

UNMC discover

EXPLORING RESEARCH AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

AND BEYOND...



advancing
health care
together

We value your opinion and welcome letters to the editor. Please send your letter to Discover Editor, UNMC, 985230 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-5230. Letters will be verified before they are printed.

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From the beginning of the 21st century, scientists at UNMC have excelled in two significant areas. Research grants and contracts have doubled and international reputations have grown with the publication of highly important findings in the most competitive journals.

This inaugural issue of UNMC Discover describes a small sample of that work, providing a valid snapshot of UNMC's biomedical research that is likely to improve the duration and quality of human life.

We are in the midst of building our second state-of-the-art, multi-story research facility and UNMC research is thriving, yet there are obvious threats to our ability to continue to grow. As is the case for all academic health centers, most of our research support comes from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Recent decisions in Washington, D.C., have resulted in an erosion of NIH support. Now, only one in seven scientists will receive the necessary funding support for a project. As a member of one of the NIH review panels, I have seen the thousands of outstanding projects that will never be completed because of this problem. There is no doubt this funding cutback is preventing thousands of disease-fighting, potentially life-saving discoveries from being made.

At UNMC, we have continued to beat the odds by winning an ever-increasing share of NIH funds and by competing successfully for support from other sources. But ultimately, the problem will have a negative impact upon the greater community of U.S. biomedical researchers and upon the advance of health care. Unless all scientists, and the public at large, join together to insist upon restoration of this monumentally successful and invaluable public resource, progress will proceed at a snail's pace.

Thomas H. Rosenquist, Ph.D.
UNMC Vice Chancellor for Research