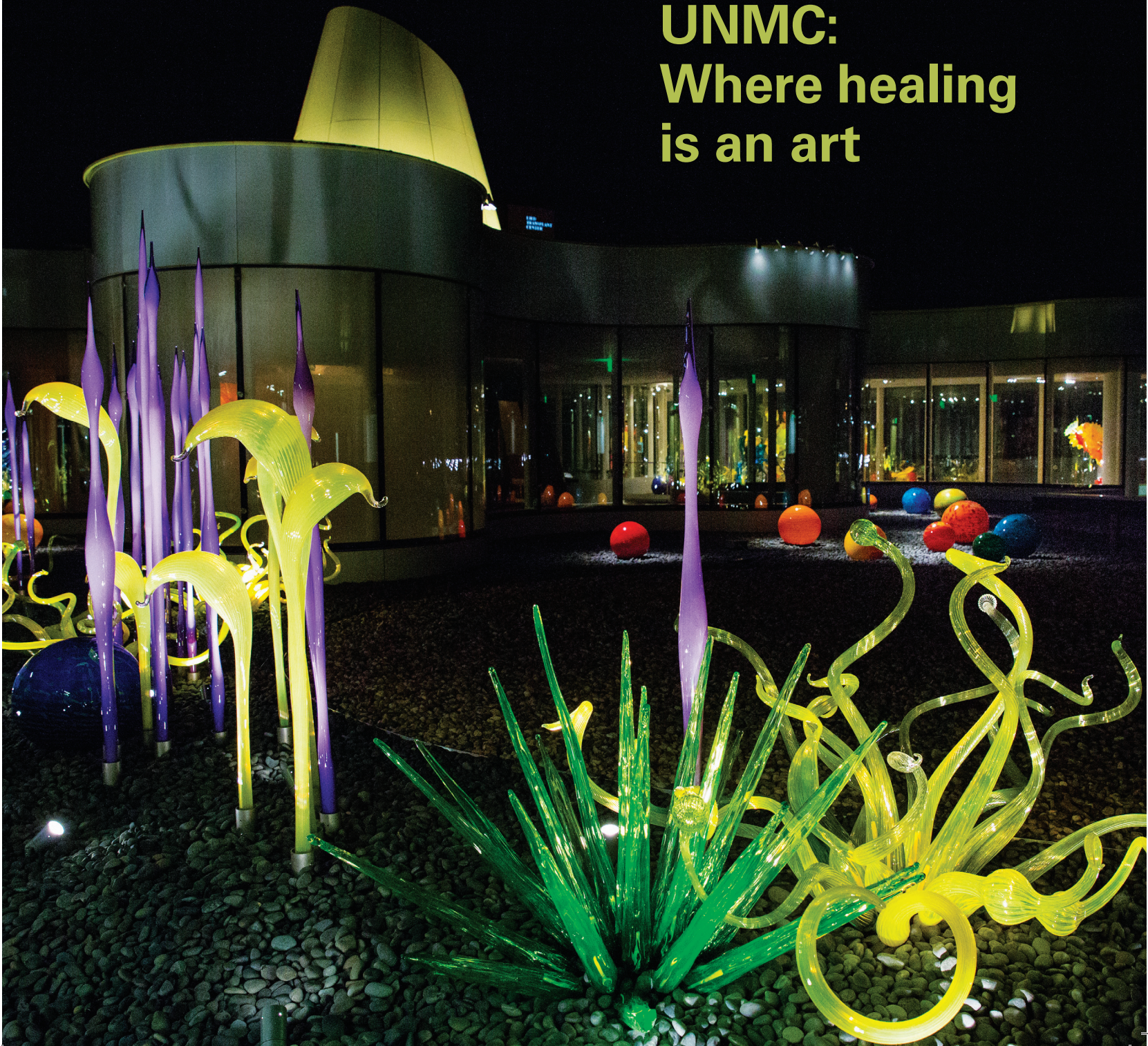


# UNMC Connect®

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS  
SUMMER 2017

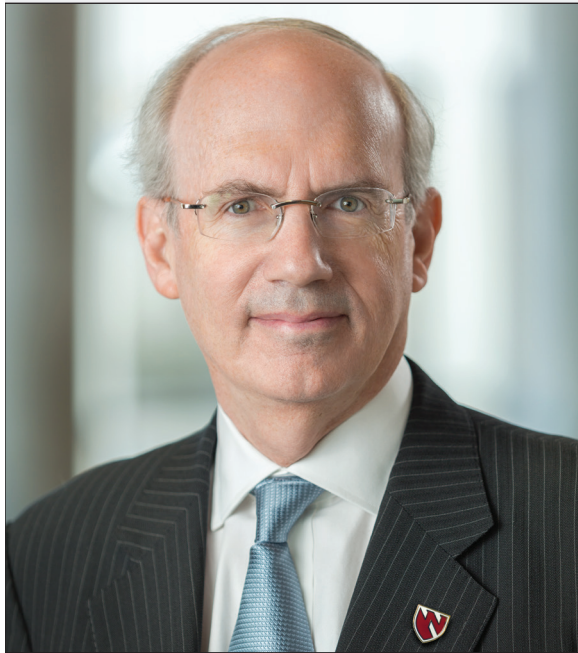
**UNMC:**  
Where healing  
is an art





# (CHANCELLOR'S PERSPECTIVE)

## CHANGING THE FACE OF UNMC



**T**hank you for reading this issue of UNMC Connect. We have a lot of important updates and news to share.

Among the biggest news on our campus has been, of course, the recent opening of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. We have welcomed many guests as we celebrated the center's opening, most notably former vice president Joe Biden. Mr. Biden, who during his visit bonded with one of the center's namesakes, Pamela Buffett, gave a rousing and heartfelt keynote address. It was an occasion that will be remembered for years to come.

But, despite the many dignitaries who came to several celebratory events at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, the most important of all these VIPs were our patients, the clinicians and scientists, students and staff. They have successfully made the move to their new research laboratories and the new treatment center, and the reviews have been outstanding.

Every aspect of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center was designed to provide a patient-centered, personalized approach to cancer care and treatment.

In this issue of UNMC Connect, you will read not only about the center's opening, but about its unique Healing Arts Program.

This program exists to create environments that support and comfort people – most importantly, our patients, but also their family members and health caregivers.

Over the past three years, 120 faculty members have toiled ceaselessly to redesign the College of Medicine's curriculum that last went through a major overhaul in 1993. The result is "Training the Physicians of Tomorrow," an innovative curriculum that combines training experiences with realistic scenarios that enable students to meet and adapt to the changing expectations of physicians in the 21st century.

This fall, students will begin their journey by learning medicine through integrated basic, clinical and health systems sciences blocks that are organized by the organ systems of the body. Read more about our new way of teaching and learning and how it further enhances the skills of our medical students, many of whom serve and strengthen the people and communities across our state.

Thank you for making this journey with us.

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.

UNMC Chancellor:  
**Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.**

Vice Chancellor for External Affairs:  
**Robert Bartee**

Alumni Relations:  
**Catherine Mello, director**

Public Relations:  
**Bill O'Neill, director**  
**Karen Burbach, senior associate director**  
**Elizabeth Kumru, publications editor**

University of Nebraska Foundation:  
**Jennifer Arnold, senior director of marketing communications**

Design:  
**DAAKE**

Photography:  
**Scott Dobry**  
**Scott Lean**  
**Nebraska Medicine**  
**University of Nebraska Foundation**  
**UNMC PR Staff**

UNMC Alumni Association Board of Directors:

President  
**Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.**

Vice President  
**William Lydiatt, M.D., '88**

Board Members  
**Bradley Britigan, M.D.**  
**Susan Christensen, D.D.S., '81**  
**Austin Clark**  
**Justin Frederick, M.P.H. '11**  
**Brian Hastings**  
**Joshua Hite, Pharm.D., '06**  
**Kate Kuester, D.P.T., '08**  
**M. Patricia Leuschen, M.S., '74, Ph.D., '76**  
**Kyle Meyer, B.S., '79, M.S., '85, Ph.D.**  
**John C. Mitchell II, M.D., '84**  
**Juliann Sebastian, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.**  
**Amy Thimm, B.S.N. '91**



## (contents)


**ON THE COVER:**


Glass art by Dale Chihuly is a cornerstone of the new Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Healing Arts Program.




## FEATURES:

**8** DAVID O'DELL, M.D.,  
IS INAUGURAL  
EDUCATOR LAUREATE


**10** ART LIFTS AND HEALS  
THE SPIRIT 

**13** CANCER'S LONG REACH 

**15** EASI-CRISPR: A  
BREAKTHROUGH IN  
GENOME ENGINEERING 


**16** A NEW WAY OF  
LEARNING MEDICINE

**18** SIM-NETRUCKS IN A  
RURAL TOWN NEAR YOU 

**20** RAPPORT WITH PATIENTS  
SPURRED MED  
STUDENT'S MATCH 

**22** O'MALLEY TRUST GIFT  
ENDOWS ALLIED HEALTH  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**24** PARKINSON'S DISEASE MAY  
HAVE MET ITS MATCH 

**25** OH, THE THINKS  
YOU CAN THINK 

IN THE  
Loop**OCT. 6**

Omaha Women's Health &  
Wellness Conference  
– 20th anniversary

**OCT. 13**

Friends of Scottish Rite  
Dinner and Auction

**OCT. 20**

UNMC College of Nursing  
100th Anniversary  
Celebration and Gala

**MARCH 4, 2018**

2018 Walk & Roll for Disabilities

**APRIL 19–28, 2018**

Nebraska Science Festival

**4** UNMC NEWS

**28** CLASS NOTES

**7** COLLEGE ROUNDUP

**35** ONE LAST THING 

**26** ALUMNI NEWS



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

FOLLOW US: [instagram.com/iamunmc](https://www.instagram.com/iamunmc)



[facebook.com/unmcdu](https://www.facebook.com/unmcdu)

facebook

[pinterest.com/unmc](https://www.pinterest.com/unmc)



[twitter.com/unmc](https://twitter.com/unmc)



[youtube.com/unmcdu](https://www.youtube.com/unmcdu)

YouTube





Two girls learn how stomach acid breaks down food at one of the many demonstration booths at NE SciFest 2018.

## SciFest's fifth year boasts record attendance

**A**dults dined on a five-course bug sampler that included cricket ramen and mixed greens with asparagus, carrots, salt and pepper mealworms. Kids learned about blackholes, iguanas and DNA.

In April, nearly 20,000 Nebraskans took part in the fifth annual Nebraska Science Festival. The nine-day celebration featured more than 100-plus science-related activities in 15 communities across the state. It included such signature events as the student and public expos, as well as the women in science panel and the festival's first female keynote speaker: Kari Byron of "Mythbusters" and the "White Rabbit Project."

"SciFest celebrates the fascinating world of science, and how it connects to, and impacts, our lives," said SciFest Coordinator Kacie Baum.

Mark your calendars: The 2018 festival will be April 19-28.

## Faculty Senate recognizes honorees

**E**ach year, the UNMC Faculty Senate recognizes faculty for meritorious teaching, service or mentoring at its annual meeting. This year's awardees are:

### Outstanding Teacher Award

- Justin Mott, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor & medical assistant director, biochemistry and molecular biology, College of Medicine;
- Diego Torres-Russotto, M.D., associate professor, neurological sciences, College of Medicine;
- Catherine Binstock, instructor, College of Nursing-Omaha Division; and
- Dawn Venema, Ph.D., assistant professor, physical therapy education, College of Allied Health Professions.

### Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Graduate Students Award

- Corri Hanson, Ph.D., associate professor, medical nutrition education, College of Allied Health Professions

### Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Junior Faculty Award

- Iraklis Pipinos, M.D., professor, surgery-general surgery, College of Medicine
- Bernice Yates, Ph.D., professor, College of Nursing-Omaha Division

## Dr. Splittgerber named assistant dean, CQuence prof

**R**yan Splittgerber, Ph.D., recently was named to lead the College of Allied Health Profession's efforts in Kearney as assistant dean at the Health Science Education Complex (HSEC). He also is the recipient of allied health's sixth endowed, named professorship, the CQuence Distinguished Professorship for Innovation in Health Care.

