses the unique circumstances of supporting a research and patient-serving community in the context of the University Grounds, and City of Charlottesville environs. Previous illustrative site plans have been developed to guide growth, but this Plan focuses on the overall environment to create a district emphasizing health and wellness for its total population of patients, visitors, physicians, staff and students, with a particular emphasis on creating a *sense of place*.

The timing of this planning effort is critical given the current intensive growth and renewal of the HS district. In the last five years, nine new buildings (630,000 gross square feet) have been developed or are under construction to support the future of this complex medical center.

With this expansive change is the opportunity to create a more holistic environment of wellness and healing. Given its historic progression and large service requirements, past HS development has largely focused on the advancement of buildings without addressing the comprehensive planning and infrastructure needed to form a holistic environment. An example is the need to incorporate *green space* to provide respite, relaxation and recreation for the diverse population of this community. Another example is *wayfinding and access* for patients, visitors and staff – who are currently challenged by finding their way to and within the complex, interwoven buildings. These and other goals form the basis of the objectives below – to create comprehensive amenities within and throughout this essential community of health and healing. The objectives of the Plan are:

- Enhance visitor and daily user experience
- Improve the safety of pedestrian, bike and vehicular circulation throughout the district
- Implement a unifying design concept for the district
- Strengthen the UVa Health System's image
- Create a campus-like environment
- Develop a landscape hierarchy and recreation opportunities
- Allow for future renewal and replacement of facilities

We believe this Plan embodies these objectives in a bold and creative fashion.

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Health System Capital Projects: 2005 - 2012

