

Dr. John Reinhardt Named New Dentistry College Dean

John Reinhardt, D.D.S., a longtime faculty member and department chair at the University of Iowa, has been named dean of UNMC's College of Dentistry. The appointment is effective March 20.

Dr. Reinhardt, 50, has served on the University of Iowa dental faculty for 22 years. He was appointed assistant professor in 1980, associate professor



Dr. John Reinhardt

in 1984 and professor in 1990. Since 1988, he headed the Operative Dentistry Department. In 1997-98, he held the post of acting assistant

dean for patient services.

"Dr. Reinhardt is a nationally recognized department chairman who comes from one of the best dental colleges in the United States," said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. "We are absolutely delighted to add him to our leadership team. We couldn't be more pleased that he has accepted the position."

Dr. Reinhardt earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill., in 1971 and his dental degree from Loyola University in Chicago in 1975. He received a master's degree in operative dentistry from the University of Iowa in 1979 and a master's degree in public health from Harvard University in 1988.

"Dr. Reinhardt has been a leader in

the dental education field and has done extensive research in the use of amalgam in repairing tooth decay," Dr. Maurer said.

Grant Targets Rural Nursing Education

Carol Pullen, Ed.D., assistant dean of rural nursing education at UNMC, has taken new steps in the continued education of registered nurses in rural Nebraska.

Through a new five-year grant worth \$911,000, Dr. Pullen is moving rural nursing education to students' homes.

"The purpose of the grant is to provide diploma and associate degree RNs the opportunity to earn a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing)," Dr. Pullen said. "We have RNs who are working mothers who would like to take classes, but are limited by geographical location and financial resources."

Although the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice recommends that two-thirds of the nurse work force hold baccalaureate and higher education degrees by 2010, only 43.8 percent of all active nurses in Nebraska possess a bachelor's degree. This percentage is below the national average.

For more information, call (800) 626-8431, ext. 6270.

Grant to Explore Therapy Treatment for Lymphoma

A team of UNMC researchers has received a \$3.24 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study all major forms of B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and try to determine unique patterns of gene expression that

characterize the disease. It is hoped the study will enable physicians to better characterize and predict the behavior of each lymphoma at diagnosis, and lead to novel therapies for patients with lymphoma.

Wing (John) Chan, M.D., professor in the department of pathology and microbiology, is principal investigator of the grant, which will provide funding during the next four years. The multi-institutional study also involves Stanford University, British Columbia Cancer Agency and the National Cancer Institute.

Lymphoma is the second most rapidly rising cancer during the last 20 years with an estimated 85,000 new cases each year.

Nebraska Governor Taps Pharmacy Professor



Dr. Sam Augustine

Gov. Mike Johanns recently appointed Sam Augustine, Pharm.D., associate professor of pharmacy practice in the UNMC College of

Pharmacy, to serve a five-year term on the Nebraska Board of Health.

Dr. Augustine, who also is associate professor in pathology/microbiology in the College of Medicine and director of UNMC's Antibody Labeling Facility, began his term in September. He was one of 17 persons appointed to the board, which consists of health professionals and lay people.

Responsibilities of the board include

advising the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure on public health issues, rules and regulations necessary to implement laws enforced by the department and policies of the department concerning health professions and occupations.

Cattlemen's Ball Proceeds Benefit Cancer Center

The UNMC Eppley Cancer Center received \$140,000 in proceeds from the 1999 Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska held June 5 at the Robb Ranch near Lexington, Neb.

"This contribution from the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association is indicative of the tremendous support we receive from the state," said Kenneth Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., cancer center director. "We appreciate the donation and will put it to good use, improving treatment options and searching for methods of prevention for the various types of cancer."

The mission of the Cattlemen's Ball is to showcase rural Nebraska, promote beef in a healthy diet and support cancer research, said Shari Flaming, president of the Cattlemen's Ball Advisory Board.

The 2000 Cattlemen's Ball will be held June 3 near Arthur, Neb. on the world-famous Haythorn Ranch, which is located about 20 miles north of Ogallala.

For more information or tickets, call (402) 559-4401.

UNMC Researchers Announce Breakthrough in Study of Folic Acid

Researchers have created the world's first genetically engineered mouse model to explain how folic acid protects against common human birth defects. The development of this tool will enable researchers to better understand how the transport of folic acid within the cell protects against birth defects such as neural tube defects and cleft lip and palate.

They hope to learn which genes

benefit from folic acid, and learn more about the underlying processes of how the neural tube closes.

The results come from a five-year study funded with support from a \$700,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health and a grant from the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. The results were published in the Oct. 1 issue of *Nature Genetics*, an international monthly journal about research in genetics. Richard Finnell, Ph.D., director of the UNMC Center for Human Molecular Genetics, served as senior author.

"We know folic acid supplementation prevents birth defects, but we don't have any clue just how that comes about. It's a black box," Dr. Finnell said. "Now we've created a tool which allows us to get into the black box."

About one in 1,000 babies born will have neural tube defects and as many as one in 600 are born with cleft lip and/or cleft palate.

International Nursing Expert Joins UNMC Faculty



Dr. Dyanne Affonso

Dyanne Affonso, Ph.D. has joined the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing as the first Dorothy Hodges Olson Endowed Chair.

Dr. Affonso, who has an international reputation for her work with mothers and their young children, has served as dean of Emory University's School of Nursing the past six years. Prior to this, she worked at the University of California, San Francisco and the University of Arizona.

The endowed chair, the first at UNMC's College of Nursing, is part of a gift from Dr. Leland and Dorothy Olson of Omaha. The Olsons have been generous supporters of UNMC, funding the Olson Center for Women's

Health and the research arm of the Lied Transplant Center. The chair for the College of Nursing is endowed for \$1 million, which ranks among the top nursing chairs in the country.

Dr. Affonso, who received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Arizona, holds nearly \$1 million in total external research grants and has written three books relating to childbirth or raising children and more than 50 journal articles.

Her research efforts at UNMC will focus on school-based violence prevention, community-based prenatal care programs to reconcile infant and maternal morbidity rates, and testing models of patient care services to obtain better outcomes.

Statewide Poll Supports UNMC Research

Nebraskans overwhelmingly support medical research and recognize UNMC as a leader in this area, according to a statewide public opinion poll conducted in early November 1999.

The poll, designed by Research!America in consultation with Harris Poll, was conducted by Charlton Research Company in California, November 2-7. It provides a snapshot of how Nebraskans feel about medical research.

Research!America is a national non-profit, membership-supported alliance of groups and individuals dedicated to enhancing public education and advocacy for medical and health research. They have conducted similar surveys in 28 other states.

Other results of the statewide poll includes showing that:

- Nebraskans support UNMC's goal of doubling its research funding; and
- they favor using Nebraska tobacco settlement dollars to fund medical research.

The results also underscore the link between research and quality care and show that Nebraskans overwhelmingly identify UNMC as the site for research in their area.