



# UNMC Connect<sup>®</sup>

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

FALL 2016

**Outstanding  
teachers create  
“aha” moments  
for students**



# (CHANCELLOR'S PERSPECTIVE)

## EDUCATING GOES HIGH-TECH



**B**y now, you are well aware of UNMC's ongoing, innovative efforts to transform education. And as our faculty know best, to transform education, we also must transform the approach to teaching and learning.

Our faculty have thrown themselves into the task of transformation wholeheartedly.

Our faculty have proven to be incredibly adept at adapting to new teaching models and a changing educational landscape. It's no secret why the level of buy-in has been so high. Our teachers realize that to lead the world in transforming lives to create a healthier future, we must lead the world in educating this next generation of health care professionals and research scientists.

And how are we doing it? Mostly through dedication and hard work. But let's highlight a couple of ways:

One example of our continued dedication to teaching excellence and lifelong learning has been advanced by the newly created Interprofessional Academy of Educators.

This academy strives to:

- Improve educational quality through innovation, curriculum design and implementation of evidence-based teaching methods.

- Promote the dissemination of UNMC faculty members' educational innovation through scholarship.
- Provide a mechanism for mentorship for new and developing faculty members with an interest in advanced simulation and high technology education.

The academy recently inducted its first class of more than 70 members. These include individuals from all of the colleges at UNMC and the Munroe-Meyer Institute. This class boasts a diverse range of experience and interests. And while academy membership is exclusive, this is much more than an honorary title. It is an opportunity to transform the future of educational programs in the health professions and beyond.

UNMC also offers a new, innovative, interprofessional Master of Health Professions Teaching and Technology program. As Dele Davies, M.D., our vice chancellor for academic affairs, noted recently, "The effective use of technology to teach has become a necessity to meet the needs of the digitally-native millennial and post-millennial students who now constitute the vast majority of students here and at universities worldwide."

This past decade's explosion of simulators, mobile devices, apps, social media and other modalities has been a tremendous opportunity for educators. The UNMC e-Learning Steering Committee has developed an interdisciplinary program to take full advantage of these global leadership opportunities.

UNMC has long been known for teaching and learning excellence. Now, there are simply more and different opportunities to embrace educational leadership. We, and our world-class faculty, are more determined than ever to take advantage of them all.

A handwritten signature of Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D. in black ink.

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.  
UNMC Chancellor

**UNMC Connect** is the campus/alumni magazine published twice a year by the Departments of Public Relations and Alumni Relations at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the University of Nebraska Foundation. Issues of the magazine can be found at [unmc.edu](http://unmc.edu), News and Events. Permission is granted to reprint any written materials herein, provided proper credit is given. Direct requests to [ekumru@unmc.edu](mailto:ekumru@unmc.edu).

UNMC is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC-NCA) and enjoys full accreditation of all its professional academic programs.

We are Nebraska Medicine and UNMC. Our mission is to lead the world in transforming lives to create a healthy future for all individuals and communities through premier educational programs, innovative research and extraordinary patient care.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center does not discriminate in its academic, employment or admissions programs, and abides by all federal regulations pertaining to same.

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La Vista Conference Center,  
La Vista, Neb.  
[omahawomenshealthandwellness.org](http://omahawomenshealthandwellness.org)

**OCTOBER 7 & 8**

Alumni Reunion Weekend

**OCTOBER 10**

New Center for Healthy Living  
grand opening ceremony

**OCTOBER 20**

College of Pharmacy Fall Honor's  
Convocation

**DECEMBER 16**

Winter Commencement

**DECEMBER 17**

Lauritzen Outpatient &  
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**MARCH 17, 2017**

Match Day

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## THIRD-PARTY COMMENTS ACCEPTED FOR COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION

On Nov. 28-29, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will visit UNMC to conduct a comprehensive evaluation for institutional re-accreditation. UNMC has been continuously accredited since 1913. The university last underwent a comprehensive self-study and site visit during the 2006-07 academic year.

As part of its federal compliance process, the HLC invites the public to provide written comments, which are forwarded to the HLC evaluation team to include in their review of the institution. To be considered, comments are due in HLC's office by Oct. 15th.

For details, or to submit comments online go to:

**[www.hlcommission.org/HLC-Institutions/third-party-comment.html](http://www.hlcommission.org/HLC-Institutions/third-party-comment.html)**

Comments also may be sent to HLC at:

**Third-Party Comment on the University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Higher Learning Commission  
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1411**

*Note: An individual with a specific dispute or grievance with an institution should request HLC's separate policy on complaints. HLC cannot settle disputes between institutions and individuals, whether faculty, students, or others. Complaints will not be considered as comments.*

## Med Center reaches energy reduction goals

Imagine cutting 25 percent energy consumption from your home. It's a tall order for a residence, but even more so when your "home" spans more than 100 acres.

That's why UNMC and Nebraska Medicine are proud of having reached its lofty energy reduction goals, as outlined in the Sustainability Master Plan.

The medical center's main campus at 42nd and Emile streets used 25 percent less energy in 2015 than it did five years ago, despite adding more square footage to campus.

"I've always said that academic health science centers should be leading the way in energy conservation," said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D. "We're especially proud of meeting this energy reduction goal. Not only does it show strong stewardship of taxpayer dollars, it also has a positive effect on the planet, people and ultimately everyone's health."

## Humans of UNMC

UNMC's latest social media project, 'Humans of UNMC,' focuses on the stories of people in our community. The project, which began in March on UNMC's Instagram and Facebook sites, is an adaptation of the popular Humans of New York social media campaign. Statements made by featured individuals may not necessarily represent the beliefs and opinions of UNMC. To see additional stories, visit **#HumansOfUNMC** on Instagram.



Visit #HumansOfUNMC  
[unmc.edu/connect](http://unmc.edu/connect)

## Nebraska Medicine names new CEO

Daniel J. DeBehnke, M.D., has been named the new chief executive officer of Nebraska Medicine, succeeding interim CEO Rosanna Morris, and interim President Bradley Britigan, M.D. He began his tenure in late July.

Dr. DeBehnke had served as chief executive officer of Medical College Physicians, the Milwaukee-based physicians group representing more than 1,500 academic physicians and providers who practice at Froedtert Hospital, the Medical College of Wisconsin Clinics and other hospitals in southeastern Wisconsin.

Dr. DeBehnke had served as CEO of Medical College Physicians since August 2013. He simultaneously served as senior associate dean for clinical affairs-adult practice and professor of emergency medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

"The opportunity to lead an organization with such a legacy of excellence like Nebraska Medicine is one that I am extremely excited to undertake," Dr. DeBehnke said.

With an intensifying focus on clinical quality, the growing trend is to hire a



Daniel J. DeBehnke, M.D.

physician as CEO. With a physician at the helm, there are opportunities to lead the drive for improved quality of care, patient safety and clinical efficiency. Still, a 2014 American College of Physician Executives' report showed only 5 percent of hospital leaders are physicians.



## \$5.5 million grant launches mobile simulation program in rural Nebraska

UNMC has received a \$5.5 million grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to use mobile, high-tech simulation trucks to provide training opportunities on life-saving procedures for rural emergency medical providers and hospitals.

The Simulation in Motion Nebraska grant includes the purchase of four, customized mobile simulation training trucks and 20 high-fidelity patient simulators (manikins) that will be available to rural emergency medical services, hospitals and universities for training on advanced trauma and cardiac life support.

The trucks are valued at about \$500,000 each and the manikins are valued at almost \$900,000.

The grant will help fund program operation for three years. Private funding, partnerships, fee for services and state and federal grants will be sought to sustain the project after the first three years.

Walter Panzirer, a trustee of the Helmsley Charitable Trust, said he is excited to add a fourth state to the Simulation in Motion lineup. The program has been implemented in South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana.

"This partnership is a terrific opportunity to improve the health and lives of Nebraskans. Our rural emergency medical responders and rural hospitals face many obstacles to get this critical training," he said. "Now, the training will come to them, which is very important in rural Nebraska."

The units, which are expected to be delivered in January, will be stationed in Norfolk, Lincoln, Kearney and Scottsbluff, where UNMC has nursing college divisions. In Kearney, UNMC has nursing and allied health programs. Training will be conducted by certified emergency medical services instructors.

## Workshop explores benefits of holistic admissions

Liz White, lead learning and engagement specialist for the Association of American Medical Colleges' Advancing Holistic Review Initiative, said she often asks officials at academic medical centers to list the most important attributes they want to see in a potential student.

Then, she asks for a list of attributes that are crucial in actual health providers and practitioners.

The overlap, she said, is "not much."

So, is there a better way to choose health sciences students who, rather than simply being the most impressive applicants, also are the people you most want to see in those jobs down the road?

"Holistic" admissions look at the whole person – and whole mission

of the admitting institution – beyond previously traditionally held metrics such as standardized test scores and grades. UNMC held a Holistic Admissions workshop to explore the issue in May.

Admission by different processes likely would produce different student bodies than we see now. But, "This is not simply about improving the compositional diversity of our student body – as crucially important as we believe that to be," said Kyle Meyer, Ph.D., dean of the College of Allied Health Professions. "It is about preparing a more diverse workforce, and doing so in a way that enhances the learning experience for all students."

## Founding chair named for new PM&R program



Samuel Bierner, M.D.

Samuel Bierner, M.D., a Texas physician with more than 25 years of experience in the specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R), joined UNMC April 1 as professor and founding chair of UNMC's new PM&R program.

PM&R is the medical specialty that cares for adults and children who experience disabling conditions including traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and impairments from stroke, musculoskeletal and neurological diseases. PM&R physicians also are known as physiatrists.

Prior to joining UNMC in April, Dr. Bierner had served as director of UT Southwestern Medical Center's PM&R residency program since 2005.

"We are delighted to land a physician of Dr. Bierner's stature," said Bradley Britigan, M.D., dean of the UNMC College of Medicine. "He has an incredibly strong background in physical medicine and rehabilitation and has worked in an academic medicine setting for the past 12 years."

UNMC's PM&R program will partner with the new Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital-Omaha Campus that is being built in the Village Pointe area. The new facility is scheduled to open in October. In addition, Dr. Bierner hopes to extend PM&R services to Children's Hospital & Medical Center and the VA Medical Center. Beyond recruiting new PM&R faculty, Dr. Bierner expects that a residency program can be started within three years and can train three to four resident physicians each year.

# ANNUAL FACULTY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

THIS SPRING, SEVEN FACULTY MEMBERS WERE HONORED FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING, MENTORING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ANOTHER RECEIVED UNIVERSITY-WIDE RECOGNITION FOR HIS RESEARCH.

## The University of Nebraska Outstanding Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) Award



**Surinder Batra, Ph.D.**, chairperson & Stokes-Shackleford Professor, biochemistry and molecular biology, excels not just as an individual investigator – he was UNMC's seventh Scientist Laureate – but as a collaborator, mentor and leader. His work has changed the paradigm for understanding pancreatic cancer pathobiology, and along with several others at UNMC, he has made UNMC's pancreatic cancer research program one of the best in the world.



Watch a video about Dr. Batra and his work.

## Spirit of Community Service Award



**Ann Anderson Berry, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor, pediatrics, used her passion for quality improvement and her national reputation in the field of neonatal nutrition quality and research to spearhead the creation of the Nebraska Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative to improve evidence-based health care for all Nebraska mothers and newborns. As its co-medical director, she is proud to say that more than 90 percent of delivery hospitals in the state – covering greater than 95 percent of Nebraska deliveries – have enrolled in this collaboration, which has improved health care access and lowered costs to treat high-risk newborns.

## Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Graduate Students Awards



**Gloria Borgstahl, Ph.D.**, professor, Eppley Institute, sees what a person is, but also sees what a person can become. Among her mentees are a significant number who struggled in their scientific careers before finally finding a home, and their self-confidence, in her lab. These students found a new mentor who was in the trenches with them. Despite her numerous responsibilities as faculty and a core facility director, Dr. Borgstahl shares a bench and conducts experiments alongside her students in the lab.



**Joyce Solheim, Ph.D.**, professor & program director, Eppley Institute, is described as dedicated, passionate, caring – the kind of mentor who brings out the best in her students. One graduate student said, “She pushes me to become better at all aspects of science.” A former mentee said, “We all strive to achieve the best. In a field like science, the efforts of a professor make all the difference in helping students reach their full potential. Dr. Joyce Solheim is one such professor.”

## Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Junior Faculty Awards



**Carol Casey, Ph.D.**, professor, internal medicine, advises, challenges, facilitates, guides, teaches and even mentors on how to mentor. By sharing her knowledge of research protocols, techniques and reagents, several junior faculty members obtained their first KO1 grants, which, appropriately, are designated Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Awards. As one nominator said, “It clearly indicates that the NIH considers Dr. Casey a national outstanding mentor.” Many junior faculty members call the world-class liver expert “friend.”



**Lani Zimmerman, Ph.D.**, professor, College of Nursing, has played a critical role in helping junior UNMC faculty members launch careers in research through the Clinical/Translational Research Mentored Scholar program. She is an encouraging, consummate mentor with a deep and abiding passion for research. Dr. Zimmerman has the uncanny ability to distill a research problem down to its core. Through her work, she has helped 27 faculty move their research program and their personal career forward, many who have developed into leaders.

## Outstanding Teacher Awards



**Darwin Brown, M.P.H., PA-C**, associate program director, director of clinical education, UNMC Department of Physician Assistant Education, has a knack for making the complex simple. One student said, “He creates a safe, encouraging environment for students to solve problems. He has the ability to challenge yet inspire at the same time.” Brown tells his students, “I won’t be your best friend, but I will be your biggest supporter.” Brown retired from UNMC this past spring.



**Ashish Sharma, M.D.**, associate professor, psychiatry, works with second-, third- and fourth-year medical students, and also mentors foreign medical graduates and works with the student-run SHARING Clinics. He is known for making trainees feel welcome on his clinical team, inviting and respecting their clinical opinions. He has received many teaching and mentorship awards for what one nominator called “his unique ability to teach and empower students.”



### College of Allied Health Professions

- The CAHP recently celebrated the endowment of the Stork Robertson Medical Nutrition Scholarship. It will provide scholarship funds for two students annually in the dietetic internship program, which Sandy Stork was instrumental in founding. Barbara Robertson, as trustee of the Sandra S. Stork Charitable Trust, initially developed a scholarship fund to assist a medical nutrition student from Nebraska. Robertson then decided to give a matching gift of her own to fund a second scholarship for a non-resident student.
- Karen Honeycutt, associate professor and program director of medical laboratory science education, was named the inaugural Clarence and Nelle Gilg Professor for Teaching Excellence and Innovation in Allied Health.
- Patricia Hageman, Ph.D., Karen Linder Distinguished Professor for Women's Health, was named a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). It is the APTA's highest membership honor, to "inspire all physical therapists to attain the high level of professional excellence and impact in terms of advancing the profession."

### College of Dentistry

- The college was awarded a \$2.2 million Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) grant to provide dental care to children in need right in their own school. A partnership with Building Healthy Futures, this program will bring new pediatric dentistry services to children in the Omaha Public School system. The pediatric dental residency program will continue to work with rural community clinics to provide care to children in rural Nebraska.
- The college received national recognition when an October 2015 article in the Journal of the American Dental Association, reported that it ranked No. 1 among all dental schools in the United States in the number of graduates returning to rural communities to practice. This top ranking also is due to strong relations and commitments by other programs in the State of Nebraska, including the Rural Health Opportunities Program – a pipeline program for rural undergraduate students considering careers in dentistry, and state-funded rural incentive programs.

- The American Dental Association honored Richard Reinhardt, D.D.S., with the Burton C. Borgelt Faculty Advisor Award during its annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in November 2015. Dr. Reinhardt, the Moran Professor of Periodontology, received the award in recognition of his outstanding work in mentoring students in dental research since 1981.

### College of Medicine

- In May, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved the establishment of a department of dermatology in the UNMC College of Medicine. A search for the founding chair of the department has begun. Working closely with the existing community-based dermatologists, the new department will center on education, clinical practice and research.

### College of Nursing

- Lani Zimmerman, Ph.D., directs the new Center for Patient, Family & Community Engagement in Chronic Care Management. The center brings together scientists, clinicians, educators and consumers to improve the safety, quality and efficiency of self-management of chronic conditions by harnessing the power of emerging mobile, wearable and online technologies.
- All five of the College of Nursing's campuses held summer camps this year for high school students interested in nursing or other health careers. The program, Nebraska Link2Learn, is funded by a Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration and led by project directors, Liane Connelly, Ph.D., and Jana Pressler, Ph.D.
- Planning continues for the new building for the College of Nursing Lincoln Division. The UNL University Health Center, operated by Nebraska Medicine, also will occupy the building, which is scheduled to open in 2018. Sharing space will foster an emphasis on health and wellbeing. The new building will provide space for expansion of undergraduate and graduate nursing programs.

### College of Pharmacy

- Sam Sanderson, Ph.D., research associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has been awarded a new R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health to find a workable solution to the problem of antibiotic resistance. The award is \$2.25 million over five years.

- Dong Wang, Ph.D., professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has been awarded a new R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to develop a novel nanomedicine-based glucocorticoid (GC) therapy, designed to increase GC's efficacy while at the same time greatly reducing its side effects for a better and safer clinical management of lupus. The award is for \$1.9 million over five years.

### College of Public Health

- College of Public Health alumnus Andrew Braith was selected to receive a 2016 Excellence in Public Health Award from the U.S. Public Health Service Physician Professional Advisory Committee.
- Sharon Medcalf, Ph.D., is offering a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) titled, "Ebola and Beyond: Concepts of High Level Biocontainment."

### Eppley Institute/Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

- An 82-foot lighted glass tower designed by Omaha artist Jun Kaneko will be constructed in front of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center on the campus of UNMC and its primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine. The tower, titled Search, is made possible with a gift from an anonymous donor. It should be completed when the cancer center opens in spring 2017. The tower itself is 75 feet high, but its 7-foot base brings it to 82 feet.
- Jobs are now available at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, which opens in spring 2017. If interested in becoming a member of the team visit: [buffettcancercenter.com/join-us/jobs](http://buffettcancercenter.com/join-us/jobs).

### Munroe-Meyer Institute

- Earlier this year, Bhavana Dave, Ph.D., professor and associate director of the human genetics laboratory, received the "Shri Ramniklal J. Kinarivala Cancer Research Award" – a lifetime achievement award for her contributions in the field of cancer diagnosis, research and treatment, granted by the Gujarat Cancer Society and the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, in India.



# EXCELLENT TEACHERS TURN THE LIGHT ON

by Elizabeth Kumru

Betsy Becker, D.P.T., works with students in Omaha and Kearney to discover their learning styles. From left, Yiwen Xia, Nan Zhao, Emily Bindle and Henry Ott.

Nothing gives a teacher more fulfillment than witnessing that powerful and most personal moment when a student “gets it.”

That moment of understanding – the “aha” moment.

It comes after explaining a concept seven different ways. It starts in the eyes and spreads to the entire face, creating a big smile, a head nod, a glimpse up – not to the ceiling, but to a realization.

Then come the questions. Thought-provoking questions. Questions that, perhaps, even the professor can’t immediately answer.

This is what an excellent teacher thrives on.

UNMC is full of excellent teachers. Three were chosen to explain what puts them at the top of their profession.

- David O’Dell, M.D., LeeRoy Meyer Professor of Internal Medicine and 1984 UNMC graduate;
- Kendra Schmid, Ph.D., interim associate dean for academic and student affairs, director of the master’s program, and associate professor of biostatistics, College of Public Health;

- Betsy Becker, D.P.T., assistant professor, physical therapy education, College of Allied Health Professions, and 1999 MPT UNMC graduate.

All cite many mentors who helped shape their education philosophy, but Dr. O’Dell was groomed for 15 years by a legend who set the standard of teaching excellence at UNMC and across the nation; the man whose named professorship he holds – the late LeeRoy Meyer, M.D.

“Dr. Meyer spent every day of the year working with third- and fourth-year medical students in small groups, lectures and one-on-ones for their clerkships,” Dr. O’Dell said. “Instead of a daily lecture, he instituted interactive lectures and used the Socratic method to engage the students in learning.”

Beloved, the students recognized Dr. Meyer with the coveted Golden Apple Award a total of 26 times from 1967 to 2001. Because he received it so many times, he was the first to be retired to the Golden Apple Hall of Fame, or the “orchard,” and a new rule was initiated that limited receipt of the award to seven times. But, even when the award was renamed the

Hirschmann Prize for Teaching Excellence for clinical education, third- and fourth-year students made Dr. Meyer the inaugural recipient in 2001, four years before he died while still working full-time at the age of 69.

The Golden Apple is still awarded by first- and second-year students.

Today, Dr. O’Dell, who joined six others in the orchard in 2007, conducts his clerkships in the education center dedicated to Dr. Meyer on the fifth floor of the Medical Science Building. UNMC physicians also dedicated the second floor of the Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education to Dr. Meyer.

Dr. O’Dell remembers that Dr. Meyer wanted students to think. “If you didn’t get it right, he would say, ‘Mercy.’ I find myself echoing those sentiments.

“The biggest impact I can have as a teacher is to turn students into critical thinkers and life-long learners because what we do and know today may not be the best thing tomorrow,” Dr. O’Dell said. “If you can think physiologically, you can care for patients.

“On the second day of class, I tell students that nothing is worse than going



into a patient's room and not knowing how to help. And there's nothing better than coming up with a plan to make them better."

Teachers were previously the keepers of knowledge, but now students and patients can acquire the knowledge through the internet. "But the application – interpretation of the information with a patient – we strive to get the students to see the connections and apply that knowledge," Dr. O'Dell said.

Flexibility is one attribute an excellent teacher must embrace, and this trio has done just that, adapting their teaching styles to the millennial way of learning. One way has been through e-learning modules, and all three were developers or faculty advisers on such projects through a program initiated this past year by Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dele Davies, M.D.

It's risky. Venturing into the unknown is always a risk, but it's something Dr. Schmid likes to do – especially with her biostatistics courses. "I'm always trying to improve the way I teach. That's what makes education fun."

Biostatistics is challenging and not always a favorite subject for students. But, Dr. Schmid has become extremely creative in how she explains complex concepts.

"I use multiple examples in different ways to explain concepts," she said.

She even made biostatistics sexy by using math to determine facial attractiveness of real people. Her study catapulted her onto the international stage. She was featured in a Discovery Channel documentary and appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show. That upped her "cool" factor among students.

But, her true reward comes when a former student returns to tell her he now understands the methodology section of a scientific article – and no longer skips over it. "My goal is for students to walk out of my classroom with understanding and, at least, respect for the subject," she said.

When Dr. Schmid began teaching at UNMC in 2007, her class size numbered



Kendra Schmid, Ph.D.

about 30 students a year. Now, the class is taught annually with multiple in-class and online sessions to about 150 students.

Recognition of teaching excellence from student-driven awards is high praise. So, too, is being acknowledged by campus peers, the UNMC Faculty Senate and the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Schmid was surprised when she was named one of UNMC's Outstanding Teachers in 2013. "I never expected a biostatistics teacher to be recognized at the campus level. It is not only my award, but the result of great mentors and great students. Hopefully, I can make proud all those who helped me become a better teacher"

It truly is a collaborative effort of mentors and colleagues who help shape an excellent teacher.

"It's rewarding to work and share ideas with colleagues and mentors. No one stands alone," said Dr. Becker, who has been at UNMC only four years, but has made a big impression for her dynamic and tech savvy approach toward teaching.

"I enjoy incorporating technology into the classroom where it's appropriate. A healthy blend is important. The great thing about technology is that it can appeal to all types of learning styles," she said.

Each year, in her first class with physical therapy students, Dr. Becker walks them through a self-analysis to understand how


they learn. "It's important to realize that everyone learns differently."

Dr. Becker, who received her master's degree in physical therapy from UNMC in 1999 and is now pursuing a Ph.D. at her alma mater, comes from a family that is deeply committed and loyal to the University of Nebraska. Her parents, grandparents, sisters, aunts, uncles and even her husband (Mark Becker, M.D., 'M98), are alums. Her grandfather, Richard "Dick" Adkins, was a regent when Wittson Hall was built in 1969.

She is appreciative of the opportunities she has had to collaborate with colleagues and students on integrating technology into the curriculum. Dr. Becker is now co-chair of the e-learning steering committee, is active in the Apple Initiative, which is exploring how Apple products can be used in the classroom, and is a member of the newly formed Interprofessional Academy of Educators.

Dr. Becker has helped develop seven e-learning modules, one of which she is researching to evaluate if it made a difference in performance on physical therapy range of motion exams.

"High-touch learning tools can be used effectively when blended with traditional teaching methods," she said.

And, of course, the teachers themselves can never be replaced. 

# NINE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GREAT TEACHER

**This list is a compilation of characteristics that educators in the U.S. agree make an excellent teacher.**

1. Respects students
2. Creates a sense of community and belonging
3. Is warm, accessible, enthusiastic and caring
4. Sets high expectations
5. Loves learning and inspires students with his/her passion
6. Is a skilled leader
7. Flexible
8. Collaborates with colleagues
9. Maintains professionalism



On rounds with David O'Dell, M.D., medical students Laura Pinon, third-year, reviews a patient's chart while John Mitchell, fourth year, examines a patient.

## Maybe the bank you're looking for, isn't a bank at all!

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# 3-D SIMULATION IS NEW SPOONFUL OF SUGAR

by Kalani Simpson

Virtual-immersive reality and interactive technology help young patients become more familiar with the radiation treatment they are about to receive.

**T**argeted radiation treatment and squirmy kids do not equal a good outcome.

Targeted radiation requires patients to remain motionless. The American Cancer Society says that up to 60 percent of cancer patients will receive radiation therapy as one form of treatment.

When those patients are kids, remaining motionless is a lot to ask, especially with the stress and anxiety that comes with an unfamiliar environment and “scary” equipment.

As a result, many of these kids undergo sedation – often with every appointment. This repeated anesthesia comes with higher medical costs and additional stress for the kids and their families, as well as potential long-term risks.

That sparked an idea now being explored by UNMC’s radiation therapy program and its director, Lisa Bartenhagen. UNMC is all-in on using virtual-immersive reality and interactive technology to better train and educate health professionals. But what about using those same tools to help patients?

“Let’s use UNMC’s VERT (Virtual Environment Radiotherapy Training system) to help patients practice upcoming radiation-therapy procedures, just as we do with care providers,” she said.

Likened to a flight simulator, the VERT is a 3-D, “fully immersive” experience. UNMC’s model was acquired thanks to a partnership between the College of Allied Health Professions, the College of Medicine and the department of radiation oncology.

UNMC has been a national leader in the use of the VERT as a teaching tool for care providers to simulate radiation therapy treatment.


Bartenhagen wondered if pediatric patients could similarly familiarize themselves with the equipment and the environment, even playing or “giving” loved ones or teddy bears radiation therapy, would it reduce their anxiety levels beforehand?

Could they even reduce or eliminate the need for anesthesia sedation?

If so, it would give patients a better quality of life, in being able to do regular activities – including eating – before and after treatment. It would give kids and their families one less hardship during a difficult time.

Bartenhagen and her co-investigators will launch a pilot study to scientifically test whether use of the VERT could reduce anxiety levels in pediatric cancer patients. If so, the use of pre-treatment simulation could be a model for oncology departments.

The prospective study is still forthcoming. But preliminary anecdotal results have been encouraging.

Collaborators, along with Bartenhagen, include UNMC’s primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine, including its Child Life Services; Chi Lin, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of radiation oncology; Don Coulter, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics hematology/oncology; Rebecca Swanson, a nurse practitioner for Nebraska Medicine; and Jana Koth, assistant professor of medical imaging and therapeutic sciences. 






# GAME- CHANGING SCIENCE

by Kalani Simpson





UNMC College of Medicine graduate Ronald Hamilton, M.D., describes what happened this way:

"My student handed me a small pebble, and said, 'Is this what I think it is?' And I said, 'Yes.' And I threw the pebble to the ground.

"And it started an avalanche."

The "pebble" resulted in a groundbreaking discovery on traumatic brain injury. This new finding changed the way we look at one of our national pastimes, football. It led to controversy, a national conversation, and eventually, a movie, "Concussion," starring two-time Oscar nominee Will Smith.

The movie also has a "Ron Hamilton" character. The Omaha native (Omaha North, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, UNMC Class of 1989) is part of this story, too.

Dr. Hamilton's mentee, Bennet Omalu, M.B.B.S., had gone to extraordinary measures to make a discovery that changed everything. But, Dr. Hamilton was the senior scientist who confirmed the discovery and staked his reputation on it.

When the National Football League, through its Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Committee, demanded a retraction – a rarity in science – "My career was on the line," Dr. Hamilton said.

It began in 2002, when Mike Webster, a Pro Football Hall of Fame player, died at age 50 after suffering from what he himself had previously called football-related dementia. Webster's body came to the Allegheny (Pennsylvania) County Coroner's Office, where Dr. Omalu worked.

Already a forensic pathologist, Dr. Omalu had invested several years of further training with Dr. Hamilton to also become a neuropathologist. He wanted to distinguish himself within the field. "Really, a go-getter guy," Dr. Hamilton said.

Dr. Omalu, an immigrant from Nigeria, did not know who Webster was. "He didn't know football from baseball," Dr. Hamilton said. But if the man on the table before him had suffered from dementia, Dr. Omalu felt he owed it to Webster to look at his brain.

This was unusual. Most times, cause of death would be considered "natural," and that would be it. Dr. Omalu got the OK to

investigate further, but was told he needed to work on Webster's brain on his own time, on his own dime. He did, in part working with Dr. Hamilton's lab at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where Dr. Hamilton is director of the neuropathology core and an associate professor of pathology.

"True Blood" star Stephen Moyer has said in interviews that he wanted the part of Ron Hamilton because of the crucial scene between Drs. Omalu and Hamilton.

Dr. Hamilton said there are certain cases neuropathologists see all the time. And then there are those you see only in textbooks, or once in a lifetime. In Webster, Dr. Omalu had found the latter.

Dr. Omalu stopped by Dr. Hamilton's office to confer with his mentor – to present the pebble. Dr. Hamilton recalls being given the slides "blind," with no other information. Just tell me what you see.

Dr. Hamilton is known worldwide, within the field, for having made strides in the study of Alzheimer's disease. He's an expert. Looking at the slides, he ticked off what this case wasn't. At last, he came to a conclusion.

Dementia pugilistica. A boxer.

No, Dr. Omalu said. This was a football player. This was Mike Webster.

Oh, of course. Then and now, it made perfect sense. "It didn't even phase me," Dr. Hamilton said.

It would be interesting to see how many times former football players had been diagnosed with this condition, Dr. Hamilton said.

Dr. Omalu already had checked the literature. The answer was zero. Mike Webster was the first.

"That's when my jaw dropped," Dr. Hamilton said. "I knew, right at this point, this was not going to be the last case. There were going to be lots of other cases.

"No neuropathologist had ever looked at the brain of a football player before."

The avalanche was starting...





Ronald Hamilton, M.D.



Oscar nominee Will Smith starred as Dr. Hamilton's former student, Dr. Bennet Omalu, in the movie "Concussion."



Ron Hamilton, M'89, with "Concussion" director/screenwriter Peter Landesman, who visited the neuropathology offices at the University of Pittsburgh several times to prepare for filming.

Dementia pugilistica no longer sufficed. This was new. In consultation with Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Omalu coined the term chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE. (Technically, dementia pugilistica is a form of CTE.)

And, as they wrote up this first case study for publication, Dr. Omalu and his collaborators knew to tread carefully.

"When you submit a paper to a journal, the standard practice is they will send it to two reviewers," Dr. Omalu said, in an interview with PBS Frontline. "If the two reviewers agree this is a good paper, it's published. They'll make some comments, make some changes. If the two reviewers disagree, it's sent to a third reviewer and majority wins. Do you know the number of people that reviewed this paper? There were over 18."

"It was an incredible peer review process," Dr. Hamilton said. "That just made it stronger. When the paper got published we were very happy about it."

Not everyone was. A handful of physicians, who coincidentally served as the National Football League's Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Committee, wrote the journal demanding a retraction.

"That's like a nuclear option," Dr. Hamilton said. "When you demand a retraction you are saying it's faked, it's false, incorrect to such a degree..."

"We were stunned."

Dr. Omalu later said that as he read the rebuttal, he realized something. These doctors, none of whom worked with the brain, were not on solid ground scientifically.


And then something else happened. Another former Pittsburgh Steeler, Terry Long, died tragically and too young. His body also came to the Allegheny County Coroner's Office. A colleague saved the brain for Dr. Omalu.

Long also was found to have CTE.

Then, another former pro football player killed himself. When Dr. Omalu examined his brain, CTE. Another, killed in a car crash after an incident with police. CTE.

And another. And another.





"When we got that first case, we didn't really understand what the magnitude was going to be," Dr. Hamilton said. "I thought that maybe one in 100 or one in 500 might get it. I didn't think it was going to be as pervasive."

"It's kind of like the California gold rush," Dr. Hamilton said. "Why had no one discovered gold before? It was right there. If you weren't looking for it, you won't see it. But if you know to look for it, you'll see it everywhere."

More cases rolled in. While some continued to doubt, other scientists eventually signed on, confirming and accepting CTE; some formed their own, quasi-competing research groups. All the while, Big Football continued to throw its weight into pushback of Dr. Omalu's findings (just this year, after about a decade of denials, the NFL acknowledged a link between football and CTE).

Dr. Omalu, who hadn't known what an avalanche this would cause, felt stress on multiple fronts. Yes, he was suddenly a famous scientist, but ...

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"It was a double-edged sword," he told PBS, "because I began to be exposed to (these players') lives. It started becoming personal to me. I started meeting the family members."

"He's not just some distant pathologist looking at slides," Dr. Hamilton said. "He's involved with people."

The emotion, the human drama, the politics, the public scrutiny could be overwhelming at times. There were days, he told friends, he wished he had never met Mike Webster.

"I said, 'Bennet, you don't know how many people you are saving because of this,'" Dr. Hamilton said.

---

"Neuropathologists know hitting your head is bad," Dr. Hamilton said.

The brain, he explained, floats in fluid inside your skull. How does brain injury happen? "It's not just the head-to-head hits," Dr. Hamilton said. "It's any time the brain is moving and stops suddenly."

And that's what happens when humans slam into one another, when they fall hard to the ground, when their necks snap quickly. In other words, what happens when they take part in contact sports.

The very title of the movie – "Concussion" – doesn't tell the full story, Dr. Hamilton said.

Subconcussive hits, routine hits fans might not even notice, ones that happen multiple times every day in practice, also can contribute to CTE.

"No helmet in the world can stop the brain from moving around inside the skull," Dr. Hamilton said.

Does that mean he believes football should be abolished? No. But make it an age-appropriate activity, Dr. Hamilton argues. Take all contact – all use of helmets – out of practices, so that the risk is limited to just several plays a week, several weeks a year, and only for the starters, who actually play in the games.

This is how you save America's favorite sport.

The movie. "We knew it was Hollywood," Dr. Hamilton said. "And we knew Hollywood was Hollywood."

If you want to know the real story, all the nitty-gritty details, he recommends the book "League of Denial."


But only a movie, only a star like Will Smith, could have the public impact "Concussion" had. "The most important thing the movie could do was increase the conversation," he said, "and it did that."

Now, almost everyone acknowledges CTE. Even those emotionally invested in football. Even the NFL.

And studies continue. "We know a little tiny bit about a little tiny bit," Dr. Hamilton said.

More and more former football players have been diagnosed, via autopsy. So have victims of chronic domestic violence. Military personnel killed in combat.

But like Alzheimer's, CTE can't definitively be diagnosed until a person dies and scientists look at his or her brain.

"We're at the very beginning of this," Dr. Hamilton said. "It's only been 10 years... It's up to the physicians and scientists who work in living people to carry this on. We identified the disease in the dead." 

# GO BABY GO!

by John Keenan

## Santiago was stylin’

The 2 ½-year-old struck the classic cruiser’s pose – one hand on the wheel, one arm resting on the door – as he test drove his new motorized car in front of a crowd of delighted family members and students.

On Aug. 10, Santiago was one of six children with developmental disabilities who got new, tricked out toy cars designed to safely allow them more mobility courtesy of UNMC physical therapy students and University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of Nebraska at Omaha engineering students.

The Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) Guild and Olsson Associates, a local engineering firm, funded the Go Baby Go! Nebraska partnership with grants to the MMI Department of Physical Therapy. The national program provides modified ride-on cars for kids with developmental disabilities.

MMI partnered with Children’s Hospital & Medical Center, the College of Allied Health Professions’ Students of the University of Nebraska American Physical Therapy Association (SUN-APTA), and an engineering student group from UNL.

The result rocked. And, more importantly, rolled.

About 50 students took part, said Sandra Willett, interim director of physical therapy at MMI.





Santiago Lopez, 2 ½, cruises in his Go Baby Go car that provides him new mobility.

Haley Hansen, a third-year physical therapy student, said her classmates were excited when they learned about the project.

"It's really fun, and we're learning a lot," she said, though she conceded it was "a lot harder to put these toy cars together in general." Certainly the families weren't complaining.

"I love the program, and we are so excited to get to be a part of this," said Amanda Lopez, Santiago's mother. "My whole family is ecstatic and just excited to be here."

Madeline Hauschild, age 3 ½, was quick to discover that hitting the big red button of the steering wheel, specially placed there and wired by the students, would move her forward.

"She loves it, so I'm enjoying just watching her having fun," said her mom, Kelly Hauschild.

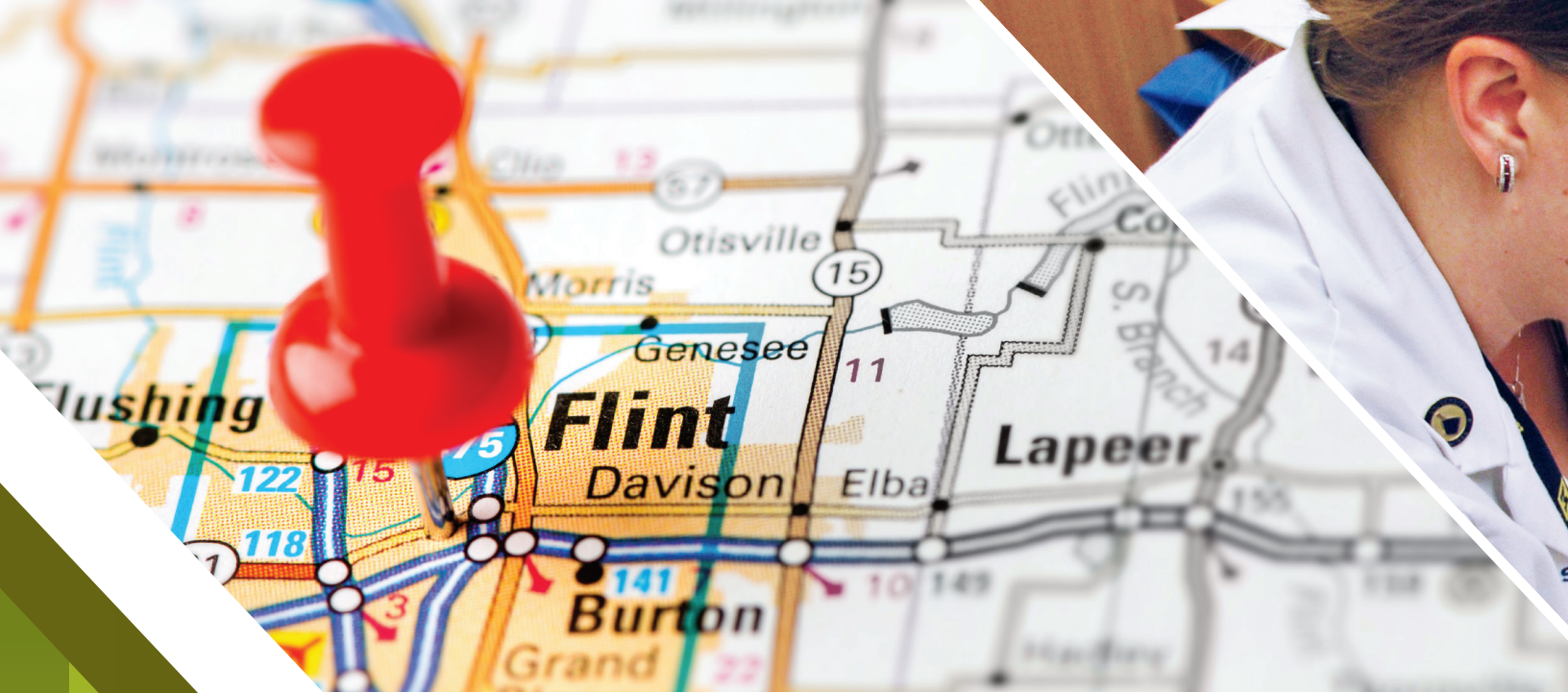
As the day wound down, Willett said she was ecstatic over the event's success.

"You can feel the joy in the room," she said. ©



Physical therapy students watch as Madeline Hauschild, age 3 ½ goes for a test drive.





# UNMC EXPANDS LEAD TESTING IN FLINT

by Kalani Simpson

**Flint, Mich., and lead poisoning have been synonymous for nearly two years.**

The public health emergency erupted when it became known that the city's water supply was contaminated with lead. With 41.6 percent of residents living below the poverty line, many didn't have adequate access to health care to test for lethal levels of lead.

At one point, an independent test done by Virginia Tech researchers found lead levels at 13,200 ppb – water is considered hazardous waste at 5,000 ppb.

As lead levels rose, children began to develop rashes and suffer from mysterious illnesses, behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia. Lead also can cross the placental barrier exposing the fetus to lead. This can result in serious effects to the mother and her developing fetus, with outcomes of reduced growth and premature birth.

The UNMC College of Pharmacy, however, is helping to make it easier for Flint residents to get themselves tested for levels of lead for free.

In the wake of the emergency, the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) reached out to one of its trusted resources – the UNMC College of Pharmacy and its collaborator, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Mich.

This is not the first time UNMC has worked with Ferris State to help Michigan pharmacists with point-of-care testing. In 2014, rapid tests for flu and strep were initiated at community pharmacies, making them more convenient for patients and giving pharmacists a greater role in promoting public health.





*"There's no money to be made on this.  
It's just good public health."* **DONALD KLEPSE, PH.D.**

Left: Kellie Vile, Pharm.D., a pharmacist at Kroger in Flint, Mich., obtains a blood sample from a Flint resident to test for lead poisoning. Right: Patient blood samples are tested for lead levels with LeadCare II analyzers loaned for the project by Magellan Diagnostics.

UNMC is leading a growing national movement in point-of-care testing at community pharmacies. A story in the winter 2014 issue of UNMC Connect explained how the College of Pharmacy was helping to take the program to the public – including at Omaha Hy-Vee stores.

Could pharmacists similarly test for lead and serve a role in helping Flint's residents?

Turns out, yes. Donald Klepser, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacy practice, and principal investigator of the "point-of-care" project, found a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA)-waived lead test.

UNMC's team and the MPA had to navigate legalities, bureaucracy, and, unfortunately, politics. But they ultimately got the go-ahead.

Now, they just had to pay for it.

"There's no money to be made on this," Dr. Klepser said. "It's just good public health."

Magellan Diagnostics loaned LeadCare II analyzers to Flint pharmacies and decreased

the required test kit quantity purchases to assist with implementation costs. And at UNMC, Dr. Klepser pored over his budget and found \$5,000 to pay for "a fair number" of tests.


Dr. Klepser and his team plan to write it up as a study, the next step in the "point-of-care" project. "We hope to show that the pharmacy is an access point that can successfully screen patients," he said. That, in similar outbreaks, pharmacists can step forward to fill a public health need.

"We are simply creating a new access point (for testing) with better hours that can take some of the pressure off the doctor's offices and the health departments," said Greg Pratt, the MPA's emergency preparedness coordinator. "We are providing care and education in a way people understand and trust."

Testing in Flint began in June, with results reported for tracking and study. If negative, patients get peace of mind. If positive, they are counseled and referred to their physician or the county health department.

For UNMC, it is both research and outreach. "It's a remarkable opportunity for pharmacists to play a role in providing access in this type of public health emergency," Dr. Klepser said.

Meanwhile, the UNMC Center for Drug Discovery and Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education, with its experiential learning spaces, like a mock pharmacy, simulation suites and a compounding lab, will help prepare pharmacy students for new roles such as this.

"The new spaces for patient counseling and simulation will allow us to train our students to provide these types of services in a more realistic setting. It allows them to learn and practice with the technology," Dr. Klepser said. 



Read more about the rapid strep and flu tests.

View photos of the new pharmacy building opening ceremony.

[unmc.edu/connect](http://unmc.edu/connect)



# PAYING IT FORWARD

Alum's monthly gift helps UNMC residents

## **Every breath on Earth begins the same way: with birth.**

And every year since graduating from UNMC's medical school three decades ago, Don Gibbens, M.D., a Lincoln OB-GYN, has seen about 240 births – and about that many first breaths.

Sometimes he's seen death.

"When it comes to being a human being, there are very few more joyous times in a couple's life than having a baby," he says. "On the other side of the coin, if there's a problem with the baby, it also can be a tumultuous time.

"It's a specialty that gives you a perspective on life that a lot of other people don't have."

It's given him a great life, he said one morning at a coffeehouse called The Mill, in the College Hill area of Lincoln. He's here to be interviewed for a story about a gift he's given to benefit UNMC's OB-GYN Department.

"I was very fortunate to have gotten admitted to the Class of 1985," Don said. "They took a chance on me, and I can never repay what they did for me. This is an attempt to try to say thank you for trusting in this big dumb football player." (Don played linebacker at Lincoln Southeast and then at Nebraska Wesleyan.)

He smiled.

"I still am worried that someday I'm going to get a note from the University of Nebraska: Dr. Gibbens, we made a mistake and we're going to take the medical degree back..."

This interview, he warned, may be cut short if his cell phone tells him that yet another baby is on its way. That's the life of a physician, he said. A lot of life interruptions. That's why he tried to steer his three kids away from a career in medicine.

But one didn't listen – his oldest child, Jake.

Like his dad, Jake Gibbens also went to medical school at UNMC. He finished his OB residency at UNMC last year and is now in his second year of a maternal-fetal medicine fellowship in Jackson, Miss.

Don was still a medical student when his wife, Valerie, gave birth to Jake.

Don will never forget that day.

He'll never forget his first-born's first breath.

He'll never forget gross anatomy class that first year at UNMC and how it connected him and the other med students to life and death in a hands-on way.



He'll never forget his professors.

One of them was Carl V. Smith, M.D. Even though Dr. Smith was very young back then, Don said, he commanded the students' respect. He always demanded that they base their medical decisions on science.

"He made you be very thoughtful about how you managed your decisions," he said.

He smiled again.

"I hear his voice almost every day."

Dr. Smith now directs UNMC's OB-GYN program, and the two are friends. Don said he wanted his fund to support OB-GYN residents partly because of his respect for Dr. Smith.

"He's now educated two generations of Gibbens."

He'll never forget how hard life was when he was a resident. His fund has helped pay for iPads that let the residents access information quickly as they make their rounds.

He's also helping to pay for a residents' lounge at UNMC.

"It makes me feel good," he says.


"Anything I could do to make a resident's life a little better – that's why I established the fund.

"All I do is give \$1,000 a month. I've committed \$100,000, and it really hasn't been a big deal. I haven't had to scrimp in order to do it – it's like just another car payment I make on a monthly basis. I think most physicians would be able to do something like this too."

He hopes his story inspires other alumni to remember UNMC.

And the great life it gave them, too.

**Read about the College of Medicine Alumni Engagement Council's decision to recognize all of the college's former residents and fellows as UNMC alumni on page 23 through a "New Era of Alumni Engagement."**

**Call the University of Nebraska Foundation at 800-432-3216 and learn more about supporting UNMC. **



Drs. Jake M'11 and Don Gibbens M'85

## OUR STUDENTS OUR FUTURE

To attract and prepare the best students to become Nebraska's frontline health care professionals, investments are needed now. Providing financial support to lessen education-related debt, encouraging students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds to consider health care professions and investing in cutting-edge teaching and learning techniques will solidify UNMC as the best choice for highly qualified and motivated students.

Last year, the University of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska Foundation launched *Our Students, Our Future*, an initiative to raise \$200 million by the end of 2017 to support NU students, including those at UNMC. Your generous gifts today will touch the lives of students now and long into the future. Please help us transform young lives and invest in Nebraska's future.

To learn more contact Amy Volk at [amy.volk@nufoundation.org](mailto:amy.volk@nufoundation.org) or at 800-432-3216.

# GOAL

**\$200 MILLION**  
BY DEC. 31, 2017

# YTD

**\$95.4 MILLION**  
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2016



## UNMC Alumni Association Now Includes Residents



New UNMC alumni lapel pin distributed to residents.

**T**he College of Medicine Alumni Engagement Council recently voted to extend membership status to all residents and fellows. This change adds an additional 3,700 new members to the all-inclusive UNMC Alumni Association.

Council president John Lohrberg, M'86, spoke of the decision: "Our goal is to continue to open the doors of the Alumni Association as wide as possible. We look forward to engaging with UNMC's residents and fellows to develop a relationship that is mutually beneficial."

The UNMC Alumni Association is distributing alumni lapel pins to the residents as a welcome gesture. In addition, the Alumni Engagement Council added two UNMC residents to its council leadership – Rishi Batra M'14 (surgery) and Jessica Sonderup M'16 (internal medicine – preliminary). **Other residents and fellows interested in serving on the Engagement Council should call Roxanna Jokela at 402.559.4378.**

## College of Medicine Class of 1962 Presents Basic Science Outstanding Teaching Award

**J**ohn (Pat) O'Gara, M.D., of the College of Medicine Class of 1962, presented the 2015-16 Basic Science Outstanding Teacher Award to Justin Mott, M.D., Ph.D., at a dinner honoring the awardee on May 9, 2016. Dr. Mott's wife and children attended the dinner recognition along with Surinder Batra, Ph.D., chair of the UNMC Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; dean of the UNMC College of Medicine Bradley Britigan, M.D., and Richard MacDonald, Ph.D., a mentor of Dr. Mott. The College of Medicine Class of 1962, in partnership with the College of Medicine Dean's Office, has provided this award annually since 1989 to recognize a UNMC basic science professor.



Pat O'Gara M'62 (at right) and Justin Mott, MD, PhD

## New Era of Engagement Terminology

**C**onfused about the language in the New Era of Engagement? Here is a quick guide to the names and phrases most frequently used in the New Era.

### Alumni Engagement Council

Alumni Engagement Council, or AEC, is the new name for the former college-specific alumni associations or alumni chapters. Example: College of Nursing Alumni Chapter = College of Nursing Alumni Engagement Council.

### Innovation Fund

The Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Allied Health Professions, Public Health, and the Graduate Studies Program, as well as the College of Pharmacy Alumni Engagement Council, each have a new Innovation Fund created in partnership with the University of Nebraska Foundation to raise funds to support the people and programs of the UNMC Alumni Association and the work of the Engagement Councils. The Innovation Funds replace the membership dues programs of each former alumni chapter.

### New Era of Engagement

In the fall of 2015, the UNMC Alumni Association voted to approve the New Era of Engagement, in which all alumni become members, making the association "all-inclusive." The goal is to focus on strategic alumni engagement, closely align the work of the UNMC colleges and the engagement councils, enable alums to invest in their UNMC passions and support the education of current students.



## The New Era of Engagement: Year Two

July 2016 marked the beginning of the second year of the New Era of Engagement for the UNMC Alumni Association. This year's programming focus is to build on the following strategic themes:

- Provide critical support to UNMC students through the formation of meaningful student-to-alumni relationships and market-driven student activities.
- Re-engineer education through support for innovative technology and new initiatives for UNMC students.
- Engage alumni in the life and promotion of UNMC through interprofessional activities, continuing education and strategic communications.
- Determine the ability for alumni to provide data from their practice for clinical research conducted by current students and faculty in all colleges.

**Interested in volunteering?** There are volunteer positions available with each alumni engagement council and two UNMC Alumni Association committees, the Finance Committee and the Strategic Planning and Engagement Committee.

**Interested volunteers should contact [alumni@unmc.edu](mailto:alumni@unmc.edu).**

## Alumni Association Hosts Annual Board Retreat

In June, 53 alums, students, UNMC Alumni Association staff, board members, deans and University of Nebraska Foundation staff gathered at the Carol Joy Holling Center in Ashland, Neb., to plan alumni engagement activities for the coming year.

The theme of the retreat was Alumni Engagement in the New Era and featured a report on the first year of the New Era of Engagement pilot program with plans for the year ahead. Through two, small group work sessions, alumni were able to share opportunities and challenges across all colleges.

"The retreat enabled us to share success stories to benefit the other alumni engagement councils," said Chad Wetzel, PH'13. "I was proud to share our mock



Panelists at the UNMC Alumni Association retreat include, from left: Kate Kuester DPT'08; CAHP Dean Kyle Meyer, PhD, PT; Bill Lydiatt M'88; and Chad Wetzel MPH'13. The panel discussed "Success Stories in the New Era of Engagement."

interviews program because we felt that meaningful engagement occurs between alumni and students."

**The retreat summary is available online at [unmc.edu/alumni](http://unmc.edu/alumni).**

## Alumni Directory in Development

The UNMC Alumni Association, in partnership with UNMC students and the University of Nebraska Foundation, is developing the first online UNMC Alumni Directory. The directory, the first major project in the New Era of Engagement, was originally proposed by UNMC graduate students and has the support of Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

"The purpose of the project is to open doors for collaboration, improve career

outcomes for UNMC graduates, enhance the sense of UNMC community and inclusion, and help to visually highlight the success of alumni," said Tim Bielecki, UNMC graduate student.

In the future, alums can obtain log-in credentials from the UNMC Alumni Relations Office. **Alums who are interested in providing feedback on the directory development may contact [alumni@unmc.edu](mailto:alumni@unmc.edu).**

## Allied Health Professions

### **Diana Bee CLS'64**

Gladstone, Mo., celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary in September.

### **Cathy Gorka CLS'74**

Lincoln, Neb., left the clinical laboratory after 35 years. Since 2010, she had been employed at the University Health Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a certified medical coder.

### **Karen Honeycutt CLS'84**

Omaha, Neb., was named the inaugural Clarence and Nelle Gilg Professor for Teaching Excellence and Innovation in Allied Health at UNMC.

### **Gretchen Nicholson CLS'97**

Jefferson City, Mo., works as a risk manager at the Capital Region Medical Center.

### **Stacey Adam CLS'02**

Washington, D.C., works with the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

### **Maria Mauricio-Dosseh CLS'04**

Omaha, Neb., is a quality assurance manager at Streck, Inc.

### **Darwin Brown CLS'81, PA'86, MPH'04**

Omaha, Neb., received an Outstanding Teacher Award from the UNMC Faculty Senate in April 2016. He retired as assistant professor, associate program director and director of clinical education of physician assistant education.

### **Juli Habegger PA'90**

Pawnee City, Neb., has practiced for 25 years in Pawnee City. Her daughter, Haley, is pursuing her master's degree in occupational therapy from the College of St. Mary's and is in her final year. Daughter Jenna is a sophomore at Concordia University and her son, Kellen, is a senior at Pawnee City High School.

### **Kenneth Mitchell PA'95**

Nashville, Tenn., became the founding director (Dec. 1, 2015) of the Meharry Medical College Physician Assistant Program in Nashville.

### **Aaron Salomon PA'99**

Gothenburg, Neb., received a Physician Assistant of the Year Award at the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants Annual Spring Meeting in April.

### **Joseph Willmitch PA'01**

Memphis, Tenn., is an assistant professor in the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

### **Amy Berger PA'07**

Westerville, Ohio, arrived in England at the end of June 2016 and will work as a physician associate in the UK. She was recruited by the National Physician Associate Expansion Programme for a two-year assignment in hopes of bringing more awareness to the PA profession.

### **David Jackson PA'07**

Huntington Station, N.Y., was elected vice president of the American Academy of PAs/ Speaker of the House of Delegates and began his term on July 1, 2016.

### **Stacey Vierra PA'07, MPA'08**

Great Falls, Mont., was promoted to the rank of major in the U.S. Air Force. She also received the Air Force Medical Service 2015 Outstanding Competent Medical Authority of the Year Award from the Air Force Surgeon General. She currently serves as public health flight commander with 341st Medical Operations Squadron at Malmstrom Air Force Base. She has served in the military for 23 years.

### **Diana Podlecki PA'10**

Missoula, Mont., moved to Missoula in October 2015 and accepted a job in OB-GYN.

### **Casey Cortney PT'95**

Sidney, Neb., graduated with his doctorate of physical therapy in May 2016 from the University of Montana at Missoula. He continues to own and operate the Sidney Rehabilitation & Wellness Clinic.

### **Jed McNally PT'03**

Portland, Texas, is director of physical therapy at Humpal Physical Therapy.

### **Jason Wheeler PT'05**

San Antonio, Texas, is undergoing fellowship training through the Manual Therapy Institute 59th Medical Wing as civilian provider of the quarter on Joint Base San Antonio.

### **Morgan Nolte PT'14**

Plattsburgh, Neb., received a Geriatric Clinical Specialist (GCS) certification in June 2016.

### **Jerod Post PT'16**

Scottsbluff, Neb., works at Saint Thomas More Hospital Outpatient Rehab Center in Canon City, Colo.



Aaron Salomon PA'99 with Brittany Bauer, who is the president of the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants.

### **James Temme RSTE'73, '74**

Omaha, Neb., was awarded Life Member status in the American Society of Radiologic Technologists during the ASRT Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting in June 2016.

### **Julie Morbach RSTE'94**

Lincoln, Neb., joined the UNMC College of Allied Health faculty at the Kearney campus.

### **Rebecca McMullin RSTE'12**

Alexandria, Va., is a radiation therapist at Virginia Cancer Specialists.

### **Jenna Coe RSTE'12**

Broken Arrow, Okla., is a radiologic technologist at Saint Francis South.

## Medicine

### **Winifred Bradford M'48**

Mount Vernon, Wash., spent many years of her medical career working with the Evangelical United Brethren Mission Board. She retired in 1988. A highlight of her career was establishing a birth center to support pregnant women who do not have access to hospital care.

### **Bill Burr M'58**

Rocklin, Calif., retired from part-time practice in December 2015. He plans to travel and join the volunteer clinical faculty of the University of California Davis, School of Medicine. He will be a facilitator for small groups of first- and second-year medical students in a class called "Doctoring."

### **Gerald Engelsjerd M'59**

Duluth, Minn., has been enjoying retirement from his urology practice since 2009. His son, Jeff, finished his urology residency at UNMC in 1996 and his grandson, Josh Engelsjerd, started his urology residency at UNMC on July 1.

### **Donald Argo M'64**

Marysville, Kan., retired in 2013 after working for 49 years.

### **James Mouer M'64**

Phoenix, Ariz., works one day a week, mostly teaching residents about menopause. He has four married children, 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

### **Ricard Ohme M'64**

Gig Harbor, Wash., retired in 1999 and is busier than ever gardening, fishing, camping and spending time with the grandkids.



**Duane Koenig M'66**

Plymouth, Neb., consults and serves as an airman med examiner. He practiced in Beatrice for 35 years. In 2014, he implemented a surgical program in Africa, and continues to mentor the physician medical team.

**Alvin Armstrong M'67**

Bradenton, Fla., retired from pathology in 2014 and lives in Omaha, Neb., and Bradenton, Fla.

**Eugene Baillie M'67**

Anderson, S.C., retired when his wife, Virginia, was diagnosed with glioblastoma in 2011. She died in May 2015. He has written three books about going through trials and facing death. Many say the first book also is a love story of 51 years of marriage. His wife was a 1965 medical technologist graduate of UNMC. He now spends his time with his grandchildren.

**Bill Eichner M'68**

Weybridge, Vt., retired after 38 years of practice. He is now a happy gardener and personal assistant to his wife/author, Julia Alvarez.

**Jon Hinrichs M'68**

Lincoln, Neb., won the 2015 President's Cup at Thunderbird Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif. For the 14th year, he led the 4th of July rag-tag marching band on Madeline Island, Wis.

**Nick Workhoven M'68**

Coos Bay, Ore., finished a 43-year career in anesthesiology in December of 2011. Since then, he performs chart reviews for the surgeons.

**Richard Fitch M'69**

O'Neill, Neb., retired after 46 years in family medicine. He continues to volunteer with recovering methamphetamine addicts and serves on several non-profit boards.

**Roger Bower M'70**

Ormond Beach, Fla., retired from his positions as chief medical officer and staff endocrinologist at the Daytona Beach VA Multispecialty Outpatient Clinic. He and his wife of 53 years, Rose, continue to reside in Ormond Beach.

**Joseph Drozda M'70**

Chesterfield, Mo., is the director of Outcomes Research at Mercy and is the principal investigator of a major initiative funded by the Food and Drug Administration. In the initiative, methods are piloted for using electronic health record data and recently created unique device identifiers to evaluate the performance and safety of such implanted medical devices as coronary stents.

**Steven Thomsen M'72**

Lawrence, Kan., has been retired for a little over two years and loves every minute of retirement. He founded the Lawrence Family Practice Center in 1978 and worked there for 36 years. He also taught half-time at Kansas Medical School and served 20 years as a preceptor.

**Stephen Erickson M'73**

Rochester, Minn., recently won two Best Teacher of the Year awards as determined by both the nephrology fellows and the Mayo Fellows' Association, and now enters the Mayo Teaching Hall of Fame based on cumulative awards from current and previous years.

**Thomas Novotny M'73**

Washington, D.C., retired from teaching global health at San Diego State University (SDSU) in May 2015. He then completed a Fulbright Specialist Fellowship in Rio de Janeiro in October-November 2015, working on a collaborative tobacco research project. He is a professor emeritus at SDSU, but has resumed a previous role with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

**William Schlichtemeier M'73**

Papillion, Neb., is on the board of directors for the Nebraska Sports Council, which sponsors the Cornhusker State Games. This marks the 30th year that he has served as sports director for pistol marksmanship.

**Larry Wilson M'73**

Green Valley, Ariz., and his wife, Joann, recently moved to Quail Creek, a retirement community south of Tucson, Ariz. He is active with the community emergency response team as an instructor and volunteer.

**William Nash M'76**

Elizabethtown, Ky., is semi-retired and works part-time in the office. He and his wife, Marilou, have been married for 42 years. They have four grown children and five grandchildren. He is a retired colonel (USAR).

**Thomas McKnight M'77**

Fremont, Neb., was the 2016 recipient of the Marion D. and Theodore Koefoot Jr., M.D. Outstanding Preceptor in Rural Family Medicine Award at UNMC. Dr. McKnight practices at Prairie Fields Family Medicine in Fremont.

**Toni (Haskins) Ganzel M'78**

Louisville, Ky., was named to the Papillion LaVista Schools (Neb.) Hall of Fame on Sept. 3. She is dean of the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

**Robert Gould M'78**

Del Mar, Calif., lectures at medical schools and universities on the topic: "So You Want To Be a Doctor" His talk educates students on being realistic about the pitfalls of going into the field. He also has started writing a book.

**William Carpenter M'79**

Park Falls, Wis., is happily doing rural emergency medicine in three different centers of the Marshfield Clinic in northern Wisconsin. He and his wife of 42 years, Elizabeth, enjoy living on a small lake and traveling often.



Bradley Britigan, MD, dean of the College of Medicine, at left with Ashraf Gerdes COM resident alum in family medicine '95 and John DiBaise MD'92. They attended the UNMC Alumni Association Deans in the Desert event in Scottsdale, Ariz. in April 2016.

**Scott McPherson M'80**

Omaha, Neb., joined the faculty of Nebraska Medicine – Clarkson Family Medicine Residency on July 1.

**Terry Schwab M'80**

Fort Scott, Kan., received the Medal of Honor for his father, from President Barack Obama at the White House on March 18, 2014. 1st Lt. Donald K. Schwab was honored posthumously for his heroic actions on Sept. 17, 1944, near Lure, France.

**Gregory Minton M'81**

Lewisville, Texas, published the book *Trisomy XXI* on June 6. The book fuses elements of horror, science fiction, mystery and thriller. Several years ago, Dr. Minton was rear-ended and suffered a traumatic closed-head injury. Throughout, and following his road to recovery, he developed an overwhelming passion to write a tale of horror.

**Charles Chaulk M'84**

Baltimore, Md., is the principal investigator on two Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grants recently awarded to the Baltimore City Health Department. The grants total \$22 million and support development of a citywide collaborative to reduce HIV infection in Baltimore City.

**Michael Keralis M'84**

Lincoln, Neb., helped lead a medical team working with the Lifeline Christian Mission in Grand Goave, Haiti. Also part of the team was **Derek Shafer M'16**.

**Thomas Kirsch M'84**

Towson, Md., will step down as professor of emergency medicine and international health at Johns Hopkins to become the director of the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness in the Department of Defense.

**Julie Vose M'84**

Omaha, Neb., finished a year as 2015-16 president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), which is the largest society for oncology professionals with 41,000 international members.

**Scott Woodard M'86**

Estes Park, Colo., was named to the Papillion LaVista Schools (Neb.) Hall of Fame on Sept. 3. He is a physician at the Estes Park Medical Center. He is a direct supporter of the Estes Park Medical Center Foundation and supports various scholarship programs for youth.

**Michael Kozal M'88**

Guilford, Conn., is a professor of medicine and vice chair for the department of medicine at Yale School of Medicine and serves as chief of the medicine service for the VA Connecticut Healthcare System.

**Kevin Hamburger M'89**

Sioux City, Iowa, serves as president of the medical staff at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

**⊗ Jill Reel M'89**

Arlington, Neb., is the first full-time pediatrician in Blair, Neb., in the Blair Clinic. Her daughter, Brooke Burianek, is in her third year of law school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; son Nick is getting his master's degree in accounting. Jill's husband, Jeff Burianek, is a salesman for Independent Technologies.

**Joseph Billig M'91**

Denver, Colo., is an area medical director for the Colorado Permanente Medical Group. He is responsible for all aspects of quality, service and affordability for the departments of neonatology, emergency medicine, anesthesiology, hospital medicine, electrophysiology and interventional cardiology. He has approximately 150 physicians that report to him. His wife, Amber, is a registered nurse. He has two stepdaughters, as well as a daughter and son.

**Julie Brahmer M'93**

Baltimore, Md., is recognized by Continental Who's Who among Pinnacle Professionals in the field of Healthcare. She is an oncologist at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and works in the areas of medical oncology and lung cancer.

**Matthew Rings M'93**

Cumming, Ga., is a captain in the U.S. Navy and the former department head of aerospace ophthalmology. He serves as the director of the Color Vision Research Center, under the command of the Naval Medicine Operational Training Center, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. As of May 2016, he had 23 years of active duty service.

**Kynan Trail M'95**

Yankton, S.D., practices in Yankton. His hobbies include: flying his plane to new destinations, traveling abroad and scuba diving. He spent the past six months as scout master for one of the local Boy Scout troops.

**⊗ William Thorell M'96**

Omaha, Neb., was awarded the Lyl G. Leibrock, M.D., Chair of Neurosurgery at UNMC.

**Deborah Clements M'97**

Highland Park, Ill., was elected to a seat on the board of directors of the National Resident Matching Program®. Her term of service commenced July 1, 2016. She is professor and chair of family and community medicine at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine.

**Laura Millemon M'05**

Omaha, Neb., began a two-year term as president of the Nebraska Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

**Kate Shafto M'06**

Minneapolis, Minn., co-designed and is teaching a class at the University of Minnesota for medical and other health professional students called "Food Matters – Practical Nutrition through Culinary Skills, for Patient-Care and Self-Care." She will complete a fellowship in integrative medicine in the fall of 2017, through the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine.

**Geoffrey Mickells M'09**

Chamblee, Ga., completed his fellowship in pediatric critical care medicine in June of 2015 and then joined Neonatology Associates of Atlanta as a pediatric intensivist at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

**Noah Beadell M'10**

Tecumseh, Neb., recently moved back to Nebraska from Portland, Ore. He has accepted a job as a neurohospitalist at Bryan Health in Lincoln.

**Benjamin Teply M'10**

Baltimore, Md., completed his oncology/hematology fellowship at Johns Hopkins and will stay on for an additional research year.

**Melissa Teply M'10**

Baltimore, Md., started her fellowship training in hospice and palliative medicine at Johns Hopkins in July 2016.

**Benton Nelson M'11**

Lincoln, Neb., finished his ENT residency in Indianapolis and moved to Lincoln with his wife, Shelley, where, in July, he joined ENT Specialties, PC.

**Shelley Nelson M'11**

Lincoln, Neb., and husband Benton moved in August 2016 from Indianapolis to Lincoln, where she will practice pediatrics with the Lincoln Pediatric Group.

**Kari Sufficool M'11**

Saint Louis, Mo., is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology and recently completed dermatopathology fellowship training at Saint Louis University in June. She will join a private dermatopathology practice in the St. Louis Metro area.

## Residency

**Joseph Auxier, Internal Medicine '04**

Lincoln, Neb., joined the medical staff at Fremont Health Medical Center in Fremont, Neb. He is a pulmonologist and critical care specialist originally from Waverly, Neb.

## Nursing

**Jan Fuccillo N'71**

Troutdale, Ore., has been a diabetes educator and then a certified diabetes educator and program coordinator for almost 37 years at a hospital system in the Portland area.

**Carla Dieter N'78**

Brookings, S.D., retired as the chair of the University of South Dakota's Department of Nursing, a position she held since 2011.

**Virginia Murphy N'78**

Pocatello, Idaho, was a faculty member in the graduate nursing program at Idaho State University from 1999 until retirement in 2013. She continues to practice part-time in public health in the family planning/STD clinic as a nurse practitioner. She and her husband, a retired high school English teacher, enjoy camping and traveling around the West in their camper van.

**Pam Harrington N'81**

Loup City, Neb., works for Valley County Home Health and also with hospice. She has three children and two grandchildren.

**Teresa Anderson N'81, N'83, N'87**

Omaha, Neb., has been appointed to represent the Nebraska Nurses Association on the board of directors of the ANA Midwest Multi-State Division, a collaborative support corporation within the American Nurses Association. On Oct. 1, 2016, she will complete four years as the president of the Nebraska Nurses Association.

**⊗ Mary Moller N'82**

Gig Harbor, Wash., returned to the Pacific Northwest to become track coordinator and develop a new Psychiatric-Mental Health Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., as well as to be close to grandchildren. She also is director of psychiatric services at a triple integration clinic: substance use disorders, psychiatry and primary care.



### Kay Carpenter N'84

Grand Island, Neb., worked for Grand Island Public Schools as a nursing supervisor until 2001. She obtained a middle school endorsement and taught sixth-grade science for 13 years. She also obtained a master of science degree in school counseling in 1993 and a master of arts degree in school administration in 2005 from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Since 2013, she has served as an academic dean of students and guidance counselor (seventh- through 12th-grade) for Centura Public Schools.

### Roberta Kroeger N'84

Lincoln, Neb., teaches in the family nurse practitioner program two days a week and practices in a family practice at Cheney Ridge Family Medical Clinic three days a week. She has an adult son and daughter and a granddaughter.

### John Wood N'88

Lees Summit, Mo., recently completed an MSN in nursing education from the Research College of Nursing in Kansas City, Mo. He teaches at Graceland University in Independence, Mo.

### Stephanie McGraw N'90, N'95

Kearney, Neb., received the American Association of Nurse Practitioners State Award of Excellence. She is a nursing instructor at the UNMC College of Nursing Kearney Division. As a nurse educator and family nurse practitioner, she provides primary health care services in the Nebraska communities of Hildreth, Campbell and Franklin.

### Marilyn Harter N'92

Pella, Iowa, received her master's in nursing education in 2010 and continues to teach at the Mercy College of Health Sciences, in addition to her job as an ARNP-family practice in a rural health care setting.

### Brenda Herrod N'93, N'09

Omaha, Neb., joined the Nebraska Methodist Health System as a nurse practitioner in the Better Living Program. This is a comprehensive weight management program for Methodist.

