Alumni Council News

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Alumni:

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the work of our College of Medicine to emphasize student and resident well-being. UNMC and our College of Medicine is a national leader in regards to this work. With two full-time personnel dedicated to well-being, campus wide events, and regular evaluation and assessments of burnout, UNMC and the College of Medicine stand out above other campuses. As alumni, we should all be proud of this heightened focus and how it has made our medical students and residents increasingly successful.

I am also pleased to share that we are planning to re-envision reunion for College of Medicine alumni. This fall, we have planned an all class reception on the UNMC campus on Friday, October 11 for award presentations and recognition of our half century club. That will free up Saturday, October 12 for individual class gatherings. I understand that historically, this schedule had been popular. It is my hope we will provide the best possible experience for all classes participating in our reunion activities. We have not changed the reunion format in the past ten years and it time we offered some new programming. As these changes are rolled out to honor year alumni, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Catherine Mello, the UNMC Alumni Director.

Sincerely,

Brett Kettelhut, MD ’82
President, College of Medicine Alumni Council
Preceptor Tool-Kit Available
UNMC's Interprofessional Academy of Educators (IAE), also sometimes referred to as the Teaching Academy, has recently made available a Preceptor Tool-Kit. The Tool-Kit is a resource available for clinical preceptors to access resources focused on basic skills and "just in time" resources. The tool-kit is a combination of short videos on topics such as: "Being an Effective Preceptor," "Sounding," "Evaluation and Grading," and much more.

![Preceptor Video Series](image)

The College of Medicine Alumni Council made a contribution to the IAE that helped in creating this tool-kit. The tool-kit is accessible online [here](#). Alumni preceptors are also eligible to apply for induction into the Academy. Learn more [here](#).

John S. Latta Lectureship Set for April 18, 2019:
President of the National Academy of Medicine to Visit UNMC

“Future of Health and Medicine: the Impact of Emerging Science and Innovation”

April 18, 2019
12 - 1 PM
UNMC Truhlsen Campus Events Center - Omaha

Presented by: Victor J. Dzau, MD,
President, National Academy of Medicine

Lunch is available for the first 80 attendees.
Off-campus guests may park in garage lot 6 at the top. Enter from 41st and Dewey streets.

**RSVP to alumni@unmc.edu or call 402-559-4385.**
The lecture is open to alumni as well as UNMC faculty, staff, and students. It will be recorded and available online following the event. [Learn more about Dr. Dzau](#).
New Programming for Alumni Reunion Weekend October 11-12, 2019

Mark your calendar for UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend with the theme "Living the Legacy," October 11-12, 2019 in Omaha. Honor years are those ending in "4" or "9."

The reunion will feature an all class reception on the UNMC campus on Friday, October 11 where the members of the Half Century Club will be honored and awards will be presented. Class gatherings will be held on Saturday, October 12 around Omaha.

Reunion Hotel Information:
Omaha Marriott Downtown - Capitol District
222 N. 10th Street
Omaha, NE

Special rate of $134/night is available through September 13, 2019 or until the block is full. Call (402) 807-8000 and ask for the UNMC Alumni Weekend block or book online here. A shuttle will run between the UNMC campus and the hotel during reunion weekend events.

If you are interested in serving as a class leader for your class, please contact Catherine Mello.

Alumni Council Hosts Scholarship Reception

The College of Medicine Alumni Council hosted a reception February 13 honoring its scholarship recipients. The Alumni Council provides $130,000 annually in scholarship support to College of Medicine students. Pictured above (L to R); UNMC Alumni Association President, Kyle P. Meyer, PhD; James Mark, guest; M4 Laura Zima; COM Alumni Council President Brett Kettelhut, MD; and Dave Goldner, MD.
Join us for Annual Showdown in O-Town Baseball Game
Tuesday, April 23, 2019
Nebraska Cornhuskers vs. Creighton Bluejays Baseball Game
Tailgate 5-7 PM @ The Diamond Room
Game 7 PM @ TD Ameritrade Park - Omaha
Tickets are $25/person and include dinner, beverage and game ticket.
Click here to purchase tickets

Thank you for supporting the College of Medicine Innovation Fund

Your investment in the UNMC College of Medicine Innovation Fund supports the people and programs of your alumni association, which now welcomes all graduates with automatic membership. It also supports student engagement and well-being, provides access to test banks and simulation resources, helps to fund white coat ceremonies and facilitates student networking and professional development opportunities. With your support, current students will continue your tradition of giving because they'll understand their contributions will help launch careers just as your generosity helped launch their own. To learn more about the College of Medicine Innovation Fund, view the FY18 COM Innovation Fund Impact report.

UNMC Alumni Association 2018 Year in Review
2018 was a fun and busy year filled with many events. Click the image below to watch a short recap.
UNMCAA Launches Alumni *Connections Project* blog

On January 2, 2019, the UNMCAA launched the [Connections Project Blog](https://blog.unmc.edu/alumni-association/), a place for UNMC Alumni to share real-world information and advice with students and fellow #unmcalumni. Information is in short written or video posts. All content lives on the blog [https://blog.unmc.edu/alumni-association/](https://blog.unmc.edu/alumni-association/) and is shared via the UNMC Alumni Association’s [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/UNMCAlumniAssociation/) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/unmc_alumni).

Topics covered are well-being, professional skills, personal finance, time, talent, and treasure. If you want to see a specific topic covered or if you want to provide content for a blog post, please [contact us](mailto:alumni@unmc.edu). Alumni can participate from anywhere in the world, so connect with us today!

**College of Medicine News**

**A Message from the Dean**

When I think of March in the College of Medicine, the first thing that comes to mind is not my NCAA bracket – it’s Match Day – the day that all our fourth-year students learn where they will be doing their residency training.

If you’ve never been to Match Day before, you truly have to see it to believe it. The excitement in the room as everyone reveals where they are going is really something to behold. You might call it our own unique form of March Madness.

The process to get to Match Day also was quite different, although a number of similarities remain. As today, we applied through a central application center and made interview visits from November to January. However, it also was a different world. There was no Internet or personal computers or cell phones.

Everything was done the old-fashioned way. We submitted our paper applications through the U.S. mail and corresponded with our potential residency sites by mailing letters and documents back and forth or – heaven forbid – by placing expensive, long-distance phone calls. The rates varied depending on what time of day you placed the call – the lowest rates were on weekends or after 11 p.m. on weekdays, but unfortunately no one would be in the office at those times.

[Read the rest of Dean Britigan's message here.](mailto:bradley.britigan@unmc.edu)

My best to you all of you!

Sincerely,

Bradley Britigan, MD
Dean, College of Medicine
Send 90th Birthday Greetings to Dr. Binhammer

On April 28, Dr. Binhammer will turn 90! The Alumni Relations Office is collecting birthday greetings to share with Dr. Binhammer on this milestone. Please utilize this link to share your birthday greetings and we will pass on to Dr. Binhammer.

Happy Birthday, Dr. Binhammer!

Class of 2019 Learns Residency Placements

During Match Day on Friday, March 15, 128 students of the UNMC College of Medicine learned where they will do their physician residency training.

Forty percent of UNMC students are staying in Nebraska for their training, and 64 percent matched in primary care, which includes family medicine, internal medicine, internal medicine/pediatrics, pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology.

Click here for a full list of residency matches for the class of 2019.

Click here to view a photo album from Match Day at UNMC.
Student Profile: Meet Tiffany Truong, Class of 2022

Tiffany Truong was born in Albion, Neb., and lived for some time in Newman Grove, Neb., before finally setting in Lincoln. Her mother, Bich Chau, and father, Thu Truong, are both from Vietnam and immigrated to the United States after the end of the Vietnam War. Both taught her the importance of work ethic and the value of science from day one.

Tiffany majored in chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before coming to UNMC. As an INBRE Scholar, she entered the program after completing her sophomore year of college upon recommendation by a college professor. Students in the program are given a two-year scholarship and spend 10 weeks each summer conducting research.

Here is some more information about Tiffany, in her own words:

Has science always been a part of your life?
From a young age, I’ve inquired about the world around me, including how and why it works. Much to my parents’ slight annoyance, I was constantly asking them questions about everything, to which they responded by giving me my first encyclopedia. From then on, my passion for science has continued to grow. Science is not just a subject in school. It governs the way natural phenomena operate. It is a challenging mixture of logic and cognition, and it is the pursuit of truth in a world of doubt.

Why did you choose to participate in the INBRE Program?
I chose to participate in the INBRE Program because biomedical research is of great importance and interest to me in my future career. The program places emphasis on professionalism, self-motivation, and scientific thinking. These are all skills that I wish to improve on and perfect before becoming a real-world scientist. I believe the INBRE Program goes above and beyond the instruction taught in standard classrooms and prepares young scientists for STEM-related careers and a lifelong appreciation of science. Above all, it is an engaging and fun program to be involved in and exposes scholars to amazing students and mentors across the state.

What do you hope to gain from the program?
I hope to become a better scientist, researcher and student. I hope to gain a greater appreciation of not only biomedical research, but of the scientific process and how it is utilized in everyday life. It is imperative that I continue chemical biology research because it is an area of interest that continually fascinates me. Each day, there is an opportunity to harness the power of chemical biology to improve current medical practices and develop novel chemical tools to impact the scientific world.
Students Participate in Trivia Night

The College of Medicine’s Student Wellness Advocate and House Officer Assistance program manager hosted a new event in January that was a trivia night for all medical students and residents. Over 130 attendees competed for prizes including gift cards to the UNMC Bookstore, the cafeteria, and oil changes at Charlie Graham (nearby UNMC), among others. The event was an enjoyable evening for all and is the latest in a series of programming aimed at promoting student and resident well-being.

Upcoming Events Planned for Resident Program Alumni

**UNMC Department of Neurological Sciences Faculty & Alumni Reception**
*During the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting*
Tuesday, May 7, 2019
6 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Embassy Suites Philadelphia Center City - Fairmont Room
Philadelphia, PA
RSVP to Fallon Watts

**UNMC Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery**
Resident Alumni Continuing Education & Reception
May 31 – June 1
Omaha, Nebraska
Questions? Send us an [email](mailto:)

**UNMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation**
50th Anniversary
October 17-19, 2019
Omaha, Nebraska
Questions? Send us an [email](mailto:).
UNMC News

UNMC team plays key role in pancreatic cancer discovery

UNMC has established itself as one of the leading research centers in the country for pancreatic cancer -- perhaps the most deadly form of cancer.

Taking on pancreatic cancer is a monumental task. It's estimated that 92 percent of people diagnosed with pancreas cancer will die within five years.

Thankfully, incremental strides are being made.

One of the recent breakthroughs was reported earlier this month in *Nature Medicine*, and a UNMC research team under the direction of Pankaj Singh, Ph.D., professor, Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases, played a key role in the discovery. Read more.

Brian Boerner, MD appointed leader of Interprofessional Academy of Educators

Brian Boerner, M.D., ’06 has been named the director of UNMC’s Interprofessional Academy of Educators (IAE). Dr. Boerner, an assistant professor in the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine, received his M.D. from UNMC in 2006, then completed his internal medicine residency and endocrinology fellowship at UNMC. He was inducted as a member of the IAE in 2017.

Geoffrey Talmon, M.D., ’03 founding director of the IAE, stepped down to move forward in his new role as assistant dean for medical education in the UNMC College of Medicine. Read more.

Hank Bounds, PhD Steps Down as President of University of Nebraska system

University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds informed the university community on Monday, March 25 that after four years leading NU through a period of transformational collaboration and momentum, he is stepping away from administration to transition to other educational and consulting work.

Bounds, a Mississippi native who became NU’s seventh president on April 13, 2015, will step down late this summer and return to the South with his family. Bounds said that after more than 20 years in executive roles, he had decided to spend his time differently going forward. Read More.
Nebraska Flooding Impacts our University Community; Flood Relief Center Established

The recent flooding that has devastated parts of the Midwest has impacted many UNMC colleagues, students and communities. To meet immediate needs, UNMC, Nebraska Medicine and the University of Nebraska at Omaha have opened a Flood Relief Donation Management Center. Read more.