The new professorship is to advance the development, implementation and assessment of interprofessional curricula with a focus on promoting new models of primary and transitional care. The endowed professorship came about through a generous gift from the CQuence Health Group, headed by Michael Cassling, with matching funds from the Charles R. O'Malley Charitable Trust.



Ryan Splittgerber, Ph.D.



## Dentistry receives \$4 million state contract

**E**arlier this year, the UNMC College of Dentistry was awarded a \$4 million, 10-year contract from the state of Nebraska Oral Health Training and Services fund to help increase the number of dental graduates practicing in rural Nebraska shortage areas and to increase oral health services for the citizens in Nebraska.

The College of Dentistry will work with existing and new partners to:

- Address the oral health disparities in the state created by the shortage of dentists in rural areas;
- Provide more access and dental services to underserved, uninsured and at-risk populations in the state including those who are on Medicaid or Medicare; and
- Expand the use of telehealth to deliver dental services.

"We are extremely appreciative of our ongoing partnerships across the state as well as new partnerships to help us provide the much-needed oral health care to the citizens of Nebraska," said Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry and principal investigator of the contract.

"This investment by the state of Nebraska, UNMC, and our partners is a true testament to what we can accomplish together to improve oral health in our neediest populations," Dr. Guthmiller said.

The funding focuses on three key areas: scholarships for rural graduates, an increase in patient services and access, and telehealth, she said.



One of the first graduating classes of the nursing school stands for a portrait on the steps of University Hospital.

## Nursing to celebrate its 100th anniversary

**T**he state's oldest publicly supported nursing college will celebrate its 100th anniversary beginning in October.

The UNMC College of Nursing has a long and rich history. Since its first class began with 13 women on Oct. 16, 1917, in the "University of Nebraska School for Nurses," more than 14,500 students have graduated.

Today, with 1,135 students enrolled, it is the largest nursing program in the state with five campuses – Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, Scottsbluff and Norfolk.

The theme for the yearlong celebration is "A Century of Academic Nursing Excellence: Transforming the Future." The celebration – recognized as an official event of the 2017 Nebraska Sesquicentennial – includes an Oct. 20 gala that coincides with the college's alumni reunion. An updated history book also will be published with private funds.

"Our 100th year is a special milestone for the college, as well as alumni, and our partners across the state," said Juliann Sebastian, Ph.D., dean of the UNMC College of Nursing. "Our graduates have made immeasurable contributions to the quality of life of Nebraskans."

Throughout history, UNMC has led the way with programs to prepare nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse scientists and faculty. The college started Nebraska's first doctoral nursing program in 1989 and the state's first nurse practitioner program in 1992. Faculty adopted the use of distance education technology early on so citizens across Nebraska could access its programs.

Tickets can be purchased at: [unmc.edu/nursing/gala](http://unmc.edu/nursing/gala)



## Student honored for public health work

**K**atelyn Jelden, a native of Axtell, Neb., has received the 2017 Excellence in Public Health Award from the United States Public Health Service. Jelden is a 2016 UNMC master's of public health graduate and currently a UNMC medical student. The award recognizes medical students



Katelyn Jelden

who show their dedication to public health by making exceptional contributions to the community and who increase the U.S. Public Health Service's mission to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of the nation.

Jelden was an integral member of the Nebraska Patient Care Biocontainment Unit, which was activated as a part of Ebola care and response efforts in 2014. She was responsible for everything from preparing ambulances for patient transport to presenting course content for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Ebola training courses. Her involvement continues and has led to seven publications with an additional four in press or review.

Jelden also was an active student leader in the College of Public Health. She helped found the UNMC Student Response Team, served on the UNMC Student Senate, was an American Public Health Association Student Assembly Liaison, and served with UNMC's Bridge to Care program to improve the health of recently resettled refugees in the Omaha area.

We're  
**YOUR**  
Financial  
INSTITUTION!

Convenient Saddle  
Creek Branch office

11 Campus ATMs

6 Omaha Locations

Online and  
Mobile Banking



*Maybe the bank you're looking for, isn't a bank at all.*

402.551.3052 800.301.8549 [www.metrofcu.org](http://www.metrofcu.org)

**Metro**  
Credit Union

NCUA



## College of Dentistry

- Several students served in various leadership roles in national and regional organizations, including the student delegate and student delegate-elect to the American Dental Hygienists Association; a member-at-large, the regional representative and regional representative-elect to the American Dental Education Association Council of Students, Residents and Fellows; and the student legislative liaison to the legislative committee of the Nebraska Dental Association.
- The Lincoln clinic received enhancements in technology and facilities that support better student educational experiences and patient care options in the areas of radiology, CAD-CAM (Computer-Aided Design and Computer-Aided Manufacturing) dentistry and coordinated implant therapy.

## College of Medicine

- Amy Cannella, M.D., internal medicine, received the Excellence in Teaching Award honoring the Pioneering Women in Medicine. The award was created in 2012 by Carol Swarts, M.D., a 1959 graduate. It seeks to recognize the importance of dedicated teaching faculty who enrich the lives of students and shape outstanding health care providers.
- Match Day highlights: 16 students matched in psychiatry, making psychiatry the second most popular career choice (tied with family medicine and pediatrics and just behind internal medicine); 59 percent matched in primary care specialties; and 28 percent are staying in Nebraska for their training.

## College of Nursing

- Cathrin Carithers, D.N.P., joined the college as the new assistant dean for the Kearney Division in January 2016. Previously, she was at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Nursing where she was clinical associate professor.
- Sue Nuss, Ph.D., chief nursing officer at Nebraska Medicine, was appointed associate dean for Nebraska Medicine Nursing. She will facilitate continued engagement of academic and research programs with the clinical enterprise. This aligns with the national efforts at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to more fully integrate academic and clinical nursing.

## College of Pharmacy

- Fifty-six seniors were vested with their doctoral hoods and took the pharmacist's oath at the Spring Honors Convocation. Senior recognition awards were presented to the graduating class, including the highest distinction medal to Abigail Schweitzer, the eighth person in the college's history to graduate with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.
- Stephen Williams, Pharm.D., '81, was awarded the Preceptor of the Year and Site of the Year at the 2017 Spring Honors Convocation on May 5. Dr. Williams precepts at Rainier School in Buckley, Wash. A new award, Faculty Preceptor of the Year, was awarded to Gregory Petiz, Pharm.D., clinical associate professor.

## College of Public Health

- CPH faculty led development of population-based measurement tools for low-income countries to measure early childhood development, through the Measuring Early Learning Quality and Outcomes project. The tools were tested in eight countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. To build on this work, the faculty has been invited to lead a partnership with USAID and World Bank to design one of the first longitudinal panel studies of early childhood development in low-income countries.
- CPH faculty assisted with the development of the training and evaluation plans for Project Harmony's Trauma Informed Community initiative (TIC). The TIC aims to train 22,000 professionals in multiple sectors to better serve children who have experienced adverse childhood events.
- CPH faculty conducted a community-based research study on undocumented Latinas and domestic violence. The findings were showcased during a webinar, "Immigration, Latinas, Domestic Violence and the U-Visa," co-hosted by Justice for our Neighbors, Nebraska, one of the community partners in the study, and by Casa de Esperanza, a national advocacy organization that leads the Latinas domestic violence movement in the U.S.

## Eppley Institute/Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

- The 2017 Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska was held on June 2-3 on the Lonesome River Ranch in Anselmo, Neb. Hosted on a different ranch every year, the Cattlemen's Ball has raised more than \$12 million since its beginning in 1999. Ninety percent of funds raised by the ball are donated to cancer research at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center and 10 percent of proceeds raised stay in the host community to support local health care. The 2018 ball will be June 1-2 on the Hergott Farm in Hebron, Neb.

## Munroe-Meyer Institute

- Sandra Willett has been named the director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute's Department of Physical Therapy. Willett first came to MMI in 1986 as a UNMC physical therapy student on a clinical internship.
- Jennifer Sanmann, Ph.D., has been named the director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute's Human Genetics Laboratory. Dr. Sanmann joined MMI in 2005 as a technologist, also enrolling at UNMC as a graduate student. She recently served as interim director.

## College of Allied Health Professions

- The college celebrated the endowment of the Stork Robertson Medical Nutrition Scholarship, which provides scholarship funds for two students annually in the dietetic internship program, which Sandy Stork was instrumental in founding. Barbara Robertson, 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 APTA's highest membership honor.



# David O'Dell, M.D., is inaugural Educator Laureate

by John Keenan



**A**t one time, David O'Dell, M.D., wanted to be a high school teacher.

Life took him in a different direction. But within his medical career, Dr. O'Dell still became a teacher – such a good one, in fact, that students awarded him so many teaching awards he became ineligible to receive more.

Then, earlier this year, the new Academic Affairs Impact in Education Awards were instituted by Dele Davies, M.D., vice chancellor for academic affairs. Dr. O'Dell, an '84 alumnus, was named UNMC's first Educator Laureate.

The award recognizes an individual with sustained achievement in education who has significantly improved the UNMC learning environment through the provision of outstanding educational experiences.

A commitment to education has always marked Dr. O'Dell's career. After starting his residency in family medicine, he switched to internal medicine in part because, when he was looking at who had the biggest impact on the education of students and residents, he felt that the internist clearly had the more prominent role.

"I had the opportunity to serve as chief resident here at UNMC, and that was a nice way of segueing into an academic career," he said. "I started to collect cases and case descriptions, all of which helped me build up my teaching files, if you will, in terms of getting a chance to really use those experiences to help the students and residents."

For 27 years, Dr. O'Dell has collaborated with Michael Sitorius, M.D., (M'77), on a nationally recognized and unique joint training program combining internal medicine and family medicine for primary care residents.

"It's a novel effort to train primary care physicians to meet the needs of non-metropolitan and underserved Nebraska," he said.


Dr. O'Dell is the LeeRoy Meyer Professor of Medicine, a professorship named for LeeRoy Meyer, M.D., a beloved UNMC educator who asked Dr. O'Dell to help with the junior clerkship only a few years after he joined the faculty at UNMC. Dr. O'Dell still remembers Dr. Meyer, who died in 2005, as an inspiration.

"Dr. Meyer was a wonderful educator, a true legend," he said.

The two ran the senior elective until Dr. Meyer's death.

"When he passed in 2005, I did something a little unusual for a more senior physician," Dr. O'Dell said. "I stepped back into the classroom, rather than away from it. I became more involved in the junior clerkship that year.

"I am honored by this award but it has truly been a team effort, and I have been privileged to work with many dedicated educators here at UNMC."

In a letter of support for the award, Dr. Sitorius said Dr. O'Dell "has remained innovative, challenging yet supportive and committed to educating all learners. He has high expectations of both himself and his learners and delivers on those expectations in his approaches to education." 



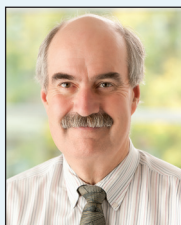
# Impact in Education Awards

by John Keenan

Last fall, Dele Davies, M.D., vice chancellor for academic affairs, created seven new awards – Impact in Education Awards – to recognize the dedication and ingenuity of UNMC educators. In addition to the Educator Laureate, categories include innovation, leadership, mentorship, service, interprofessional and research. The awards were presented on Feb. 10.

“The Impact in Education Awards recognize the excellent contributions of faculty at UNMC to our educational mission,” Dr. Davies said. “As UNMC strives to lead the world in instructing and mentoring health science students at all levels, we believe that recognizing faculty who are making a difference in this area is critical.”

## Innovative Practices in Education Award



Paul Paulman, M.D.

Paul Paulman, M.D., professor in the UNMC Department of Family Medicine and '77 UNMC alum.

This award recognizes an individual who demonstrates ingenuity, courage and creativity in teaching including innovations in use of educational technology, experiential learning, adoption of simulation and creative use of the classroom, as well as an engaging presentation style.

## Research in Education Scholar Award



Gary Beck Dallaghan, Ph.D.

Gary Beck Dallaghan, Ph.D., assistant dean for medical education and director, Office of Medical Education; assistant professor, pediatrics.

This award recognizes an individual who has advanced the educational literature through peer-reviewed publications, educational grants and original research.

## Inspirational Mentor of Educators Award

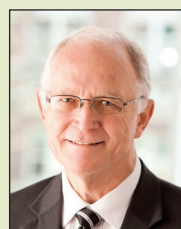


Shelby Kutty, M.D., Ph.D.

Shelby Kutty, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics, internal medicine and physiology; director of cardiac imaging and research.

This award recognizes an individual who has mentored and sponsored junior faculty or trainees at the local, regional or national level including a consistent track record of fostering future educators.

## Valor in Educational Service Award



Alan Richards, M.D.

Alan Richards, M.D., adjunct associate professor, otolaryngology-head and neck surgery.

This award recognizes volunteer, emeritus or adjunct faculty whose daily service to our learners exemplifies the spirit of outstanding teaching or clinical supervision.

## Interprofessional Education Scholar Award



Devin Nickol, M.D.

Devin Nickol, M.D., associate professor, UNMC Department of Internal Medicine, Division of General Medicine, and 1996 UNMC alum.

This award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to interprofessional education locally, regionally or nationally.

## Visionary Leadership in Education Award



Maurice Godfrey, Ph.D.

Maurice Godfrey, Ph.D., professor, Munroe-Meyer Institute.

This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated the ability to skillfully establish or administer an educational initiative or role at UNMC or a national organization.



# Art Lifts AND HEALS THE SPIRIT

by Kalani Simpson







Garden features glass sculptures by Dale Chihuly.

**W**hen Marcia O'Donovan underwent treatment for lymphoma, she says it was art that rested her soul.

"It really does make a huge difference," she said, "in regaining your strength and spirit."

It's because cancer knocks you so low, she said. It makes you realize you can't do this on your own. It makes patients and caregivers alike realize, "We can't fix it with just medicine," O'Donovan said.

This is why UNMC and Nebraska Medicine started the campus-wide Healing Arts Program, which was debuted at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center opening.

"Healing requires more than just treating the patient medically," said Kenneth Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. "Our program is designed to enhance the patient experience. Studies have shown that creating an atmosphere of hope and resilience through artwork goes beyond curing a disease and leads to improved patient outcomes. Patients, visitors and staff all benefit from this environment."

The Chihuly Sanctuary, given by Suzanne and Walter Scott, is a cornerstone of this environment. In all, the Healing Arts Program includes more than 200 pieces of original works of art throughout the building. The program eventually will extend across the medical center campus, to the benefit of patients, students, faculty and staff.

The Healing Arts Program is part of UNMC's campuswide initiative to reduce the outcome and stigma associated with stress, burnout and mental illness, and provide services to those experiencing distress.

UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., said art is merely a component of this initiative – but a big one. "The arts have proven to be a powerful ally in the fight against illness and the toll it takes on patients, family and friends, as well as those who care for patients with cancer and other serious illnesses.

"Art can truly heal."

Dr. Gold noted that several studies have shown that art can lead to reduced pain perception, anxiety, stress, loneliness and depression. It can positively improve fatigue levels, and offer patients and caregivers a safe space.

It can create a less intimidating atmosphere and restore a patient's sense of control.

O'Donovan agreed. She is a quilter and a sewer. She's also experimented with other types of art to help her get through tough times.

And, as Drs. Gold and Cowan said, art can similarly affect their champions and caregivers, who, day after day, year after year, throw themselves into the battle against cancer. They are there for patients in their lowest moments, O'Donovan said. O'Donovan said she can only imagine how it affects caregivers to deliver the kind of diagnoses no one should have to hear.

Those who work at the medical center need art's healing touch, too.



Leslie's Healing Garden provide patients a quiet, stress-reducing environment that improves a sense of well-being.



New art forms by Chihuly.



Like the Nebraska Medicine OB/GYN nurses, who come over to the cancer center on breaks, in the middle of the night, and sit in the Chihuly Sanctuary.

There, inside the immersive light-glass-color space and exhibit created by internationally-known, Seattle-based artist, Dale Chihuly, the nurses rest, reflect and recharge. They bask in the artwork, and then, they get back to work.

Another healing arts centerpiece at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center is an outdoor, all-season garden – Leslie's Healing Garden – created with support from Marshall and Mona Faith, longtime supporters of the Omaha community. It is named after one of their daughters, Leslie, who lost her battle with pediatric cancer at age 2 ½, approximately 60 years ago.

The healing garden, which has heated walkways for the cold Nebraska winters, serves as a place where patients and their families can visit to escape the realities of cancer and spend time outside enjoying the flowers and pine trees. Just as Leslie loved to do.

"I think of all the moms that this space will benefit and what a blessing it will be," Mona Faith said.

As Faith said, this space, and other commissioned works of art – from such renowned artists as Rob Ley, Suzy Taekyung Kim, Matt Placzek, Mary Zicafoose and Jennifer Steinkamp – will be a tremendous benefit for family members who are facing incredible challenges.

But, the benefits of the cancer center's healing art are available to everyone on campus. Faculty. Staff. Students having tough days.

Art in the cancer center, and all across campus, can make a difference.

"That feeling of, 'Wow,' is, I think, really important for all of us, once in a while, to feel," said Omaha-based, internationally-known artist Jun Kaneko.



The 82-foot-tall 'Search' tower by Jun Kaneko lights the night sky as a beacon of hope.


That feeling can help us handle stress, stave off burnout and perhaps even increase our resiliency.

The resiliency needed to withstand a cancer treatment, better support a loved one, give the best care possible, or get through medical school.

Kaneko's "Search" tower, gifted by an anonymous donor in honor of Dr. Cowan, rises from a roundabout outside the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center's front door.

"Search" is 82 feet tall, with colorful glass that lights up the night sky. Patients, looking out the windows of their rooms, will see it. People driving down Saddle Creek Road will see it.

O'Donovan hopes that the healing arts of the cancer center will reach out into the greater world.

"How perfect it is for people of all faiths to come here to refresh, inspire and lift the human spirit." 



Public tours of the Healing Arts Collection are available.

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



# Cancer's long reach

by Elizabeth Kumru

## Too many of us have been touched by cancer.

That was evident by the immense support of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, where a creative fusion of art, science and patient care come together to fight the deadly disease.


During a May 23 dedication ceremony, patients, donors and local and state dignitaries gathered to celebrate one of the most fully integrated cancer centers in the world.

Even former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, who lost a son to cancer and has since committed himself to eradicating the disease, was on hand, calling the cancer center a "remarkable facility."

"I'm not sure I can fulfill what I feel in my heart about the commitment all of you have made to deal with this dreaded disease," Biden said. "I hope many, many patients who get treated here will get well in this place, and I hope other institutions follow your lead."

The dedication celebrated the promise of precision medicine, and thanked generous donors for their help in building the \$323 million facility, the largest project ever on the medical center's Omaha campus. The facility was named in recognition of a major gift from Pamela Buffett, through her foundation, the Rebecca Susan Buffett Foundation. Pamela's husband, Fred "Fritz" Buffett, died in 1997 after fighting kidney cancer.

As the only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center in Nebraska, the Buffett Cancer Center offers treatment options and clinical trials not found elsewhere. And, it uniquely features the Chihuly Sanctuary, a meditative space inside the building that is the cornerstone of the medical center's healing arts program.

During Biden's tour of the Chihuly Sanctuary, he looked overhead past Dale Chihuly's glasswork that surrounds a circular skylight and, teary-eyed, recalled one of his son's last requests to "look up and see the stars." 



Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden (center) joined Pamela Buffett and donors in dedicating the new cancer center in May.

# DONORS

**F**ounding benefactors: Pamela Buffett (Rebecca Susan Buffett Foundation), Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation, CL & Rachel Werner and the Robert B. Daugherty Foundation.

Distinguished benefactors: Clarkson Regional Health Services, Mary & Dick Holland, Peter Kiewit Foundation and Ruth and Bill Scott, the state of Nebraska, the city of Omaha and Douglas County, and a \$90 million UNMC employee campaign.

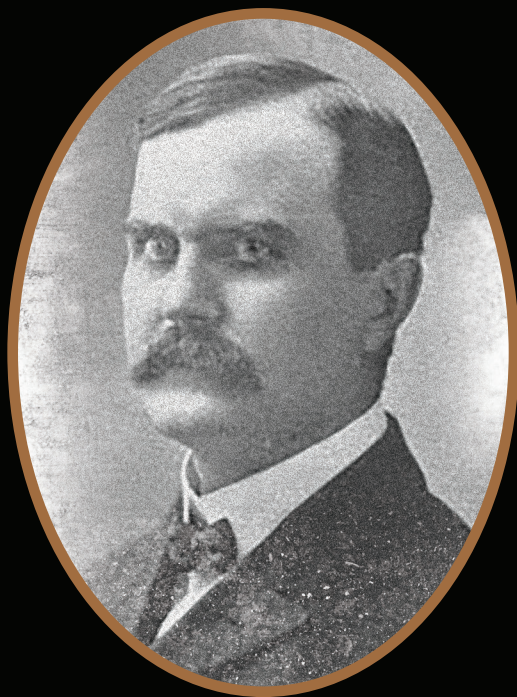
Major donors include: cancer survivors, their loved ones and families of those who are no longer living. Several of these benefactors chose to name spaces in the cancer center to honor or memorialize loved ones. More than 80 areas carry names determined by donors, including:

- The David & Patti Aresty Family Waiting Area in honor of David, who first came to UNMC in 1989 for a bone marrow transplant. He died in 2013.
- Bill and Sandy Berry, who funded a lymphoma research lab. Sandy was treated at UNMC in 1994. Visiting the lab named in her honor was particularly moving for the Kentwood, Mich., couple.
- Jon and Tara Darbyshire, who funded a research lab in honor of Jon, who was successfully treated for cancer at UNMC more than 10 years ago.
- Charles McKinsey, who funded a research lab to honor his late wife, Betty, who died 17 years ago from ovarian cancer.
- Gerald and Lynn Timmerman of Springfield, Neb., who funded a reception area in the Union Pacific Comprehensive Cancer Clinic. They lost their mothers to cancer.



View coverage of the dedication.

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



*Edward J. Cornish*

1937-

## GENEROSITY HAS NO END DATE.

IN 1937, ED CORNISH WAS ONE OF THE FIRST GENEROUS DONORS TO ESTABLISH  
A SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. A YEAR LATER,  
MR. CORNISH PASSED AWAY. BUT THROUGH HIS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND, HIS LEGACY HAS LIVED EVER SINCE. IT'S A LEGACY THAT'S HELPED  
GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS.

LET YOUR GENEROSITY SPAN GENERATIONS TO COME. TO FIND OUT HOW, VISIT US  
ONLINE AT [NUFOUNDATION.ORG/GIFTPLANNING](http://NUFOUNDATION.ORG/GIFTPLANNING) OR CALL A GIFT PLANNING OFFICER  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA FOUNDATION AT 800-432-3216.



# Easi-CRISPR:

## A BREAKTHROUGH IN GENOME ENGINEERING

by Kalani Simpson

A study published May 17 in the journal *Genome Biology* shows how highly popular, custom genetically engineered animal models are easily generated using a new, patent-pending technology called Easi (Efficient additions with ssDNA inserts)-CRISPR. Easi-CRISPR allows researchers to create these much-needed animal models at previously unheard of rates and significantly lower cost.

"With Easi-CRISPR, creating knock-in mice is as simple as using 'Find' and 'Edit' in Microsoft Word," said Paula Turpen, Ph.D., director for research resources at UNMC. Dr. Turpen likened previous genetic engineering methods to reading through a manuscript and making changes with a manual typewriter and a bottle of liquid "Wite-Out."

Channabasavaiah Gurumurthy, Ph.D., M.V.S.C. (D.V.M.), associate professor of developmental neuroscience at UNMC's Munroe-Meyer Institute, led the Easi-CRISPR study.

Building off the CRISPR-Cas genome editing methods, Easi-CRISPR is the crucial next step in genome engineering to create designer animal models.

These models help scientists study the role of genes and mutations in human diseases, and explore the use of gene therapy and other potential treatments.

CRISPR was a groundbreaking advance, allowing scientists to "cut" individual genes from a genome as a replacement for creating "knockout" models. But, generating more complicated knock-in and conditional knockouts – which comprise more than 90 percent of animal models created – still proved inefficient, challenging and expensive.

Easi-CRISPR, by contrast, enables the insertion of long DNA sequences into CRISPR-cut genomes at efficiencies of up to 100 percent.

