

Dr. Juliann Sebastian named dean of the College of Nursing



Juliann Sebastian, Ph.D.

Juliann Sebastian, Ph.D., was named the new dean of the UNMC College of Nursing, effective Oct. 15, following approval by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Dr. Sebastian succeeds Virginia Tilden, D.N.Sc., who retired June 30 after serving nearly eight years as the college's sixth dean.

Janet Cuddigan, Ph.D., associate professor of nursing and chairwoman of the college's adult health and illness department, is acting dean.

"I am tremendously honored and excited about the opportunity to be part of this amazing academic health science center," Dr. Sebastian said. "I look forward to working with faculty, staff, students, alumni, colleagues from other health professions at UNMC, and community members and friends of the college, to build on the great work of Dean Tilden."

Dr. Sebastian comes to UNMC from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she has been dean and professor of the College of Nursing since 2006. Before that, she served as assistant dean for advanced practice nursing and professor at the University of Kentucky. Her areas of expertise are organization of care delivery systems, and in particular, care for underserved populations, academic nursing practice and nurse-managed centers, and doctor of nursing practice program curricula.

She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing and a doctorate in business administration from the University of Kentucky. She is board certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a public/community health clinical nurse specialist and is on the editorial board for the *Journal of Professional Nursing*.



Jennifer Larsen, M.D.

Dr. Jennifer Larsen named vice chancellor for research

Jennifer Larsen, M.D., the former associate vice chancellor for clinical research, is the new vice chancellor for research. She succeeds Tom Rosenquist, Ph.D., who headed UNMC's research program since 1999, serving first as director of research development and then as the first-ever vice chancellor for research in 2002.

Dr. Larsen joined UNMC in 1987. She developed the Clinical Research Center in

1995 and has been chief of the section of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism since 1997. She is the principal investigator on four grants, including two from the National Institutes of Health. Her research is focused on the metabolic consequences of organ transplantation and she has conducted clinical trials with Native Americans to create strategies to prevent diabetes in this population.

Dr. Rosenquist returns to the department of genetics, cell biology and anatomy to continue his research on congenital heart defects.

New program expands options in public health

Students who want a master's degree in public health now have more options through a new UNMC College of Public Health program, created in partnership with the Nebraska State College System and the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

PHEAST (Public Health Early Admission Student Track) targets sophomores who are enrolled at Wayne, Chadron or Peru State Colleges or UNK.

Students chosen for the program will pay no tuition during their last two years at participating

institutions and will be assigned a mentor from the College of Public Health. Partner institutions will each select up to three students, for a total of 12, to enroll in the program.

The areas of public health concentration include biostatistics, community health education, environmental and occupational health, epidemiology, public health administration, maternal and child health and community-oriented primary care.

Home Instead Center introduces wellness program

A new wellness program for individuals over age 50 or who are eligible for Medicare is available at the Home Instead Center for Successful Aging at UNMC.

Open to the public, EngAge Wellness employs a whole-person wellness approach to optimal aging through the six dimensions of wellness — social, physical, intellectual, spiritual, emotional and vocational.

EngAge Wellness features individualized fitness and wellness programming; state-of-the-art exercise equipment that is safe and easy to use; whole-person wellness education programs for lifelong learning; wellness coaching and personal training; and wellness research and educational opportunities.

For more information, contact Jeannie Hannan at 402-552-7227 or visit www.unmc.edu/homeinsteadcenter.

Dr. Rod Markin put in charge of business development and technology

After serving as interim dean of the UNMC College of Medicine for the past year, Rod Markin, M.D., Ph.D., has been named to the newly created position of associate vice chancellor for business development and chief technology officer.

Among his duties, Dr. Markin will work closely with departments to plan major equipment purchases and make sure that usage justifies the cost. In the spirit of UNMC's existing core laboratories, he will investigate opportunities for departments to better coordinate their use of equipment. He also will look for potential new uses for information systems and telemedicine and will



Rod Markin, M.D., Ph.D.

be involved in the rollout of the new electronic health record system at the medical center.

Dr. Markin joined UNMC in 1986, and is one of UNMC's most prolific inventors. He

received the Lifetime Achievement Award from UNeMed Corporation in 2009 for his innovative work in transforming the clinical laboratory through technology.

College of Nursing launches mobile clinic



The new Mobile Nurse Managed Clinic

In April, the College of Nursing launched a Mobile Nurse Managed Clinic to address Nebraska's shortage of rural health professionals who specialize in the care of older adults.

A \$300,000 federal stimulus grant funds the mobile clinic — a 38-foot, custom-built vehicle. The clinic fills a critical need for comprehensive geriatric assessments for fragile older adults in rural areas whose physical or mental conditions impair their functioning. The college is working with primary care physicians in communities that have identified a need for the service.

Staffed by three geriatric nurse practitioners, the mobile clinic will initially rotate service in Norfolk and Neligh with plans to expand to other locations. It will operate six days a month, then ultimately eight days a month.

The clinic features two exam rooms, a wheelchair lift, laboratory testing equipment and an EKG machine. It also is equipped with high definition video capability, which can be used as a tool for a live telehealth connection to a patient's care providers or to specialists for consultation anywhere in the state. The mobile clinic also will provide clinical training for 25 students enrolled in the college's geriatric nurse practitioner program.

RHEN director appointed to presidential committee



Patrik Johansson, M.D.

President Barack Obama has appointed Patrik Johansson, M.D., director of the Rural Health Education Network in the UNMC College of Public Health,

to the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health.

The advisory group is part of the National Prevention Council, which was created through the Affordable Care Act. The council plans to develop a national prevention strategy that identifies key priorities and actions needed to prevent and reduce our nation's leading causes of death and disability.

Dr. Liane Connelly named assistant dean of nursing division in Norfolk

Liane Connelly Ph.D., has been selected as assistant dean of the UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division in Norfolk. Dr. Connelly, who also will hold the title of associate professor, has been a member of the faculty at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan., for the past 18 years. She has served as chairwoman and director of the nursing department since 2004.

Prior to joining Fort Hays State University, Dr. Connelly was a staff nurse and nurse administrator. For seven years, she was a nurse administrator in acute, community and long term care settings in Nebraska and Michigan.

Her professional interests include nursing and health care administration, complexity theory, rural health, and alternate learning opportunities for clinical nursing.