



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

**Office of Global Engagement**

**Annual Report**

**2022**



# Letter from the Associate Vice Chancellor



Friends and colleagues,

The Office of Global Engagement saw many highlights in 2022. Many of our international activities resumed and we responded with an expanded portfolio of activities and partners. Our success depends collaboration with our partners, and we would like to thank the UNMC faculty, staff and students who work with us to promote international diversity, foster global understanding and awareness, and advance internationalization efforts throughout the UNMC community.

The practice of having international delegations on campus was reestablished with grant with Open World and Friendship Force of Greater Omaha to host five Ukrainian physicians and a facilitator who visited UNMC.

UNMC was one of the co-organizers of the international conference “COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa Region: Lessons Learned in Research, Policy, Public Health, and Clinical Practices,” held May 30-31, in Gaziantep, Turkey. Plans are underway for another conference in Morocco in 2024.

UNMC welcomed 66 new international students in 2022. These students represented 22 countries and participated in 14 academic health sciences programs across all colleges.

The International Student Association hosted its second Iftar potluck in April. We plan on expanding this in future years.

Celebrate Culture, held in May, was created in conjunction with the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month.

Thank you for your continued support of the Office of Global Engagement as we diligently work to provide excellence to our international visitors and UNMC campus.

Sincerely,

Jane Meza, PhD  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement





## Mission and Vision



### Mission

The Office of Global Engagement (OGE) promotes international diversity, fosters global understanding and awareness, and advances internationalization efforts throughout the UNMC community.

### Vision

Our vision is comprehensive global engagement for Nebraska and beyond, advancing UNMC's world-class education, cutting-edge research, and renowned public service to meet the complex challenges of today's interconnected world.

### What we do:

The OGE is committed to providing the UNMC community with high-quality opportunities to enrich and expand its experiences with the people, cultures, and contemporary concerns with all regions of the world. The Office of Global Engagement is responsible for:

- Providing support to and advocating for the university's international community including students, faculty, staff, and scholars;
- Facilitating and coordinating diverse opportunities for global learning experiences;
- Coordinating bilateral exchange programs for health science rotations and research with UNMC's global partners;
- Developing and managing observership and training programs;
- Managing the US immigration and visa sponsorships of international students, faculty, staff, and visitors on behalf of UNMC;
- Collaborating with UNMC departments to ensure compliance with UNMC policies including compliance training, immunizations, and export control;
- Developing and maintaining academic collaborations and business partnerships;
- Developing capacity in the healthcare sector;
- Bolstering economic development in Nebraska and the world;
- Coordinating various international and cultural engagement opportunities.

# 2022 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## International Students

UNMC welcomed 66 new international students in 2022. These students represented 22 countries and participated in 14 academic health sciences programs across all colleges. The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to cause challenges for our international students due to the limited availability of visa services at some embassies and consulates and international travel restrictions. Some of the accepted international students have had to defer the start of their UNMC programs.

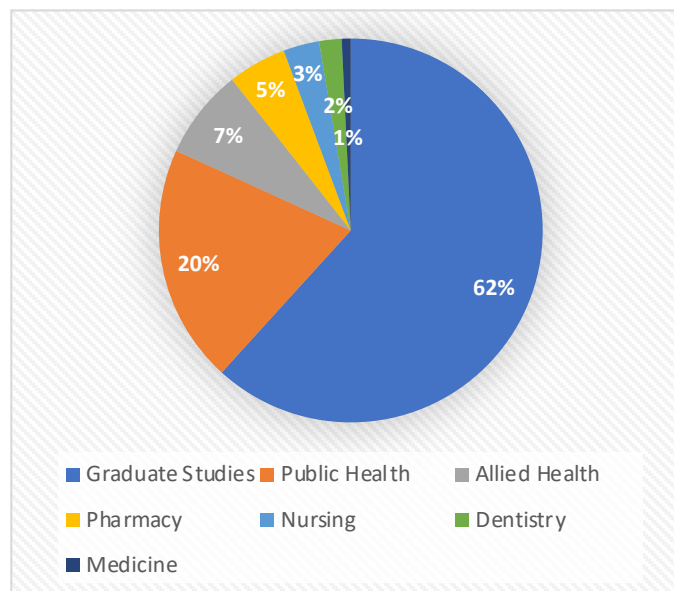
## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

The Office of Global Engagement sponsored international student orientation activities for new students matriculating for the spring and fall semesters during 2022. Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement, welcomed the students at both sessions. The core of the International Student Orientation (ISO) consists of formal presentations on variety of topics.

An integral part of the ISO is the popular international student ambassador program, which has been offered for the past decade. UNMC students volunteer to serve as ambassadors and are matched with incoming students. The purpose of this program is for the ambassadors to help the incoming students have a successful transition to UNMC.

In January 2022, we welcomed five new students from five countries for the spring semester ISO. For the fall semester, we welcomed 61 new students from 22 countries. Following the structured spring and fall sessions, the Office of Global Engagement (OGE) organized trips for the new students to the Henry Doorly Zoo and the Nebraska Crossing Outlet Mall. In addition, OGE hosted an International Student Welcome Lunch and Ambassador Appreciation Sept. 7. More than 125 international students and scholars were in attendance. To show appreciation for the global ambassadors for their time and dedication, they were gifted with red UNMC frisbees. Also hosted was a football tailgate & watch party for the first Husker football game and a UNO hockey game.

International Student Enrollment by College, 2022



Fall 2022 International Student Orientation

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The OGE continues to support the International Student Association (ISA). In April, ISA hosted the traditional Holi, a festival of colors event, on April 9, followed by an Iftar potluck on April 30. With the infusion of new international students in the fall, ISA hosted a “meet & greet” event on Oct. 21. Kicking off the International Education Week festivities, held Nov. 12-18, was the Diwali festival of lights celebration, followed by an alumni panel discussion, study abroad presentation, ping-pong and badminton tournaments, a cultural expo and international-themed bingo.





ISA was honored at the 2022 Student Awards Ceremony Ceremony as the recipient of the Diversity and Inclusion Program Award. The award recognizes successful and organized planning and implementation of a program that promotes cross-cultural learning and interaction, appeals to a broad audience, and provides a meaningful exchange of ideas and makes a significant impact on the UNMC community.

### CELEBRATE CULTURE

Celebrate Culture, held in May, was created in conjunction with the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. One hundred people took part in the interactive tables of calligraphy, lantern making, origami, tassel making and trivia. Attendees received bags full of snacks from Asian countries. The event was coordinated by the UNMC Office of Global Engagement (OGE) and UNMC Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA). Sponsors included the AAPI Student Association; CSSA; International Student Association; UNMC HR-Employee Relations, Organizational Development & Diversity; and OGE.

### Global Learning Opportunities

Following a nearly two-year hiatus for student international travel, travel restrictions began to ease in 2022, with UNMC students embarking on global health opportunities beginning in the summer months. From May - Dec., UNMC students traveled to Bangladesh, Canada, Kenya, Germany and Norway. Their activities encompassed research to clinical electives and ranged from three weeks to three months. They represented the colleges of allied health professions, graduate studies, medicine, nursing and public health..

### MEDICAL SPANISH

UNMC continues its tradition of being a leader in offering comprehensive Medical Spanish programming. Following an abrupt shift from in-person courses in Mexico to intensive virtual classes in 2021, UNMC has expanded the number of virtual four-week course offerings for fourth-year medical students. Each course features three weeks of individual Spanish instruction, six hours per day, Monday through Friday, taught by linguistic instructors from UNMC's partner institution, Universidad Anáhuac Veracruz (UAV). Six virtual one-hour lecture on topics relevant to the Latinx population rounded out the didactic instruction. The final week focused on shadowing in a local health system and researching social determinants of health for the Latinx population in Omaha. Shirley Delair, MD, associate dean, office of diversity, equity and inclusion, college of medicine, directs the immersion Spanish program. The Spanish instruction is provided by the UAV linguistic department, under the direction of Rocio Rio Rojas. Variations of the Immersion Spanish course are offered for UNMC residents, health care professionals and community members. Planning is underway to re-introduce the traditional in-person Medical Spanish/Global Health Course during 2023-2024, while continuing to offer the Immersion Spanish options via Zoom.

## Programs

### SEED PROGRAM

The UNMC Global Health Opportunity Program (GHOP) for Summer Experiential Education (SEED) in Physical Therapy was designed for international physical therapy and rehabilitation students interested in developing a global perspective on rehabilitation, learning physical therapy education and research, and practice in the United States. This year's course was presented as a three-week online summer program from July 11-29. More students were able to join this program online than had previously come to Omaha in years past. The 2022 course welcomed 33 SEED students from seven different universities in Asia. UNMC faculty from the division of physical therapy education at the college of allied health professions lead online lectures and discussions with the students. During the student online round tables, SEED students had the opportunity to meet with UNMC Physical Therapy Students.

### STUDENT ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH (SAGH).

Throughout 2022, 12-18 UNMC students volunteered at the Clair Memorial United Methodist Church mobile food pantry every third Saturday of the month. The drive-through service provides food for 200+ families every month. Student Alliance for Global Health (SAGH) volunteers assist with preparing donation boxes and, in the summer months, harvest and package produce from the church's garden plots. During the pantry's open hours, volunteers load food into vehicles. Each recipient family receives a large assortment of canned and packaged goods, fresh and frozen produce, frozen meat and assorted beverages.

In February, SAGH collected new items for donation to Afghan refugee families in Omaha. Thanks to the generosity of faculty, staff and students, SAGH collected more than 800 items. In October and November, SAGH organized an adult diaper collection to benefit the medical relief efforts in Ukraine.

During the fall semester, SAGH continued its tradition of offering beginner and intermediate Spanish classes. The Beginning Spanish class was taught virtually by Angela Delgado, MD, MPH, who resides in Managua, Nicaragua. Dr. Delgado was formerly the in-country director of UNMC's Medical Spanish/Global Health course when it was offered in Nicaragua. She has also supervised UNMC students participating in SAGH's medical service trips to Nicaragua. Through generous funding from the office of diversity, equity and inclusion and the college of medicine alumni council, students in the intermediate Spanish course received a subscription to Doc Molly, an interactive audio forum for learning medical Spanish. The audio lessons were supplemented by group discussion facilitated by the SAGH Medical Spanish co-chairs.

Photos left to right: In 2022, Student Association for Global Health (SAGH) collected adult diapers for the medical relief efforts in Ukraine. Viktoriya Mashinson, College of Pharmacy student and SAGH board member, is shown here.

SAGH collected more than 800 items for Afghan refugee families in Omaha. Shown here is Samantha Yates, a student from the College of Nursing in Lincoln.





## UKRAINE PHYSICIAN TRAINING

The office of global engagement partnered with Washington DC-based Open World and Friendship Force of Greater Omaha to host five Ukrainian physicians and a facilitator who visited UNMC Sept. 23 - Oct. 1, 2022 to study the organizational structure of national and regional disaster medicine systems.

In addition to in-depth discussions with select UNMC units and the Douglas County Emergency Management Agency, the week included a luncheon hosted by local philanthropist Mike Yanney. A special guest at the luncheon was former Nebraska governor and senator Ben Nelson, who serves as the chairman of the Open World Leadership Center.



Ukraine physicians with Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement.

Bangladesh delegation with Chancellor Jeff Gold, MD and Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement Jane Meza, PhD, after signing a memorandum of understanding.



## Partnerships

The OGE's partnership activities include reviewing and documenting all international agreements, strengthening relationships with existing partners, and developing new strategic partnerships. UNMC currently has about 60 active or pending international agreements for education, research, and business collaborations in 20 countries. In 2022, six new agreements were signed with partners in Bangladesh, China, Czech Republic, Jordan, Norway and Rwanda.

## BANGLADESH DELEGATION

Seven delegates led by the Honorable Minister Zahid Maleque of the Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare visited UNMC Dec. 19-20.

Wael ElRayes, MBBCh, PhD, co-director of the UNMC College of Public Health's Center for Global Health and Development, and Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement, hosted the visit.

The trip focused on opportunities for different UNMC teams to collaborate around specific health needs in Bangladesh, including the establishment of a national cancer program, a national organ transplant program, a vaccine research and development program and health security and biopreparedness.

Before leaving campus, the Bangladeshi delegation met UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, and signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the shared intentions to collaborate.





## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

UNMC was one of the co-organizers of the international conference “COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa Region: Lessons Learned in Research, Policy, Public Health, and Clinical Practices,” held May 30-31, in Gaziantep, Turkey.

A group from UNMC was among the 175 leading health care researchers, clinicians, and policymakers from 23 countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, to present state-of-the-art research in various areas related to the pandemic. The focus was on the development of partnerships through which international institutions can work together to better prepare for future pandemics in the region and around the globe.

UNMC’s participation included leadership from the college of medicine, college of public health, global center for health security, iEXCEL and the office of global engagement.

Another international conference is being planned for 2024 in Casablanca, Morocco.

## Map of active or pending partnership agreements by country, 2022



Source: Office of Global Engagement • Created with Datawrapper



Support Services

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

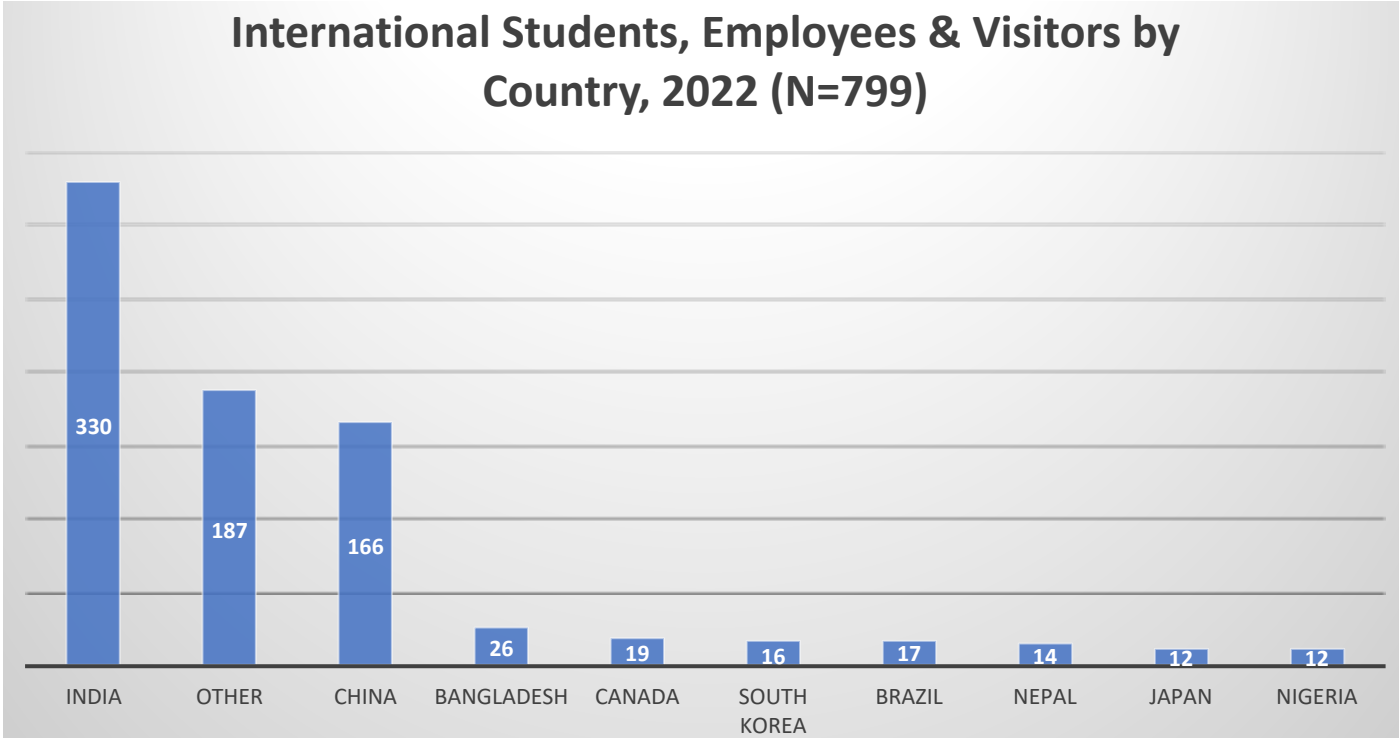
Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UNMC continued to host international visitors for programs ranging from a few hours to one year. The OGE worked with the office for the Vice Chancellor for Research to ensure that essential international visitors were screened and complied with UNMC’s COVID-19 policies. The OGE ensures that the visitors meet immunization requirements, including for COVID-19, and compliance training modules in addition to UNMC Export Control requirements prior to arrival on campus. In 2021, the OGE registered 66 international visitors representing 16 countries.

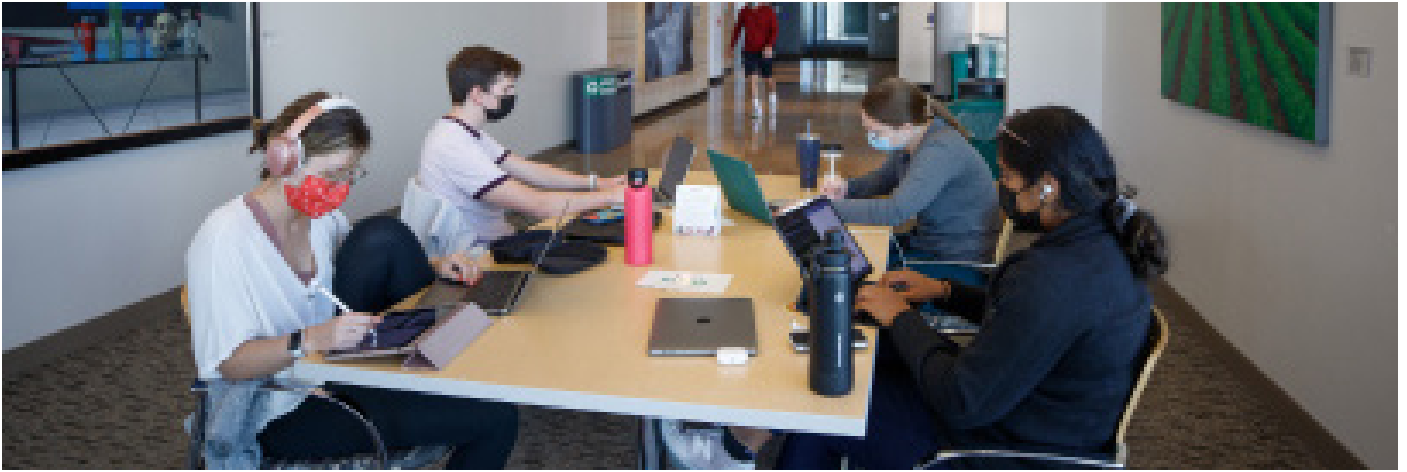
TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

The OGE offered free virtual and in-person tax preparation assistance to the UNMC international community in 2021, with 178 individuals participating.

VISA SPONSORSHIP

The OGE assisted and sponsored 799 international students, employees and visitors representing 72 countries to work, study or visit UNMC in 2022. OGE staff advised faculty, staff, sponsored employees and students on all visa and immigration-related issues. OGE also provided advice to UNMC departments and international employees regarding the process and regulations for sponsorship of permanent residence. Services were also offered to the University of Nebraska – Omaha to prepare government petitions to sponsor international employees to work there.





## Other Activities

### SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

The OGE held its Second Annual International Photo Contest in March. OGE invited participants to submit up to three of their favorite travel photos in the areas of cityscapes/architecture, landscapes/nature, people and animals for the contest. The goal was to have the photos inspire adventure, cultural awareness and international diversity. An anonymous panel judged the images based on originality and creativity, photographic quality, and communication of culture and place. The contest had 12 faculty/staff and 21 student/resident participants, with a total of 91 photos submitted. The OGE awarded a grand prize and prizes for the top three entrants in both the student/resident and faculty/staff divisions.



“Mungu Awabariki,” by Benjamin McIntire, is the grand prize winner of the second International Photo Contest.





## OGE COMMUNICATIONS

The OGE has continued to create two digital newsletters to keep our colleagues and partners updated on our international activities. The Global Glance is a monthly bulletin that relays technical information, deadlines and other pertinent information and opportunities. Global Connections is a quarterly newsletter that contains campus-wide stories of events and accomplishments.

To receive these digital publications, or read past issues, please go here: <https://www.unmc.edu/global/news-events/index.html>

## Looking Ahead

### MOROCCO CONFERENCE 2024

The Interdisciplinary World Health Congress on Post Pandemic Readiness will be held Feb. 5-8, 2024, in Casablanca, Morocco. The international conference, which is being co-sponsored by UNMC, follows the COVID-19 in the Middle East/North Africa Region conference held in May 2022.

Researchers and experts in multiple health disciplines from around the globe will share their vision and experiences in addressing post-pandemic challenges and explore methods to transform health care and community health through education and innovation.

For more information or to register, visit this [website](#).

## Office of Global Engagement Staff



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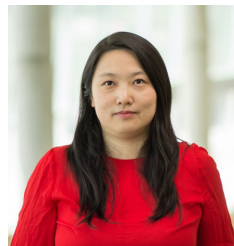
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Pharmacology/  
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Nasreen Maiwandi, MPH  
International Visitor Associate



# UNMC

GLOBAL  
ENGAGEMENT

## 2022 RECAP

799

Visa-Sponsored  
International  
Participants



72

Countries



UNMC established six new international agreements in Bangladesh, China, Czech Republic, Jordan, Norway and Rwanda.



264

Visa-sponsored  
International  
Students

47

Countries

62%

Enrolled in  
Graduate  
Studies

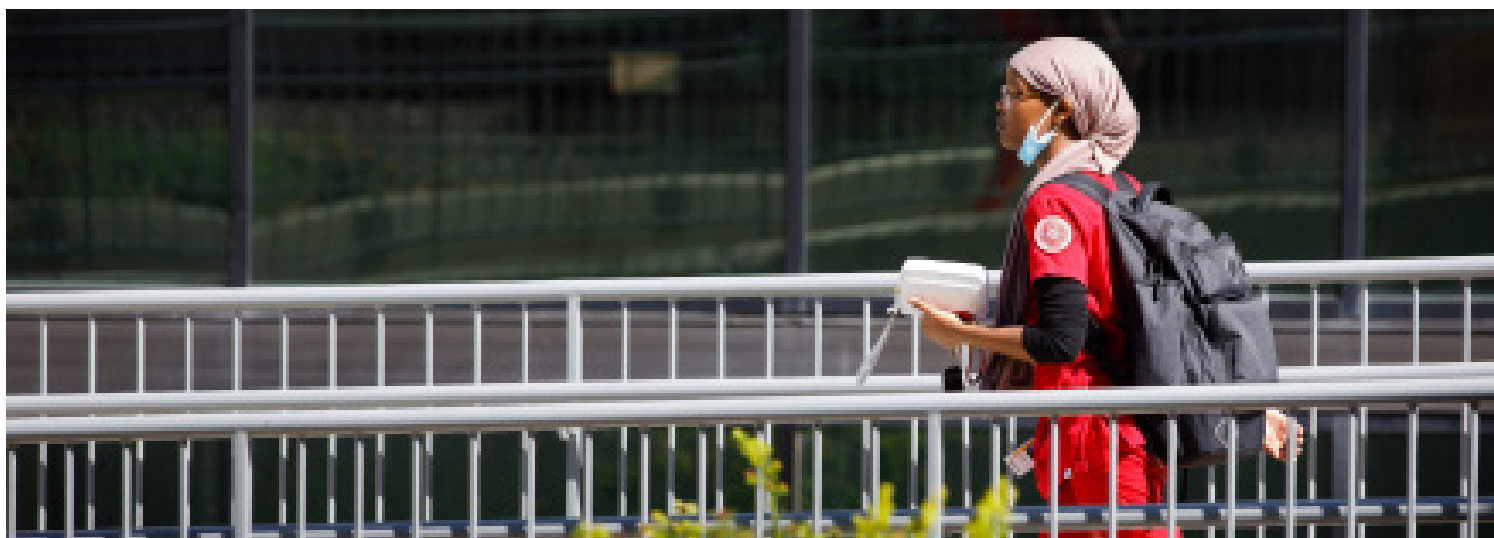


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UNMC was one of the co-organizers of the international conference "COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa Region: Lessons Learned in Research, Policy, Public Health, and Clinical Practices," held May 30-31, in Gaziantep, Turkey.







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