



celebrating
research
excellence

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UNMC's mission is to improve the health of Nebraska through premier educational programs, innovative research, the highest quality patient care and outreach to underserved populations.

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UNMC recently celebrated the excellence of its corps of world-class scientists when we recognized our Distinguished Scientists. These outstanding researchers are selected after an exhaustive, objective evaluation of the research publications and extramural research support of candidates nominated by UNMC's deans and directors.

This year we recognized 27 Distinguished Scientists. You can read about the work of one of them, Dr. Iqbal Ahmad, in this issue of UNMC Discover. Dr. Ahmad's work in adult stem cells to restore vision offers breathtaking possibilities for visually impaired persons who currently have no hope for a cure. This work is of extraordinary importance and reflects the caliber of work being done by the UNMC Distinguished Scientists.

Each year, one of the Distinguished Scientists is lauded as the UNMC Scientist Laureate. The winner of this year's laurel wreath is Dr. Irving H. Zucker, who also is featured in this issue. Although there is not enough room in all of UNMC Discover to fully describe Dr. Zucker's incredible career, the pages devoted to this great scientist give you the flavor of both the man and his work, and should be required reading for young scientists.

The cover story, on breast cancer, focuses upon an area where UNMC excels in both the clinic and in the laboratory, and for which we are recognized as world leaders. Under the creative and energetic leadership of Dr. Ken Cowan, the breast cancer program gets bigger and better every day, and offers more hope to women locally and the world at large.

The stories with Dr. Cathleen Piazza on feeding disorders, Dr. Ben Boedeker on the high-tech laryngoscope project and Dr. Charles Enke on 21st-century radiotherapy will give you a good idea of the incredible breadth and depth of UNMC research excellence.

I salute these men and women of science and medicine. The high-level, intense research exemplified in the projects featured in UNMC Discover requires a level of commitment and creativity that can only be understood by sharing their stories through these pages, or by visiting us here at UNMC. Please know that readers of UNMC Discover, who haven't done so previously, are welcome to visit us in person or online (www.unmc.edu). We are justifiably proud of our scientists and the facilities in which they work.

Tom Rosenquist, Ph.D.
UNMC Vice Chancellor for Research