### Dianne Brown N'96

Orlando, Fla., celebrated 40 years of marriage in January 2016 and then welcomed a granddaughter in May. She is a post exposure nurse at Florida Hospital Central Care in Florida.

### Jacquelyn Kemmerer N'97

Dodge City, Kan., is completing her doctorate of nursing practice through UNMC.

### Dusty Duis N'00

Odell, Neb., joined Southeast Community College in January 2016 as a practical nursing instructor. She received her diploma from SCC 20 years ago.



College of Nursing alumni Sharon Bonham Holyoke N'66, left, and Joan Jensen N'58 enjoy the UNMC Alumni Association's Showdown in O-Town, a tailgate party prior to the Nebraska vs. Creighton baseball game on May 17.

### Andrew Waldman N'05

Tacoma, Wash., is an RN BSN CNOR cardio-thoracic surgery service line coordinator at Multicare: Tacoma General Hospital. He was married on June 13, 2015.

### Jennifer Hirschbrunner N'05

Bennington, Neb., joined Nebraska Medicine in August 2014 as a patient access clinical manager in the medical communication center and centralized scheduling.

### Johanna Spencer N'06, N'15

Dunning, Neb., joined the Valley County Health System medical staff in Ord, Neb.

### Laura Cornelius N'10

Council Bluffs, Iowa, received a certificate of appreciation as a referring clinician in VA Cooperative Study No. 576, VA Augmentation and Switching Treatment for Improving Depression Outcomes.

### Justine Uryasz N'10

Kansas City, Mo., completed her master of science in nursing and is now an adult-gerontology nurse practitioner working with cardiac surgery at Mid America Heart and Lung Surgeons.

### Amy Ellen Walton N'11

Omaha, Neb., accepted a faculty position at Creighton University in the College of Nursing and will teach pediatrics for the undergraduate, accelerated and nurse practitioner students. She will continue working as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Children's Physicians Clinic.

### Stacey Alt N'12

Murrieta, Calif., is a lieutenant junior grade in the U.S. Navy and is stationed in Rota, Spain, practicing labor and delivery nursing.

### Kira Friedrichsen N'13

St. Libory, Neb., received a New Nurse of the Year Award from CHI Health St. Francis in Grand Island, Neb.

### Marcia Carlson N'15

Lincoln, Neb., joined Cheney Psychiatric Associates, LLC. She is a board certified family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. She works with all ages and has a special interest in children and adolescents.

### Kelsey Brisbin N'15

Kearney, Neb., is a psychiatric nurse at Richard Young and is in the graduate nursing program at UNMC to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner.

### Aliaksandra Balabanava N'16

La Vista, Neb., accepted a registered nurse position in CHI Health Bergan Mercy's intensive care unit.

### Ashley Knox N'16

Lincoln, Neb., works as an RN-BSN at Madonna Rehabilitation Specialty Hospital in Lincoln.

### Jessica Pearce N'16

Council Bluffs, Iowa, earned a position in the new graduate nurse residency program at Children's Hospital in Colorado.

## Pharmacy

### Don Bauermeister P'62

Norfolk, Neb., retired from farming in 2013 after 41 years; retired from aerial application (crop-dusting) after 43 years; and from part-time pharmacy work after 54 years.

### Ron Hospodka P'65

Omaha, Neb., retired in January 2016 from the Creighton School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, where he taught pharmacy practice management and law for more than 38 years. At Creighton, he served as vice chair of the department of pharmacy sciences, associate dean for student affairs, and special assistant to the dean for professional affairs.



Alumni volunteers, from left: Amy Hornig P'07, Greg Schardt P'09, Emily Knezevich P'05, and Erin McGuire Hohman P'07, spoke to third-year pharmacy students about their career paths at a luncheon hosted by the College of Pharmacy Alumni Engagement Council in April.

**Stuart Tucker P'66**

Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., retired from the practice of pharmacy in 2008. He practiced as an operating room pharmacist at the Mount Sinai Hospital and Medical Center in New York City.

**Roger Miller P'67**

Lincoln, Neb., and his wife have established the Roger L. Miller & Margaret H. Miller Pharmacy Scholarship for students pursuing a degree in the College of Pharmacy at UNMC.

**Russ Rathjen P'68**

Kearney, Neb., retired in 2000 after a 30-year career with Eli Lilly. He then spent 15 more years working as an on-call community pharmacist, retiring again at the end of 2014. He now enjoys a position as a standardized patient in the new UNMC program at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

**Timothy Stroup P'76**

Lansing, Kan., retired in January 2016 from the Department of Veterans Affairs after 39 years of service. His most recent position at the VA was as the deputy chief consultant, VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (PBM).

**Michelle Jones P'81**

Scottsdale, Ariz., is an ICU pharmacist and a pharmacy instructor at the Mayo School of Medicine.

**Kevin Borchert P'86**

Omaha, Neb., accepted the position of program director of the Nebraska Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

**Kristi Kuper P'99**

Katy, Texas, is now the senior clinical manager of infectious diseases for Vizient Inc.

**Tillara Kruse P'13**

Fremont, Neb., and husband, Matt, purchased the Scribner Pharmacy on July 1, 2016.

**Jenna Preusker P'13**

Battle Creek, Neb., became a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist and was appointed chair of the antimicrobial stewardship program at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk, Neb.

**Emma Jones P'16**

Salt Lake City, Utah, accepted a position as a postgraduate pharmacy practice resident specializing in ambulatory care at the University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics.



The UNMC Alumni Association hosted a community reception in Omaha for College of Dentistry Dean Janet M. Guthmiller, DDS, PhD (second from left). Also pictured are Susan Christensen D'81, James Jenkins D'84 and Jon Asbjornson D'87. Drs. Christensen and Asbjornson are members of the College of Dentistry Alumni Association and Dr. Jenkins is an assistant dean, professor and alumni director in the College of Dentistry.

## Dentistry

**Chris Nix D'78**

McCook, Neb., started a new position as clinical instructor at the UNMC College of Dentistry in Lincoln.

**Richard Bokemper D'81**

Sergeant Bluffs, Iowa, was elected president-elect of the Iowa Dental Association. He has practiced in Sergeant Bluffs for 31 years.

**Jesse Neal D'03**

Alma, Neb., practices at Alma Family Dentistry, which he launched in 2006.

**Erin Anderson D'13**

Norfolk, Neb., joined the Sheldon Family Dental Clinic in Sheldon, Iowa.

**Christina Carter D'14**

Orr, Minn., joined Miller Hill Dental in Duluth, Minn. Her hobbies include: running, hunting, fishing, spending time with family, volunteering and cheering on her favorite sports teams.

**Christopher "C.J." Stec D'14**

Grand Island, Neb., practices at Stec Cosmetic and Family Dentistry.

## Public Health

**Linda K. Ohri, PharmD'74, MPH'08**

Omaha, Neb., was awarded the Creighton University St. Ignatius Award on Feb. 4, 2016. Dr. Ohri is an associate professor in the Creighton School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in the department of pharmacy practice. Her research interests include: immunizations, public health and pediatrics.

**Ashley Newmyer PH'10**

Lincoln, Neb., serves as the epidemiology surveillance coordinator at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. She received a 2016 award from The Safe States Alliance in recognition of her invaluable epidemiologic and data analysis work within the department. In particular, it recognized her efforts surrounding the enhancement of the state prescription drug monitoring program.

**Kara Foster PH'10**

Omaha, Neb., is the senior public health project coordinator at CityMatCH.

## Graduate Studies

**Dan Sullivan GS'72**

Omaha, Neb., retired from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2007.

**Alice Schumaker CLS'66, GS'82**

Omaha, Neb., retired from the UNMC College of Public Health in June 2016.

**Wayne Stuberg PT'77, M'80, GS'89**

Omaha, Neb., has been re-appointed to a five-year term on the Nebraska Board of Health and re-elected to a second one-year term as the president of the board.

**Natalie Betz GS'92**

Madison, Wis., is the associate director of the University of Wisconsin - Madison's Master of Science in Biotechnology Program.

**Hiroaki Hasebe GS'92**

Chesapeake Va., is the director of medical devices for Mitsubishi Rayon America Inc., in New York.

**Sarah Janssen GS'08**

Omaha, Neb., received the Hirschmann Prize for Teaching Excellence from the students at UNMC. The award recognizes two individuals annually who demonstrate a devotion to teaching. She also received the Golden Apple Award, presented by the students to outstanding teachers.

**Akram Mohammed GS'14**

Lincoln, Neb., is a computational biology postdoctoral fellow in the biochemistry department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Scott Reiling GS'14**

Omaha, Neb., is in a post-doctoral fellowship at UNMC, in the lab of Dr. Guangshun Wang. Their main focus is on antimicrobial peptides. He has several projects which include characterization of virulence factors in ESKAPE pathogens and elucidation of antibiotic resistance mechanisms.



**Regina Robbins GS'14**

Santa Fe, N.M., is moving to Omaha to join the University of Nebraska at Omaha as assistant professor in the sociology anthropology department in the Native American Studies program, where she will specialize in Indian health and education.

**Hemant Vishwasrao GS'16**

Lexington, Ky., joined Catalent Pharma Solutions in July 2016 as a formulation development scientist.

