

May 3, 2016

Dear Team:

April was a month of celebration at the College.

We celebrated our Office and Administrative Associates who were recognized with the Staff Spotlight Award as the “backbone” of the college. It’s true that without these staff members, things might come to a screeching halt in the College. From their managing schedules and organizing meetings, to arranging travel and reimbursements, they do a great job supporting all of us.

We celebrated Public Health Week courtesy of our fantastic students who provided all of us with a variety of activities throughout the week. Who knew Katie Brandert could give Steve Harvey a run for his money as host of PHamily PHeud?! Teams of students, faculty and staff were brave enough to get in front of an audience to answer public health questions. Congratulations to Team Prep Ted whose members included Alison Gemelke, Beckie McCaw, Elayne Saejung and Brian Madison.

Another highlight of the week was the Student Research Conference. This event becomes more professional and competitive each year. Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the event. The following MPH Student Presentations received honors: Kaeli Samson (Biostatistics), “Spatial and Temporal Changes in Cervical Cancer Burden over 21 Years in Bulgaria: Implications for Eastern European Countries Going Through Transition.”; Jocelyn Herstein (Environmental, Agricultural and Occupational Health), “U.S. Ebola Treatment Centers: An Inventory of Capabilities.”; Beeta Kashani (Maternal and Child Health), “HPV Vaccine Uptake in Michigan Native American Populations.”; Zijian Qin (Epidemiology), “Thirty-Day Readmission Patterns within a Nebraska Hospital System.”; Adekunle Adeyemi (Environmental, Agricultural and Occupational Health), “Assessing Formaldehyde Exposure and Personal Protective Equipment use at the University of Nebraska Medical Center Gross Anatomy Dissection Room.” PhD Student Presentations receiving honors were: Katherine Rieke (Epidemiology), “Depression and Survival in Head and Neck Cancer Patients.”; Bodhisattwa Mondal, (Environmental, Agricultural and Occupational Health), “Effect of Polydatin in Estrogen-DNA Adduct Formation.”; Anggondowati Trisari, (Epidemiology), “The Effect of Treatment Waiting Time on Survival of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients.”; Poppy E. Deviany (Epidemiology), “Different characteristics of lung cancer patients according to age at diagnosis and factors associated with treatment refusal. An analysis of the National Cancer Data Base 1998 – 2012.”

We celebrated Dr. Paul Estabrooks as the first endowed chair in the college, an endowment that was generously established by Ruth and Bill Scott and the Scott Family Foundation who

also made a huge investment in building the Maurer Center for Public Health. Their trust and hope that through prevention there will be less disease and all people will live happier, healthier lives, is amazing.

It was also my special privilege to celebrate and honor our faculty for outstanding teaching, research, and service and the donors who support these awards. Congratulations to Drs. Patrick Johansson and Shireen Rajaram (College of Public Health Excellence in Teaching), John Lowe (College of Public Health Faculty Research Award), Alice Schumaker (Fred and Eve Simon Public Health “Impact” Prize) and Kendra Schmid (Carruth J. Wagner, M.D., Faculty Prize in Public Health). Congratulations to Drs. Kendra Schmid and Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway who were awarded the University of Nebraska Medical Center Distinguished Scientist Award. And, finally, to Ms. Mary Morris, Administrative Associate in Biostatistics, who is the recipient of the Chancellor’s Commendation “Gold ‘U’ Award. Mary is only the third ‘Gold U’ recipient in the college’s history and this award is well deserved. Mary provides support to her entire department and its Chair, Dr. Jane Meza and has served as the head of the Wellness Council.

We also presented the 2016 Chancellor Robert D. Sparks, MD, in Public Health and Preventative Medicine award to state Senator Mike Gloor for his legislative efforts to improve public health policy.

For all the recognition and awards, the most important thing to celebrate is you. You are amazing champions of public health. I have been humbled to see how you will not shrink from championing for social justice, including Medicaid expansion, climate change, an improved environment, STD prevention, comprehensive sex education and increased diversity, inclusion and engagement with our communities. Thank you to Dr. Renaisa Anthony and Dr. Melissa Tibbits who seem to be at the leading edge of these issues this semester. And health equity. We were lucky to host Dr. Aida Giachello for Grand Rounds and hear her important talk on equity in Hispanic populations and the unique cultural challenges we need to understand as practitioners and scientists.

This month was also about transitions. Starting June 1, Dr. Soliman will begin a new role as Assistant Dean for International Cooperation to focus on building and implementing new international programs including a novel international network for cancer prevention and control. And Dr. Kendra Schmid will be serving as the acting Associate Dean of Student and Academic Affairs. Please join me in welcoming them to their new roles. We are also in the midst of interviewing for a new Director of the Center for Cancer Prevention and Population Science; please attend their Grand Rounds so we can get your input on this important new addition to the College.

I’d also like to welcome Sharon Bartlett (Epidemiology) and Shannon Maloney (Health Promotion, Social & Behavioral Health) to our team this month.



One final thing. We're having our first Convocation for our students on May 6 from 3:00 -5:00 p.m. at the Storz Pavillion. This is a very exciting event and the first for our college and I encourage everyone to attend to support our fantastic students.eam,

Always listening,
Ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean