

November 2, 2020

Dear COPH Students, Staff, and Faculty –

Happy mid-semester! I hope classes are going well and everyone is continuing to adapt as best as possible in this pandemic era. I have been exceptionally busy from testifying on mask mandates at our City Council to our bi-annual Panel of Advisors meeting where several of our College faculty and staff have provided updates on the happenings at a local, national, and global level of the pandemic.

I have missed our fun fall events but have enjoyed taking time to speak with our faculty and staff at the Dean's Town Hall early in the semester. Conversing with students at the Fall Dean's Forum and during monthly *Student Conversations* has also been an enjoyable highlight as has teaching a course this semester.

Pandemic or not, our faculty, staff, and students continue to be recognized for their excellence. Kudos to Armando De Alba Rosales, MD, MPH for earning the 2020 President's Excellence Award in Innovation, Development and Engagement (IDEA). Kudos to Linda Ohri, PharmD, MPH for earning the 2020 Distinguished Alumnus Award and Jocelyn Herstein, PhD, MPH for earning the 2020 Early Career Achievement Award. Kudos to one of our PhD students, Abdoulaye Abdoulaziz, for enjoying a tiny piece of the 2020 Nobel Prize for working at the World Food Programme in Niger before joining the College.

And pandemic or not, we continue to grow. Welcome to the newest members of our team: Cheryl Beseler, Associate Professor, EAOH and Ran Dai, Assistant Professor, Biostatistics.

A few reminders to our faculty, staff, and students:

- **Election Day is this upcoming Tuesday, November 3rd** (as if the TV adverts, radio, newspapers, and mailboxes cramped full of flyers would let us forget). To support and encourage your participation in the voting process, UNMC provides each employee [Civil Leave up to two hours](#) if circumstances prevent an eligible employee from voting at any other time. Please discuss your plans in advance with your supervisor.
- If you still have not yet been to campus, we, as a college, are continuing to **practice safe measures**. Please email, Bradley.pfeifer@unmc.edu to request additional surgical masks, face shields, hand sanitizer, or cloth masks. If you do decide to come to campus please remember to use your [1-Check UNMC](#) app.



- [Flu shots](#) are now available on campus! Let's all be sure to protect ourselves, our family, and our fellow community members by getting vaccinated!

I continue to be humbled by each and every one of you for your hard work and for representing our College in the best light. I look forward to seeing what you all will do next and wishing everyone a safe and happy November. You can also follow me on twitter @UNMC_DrKhan for more of my daily, truly, random musings.

Always listening and learning,

ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean