Message from the President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I hope this message finds you doing well as we approach the end of another year. I am pleased to report that your Alumni organization had a great year, and we could not make our work possible without the support of our alumni. Whether it was student engagement events, alumni outreach, and support for scholarships and the planned Wigton Heritage Center, we have made a substantial impact this year. In addition, we made a change to our reunion weekend format that overall worked out well for our honor classes. We will have a similar schedule in 2020, with our awards reception on Friday, October 23 and class parties on Saturday, October 24. (You may recall in recent years class parties were held on the Friday night of reunion weekend). A special recognition goes out to our three outstanding award recipients this year: Peter Whitted, M.D. ’79, Sheritta Strong, M.D. ’04 and Kelly Caverzagie, M.D. ’01. These individuals represent some of the best among us and we are very proud of their professional accomplishments.

I want to thank you for all you do to support UNMC and our College of Medicine. In light of this season of giving, thanks for considering a gift to the College of Medicine in 2020. All the best to you and yours for a prosperous year ahead!

Sincerely,

Brett V. Kettelhut, M.D. ’82

College of Medicine Alumni Host Class Reunions

In October 2019, several College of Medicine classes gathered in Omaha as part of UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend. In addition to class parties, alumni participated in the welcome back lunch with featured speakers from the UNMC Center for Global Health Security, toured the iExcel Visualization Hub and the UNMC Cancer Center, toured Omaha on Ollie the Trolley, and attended the alumni awards reception. Overall, over 400 alumni and guests participated in the reunion activities.

View more photos from class parties. View more photos from the Awards Reception. View more photos from the other weekend events.
Save the Date: Alumni Reunion Weekend Oct. 23-24, 2020

In 2020, classes ending in a “0” or “5” are considered honor years. For example, the class of 1970 will be celebrating its 50th anniversary reunion. Alumni in one of these classes who are interested in helping to coordinate a reunion for your class, please contact Alumni Director Catherine Mello.

Nominate a Colleague for an Alumni Award

The College of Medicine Alumni Council is seeking nominations for the 2020 alumni awards. The award categories include:

- Distinguished Alumnus Award
- Early Career Achievement Award
- Dedication to Student Excellence Award
- Honorary Alumnus Award

Click here to view a description of the nomination form and find instructions about how to nominate.

Click here to view a list of past award recipients.

Alumni Council Sponsors M4 Interview Night

The College of Medicine Alumni Council hosted the M4 Interview night at the beginning of the academic year. The annual event is an opportunity for students to learn tips for their residency interviews. The event included a presentation with interview tips from Kimberly Schenarts, Ph.D., and a panel of current residents who offered their personal advice and answered student questions. Rishi Batra, M.D. ’14 and general surgery house officer organized the panel (pictured at left). The program was followed by a reception.

Ed Boyden, Ph.D. to Deliver John S. Latta Lectureship

The College of Medicine Alumni Council will host the annual John S. Latta Lectureship on April 7, 2020 at UNMC in Omaha. The lecturer, Ed Boyden, Ph.D., is Y. Eva Tan Professor in Neurotechnology at MIT, professor of Biological Engineering and Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT’s Media Lab and McGovern Institute for Brain Research, and was recently selected to be an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in 2018. Dr. Boyden will present on Tools for Analyzing and Repairing Complex Biological Systems.

More information about the 2020 lecture will be available as it gets closer.

About the Latta Lecture

The John S. Latta Lecture was established by the College of Medicine Alumni Council in 1980 to commemorate John S. Latta’s dedicated service to the College of Medicine. Dr. Latta taught embryology and histology at UNMC from 1921 until 1963, and served a 20-year stint as the chair of the anatomy department. Dr. Latta became one of the most admired and respected faculty members of the college. He passed away in 1989 at the age of 94.
Upcoming Events for Alumni and Students

Alumni Night on the Court

Wednesday, February 26, 2020
UNO & UNMC Alumni Party @ a Maverick Men's Basketball Game vs. North Dakota Fighting Hawks
Reception: 6 PM | Game: 7 PM
Baxter Arena, Omaha NE
This is a great, family-friendly event and a fun time to interact with alumni colleagues from both UNMC and UNO! Tickets are $15/person. Buy tickets here.

Showdown in O-Town

Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Nebraska Cornhuskers vs. Creighton Bluejays Baseball
Tailgate: 4:30 - 6:30 PM at the Bullpen
Game: 6:30 PM at TD Ameritrade Park
Stay tuned for ticket purchasing details.

UNMC Alumni Association Cruises
The UNMCAA and Go Next are pleased to offer exceptional cruise opportunities for you, your family, and your friends. Below are the 2020 trip offerings and more will be available in 2021! Learn more or book here.

Gaelic Inspiration
- July 12-22, 2020
- Dublin to Dublin
- Discover the lush landscapes and fascinating heritage of Ireland aboard Oceania Cruises’ Nautica on this spectacular nine-night cruise.

Forests & Fjords of Alaska
- July 30 - August 10, 2020
- Seward to Vancouver, BC
- Explore the forests and fjords of Alaska’s coastal cities on this unforgettable eleven-night trip aboard Oceania Cruises’ Regatta.

Cosmopolitan Havens
- November 3-11, 2020
- Rome to Monte Carlo
- Sail to some of the most cultured cities on the western Mediterranean on this seven-night cruise aboard Oceania Cruises’ elegant Marina.
Dean Britigan Visits Alumni in Scottsbluff & Kearney

In recent visits this fall to central and western Nebraska, dean of the College of Medicine Brad Britigan, M.D. has visited alumni and communities to discuss health care needs and partnership opportunities. These events are made possible by local hosts; and we’d like to thank those who helped out with these events. In Scottsbluff, the event was hosted by Lisa Scheppers, M.D. ’98 and her husband Michael Wharton, who is College of Nursing alum. In Kearney, local hosts were: Bill Vosik, M.D. ’67, David Cantral, M.D. ’87, and Lissa Woodruff, M.D. ’93. Thanks to these individuals for their involvement and support.

Thanks for Supporting the COM Innovation Fund

Your investment in the UNMC College of Medicine Innovation Fund supports the people and programs of your alumni association. It also supports student engagement and well-being, provides access to test banks and simulation resources, helps fund the white coat ceremony 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 FY19 COM Innovation Fund Impact report. Rebecca Brooks, a first year medical student, says thank you.

UNMC Alumni Association Year in Review

Click on the image below to play the 1 minute video.
College of Medicine News

Season's Greetings

Thanks for all you do to support the College of Medicine. I wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous holiday season and a happy new year!

Bradley Britigan, M.D., Dean
UNMC College of Medicine

Annual Holyoke Society Event Hosted at UNMC

The University of Nebraska Foundation hosted the annual Holyoke Society reception at the UNMC Durham Outpatient Center atrium on October 10. The Edward A. Holyoke, M.D., Ph.D., Society is a permanent recognition society dedicated to the memory and many contributions of a legendary professor, mentor and friend of the UNMC College of Medicine. The Holyoke Society recognizes and applauds physicians who provide support by making a gift of $100,000 or more to the UNMC College of Medicine. The donors who attended the reception heard presentations about the Center for Advanced Surgical Technology. These donors help enhance the margins of excellence at our College of Medicine - and we thank you!

College of Medicine alumnus C. Stratton Warden, M.D. ’76 is a recent inductee to the Holyoke Society. Dr. Warden visited UNMC in September with fellow Holyoke member and College of Medicine classmate William Nash, M.D. ’76.

Pictured at right (L to R): Catherine Mello, UNMC Alumni Director; William Nash, M.D. ’76; C. Stratton Warden, M.D. ’76 and Kellie Esters, Director of Development University of Nebraska Foundation.

Dr. James O'Dell Honored with Endowed Chair in his Name

James O'Dell, M.D. ’77, a notable UNMC faculty member was recently recognized with the honor of having an endowed professorship named after him. The James R. O’Dell Endowed Professorship will be awarded to internal medicine residency program directors for continued development of the program. In October 2019, he celebrated 35 years as director of the program.

For more information or to support the endowed professorship, contact Mike Clancy with the University of Nebraska Foundation.
New leaders in Internal Medicine to arrive Feb. 1

Peter Mannon, M.D., and Roslyn (Roz) Mannon, M.D., will join the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine in leadership roles on Feb 1. Both currently hold positions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

Dr. Peter Mannon has been named chief of the division of gastroenterology/hepatology in the department. He also will direct the Paustian Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center.

Dr. Roslyn Mannon will join the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine as associate chief for research in the division of nephrology and as vice chair of research mentoring and academic development for the department. Her clinical and research expertise is kidney transplantation.

Trivia Night for Students & Residents

College of Medicine students and residents took part in the annual Trivia Night supported by the College of Medicine Innovation Fund and organized by COM Student Advocate, Kimberly Schenarts, Ph.D., and House Officer Assistance Program Manager, Susan Smith. The 125 participants had an "absolutely fantastic" time. This event came at a pivotal time when the students had just completed intense testing, so it was great to see everyone take a break from the rigors of their daily schedule and enjoy time together in a relaxed environment.

COM Faculty inducted into Inter-Professional Academy of Educators

Eleven College of Medicine faculty members were among the twenty-four total inducted into the UNMC Inter-Professional Academy of Educators in the fall of 2019. The College of Medicine faculty include:

- Danish Bhatti, M.D.
- Jason Burrows, M.D.
- Kristy Carlson, Ph.D.
- Jayme Dowdall, M.D.
- Nathaniel Goodrich, M.D.
- Jason Langenfeld, M.D.
- Kimberly Latacha, Ph.D.
- Courtney McLean, M.D.
- Aleisha Nabower, M.D.
- Samantha Simet, Ph.D.
- Arun Swaminathan, M.D.

In addition, emeriti faculty members Dr. Jim Newland and Dr. Myrna Newland were also inducted.

Read more about what it means to be inducted into UNMC's "Teaching Academy."

View the preceptor tool-kit, a product created by the Academy and supported in part by the College of Medicine Alumni Council.
Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities

2020 Lymphoma Study Group & Hematology Highlights: A Post ASH Review 
Learn more
February 7-8, 2020
Hilton Omaha

ECLS Team Symposium: Advancing ECLS in Our Region and Beyond Learn more
March 27-28, 2020
Omaha, Neb.

2020 Pan Pacific Lymphoma Conference Learn more
July 20-24, 2020
Big Island, Hawaii

Other continuing education offerings are available to view here; including online offerings.

UNMC News

Leaders announce preliminary plans for campus transformation

The landscape of the medical center campus will be transformed. Recently, UNMC and Nebraska Medicine leaders announced plans that call for the construction of a new, state-of-the-art facility on the northwest corner of the current medical center campus.

A significant part of this project could open the door to opportunities for new federal, state and local partnerships, which would further establish UNMC/Nebraska Medicine as one of the most elite academic medical centers in the world, capable of preparing for and treating the most complex diseases.

As the project is still in its infancy, specific costs will be established as it takes shape. Early estimates project millions of new square feet, a size and scope that is in line with other prominent academic medical center projects nationally. Architectural renderings and program specifics are not yet available. Read the full story here.

Board of Regents Name Walter 'Ted' Carter NU President

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents named Walter “Ted” Carter, VADM (Ret.), the eighth president of the University of Nebraska system in December.

Carter, the immediate past superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy whose tenure included records in graduation rates and student diversity and a top national ranking by Forbes Magazine, began transition work as NU’s president-elect on Dec. 16. He will assume overall leadership on Jan. 1, succeeding Interim President Susan Fritz, Ph.D.

Admiral Ted Carter.
UNMC Has a New Front Door

In September 2019, campus leaders and invited guests gathered to thank philanthropists Bob and Polina Schlott for their contributions in making possible the new southern entrance, which has been named the Medical Center Plaza. The green space and lighted walkway, located on the northwest corner of 42nd and Leavenworth streets, features 18 ceramic columnar sculptures created by Omaha artist Jun Kaneko. The sculptures are incorporated into a grove of mature trees. Benches line the walk and provide visitors, medical center employees, and students the opportunity to seek calmness and beauty amid a tranquil park-like setting. View photos [unmcalumni.org] from the opening ceremony.

In Remembrance...

Charles (Charlie) Andrews, M.D.
Former UNMC Chancellor Charles Andrews, M.D. passed away in November 2019 at the age of 94. Dr. Andrews was known as a quiet force who transformed the medical center and ushered in a modern era of transplantation and research during his tenure from 1983 to 1991.

Ways to Stay Connected to the College, UNMC & the UNMCAA

- College of Medicine Alumni Facebook
- UNMC Alumni Association Facebook

- Download the (free!) UNMC Mobile App to connect with the University and the Alumni Association! Available in your regular app store.

- UNMC Alumni Association Twitter
- College of Medicine on Twitter

- The UNMCAA Connections Project Blog is a place for UNMC Alumni to share real-world information and advice with students and fellow #unmcalumni. Information is shared in short written or video blog posts.
  - Some topics that have been covered are wellbeing, professional skills, personal finance, time, talent, and treasure. Send us an email if you'd like to learn more or get involved.
  - Alumni can participate in this from anywhere in the world, so connect with us today!

- UNMC Alumni LinkedIn Group
• Sign up to become a University of Nebraska Advocate to stay up to date on how actions of the Nebraska Legislature impact the University and higher education.