**Congratulations!**

On April 6, 2017, University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds, Ph.D., announced the 2017 winners of the university’s most prestigious awards for teaching, research and engagement and UNMC’s Ann Anderson Berry, M.D., Ph.D., received the Innovation, Development and Engagement Award (IDEA) Award.

The IDEA Award recognizes faculty members who have extended their academic expertise beyond the boundaries of the university in ways that have enriched the broader community.

Dr. Anderson Berry is an associate professor in the UNMC Division of Newborn Medicine and medical director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Nebraska Medicine. Her near 15-year career has been dedicated to serving families in communities across Nebraska. She has served as the medical director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Nebraska Medicine since 2009, and in that time has significantly improved neonatal and maternal outcomes in both urban and rural communities.

Congratulations, Dr. Anderson Berry!

**Pediatric Research**

Faculty in the Department of Pediatrics perform a wide range of research activities to advance our knowledge about childhood diseases. The research includes basic laboratory studies; disease discovery; characterizing the complications, variation and natural history of diseases; developing new approaches to diagnose genetic and developmental disorders; testing new therapeutic drugs and investigating innovative methods to teach pediatrics to students and residents. These research efforts involve virtually all divisions in the Department and approximately 60 faculty members.

Considering clinical research studies alone, the pace of research in pediatrics has increased 10-fold since 2008. Currently, we have more
than 200 open IRB-approved clinical research protocols and expend almost $9 million annually on pediatric research. Much of the growth in pediatric research has been a direct result of the affiliation between UNMC and Children's Hospital & Medical Center, which consolidated pediatric research and clinical practice in the Department. UNMC provides key basic science core laboratories and investigators who support some of our most innovative clinical research programs. This collaboration between basic scientists and clinicians is critical for pushing the boundaries of pediatric medicine.

All studies involving children are reviewed for safety and ethical conduct before being approved by the Joint Pediatric Institutional Review Board (IRB) headed by Dr. Bruce Gordon.

The Pediatric Research Committee advises the Department on research activities and offers seed money for internal grants to pediatric investigators. Since 2011, 41 Pediatric Research Grants have been awarded to our faculty and trainees for a total $977,000. Research results are presented at the annual Pediatric Research Forum in May and at national meetings every year.

The tremendous growth in pediatric research was jump-started by the establishment of the Pediatric Research Office (PRO) in 2007, which facilitates clinical research involving children. Last year the PRO was involved at various levels with more than 150 protocols. The PRO is managed by Program Manager, Melanie Schrack, along with a cadre of research nurses and clinical coordinators. The PRO negotiates grant and contract budgets, executes clinical research studies and coordinates regulatory issues related to research.

**Pediatric Research Personnel**

- William B. Rizzo, MD, PRO Medical Director
- Melanie Schrack, Program Manager
- Angela Boettner, Research Nurse Coordinator (Hematology, Oncology)
- Stephanie Hudson, Research Nurse Coordinator (Hematology, Oncology)
- Kym Abraham, Research Nurse Coordinator (ID, Rheumatology, GI, Ophthalmology)
- Carolyn Chamberlain, Research Nurse Coordinator (Ophthalmology, Surgery, Hematology)
- Rachel Cooper, Research Coordinator (Metabolism)/Research Finance Specialist
- Elizabeth Strudthoff, Research Nurse Coordinator (Genetics)
- Sara Jones, Research Coordinator, Dietician (Metabolism, STAIR Consortium, Neonatology)
- Sara Warta, Research Nurse Coordinator (Cardiology)
- Kristin Malone, Research Coordinator (Endocrine, MMI PT/OT, Cardiology, Nephrology)
- Denise Hoover, Research Coordinator (Hem/Onc, Genetics, ID)
- Lucinda Kustka, Research Nurse Coordinator (Critical Care, Pediatric Surgery)
- Kelly Erickson, Research Coordinator/Data Manager (NICU)
- Nancy Ambrose, Support Staff
Research Accomplishments and Programs

Research Coordinators focus in specific specialty areas allowing for continuity of services and knowledge. They also provide cross coverage for each other, supporting studies in all areas, to distribute the workload as needed. PRO Coordinators support special initiatives in Bone Metabolism, GI, Endocrine and Ophthalmology. For Bone Metabolism, these efforts helped the Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI) Clinic gain an OI Foundation site designation. In Ophthalmology, these efforts have supported participation in the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigators Group (PEDIG), a national, NIH funded consortium, offering multiple ongoing research protocols for pediatric eye disorders. Two PRO coordinators are PEDIG trained and certified. Coordinators support an NIH-funded Rare Disease Clinical Research Consortium to investigate diseases of sterol and isoprenoid metabolism.

In 2016, UNMC Pediatrics received $1.6 million from the NIH (PI: Jessica Snowden) to establish infrastructure in support of pediatric clinical trials, via the ECHO Network. Additional funds are awarded for each trial opened.

Independent of the PRO, are research programs in Pulmonology and Infectious Disease working internationally, mostly in Nigeria.

Owing to the extensive growth in pediatric research in the Department, plans are shaping up to establish a Child Health Research Institute as a collaborative effort of UNMC and Children's Hospital & Medical Center with the aim to bring pediatric research in the department to a national level over the coming years. Stay tuned!