## In Remembrance...

**☉ Ruth Carlson N'37**

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 23, 2016

**☉ Maxine Bender N'42**

Blair, Neb., Feb. 26, 2016

**☉ Thordis Kleager N'43**

Scottsbluff, Neb., June 2, 2016

**Eleanor Morrison N'45, '46**

Kearney, Neb., June 27, 2016

**☉ Phyllis Demorest N'47, '48**

Sacramento, Calif., April 19, 2016

**☉ Helen Baird N'49**

Bellevue, Neb., June 10, 2016

**Buell Lewis D'50**

Phoenix, Ariz., June 3, 2016

**Lawrence Debusk M'51**

San Jose, Calif., April 29, 2016

**Harold Margolin M'51**

Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 30, 2015

**☉ Roberta McClary N'51**

Santa Rosa, Calif., Jan. 16, 2016

**Richard Pettie M'51**

Richland, Wash., April 22, 2016

**Lawrence Helser P'51**

Rockwall, Texas, Jan. 14, 2016

**William Kenner M'52**

Palm Desert, Calif., April 20, 2016

**Gordon Magnusson D'52**

Rapid City, S.D., Jan. 19, 2016

**Walter Hosick P'52**

North Platte, Neb., Feb. 23, 2016

**Robert Craig D'52**

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 23, 2015

**☉ Mary Tonjes N'53**

Hooper, Neb., April 23, 2016

**Kenneth Sato M'53**

Pullman, Wash., Jan. 13, 2016

**Meredith Doner P'53**

Lincoln, Neb., June 17, 2016

**Thomas Johnson M'54**

Saint Paul, Minn., April 2, 2016

**Frank Giddings M'54**

Springfield, Mo., April 26, 2014

**Max Harris M'54**

Maple Grove, Minn., May 31, 2015

**Charles (Joe) Saults M'54**

Phoenix, Ariz., May 17, 2016

**James Thomas D'55**

Yorba Linda, Calif., Jan. 18, 2016

**Douglas Beath M'55**

Sun City, Ariz., Jan. 1, 2016

**Daniel Bitner M'56**

Bellingham, Wash., March 22, 2016

**Burt Hyde M'56**

Arlington, Texas, March 7, 2016

**Virginia (Ginger) Horacek N'57**

Lawton, Okla., June 24, 2016

**Dorothy Krist N'58**

Tacoma, Wash., March 6, 2016

**Phyllis Haag N'58**

Leawood, Kan., May 25, 2016

**Gary Bannister M'59**

Boerne, Texas, March 5, 2016

**Marilyn Myers M'59**

Santa Ana, Calif., April 5, 2016

**H. Daniel Kuska M'59**

Northglenn, Colo., Jan. 13, 2016

**Jack Lewis M'60**

Omaha, Neb., June 20, 2016

**John Weninger M'62**

Wichita, Kan., Jan. 15, 2016

**Harold Bowers D'62**

Friend, Neb., May 18, 2016

**M. Thomas Evans D'62**

Golden, Colo., Feb. 3, 2016

**Gloria Baran CLS'63**

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 2, 2016

**Wendell Fairbanks M'63**

Hastings, Neb., May 17, 2016

**Hemchandra Tipnis GS'64**

Mumbai, India, May 23, 2016

**Bruce Parker Hutson M'64**

Fort Collins, Colo., Aug. 23, 2016

**Dormond Metcalf M'64**

Grand Island, Neb., Feb. 21, 2016

**Morris Fishman CLS'65**

Shawnee, Kan., Jan. 24, 2016

**Howard Hagglund M'65**

Norman, Okla., Feb. 14, 2016

**W. Allan Boade M'66**

Sioux Falls, S.D., March 20, 2016

**Edgar Ransdell III M'66**

Topeka, Kan., Oct. 13, 2015

**☉ Patricia Harley P'68**

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 24, 2016

**Marilyn Koehn M'68**

Santa Rosa, Calif., March 30, 2016

**Ronnie Weingart N'69**

Scottsdale, Ariz., March 3, 2016

**Donis Deaver D'70**

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 4, 2016

**Milton R. "Dr. Pete" Johnson, M'71**

Scottsbluff, Neb., Aug. 29, 2016

**Rosemary Welch N'73**

Omaha, Neb., April 11, 2016

**Ronald Klutman M'73**

Columbus, Neb., May 14, 2016

**W. Peter Guthmann D'73**

Morrisville, Vt., March 29, 2016

**Laura Kerbel N'78**

Greeley, Colo., Jan. 20, 2016

**Barbara Persing CLS'80**

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 8, 2016

**Brett Cascini D'84**

Lincoln, Neb., May 17, 2016

**Sue Rolfe P'88**

Falls City, Neb., April 15, 2016

**Tod Lundberg P'92**

Beatrice, Neb., Jan. 18, 2016

**Amy George M'93**

Abancay, Peru, May 5, 2016

**Darlene Miller N'94**

Omaha, Neb., May 28, 2016

**Daniel Brune N'98**

Omaha, Neb., June 28, 2016

**Todd Berger N'05**

Wellington, Colo., March 14, 2016

## In Remembrance...

### Faculty

**Edward "Ted" Holyoke Jr., MD**  
Volunteer faculty and preceptor  
Omaha, Neb., Oct. 25, 2015

**Warren Pearse, MD**  
Former chair of obstetrics and gynecology  
Blacksburg, Va., Nov. 16, 2015

**Terry Lawson, PhD**  
Professor, Eppley Institute for Research in  
Cancer and Allied Diseases  
Omaha, Neb., Jan. 3, 2016

**John Tinker, MD**  
Former chair of anesthesiology  
Iowa City, Iowa, Feb. 17, 2016

**Glenn Dalrymple, MD**  
Retired professor of radiology  
Omaha, Neb., March 9, 2016

**Gordon Mahanna, DDS**  
Professor emeritus, otolaryngology-head  
and neck surgery  
Omaha, Neb., July 19, 2016

**Peter Gwilt, PhD**  
Retired associate professor of  
pharmaceutical sciences  
Omaha, Neb., July 27, 2016

**Robert Bass, MD**  
Former chair of family medicine  
Perkins, Okla., Aug. 4, 2016

### Births

**Angela Arnold CLS'03**  
Lincoln, Neb., and husband, Edward,  
welcomed a son, Alexander, on Jan. 26, 2016.

**Kathleen Brandert MPH'04**  
Omaha, Neb., and husband, Corey,  
welcomed a son, Charles (Charlie) William,  
on May 22, 2016.

**Jessica Grosse PA'04**  
Omaha, Neb., and husband, Luke,  
welcomed son, Caleb, on May 20, 2016.

**Jennifer Hirschbrunner BSN'05**  
Bennington, Neb., and husband, Scott,  
welcomed a daughter, Morgyn Rae, in  
December 2015.

**Kate Hutchens M'05**  
Kearney, Neb., and husband, Matt,  
welcomed their second son, Ben Lewis  
Boos, on Jan. 21, 2016.

**Jason Wheeler PT'05**  
San Antonio, Texas, and wife, welcomed a  
son, David James, on March 18, 2016.

**Lyndsey Casaceli BSN'07**  
Imlay City, Mich., and husband, David,  
welcomed a daughter, Lucille Mable, on  
Sept. 25, 2016.

**Erica Cope RSTE'09**  
Glen Ellyn, Ill., and husband, Joshua,  
welcomed their second child, a girl, Lillian  
Mira, on May 1, 2016.

**Geoff Mickells M'09**  
Chamblee, Ga., and wife, Rebecca,  
welcomed their first child, a daughter,  
Gweneth Jean, on June 20, 2016.

**Jessica Oshel RSTE'09**  
Omaha, Neb., and husband, Cody, welcomed  
a son, Wyatt Richard, on Jan. 26, 2016.

**Melissa Teply M'10**  
Baltimore, Md., and husband, Benjamin,  
welcomed a son, Gabriel Patrick, on  
Sept. 11, 2015.

**Amanda Champ P'11**  
Fremont, Neb., and husband, Tim,  
welcomed a daughter, Merelise Vonda, on  
June 15, 2016.

**Amy Strand PT'11**  
Arapahoe, Neb., and husband, John, welcomed  
daughter, Eva Clare, on Dec. 16, 2015.

**Benjamin J. Thayer M'11**  
Lincoln, Neb., and wife, Brooke,  
welcomed a daughter, Briar Bristol Thayer,  
on Aug. 2, 2015.

**Joni Sautter BSN'12**  
Alliance, Neb., and husband, Michael,  
welcomed a daughter, Jillian Kay, in  
March 2016.

**Kira Friedrichsen BSN'13**  
St. Libory, Neb., and husband, Daniel,  
welcomed a son, Timothy John,  
on Oct. 15, 2015.

**Lea Lambing RSTE'15**  
Elkhorn, Neb., and husband, Andy, welcomed  
a daughter, Madison Lou, on April 13, 2016.

**Sarah Daehling BSN'15**  
Elkhorn, Neb., and husband, Chip,  
welcomed a son, Caden Patrick, on  
March 23, 2016.

### Marriages

**Stephanie Connolly CLS'01**  
& Amber Taylor  
Omaha, Neb., June 29, 2016

**Kara Gehring PH'10**  
& Jordon Foster  
Omaha, Neb., Dec. 31, 2015

**AmyEllen Jorgenson MSN'11**  
& Justin Walton  
Omaha, Neb., Aug. 22, 2015

**Lauren Moul BSN'12**  
& Tyler Valasek  
Grand Island, Neb., July 16, 2016

**Emily Richter RSTE'12, '13**  
& Jack Bowman  
Omaha, Neb., Oct. 24, 2015

**Rebecca Peterson RSTE'12**  
& Nate McMullin  
Alexandria, Va., June 6, 2015

**Andre Sonne PA'16 &**  
Dr. Rachel Seltzer-Sonne  
El Paso, Texas, March 5, 2016

**Laura Grimm BSN'16**  
& Alex Micek  
Omaha, Neb., May 21, 2016

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## DISEASE DETECTIVE BRINGS IT HOME

by Elizabeth Kumru

*EBOLA. SARS. ANTHRAX. MERS. SMALLPOX. PLAGUE. A MULTITUDE OF VIRUSES AND MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESSES AND HEALTH HAZARDS IN POST-NATURAL DISASTERS.*

**Ali S. Khan, M.D., M.P.H., has seen it all.**

His travels have taken him to remote villages all over the world, to war zones and to ground zeros where treatments do not exist.

But, since being named UNMC's College of Public Health dean two years ago, the ultimate disease detective has become the people's greatest advocate for developing healthy lifestyles and a strong public health infrastructure.

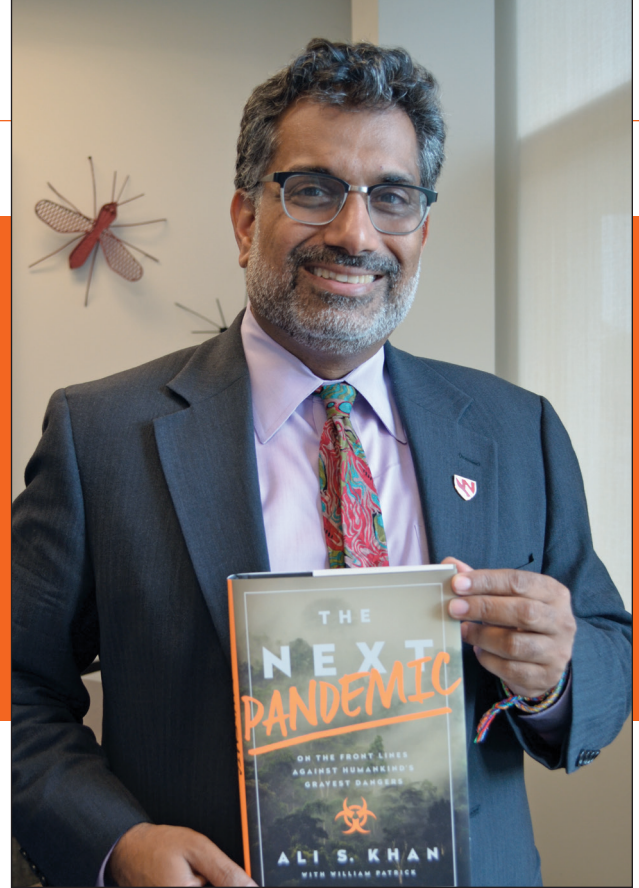
He has crisscrossed the state promoting the idea of making Nebraska the healthiest state in the U.S. – it's now 10th, according to America's Health Rankings from the United Health Foundation – and has travelled the country and the world demonstrating UNMC's expertise in universal health issues.

With his 23 years of experience with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) fighting global infectious diseases, his message is, "if a disease exists somewhere in the world, it can be here within a few hours."

He should know. Three people who contracted Ebola in Africa were treated at UNMC during the outbreak, during which he was twice called on to help the World Health Organization eradicate the disease in Sierra Leone.

Dangers lay everywhere for the citizens of the world in terms of existing or emerging infectious diseases, Dr. Khan stresses in his new book, "The Next Pandemic: On the Front Lines Against Humankind's Gravest Dangers," which came out in May.

Protecting people from these public health emergencies should be seen as no less a core function of government than preventing a foreign army's invasion, he states in the book.



Dr. Ali S. Khan with his new book, "The Next Pandemic: On the Front Lines Against Humankind's Gravest Dangers."


"Given the endless dance between microbes and humans, we should continue to expect that new pathogens will emerge and existing pathogens will learn new tricks to exploit changes in their environment," he said.

Wellness begins at home, he believes. It's the essence of the healthiest state challenge. The college's faculty has embraced it by engaging in a series of collective impact projects with their community partners and initiating research projects to:

- Reduce binge drinking (Nebraska ranks 47th)
- Reduce obesity rates (29th)
- Improve adult immunization rates (41st)
- Reduce health disparities (43rd)
- Decrease unnecessary hospital readmissions (26th)
- Lower heart disease (15th)
- Decrease smoking (20th)

Climate change, decreasing the number of uninsured people in the state (17th) and increasing state public health funding (22nd) also are priorities for Dr. Khan.

"We must build preventive measures directly into the infrastructure of our communities to make them resilient. We can't wait for the next disaster to hit," he said.

"And we will see if Louis Pasteur was right when he said, 'Gentlemen, it is the microbes who will have the last word.'" 



Listen to Dr. Khan talk about Zika.

[unmc.edu/connect](http://unmc.edu/connect)



# *New Era of Alumni Engagement*

## Mark Your 2017 Calendar

### UNMC Alumni Reunion Events

**College of Pharmacy Alumni Reunion**  
Omaha, Neb. | April 8, 2017

**College of Allied Health Professions Alumni Reunion**  
Omaha, Neb. | June 9-10, 2017

**College of Nursing Kearney Division Alumni Reunion**  
Kearney, Neb. | September 15-16, 2017

**College of Dentistry Alumni Reunion**  
Lincoln, Neb. | September 15-16, 2017

**College of Medicine Alumni Reunion**  
**College of Nursing Alumni Reunion** (Tentative)  
October 20-21, 2017

For more information about these reunions and other alumni events, please visit: [unmc.edu/alumni](http://unmc.edu/alumni)