Dr. Gurumurthy said increased efficiencies are the result of inserting long single-stranded DNA, rather than double-stranded DNA. The idea came to his long-term collaborator, Masato Ohtsuka, Ph.D., of Japan's Tokai University, at a 2014 conference while the two scientists literally were scribbling on a napkin.

Two scientists not involved in the research praised the technology.


Harvard geneticist George Church, Ph.D., said Easi-CRISPR shows much greater precision, and the method "looks like it lives up to its acronym, 'Easi.'"



From left, Dr. Gurumurthy and his UNMC team, Rolan Quadros and Donald Harms.

William Skarnes, Ph.D., director of cellular engineering for the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine in Farmington, Conn., said Easi-CRISPR is a significant advance in genome-editing technology. "With this tool, researchers can move beyond simple, crude knockouts to make much more sophisticated alleles (variant forms of a given gene) with nucleotide precision," he said.

Easi-CRISPR is the result of an international collaboration between seven institutions, headed by Drs. Gurumurthy and Ohtsuka, with Suzanne Mansour, Ph.D., of the University of Utah as a major collaborator. The collaboration includes Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT), a global leader in custom nucleic acid synthesis and genome editing products, based in Coralville, Iowa.

The research community has been very receptive and he has received multiple invitations to conduct keynote talks and workshops worldwide, Dr. Gurumurthy said. "Eight independent labs and counting have been able to replicate the study's results." 



Read Dr. Gurumurthy's journal article.

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





UNMC students study the thoracic cavity on the iWall.

# A NEW WAY OF LEARNING MEDICINE

by Elizabeth Kumru

**T**his fall, UNMC medical students are learning medicine a new way – the 21st century way and they are learning to think like a physician from the start.

Phase I of Training the Physicians of Tomorrow (TPT) was launched in August for incoming medical students. It is an active learning-based curriculum that emphasizes hands-on learning techniques, small-group interaction, patient-centered care, and a focus on students developing skills in inquiry.

For the past three years, a team of more than 120 College of Medicine faculty members and staff have labored to redesign the curriculum to reflect the learning habits of the device-oriented, online and socially-networked millennial generation. It's an ongoing challenge.





Kelly Caverzagie, M.D., associate dean for educational strategy, team leader and 2001 alum, has overseen the complex orchestration of design and scheduling efforts across multiple specialties. It was a big task. The structure of the current curriculum, while world-class, had been essentially the same since 1993.

"We have always been focused on providing the best medical education we can, and with changing times came the need for a different approach," he said. "Our goal is to integrate subjects to create a clear picture for the student. Historically, students learned different aspects of an organ system – like cardiovascular – at different points in the curriculum.

"TPT brings the details of each system together so one organ system is taught in its entirety in each block in a way that helps students learn in a manner that reflects how physicians think. It's a tightly interwoven, integrated learning experience that's more engaging and meaningful."

Last year, the redesign dovetailed with a national movement to integrate interprofessional education and practice when UNMC was selected as one of 21 medical schools in the U.S. by the American Medical Association to be part of its Accelerating Change in Medical Education Consortium. Through the consortium, UNMC is a leader in creating "the medical school of the future." Dr. Caverzagie is principal investigator for UNMC in the consortium.

For the next 18 months, students will be immersed in a series of 11 blocks that lay the foundation for the practice of medicine and provide the groundwork for the two subsequent phases. The teaching of normal structure and function of each organ system is followed by presentation of abnormalities in that system. The new block design allows students to see interactions between systems in a single educational exposure.

With the purposeful and longitudinal integration of the health systems sciences and the intertwined aspects of medical care through which physicians must interact and understand, students will develop an understanding of key principles – patient safety, quality improvement, health care financing, population management and the social determinants of health. Electronic medical records are used as realistic teaching platforms to prepare students for future success. Emphasis also is placed on physician wellness and developing a professional mindset.

"We're using active teaching methods that favor large and small group interactions," Dr. Caverzagie said.

Interactive methods include use of the world-class, high tech:

- iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup> (Interprofessional Experiential Center for Enduring Learning) that includes surgical and advanced simulation clinical settings and virtual immersive reality;
- E-Learning modules, developed by faculty and students as specialized interactive learning tools; and
- Human patient simulators.

When the Dr. Edwin Davis & Dorothy Balbach Davis Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning opens next year, the latest technology will engage learners with realistic simulated experiences designed to make learning interactive.

Phase II of the TPT curriculum provides extensive clinical learning experiences in six of the core disciplines of medicine. Over a 12-month period, students will begin to apply the lessons learned from the first phase and formally care for patients in both hospital and ambulatory clinical settings.

Finally, for 13 months in Phase III, students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of disciplines before settling upon a set of focused senior career tracks in their chosen specialties.


Another major change is grading. Students will be assessed as 'pass/fail' for the pre-clinical aspects of the curriculum, and then as 'honors, high pass, pass and fail' until graduation.

"Pass/fail systems have been shown to foster collaboration over competition," Dr. Caverzagie said.

"We want our students to approach medicine from a team-based perspective to reflect what practicing medicine in a clinical setting is really like."

For third- and fourth-year students, a more traditional grading system allows students to differentiate themselves, or shine, in specific areas of their choosing. "Students have different skills sets and interests and this grading scheme will help them highlight their respective skill set.

"It's a new era for medical education." 



SIM-NE trucks are stationed in four cities across Nebraska to provide training to rural health professionals.

by Elizabeth Kumru

# SIM-NE TRUCKS IN A RURAL TOWN NEAR YOU

**M**edical emergencies require the response of highly trained health professionals.

Now, four high-tech rolling classrooms deliver training free to emergency medical service agencies and critical access hospitals in every corner of Nebraska.

In June, Simulation in Motion Nebraska trucks (SIM-NE) were sent to four cities – Kearney, Norfolk, Lincoln and Scottsbluff – to provide real-life training experience and increase life-saving training opportunities through high-tech simulation. The UNMC College of Nursing has educational divisions in these cities and the College of Allied Health has programs in Kearney.

The customized trucks are funded by a \$5.5 million grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. Each truck cost \$1 million and operations, provided by UNMC, are paid for through the grant in a step-down process over three years.

