

April 1, 2016

Dear Team,

The saying goes that March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb, but I'm not sure if I can describe it this way; it all seemed to be fast and furious! And the saying is better than beware the "Ides of March!"

I want to start with a BIG congratulations to our student, Andrew Braith. Andrew was selected to receive a 2016 Excellence in Public Health Award from the U.S. Public Health Service Physician Professional Advisory Committee. This award is a testament to Andrew's strong work in public health. Andrew will receive the award later this spring.

The College continues to play a role in legislative activities. Project Extra Mile invited me to provide comments on binge drinking at their Day at the Capitol last month. The same day, I provided testimony on a climate change resolution as follow up to the climate change testimony Dean Meza worked on earlier in the year. A disappointing legislative occurrence was the announcement that the Tobacco Tax is not going to move forward this year. I trust this is not the end of this important public health initiative for Nebraskans.

The Search Committee completed interviews with the first round of candidates for the Director of the Center for Cancer Prevention and Population Science position. Selected candidates will be invited to return for full interviews, meet faculty, and present. We had excellent candidates and are sure to secure a great leader for the new Center.

As part of a nationwide effort to pair films and conversations with experts from the science, technology and medical fields, local theater Film Streams hosted a Science on Screen event featuring the film Contagion. Although the film is from 2011, the story is still relevant to public health today. The audience asked insightful questions about public health and infectious diseases issues highlighted in the film as well as questions focused on current day events during the Q&A session following the film. I even had an eight-year-old ask a very good question about handwashing and the use of antibacterial soap!

Dr. Pinaki Panigrahi and I had a fabulous trip to Tanzania. We were invited by Seed Global Health and Dr. Martha Goedert, a faculty member with the College who is currently in Tanzania for Peace Corps service, to speak at the University of Dodoma Global Health Conference. We hope to continue to develop our relationship with the University to explore and cultivate shared project opportunities. While in Tanzania, I also got to visit the Ocean Road Cancer Institute and meet several on their staff. They are important partners with the College and Dr.

Amr Soliman's Cancer Epidemiology Education in Special Populations (CEESP) Program so it was great to meet them in person and hear about the great strides we have made together.

The College had the opportunity to host several important visitors this month. Our Center for Global Health and Development organized meetings focused on cancer prevention with a delegation from Oman. Dr. Victor Coronado, an old friend and colleague from my days at CDC, was a gracious Grand Rounds speaker on traumatic brain injury. Finally, RADM Jordan Tappero, MD, MPH, who is the Director of the Division of Global Health Protection at CDC was on campus to give an Alpha Omega Alpha talk, and devoted time to our students during a "Career Conversations" session. We are extremely lucky to consistently have such world-renowned experts on our campus.

The end of the month brought an opportunity for me to visit Des Moines and Iowa City at the invitation of Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, Medical Director/State Epidemiologist for the Iowa Department of Public Health, and Dr. Sue Curry, Dean of the University of Iowa's College of Public Health. I had a great meeting with Dean Curry and her staff and got to spend some time with her students. It always energizes me to interact with students, even if they're not ours!

I am looking forward to April and a fantastic National Public Health Week (April 4-10). A big thank you to our College Student Association who have planned a variety of activities to celebrate our field! Please consider participating!

Always listening,
Ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

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