

November 2, 2015

Dear Team:

What a busy month! Cathy packed my schedule with nearly a dozen speaking engagements this month. I was honored to speak at the Nebraska Nurse's Association annual meeting, at campus climate change events in collaboration with UNL, at Wayne State College, to the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Board of Directors, Live Well Omaha Summit, Lancaster County Medical Society, South East Rural Physician Alliance (SERPA), Creighton University and the Nebraska Center for Substance Abuse Research (NCSAR). I am truly thankful for having these opportunities to make the College of Public Health and the UNMC campus more visible.

A couple of my favorite things this month involved our students, of course. It was a delight to listen to our CEESP student presentations. These students impressed me with their work and commitment. The Dean's Forum was well attended and full of lively discussion. Thank you to our wonderful Student Association for organizing this event and our engaged students for participating!

The main person in the news this month was Dr. Melissa Tibbits who showed great poise at a recent Omaha Public Schools (OPS) meeting regarding their sex education curriculum. She was a hero for evidence based practice with her work to assess changes in the OPS curriculum for comprehensive sex education. She told the audience that comprehensive sex education is more effective than abstinence-based programs at preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The community is still quoting her, "That's not my opinion, that's a fact."

In support of our strategic priority to improve cancer prevention, we've continued our search process for the Director of the Center for Cancer Prevention and Population Science (CCPPS). A search firm was secured and the search committee met this month.

We were honored to host visitors from Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey this week. Ozgur Araz continues his work with them on obesity issues in their country and there was opportunity to start conversations about possible future collaborations focusing on global health security.

The Accreditation Self-Study process—where we evaluate ourselves as a College—is well underway with the Self-Study Workgroups making great strides in September and October. We formed a workgroup for Diversity, and the members elected Romeo Guerra as their Chair. Romeo joins the chairs from the 6 other workgroups on the Accreditation Self-Study Steering Committee. On November 8, we will host Mollie Mulvanity, CEPH Accreditation Specialist. She will spend the day meeting with each of the Accreditation Self-Study Workgroup chairs to

answer questions and offer expertise and insight on how we can strengthen our document. Details about the Accreditation Self-Study process are posted on the COPH Intranet.

We're headed toward the homestretch in my course, Special Topics in Epidemiology: Emerging Infectious Disease. We've had fabulous guest lecturers, so don't miss out on those remaining. The course is every Friday from 10:00 – 12:00 in MCPH 3013. Students can contact the Student Association President if they'd like to join me and guest lecturers for lunch after class.

Ending the month with one of my favorite holidays, Halloween, and on the way to Thanksgiving because the turkeys are already back in my yard.

I hope to see many of you in Chicago at APHA and at my reception the evening of November 2!

Always listening,
Ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean