

August 4, 2015

Dear Team:

I want to start off with a big thank you to everyone for “holding down the fort” during my deployment to Sierra Leone. As you know, I am here as part of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN). I was pulled from the field to be the national Epidemiology lead for the WHO. The transition includes a lot of management and meetings, but it is great exposure for our College and opens opportunities for our students. Hopefully you’ve been able to follow some of my deployment efforts through my Twitter account, @UNMC\_DrKhan.

Thank you to all who volunteered to participate on a Strategic Planning Workgroup. Your feedback and input throughout the planning process will be invaluable towards achieving our goal to become a world-class public institution in the four priority areas. If you were unable to participate in the volunteer survey, you may contact the workgroup co-chairs or Strategic Planning Steering Committee co-chair, Aleta Gaertner (agaertner@unmc.edu) and indicate your preference. A list of workgroup co-chairs, scheduled workgroup meetings, archived communication, and more can be found on the Strategic Planning Intranet site.

The COPH's reaccreditation process with the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is underway, requiring a self-study document due in Spring 2016 and a site visit in Fall 2016. Your insight and contributions are integral to the success of the self-study evaluation process. It is great to see many of you volunteered to participate on a CEPH Accreditation Self-Study Workgroup. It is not too late to join a workgroup—simply contact the workgroup co-chairs directly or Aleta Gaertner (agaertner@unmc.edu). Workgroup charges, descriptions, timeline, and more information is available on the COPH Intranet. Click the CEPH Accreditation button on the home page.

We are in final negotiations with a candidate for the new endowed Harold Maurer, MD, Distinguished Chair of Public Health. A contract should be in place for the candidate to start at the beginning of January.

Congratulations to Dr. Mo Siahpush who is the new PI and lead on the project "Remote Interventions Improving Specialty Complex Care (RIISCC)", funded at nearly \$10 million. The project aims to employ remote patient monitoring for 90 days post-discharge by utilizing telehealth consultations for participants at one of two community health centers located within the target geographic areas. Dr. Dejun Su and Dr. Fernando Wilson lead the evaluation component of this award. Mo will continue his role as Interim Chair of the Department of



Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health, while Becky Anderson has graciously agreed to take on more responsibilities to allow Mo adequate time to work on the project.

Congratulations as well to Bruce Grogan who has been selected to be part of the interim team who will oversee the operations of the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) International Studies and Programs for the next 9 to 12 months. This is an important and excellent opportunity for collaboration with UNO.

We had several PhD students defending their dissertations during the month of July with more to come in August. Best wishes and congratulations as they accomplish this milestone!

Always listening,  
Ask

**Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH**

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

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