

September 8, 2015

Dear Team:

Welcome back to our students, staff and faculty! It's one of my favorite times of the year and I'm excited to report we have 254 students this semester. It's been wonderful to see everyone at CPH Volunteer Day, the BBQ and in the hallways.

We've been busy over the summer making strong progress with our strategic planning priority areas of student experience, cancer prevention and control, community based health transformation, and health system transformation while maintaining our momentum toward making Nebraska the healthiest state by 2020. We had broad involvement from all CPH stakeholder groups--students, alumni, faculty, staff, community partners--with the consensus building and the action planning workshops. For more information about the four workgroups, remember to check the CPH intranet and click on the 2015 Strategic Planning button.

Our Council of Education for Public Health (CEPH) re-accreditation process is now entering the self-study workgroup stage. Invitations to join self-study workgroups are forthcoming, and we welcome your valuable input. Visit the CPH intranet page for CEPH Accreditation Info & Updates to read more information, such as descriptions of the self-study workgroups.

Thank you to our students who are so engaged in all we do. We've had a great response from many who volunteered to be on Strategic Planning and CEPH accreditation workgroups. Your participation in these important activities is critical in our evolution toward becoming a world-renowned college of public health.

Although there are many BIG things going on in the College, I'd like to highlight one in particular this month. The goal of the College, UNMC and the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center is to become a Comprehensive Cancer Center by 2020, a select designation by the National Cancer Institute. We have proposed the creation of the Center for Cancer Prevention & Population Science, dedicated to research and practice that will help prevent cancer and improve the lives of individuals and communities in Nebraska, our nation and around the world.

Dr. Ken Cowan and Preethy Nayar are co-chairing the search committee to recruit the Director of the Center who will be supported as a Program of Excellence funded by President Hank M. Bounds.

A welcome to several newcomers to our team. Dr. Tzeyu Michaud is a new Postdoctoral Research Associate and will assist Dr. Siahpush and Dr. Meza in data analysis, program evaluation, and payment model development in our College's new telemedicine project funded

by The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Elaine Saejung is our new Assistant Director of the Center for Biosecurity and Biopreparedness and Brian Madison is our new Exercise Outreach Specialist in the Center. And last but not least, Maria Teel, who has joined the Center for Reducing Health Disparities as the new Office Associate.

Congratulations to Analisa McMillan and Denise Britigan who were honored this month at the UNMC Annual Education Premier Banquet. They received the Courageous Teacher Award that honors innovative educators not afraid to take risks. Analisa and Denise created the first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in the University of Nebraska system.

A humble thank you to Fred and Eve Simon for their very generous gift to the College to support scholarships, enhance the student experience and program development, and to provide seed grants for research and faculty support. This will ensure we continue to have the best and brightest who will support the future of public health.

This summer I was, once again, delighted to assist the WHO and Ministry of Health in Sierra Leone with the Ebola response as their lead for national epidemiology activities. This unprecedented outbreak has uncovered novel aspects of disease transmission and there should be many ways we can provide support in the future. I saw Epidemiologists from all over the world and often missed the expertise we are teaching our students.

I'm excited to be teaching a course this semester; Special Topics in Epidemiology: Emerging Infectious Disease. I've opened the course to the UNMC campus and Nebraska Medicine. The course is every Friday from 10:00 – 12:00 in MCPH 3013. Come join us to learn from an exciting list of guest presenters! I also look forward to lunch on Fridays with speakers and students. Students can contact the Student Association President if they'd like to join me.

Always listening,  
Ask

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

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean