

November 27, 2018

Dear Team,

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with family, friends, food, and gratitude. There are always so many things to be thankful for in our lives. One of the things at the top of my list is that Medicaid Expansion passed in Nebraska on November 6. Many people worked tirelessly on this ballot initiative for years, including some of our faculty, staff, students, and friends of the College. Because of their efforts, approximately 90,000 more Nebraskans are expected to gain Medicaid health care coverage, a great step forward for health equity in Nebraska.

APHA was great, as always. San Diego as the backdrop didn't hurt, either! Thank you to everyone who attended our reception in San Diego. It was great to see our alumni as well as faculty and staff from UNO, Creighton, Peru State College, along with friends from CDC and elsewhere. I am proud of all our student presenters and the work they shared. Congratulations to Rajvi Wani for winning the 2018 Best Student Paper Award (Medical Care section) and Magda Peck for receiving the Martha May Eliot Award for lifetime of service to improving MCH and exceptionally creative approaches to education, training, public health policy, and management dedicated to the health and well-being of others. Way to represent!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in interviews and/or surveys regarding our global health activities. The College of Public Health has contracted with Mac Otten, MD, MPH, to help review our global health activities and provide recommendations on the need and structure of a global health program. Dr. Otten has nearly four decades of public health experience, with much of that time at CDC, WHO, and consulting for global health organizations such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Dr. Otten will share his findings and recommendations with our faculty, staff, and students on January 24 from 12:00 – 1:00 in 3013.

As we strengthen our global health portfolio, I'm happy to share that UNMC was selected to become a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) Steering Committee. I'm humbled that I will be UNMC's representative member on the committee over the next four years. It's an honor that we were selected and a great opportunity to share our expertise to help improve global epidemic preparedness and responses.



The next couple of weeks are sure to be buzzing with activity. Service Learning/Capstone Experience presentations, convocation, and graduation. Dean Arcari and Dean Grimm will be my proxies as the above-mentioned Steering Committee meets for the first time on December 13-14 in Geneva, as luck would have it. I'll be there in spirit, proud of all that our graduates have accomplished in their journey to be Guardians of Public Health!

Always listening,

ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean