

Global Connections

Quarterly Newsletter from the Office of Global Engagement
April 2022



A message from the Office of Global Engagement leadership



There are several holidays this time of year, and I offer my happy wishes for your celebrations. I invite you to attend the UNMC Holi celebration on April 9 at 11:00 a.m. outdoors at the Student Plaza. I also encourage you to invite others, including our international students, staff, and scholars, to join you in your celebrations. This makes a wonderful opportunity for us to learn about each other and celebrate cultural events.

Thank you for the overwhelming support of the fundraiser for Afghan refugees. More than 880 items were collected and taken to the Lutheran Family Services offices for distribution to local refugee families. See below for more information.

UNMC is one of the co-sponsors of an international conference on “COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region: Lessons Learned in Research, Policy, Public Health, and Clinical Practices,” which will be held May 30-31, in Gaziantep, Turkey. Several people from the UNMC community will present at this conference. Registration is now open. See below for more information.

As you will see in this issue of Connections, the Office of Global Engagement continues to support our international students and grow our international initiatives.

Please follow our [website](#) and [Twitter](#) to stay in touch with us. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about our programs.

Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement

Student Profile: Mahmudul Hasan interns at Moderna



Mahmudul Hasan, who goes by “Hasan”, had the opportunity to intern at the newly created Moderna Genomics Division from mid-September to mid-December 2021. He is a 4th-year UNMC graduate student in the department of pharmaceutical sciences.

“The skills I learned while doing my graduate research at UNMC have actually shaped me in such a way that when I went to Moderna, I was able to run independent experiments with my

manager’s input,” Hasan said. “I think this training I went through, the struggles, hardships, and crazy working hours made me a better scientist.”

[Read More Here](#)

UNMC campuses rally to support SAGH fundraiser for Afghan refugees

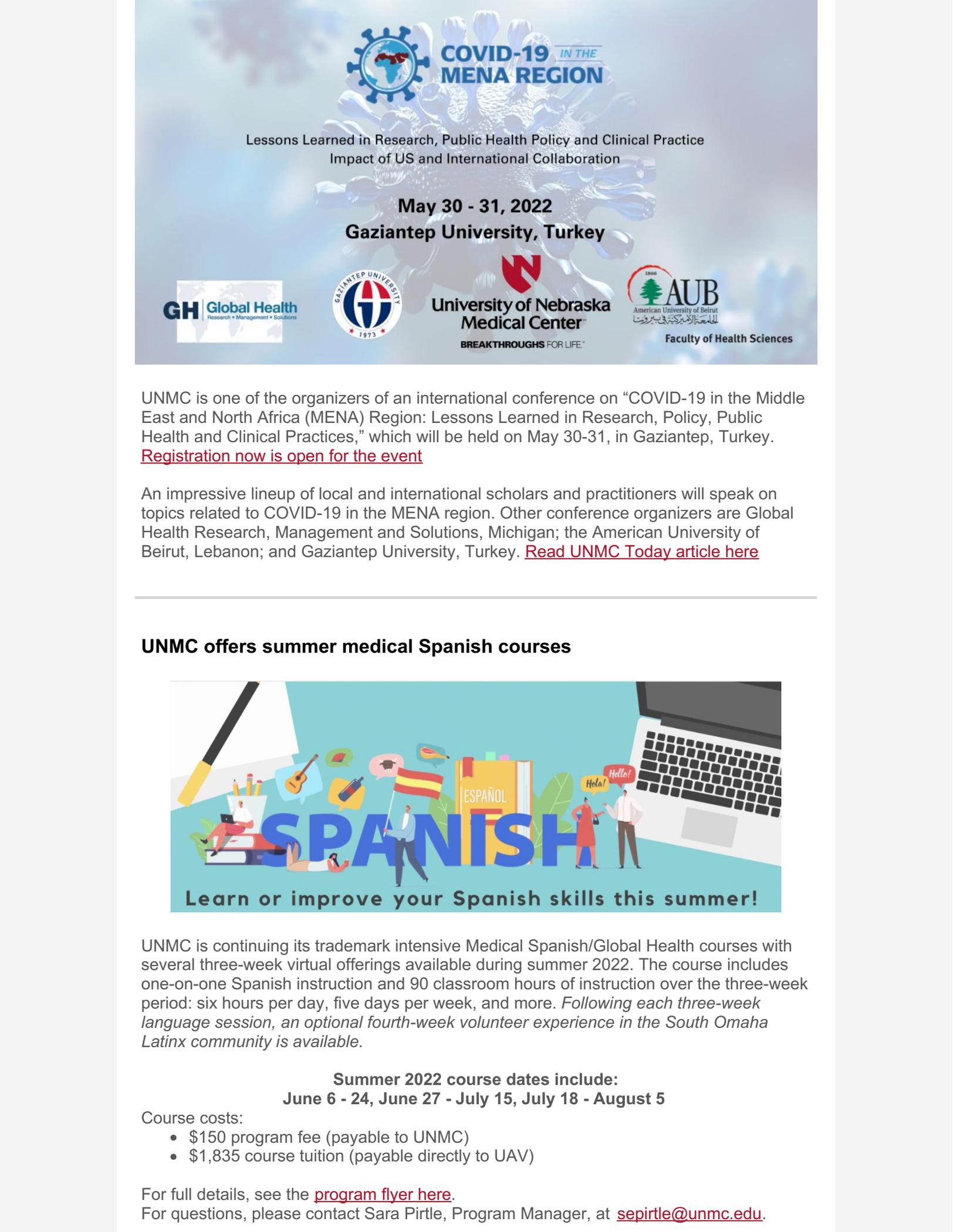


Middle: Samantha (Sammi) Yates, SAGH representative at CON-Lincoln

During the month of February, the Student Alliance for Global Health (SAGH) collected new items for donation to Afghan refugee families in Omaha. Collection bins were located throughout the UNMC and CON-Lincoln campuses. Thanks to the generosity of UNMC faculty, staff, and students, SAGH collected more than 800 items. Among the dozens of different items donated were 107 body soaps and cleansers, 90 tubes of toothpaste, 79 toothbrushes, and 79 bottles of shampoo and conditioner. The collected items were taken to the Lutheran Family Services offices in Omaha and Lincoln for distribution to local refugee families.

Thank you to all of the students, staff, and faculty at our campuses that demonstrated their support of this fundraiser.

UNMC co-sponsors international conference



COVID-19 IN THE MENA REGION

Lessons Learned in Research, Public Health Policy and Clinical Practice
Impact of US and International Collaboration

May 30 - 31, 2022
Gaziantep University, Turkey



UNMC is one of the organizers of an international conference on “COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region: Lessons Learned in Research, Policy, Public Health and Clinical Practices,” which will be held on May 30-31, in Gaziantep, Turkey.

[Registration now is open for the event](#)

An impressive lineup of local and international scholars and practitioners will speak on topics related to COVID-19 in the MENA region. Other conference organizers are Global Health Research, Management and Solutions, Michigan; the American University of Beirut, Lebanon; and Gaziantep University, Turkey. [Read UNMC Today article here](#)

UNMC offers summer medical Spanish courses



UNMC is continuing its trademark intensive Medical Spanish/Global Health courses with several three-week virtual offerings available during summer 2022. The course includes one-on-one Spanish instruction and 90 classroom hours of instruction over the three-week period: six hours per day, five days per week, and more. *Following each three-week language session, an optional fourth-week volunteer experience in the South Omaha Latinx community is available.*

Summer 2022 course dates include:
June 6 - 24, June 27 - July 15, July 18 - August 5

Course costs:

- \$150 program fee (payable to UNMC)
- \$1,835 course tuition (payable directly to UAV)

For full details, see the [program flyer here](#).

For questions, please contact Sara Pirtle, Program Manager, at sepirtle@unmc.edu.

UNMC welcomes new international students for spring 2022 semester



On January 6, UNMC welcomed six new international students. The Office of Global Engagement held an all-day international student orientation with the new students. The orientation covered a wide variety of topics from academics to safety to even the weather. Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement, delivered a personal welcome message during the orientation.

The six new students represented five countries: China (1), India (2), Iran (1), St. Kitts and Nevis (1), and Saudia Arabia (1).

The students are entering programs of study including Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences-IGPBS (1), Medical Sciences Interdepartmental Area-MSIA (1), Nursing (1), and Pharmaceutical Sciences (3).

Three students receive Sieu Mei Tu scholarship



From left to right: Jing Hu, Yanfei Li, and Yufeng Lin

In 2019, Dr. Harold Tu, a former UNMC faculty at the College of Dentistry, and his family established the Sieu Mei Tu Scholarship with the University of Nebraska Foundation to support the University's international collaboration and help support outstanding UNMC students. The 2021-2022 Sieu Mei Tu scholarship recipients are Jing Hu, Yanfei Li, and Yufeng Lin, all from the College of Allied Health Professions.

The scholarship is named after, Dr. Tu's mother, Mrs. Sieu Mei Tu, who immigrated to the United States in 1956, worked hard, sacrificed, and persisted in supporting her children to be educated and successful. ([Read the story of Sieu Mei Tu here](#))

"We are so grateful to the Tu family for creating this endowment in their mother's honor to

support our international students,” said Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement.

2022 international photo contest winners coming soon...



The Office of Global Engagement would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's photo contest. We received many wonderful entries and our judges are hard at work selecting the winners. We plan to announce the winners in April in a UNMC Today article. Stay tuned!

Office of Global Engagement releases 2021 annual report

The OGE is proud to announce the release of its 2021 annual report.

[View the full report here](#)



2021 RECAP



487
Visa-Sponsored International Participants

60
Countries



 UNMC established three new international agreements in Bangladesh, Mexico, and Nigeria.



223
International Students

43
Countries

71%
Enrolled in Graduate Studies

 UNMC welcomed 73 new international students to campus in 2021.

For the second consecutive year, UNMC has been named a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program top-producing institution by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. 

Recent achievements by UNMC faculty & staff

Irish ambassador tours Davis Global Center

Daniel Mullhall, the Irish ambassador to the United States, and Kevin Byrne, Ireland's consul general to the midwestern United States, joined Douglas County Commissioner James Cavanaugh Feb. 28 on a tour of UNMC's iEXCEL program in the Davis Global Center.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

Campus forum shows Ukraine invasion hits home

The invasion of Ukraine weighs heavily on many within the UNMC community. On Friday, the UNMC community gathered online to offer one another support, share concerns and learn more about self-care skills and campus counseling supports. The town hall was led by the UNMC Wellness team of Steve Wengel, MD, Kati Cordts, PhD, and Ali DeLizza, PhD.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

Impact in Education: Nada Fadul, MD

Nada Fadul, MD, is the recipient of the Interprofessional Education Scholar Award. The award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to interprofessional education locally, regionally or nationally.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)



Request for ideas

Have an idea for a story or want to discuss an international program or event?

Have a suggestion for our newsletter?

Please contact us at global@unmc.edu with your ideas and suggestions/comments.

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