

December 1, 2017

Dear Team,

The month started out with the annual APHA meeting. Some of our awesome students presented their work during the conference. Kudos to Ms. Ndashe Tambudzai, Mr. Zijian (Egg) Qin, Ms. Jessica Semin, Ms. Xiaoting Sun, Ms. Rajvi Wani, Ms. Li Westman and Mr. Kerui Xu who received travel awards to present their abstracts. We also had our annual reception and it was great to see so many faces from UNMC, Nebraska and CDC. A thank you to Dr. Levy and her husband, Bert Russo, for opening their home to everyone. I hope there were some connections made for possible collaborative activities!

Congratulations to Harlan Sayles, our Silver U award winner for November. Harlan's work quality and accuracy ensures that we are a trusted source for survey design and statistical analysis. We're lucky to have him as a part of our team!

Join me in congratulating Dr. Schmid who has been selected to be the campus-wide Director of Assessment and Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies, effective January 1. We are very fortunate that she has graciously agreed to remain the acting Chair of Biostatistics until we complete our search and that we will retain her talent in the College as she remains here part-time.

Dr. Levy was recently honored by the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association with their Distinguished Alumna Award. This award honors her for typifying the school's tradition of excellence and bringing credit to the university by her accomplishments, achievements and humanitarian service. Congratulations to Dr. Levy!

This summer, I sent letters to our Panel of Advisors thanking them for their service and reconstituted a new Panel of individuals that I have met during my time in Nebraska, who have voiced or demonstrated their passion for public health. On November 20, we had the largest Panel of Advisors meeting since I became Dean. There was a great amount of energy and discussion of public health concerns submitted by members. They then deliberated on what the Panel's guidelines should be, the Panel's purpose and who would chair the group. Ms. Susan Thomas generously agreed to do so, with Ms. Freddie Gray agreeing to be vice chair. We will update our website and disseminate information regarding their deliberations to the College.

Drs. Meza, Levy, Medcalf, Cieslak and I traveled to China mid-month. In Beijing, we were guests of Capital Medical University where we presented at a joint research symposium and met with faculty, staff and students at their school of public health. We also had the opportunity to meet

with the Chinese CDC. We traveled on to Shanghai where we visited their Public Health Clinical Center and with Tongji University School of Medicine. We are in active discussions for a joint MBBS MPH program that would bring many great Chinese students to the U.S. to learn public health practice.

A special highlight this month was the Suzanne and Ward Chambers Global Health Fellowship presentations. I was humbled by four presentations including one on obstetric complications of child brides in Syria, and the students' work overseas to be guardians of public health.

I hope all of you had a Happy Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with family and friends. It's with gratitude that I'm able to share that a new scholarship for public health students was established in the name of two long-term UNMC employees at a dinner on Oct. 23. The Keith D. Swarts and Jayme D. Nekuda Scholarship in Public Health was made possible thanks to a generous gift from Keith's cousin, Carol Swarts, MD, an alum and longtime donor and friend of UNMC and the College.

Always listening,
Ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean