College of Pharmacy Alumni Newsletter - Spring 2020

College of Pharmacy News

A Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends:

I know it has been a tumultuous, stressful, anxiety-filled few weeks. The College of Pharmacy and myself are forever thankful for your support. We greatly appreciate all you do for the College and University of Nebraska Medical Center.

On Monday, March 29, the College moved all classes online and have been winding down our simulations and skills-based labs. The cooperation we have observed from both students and faculty has been remarkable. As a College, we were considerably ahead of other programs on campus. Four years ago the College went mostly paperless in the classroom by providing iPads to our students. We transitioned to handouts and nearly all exams have been given online since then.

We appreciate the alumni and friends of the College who have served as preceptors for our Advance Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE). Many of our partner institutions are no longer accepting students and we understand. We are looking forward to connecting post-COVID-19 when we return to normalcy. For those preceptors who were able to continue, our students requiring APPE are greatly appreciative as they will be able to graduate on time. We did make a few adjustments in APPE requirements. The accrediting body for pharmacy colleges requires 1,440 hours, while the College requires 1,600 hours. Since many healthcare partners could no longer take students, we scaled back the requirement to 1,440 hours. As of the end of March, only 5 students need an April rotation to meet the graduation requirement, all others had reached 1,440 hours with our specific program requirements.

I am happy to report that our 2019 class had a 100% first-time pass rate on the NAPLEX licensure exam. We were 1 of only 3 schools to achieve this milestone out of 144 pharmacy schools. We are proud of our students and our preceptors who play a tremendous role in this accomplishment.

Our honors convocation and commencement will take on a different look this year as a result of COVID-19. On either May 7 or 9, 2020, we will be conducting online ceremonies in a similar fashion to our existing celebrations. Details are still being worked out.

Everyone--alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students, play a significant role in the accomplishments of the College. Although we don’t know what the future will bring, we do look forward to reconnecting with all of you in the days ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of the College. UNMC has a central repository of COVID-19 information located here that you may find useful.
Sincerely,

Keith M. Olsen, Pharm.D. ’80, FCCP, FCCM
Dean and Professor

**Under the Microscope: College of Pharmacy Research Success**

Chancellor Gold interviews Dean Keith Olsen, PharmD, about research underway at the UNMC College of Pharmacy.

Click the image at left to watch the short video, or [click here](#).

**Students Enjoy Point-of-Care Testing Elective**

College of Pharmacy students were treated to a Point of Care Testing elective on Saturday, February 29. The course, led by Dr. Ally-Dering Anderson, is widely popular and gives the students hands on training in POC testing.

**College of Pharmacy Faculty Earn Awards**

- Distinguished Scientist Kim Scarsi, PharmD [Read more](#)
- Distinguished Scientist Aaron Mohs, PhD [Read more](#)
- Impact in Education Kristen Cook, PharmD ’05 [Read more](#)
- Spirit of Community Service Ally Dering-Anderson, PharmD ’86 [Read more](#)
College of Pharmacy Earns U.S. News & World Report Ranking

The College of Pharmacy was ranked 28th in the nation in a recent announcement by U.S. News and World Report. Read more here.

Welcome New Faculty Members

Carrie McAdam-Marx, Ph.D.
Professor and director of the master's program
Read more

Don Ronning, PhD
Professor of pharmaceutical sciences
Read more

Alumni Council News

Welcome New Alumni Council President, Greg Schardt PharmD

This spring, Greg Schardt PharmD '09 was selected as the president of the College of Pharmacy Alumni Council, succeeding Amy Hornig, PharmD '07, who served in the position for five years. He is System Director - Pharmacy Mail Order for CommonSpirit Health, the nation’s largest non-profit health system.

"I would like to thank Amy for her work leading our organization these past few years," Greg said. "She has been an outstanding advocate for us and has brought together alumni and students alike to support the College and instill new programs and priorities. It has been a pleasure working with her!"

Alumni Council is Seeking Volunteers

The College of Pharmacy Alumni Council is seeking volunteers to be a part of the Alumni Council. We meet three times per year with Dean Keith Olsen, with distance participation available, to work together to find ways to engage alumni and students. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Catherine Mello, UNMC Alumni Director.

Upcoming Alumni Virtual Lunch and Learn Facebook Live Events

The UNMC Alumni Association and UNO Alumni Association have partnered to host a series of webinars for alumni. They will be held as follows:

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic
Tuesday, April 7 from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. (central time)
Presented by Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.
To watch a recording of the live stream, click here.
**The Wisdom of Elders in the Midst of COVID-19**  
Tuesday, April 14 from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. (central time)  
Presented by Steven P. Wengel, M.D. ’86, ’90 & Julie L. Masters, Ph.D.  
A link will be shared via email closer to that date.

**Amy Pick, PharmD, Visits Alumni in Scottsbluff as part of UNMC Alumni Association's Outreach**

In February 2020, the UNMC Alumni Association hosted its annual UNMC in the Desert event where members of UNMC’s leadership team visited alumni and donors in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area. Amy Pick, PharmD ’03, assistant dean for Experiential Education in the College of Pharmacy, attended and met with alums from all UNMC colleges.

Pictured above is a group of College of Pharmacy alumni with Dr. Pick.

**Congratulations to These Outstanding Alums!**

*Have news to share? Send us your news using this [form](#).*

Scott Knoer, PharmD ’96, was named the 13th CEO/EVP of the American Pharmacists Association. [Read the announcement](#)

Patrick Fuller, PharmD ’99, was appointed as a member of the ASHP Commission on Credentialing by President-elect Thomas J. Johnson.

**Mark Your Calendar for Alumni Reunion Weekend: Oct. 23-24, 2020**

In 2020, classes ending in a “0” or “5” are considered honor years. Alumni in one of these classes who are interested in helping to coordinate a reunion for your class, please contact [Catherine Mello](#).
Thanks for Supporting the COP Innovation Fund

The College of Pharmacy Innovation Fund was created to support the work of the UNMC College of Pharmacy in partnership with the College of Pharmacy Alumni Council and the UNMC Alumni Association. Donations to the Innovation Fund support: the people and programs of the UNMC Alumni Association; continuing education for the college’s preceptors through sponsorship of the annual preceptor development retreat; the college’s digital initiative--by providing apps for all student iPads, and new this year, support for the NAPLEX prep material for each fourth year student. View the FY19 Impact report.

Anthony Donovan, a fourth year pharmacy student, says thank you.

Fourth year students, pictured below, drop by the Dean's office to pick up their NAPLEX prep guide, provided in part by the College of Pharmacy Innovation Fund donors.

UNMC News

U.S. Again Reaches Out to Nebraska During Health Crisis

With the spread of the novel coronavirus, the UNMC Global Center for Health Security has been working constantly with federal, state and local partners.

The list of initiatives involving biopreparedness on the med center campus is extensive.

The Global Center for Health Security features the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit, National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC), National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) training and the recently opened Training, Simulation and Quarantine Center (TSQC), just to name a few. The TSQC is a facility designed to train federal personnel to treat highly infectious diseases and to create a place to monitor people who may have had a high-risk exposure. The TSQC, made possible via a contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is not being used for monitoring in this case because of the large number of people involved.

For up-to-date, science-based information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and/or UNMC websites.
NExT: A Nebraska Transformational Project

UNMC leadership have been working on a new initiative, the “NExT” project. NExT is a "once-in-a-generation" opportunity for the State of Nebraska to catapult itself into national and international prominence. This project will take place over the next decade with funding being provided by a series of public/private partnerships. The project will be based on the northwest corner of the current UNMC/Nebraska Medicine campus at an estimated core construction cost of up to $2.6 billion over a seven-to eight-year period. Read more here.

A New Way to Show your UNMC Pride

UNMC has worked with the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to offer the specialty license plate featured at right. This proposed plate has been approved by the DMV, but 250 applications are necessary for the state to begin manufacturing the plate. If you are interested in learning more or requesting a license plate, please click here. Each applicant must commit to paying the $70 fee annually for this special plate. Please note that this is only available for those who live in Nebraska.

Third Annual "I Love NU Day" Held

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, more than 200 alumni, students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered in Lincoln at the state capitol building to show the love for the University of Nebraska’s four campuses: UNMC, UNK, UNL, and UNO. Attendees had the opportunity to be recognized in chamber with the Nebraska Legislature, as well as meet with senators to share a thank you to them for their service and why they love their university. View pictures here.
Ways to Stay Connected to the College, UNMC & the UNMCAA

- College of Pharmacy Alumni Facebook
- College of Pharmacy Facebook
- UNMC Alumni Association Facebook

- Download the (free!) UNMC Mobile App to connect with the University and the Alumni Association!

- UNMC Alumni Association Twitter
- College of Pharmacy 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