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## UNC nutrition institute offers free programs

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UNC Chapel Hill's Kannapolis institute is rolling out its first program for the community this month at the North Carolina Research Campus.

The university's Nutrition Research Institute is offering five lectures free to the public over the next few weeks.

The programs will provide a look at the type of work the center will be doing at the campus, as well as introducing the institute to the community, said Dr. Steven Zeisel, the institute's director.

"We intend to be a world-class nutrition research institute," Zeisel said. "To do that, we need community involvement. ... We want to bring people ideas that are at the frontiers of nutrition."

The programs, part of the Appetite for Life Academy's "Frontiers in Nutrition" series, run from Feb. 26 to March 25 at the old Cabarrus Bank building in Cannon Village. The event already is booked up, although the group is accepting names for a waiting list.

Topics include the importance of nutrition during pregnancy; how parents influence the nutrition and physical activity level of their children; and the links between genetics and obesity.

About 200 people can attend each of the sessions, which Zeisel plans to offer annually each spring. A 1,500-seat auditorium on the campus will be able to accommodate larger groups once it is built.

The \$1.5 billion campus is being developed by billionaire Dole Food owner David Murdock. It is focusing on health and nutrition, in collaboration with N.C. universities, including UNC, Duke University and N.C. State University.

Zeisel is interviewing people for faculty positions at the Kannapolis campus. He expects to hire nine faculty this year and nine more next year. The first job offers are expected in April.

Support and administrative positions, along with faculty, will bring 180 to 300 people to the institute. The 126,000-square-foot, four-story building should be open by June.

It will include a specialty kitchen to prepare meals used in research; an area to measure body composition and fat; a metabolic chamber used to measure the amount of energy a person burns in a day; and other labs to handle research studies.

The research teams will focus on nutrition and brain development, obesity and nutrition, and cancer and nutrition.

### Waiting list

People interested in getting on the waiting list for the "Frontiers in Nutrition" series may call UNC Chapel Hill's Nutrition Research Institute at 704-250-5000 or e-mail [nri@unc.edu](mailto:nri@unc.edu).