

February 1, 2018

Dear Team,

Happy New Year and welcome back from winter break!

As you read this, I am most likely on my way back from Bangladesh, where I was honored and humbled to take part in the crisis response of the Rohingya community that was forcibly displaced from Myanmar by genocide. My deployment with the World Health Organization (WHO) was possible due to our University's status as member of the WHO Global Outbreak Action Response Network (GOARN) and the support of Chancellor Gold and other leadership. A special thanks to Dr. Meza, for her role as acting Dean while I was away.

I hope all of you will be able to join me as I present Grand Rounds on February 7. I'll have the opportunity to share my experience that began by assisting with a diphtheria outbreak and evolved into a much larger health crisis with outbreaks of measles, mumps, hepatitis and other diseases. You are sure to see that my deployment was a direct example of meeting our mission to lead the world in transforming lives to create a healthy future for all individuals and communities.

Thanks to everyone who gathered for All Hands this month. It's one of my most favorite things as Dean, and I was disappointed to miss it.

Congratulations to Dr. Panigrahi who recognized as one of Discover Magazine's 100 Top Stories of 2017. He led a study of groundbreaking research that could impact infant health around the world. Well deserved!

This month we received messages from President Bounds and Chancellor Gold with legislative updates and budget planning. You received a couple messages from me, as well. College leadership wants to gather your ideas to increase revenue, reduce expenses and create more efficient processes within our College. While many of you have been engaged in this process on the University level, I hope everyone will complete a short, three-question survey to help us Maintain Momentum. Your feedback will be completely anonymous and will only be seen by Dean Meza and myself and discussed in aggregate with college leadership. The survey is open until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 2.

To keep (or start) our healthy lifestyle in 2018, consider taking part in APHA's 1 Billion Step Challenge. The UNMC COPH Wellness Council has created a team for the UNMC public health community. Faculty, students, staff and their friends and colleagues can be part of the team!



The challenge started January 1, but it's not too late to join, but don't wait too long as the challenge only lasts until National Public Health Week begins on April 2.

I look forward to being back at the College and will see you all soon. Best wishes to all for a fantastic spring semester!

Always listening,  
Ask

**Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH**

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean