Congratulations, Dr. Shelby Kutty!

Shelby Kutty, M.D., Ph.D., M.H.C.M., professor of pediatrics and internal medicine (cardiology) and vice chair of pediatrics, has been named assistant dean of research and development in the UNMC College of Medicine.

The appointment was announced by Bradley Britigan, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine, and Howard Fox, M.D., Ph.D., senior associate dean of research and development for the College of Medicine.

"This is all about growing our clinical research enterprise," said Dr. Fox, who is professor and executive vice chair of the UNMC Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Neuroscience. "Dr. Kutty is an outstanding investigator and is very committed to building our research program. He will primarily be responsible for helping foster research in those clinical departments and divisions with emerging research programs, and those programs moving into new scholarly directions."

A pediatric cardiologist, Dr. Kutty will work with Dr. Fox on developing strategies for accomplishing this goal. They hope to:

- leverage new funds in the research budget set aside for pilot funds to support innovative projects;
- utilize research design and statistical support from the College of Public Health to further build rigor and reproducibility in research;
- hold a research retreat at the Truhlsen Events Center to help build research contacts and collaborations in the College of Medicine; and
- develop research and mentoring opportunities for medical students, residents and fellows.

Integral to this growth will be working closely with the clinical as well as the basic research department chairs to not only build clinical research but also strengthen the collaborations between departments for interdisciplinary and translational work.

As UNMC was recently awarded a large NIH grant for the Great Plains IDeA-Clinical Translational Research Network, the opportunity is ripe for this expansion.
Dr. Fox said the retreat would be developed by a small group from the Research and Development Committee and other researchers. He envisions it taking place over just a few hours on an afternoon or an evening.

When a date and format for the retreat are determined, Dr. Fox said all investigators on campus will be notified. Complete details also will be available in UNMC Today.

"We are confident that we can make an impact on our research and academic enterprise," Dr. Kutty said. "We just need to make a commitment to get the job done. I want to encourage all our researchers to get behind this initiative and turn out for the retreat. It will be well worth their time."

Clinical and translational research has been an area of accelerated growth here on campus. Both NIH as well as industry-funded work has continued to grow in the College of Medicine. With his new appointment, Dr. Kutty will accelerate this growth and help provide clinical scientists with the resources and links to campus expertise to build sustainable research teams.

Dr. Britigan is highly supportive of this initiative. "We have great talent here and continue to recruit outstanding new faculty," he said. "Having Dr. Kutty work with Dr. Fox and the Research and Development Committee will enable us to better support the academic mission of the college."

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**Changes for Pediatric News**

The Pediatric News will begin a new publication schedule beginning with this issue. Due to time constraints, this publication will now be produced on a quarterly basis. Requests will be made to division leaders for new and innovative activities from their division for inclusion each quarter.

If you have items you would like to include in upcoming issues, please email Dr. Gary Beck Dallaghan at gbeck@unmc.edu.