Dear Team,

It seems like February always flies by – could it be the 28 days or that half of the month we thought it was spring?

I had some great opportunities this month to highlight our College. Dr. Sharon Medcalf and I traveled for a World Health Organization (WHO) Global Outbreak Action and Response Network (GOARN) meeting where we presented on our capabilities to be a training site for global responders.

The NU Foundation invited me to their winter events in Palm Springs and Scottsdale. I presented guests with global health security information, how the College is involved and what we need from them to support our future goals. We are fortunate to have so many friends who are so amazingly generous. A special thank you to Mrs. Ruth Scott and Drs. Bonnie and Gerry Luckey who hosted private events for me.

The Student Senate honored Dr. Brandon Grimm with their 2017 Distinguished Teacher Award and Mr. Roger Gonzales with one of their 2017 Student Impact Awards. Congratulations Brandon and Roger!

Earlier this month, I announced that Dr. Christine Arcari was selected as the College of Public Health’s Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and will join us in August. She will perform teaching and research duties in the Department of Epidemiology. Again, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Kendra Schmid who has performed admirably in her role as the Interim Associate Dean including directing a very successful accreditation site visit. Kendra is critical to our efforts to lead the revision of our curriculum and develop new programs and I am certain she will provide continued leadership and many contributions to the College.

A big welcome to my new epidemiology fellow in the Dean’s Office, Mr. Philip Amara. Philip attended University of Michigan, graduating in 2012 with an MS in Survey Methodology with Social and Psychological Concentration. He worked for the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in Sierra Leone for close to three years and also worked in Ghana as a Country Director for a research-oriented NGO. We are very lucky to have him!

We continue our work with great collaborators. This month we hosted a Daugherty Water for Food Institute meeting, met with our partners at NDHHS to continue our efforts to make Nebraska the healthiest and most equitable state in the union and worked with the National
Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), Walgreens and CVS on adult and adolescent immunization projects.

A reminder to everyone that National Public Health Week (NPHW) 2017 is right around the corner (April 3-9) and our students are hard at work making sure the week is a success, including one of my favorite events, Student Research Day. Please check your emails with information on how to host, promote or join activities and events. I am sure it will once again be a highlight of the year.

Always listening,
Ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH
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