“We’re bringing high-fidelity simulation, like you would see in the larger cities, to rural communities and small towns,” said Brian

Monaghan, program manager. “We expect to conduct 107 training sessions by Dec. 1.

“Usually, health professionals in rural areas have to travel long distances and spend several days away from their communities in order to receive training,” he said. “With these trucks, the training comes to their doorstep and they train together as a team.”

The 44-foot long, dual-axle trucks feature dual slide-out room extensions, a simulated emergency room and an ambulance, as well as computerized mannequins that talk, breathe, have heartbeats and can react to medications and other actions of the learners. They can die and be revived over and over again.

Each mobile unit is outfitted with supplies to recreate a realistic environment for learners that includes pre-programmed computerized medical and trauma scenarios, monitors that display vital signs of patient simulators and audio and video recording/playback capabilities.




**“We’re bringing high-fidelity simulation, like you would see in the larger cities, to rural communities and small towns.”**

BRIAN MONAGHAN



In the emergency room portion of the truck, doctors and nurses train in a simulated ER environment. Simulated mannequins – man, woman, child and baby – have pulses, blood pressures and even such bodily secretions as tears. Trainees face more than 80 training scenarios, from starting IVs and medication management to inserting chest tubes, decompressing the chest and delivering a baby.

Each simulated scenario, Monaghan said, sharpens the trainee's skills and confidence for when an actual emergency strikes. 



Learn more about SIM-NE.  
[unmc.edu/connect](http://unmc.edu/connect)



Paramedics were trained at the Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association's Annual Convention in Columbus in March.

# RAPPORT WITH PATIENTS SPURRED MED STUDENT'S MATCH

by Kalani Simpson



Jacob Wardyn



Steph Wardyn congratulates her husband, Jacob, on his match.

Jacob Wardyn began to notice something during his medical school years.

In his first clinical experience, during his first year as a medical student, a patient came out to him.

In his second clinical experience, a patient told him he was an alcoholic, and finally wanted help. Staff had been waiting and hoping for a breakthrough with this patient.

On rotation in a rural setting, a patient told him she was in a violent domestic situation. Until then, she and her primary physician had known each other for decades, but she'd never said a word.

Wardyn realized there's something about him that allows patients to open up to him.

This nonjudgmental empathy goes back to his childhood, he says. Wardyn has a speech impediment. As a kid, he stuttered badly. He was smart, and athletic and he had friends. But the stress and anxiety of public speaking – even casual conversation at the lunchroom table – hung over him.

We tell our kids to shrug off their childhood worries. That none of this will matter when they're all grown up.

But for a kid, "You literally live in that moment," Wardyn said. He'll never forget.

For a time he couldn't say his W's. Imagine being Jacob Wardyn. From Weeping Water.

He was smart and determined. But his confidence was nil.

Then he went to Hastings College, where, "No one knew me from Adam." This, in itself, was freeing. He loves his hometown, but, "When you're from a small town, everybody saw your awkward stage."


At Hastings, he was on the football team. The first day, when the freshmen publicly introduce themselves to the whole team, did not go well. But later, before the first preseason practice, he found himself sitting with an older teammate, a lineman twice his size, "a scary, scary dude."

This time, for whatever reason, it was Wardyn who opened up. And as he talked about his stutter and how it affected him, the biggest, toughest guy on the football team . . . accepted him. Supported him. Engaged in deep, thoughtful conversation.

Wardyn said the other guy probably doesn't even remember this, but for him, "it was one of those epiphany moments."

From that point on, he blossomed.

And, in March when he made his residency match along with 122 other classmates, he said, "I know this is where I'm supposed to be."

Because of his rapport with patients – and because he lost track of time when he studied the subject – Wardyn chose psychiatry. He matched at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. 



Find out where UNMC's medical students matched.

See photo album from UNMC's Match Day.

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



# **WHAT AN EPIDEMIC** **TAUGHT THE WORLD.**

The Ebola virus—a savage nightmare unleashed on the world in 2014. The brave healthcare professionals from UNMC and Nebraska Medicine risked their lives to save patients. In the process, they became the “gold standard” for treatment and safety protocols, training medical centers and hospitals from all over the world on how to confidently handle the next outbreak. And now, with a new national training center, UNMC continues to lead in the fight against infectious disease.



***Read more about UNMC's expertise  
at [nebraska.edu/impact](http://nebraska.edu/impact).***

**ONE UNIVERSITY. FOUR CAMPUSES. ONE NEBRASKA.**

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**

PACU

7

stryker





The Charles R. O'Malley Charitable Lead Trust has pledged a transformative gift to endow scholarship funds for students in the College of Allied Health Professions.

# O'MALLEY TRUST GIFT

## ENDOWS ALLIED HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

by Kalani Simpson

**T**he Charles R. O'Malley Charitable Lead Trust, as part of the University of Nebraska "Our Students, Our Future" Initiative, has given a gift to the College of Allied Health Professions that has the potential to be the largest in the college's history. The gift includes both outright funds and the pledge of matching funds to endow the allied health Scholars Program.

The O'Malley Trust first established a relationship with the college (then a school) in 2010, when it established allied health's first endowed faculty position. UNMC named James Temme the Charles R. O'Malley Chair of Radiation Science Technology Education. (UNMC's former RSTE division is now the department of medical imaging and therapeutic sciences.)

Since then, the trust also has matched the funding of other allied health benefactors, partnering to endow five more faculty positions in the college.

But now, the O'Malley Trust has pledged its biggest gift yet – which could mean up to \$1.9 million toward scholarships for allied health students.

The trust will gift \$900,000 outright to allied health over the next seven years. These monies allow the college to endow funds for a cohort of "O'Malley Scholars."

Then, the O'Malley Trust will provide an additional \$500,000 if matched by other allied health benefactors, for an additional total of \$1 million, through 2022.

The matching arrangement allows benefactors to endow their own named scholarships, with the benefit of doubling their gift (see sidebar).

"This innovative and collaborative model offered by the O'Malley Trust is indicative of their approach," said College of Allied Health Professions Dean Kyle Meyer, Ph.D. "Their goal quite simply is to transform the College of Allied Health Professions – first its faculty, now its students – and there is little doubt they have achieved this outcome."

The scholarships are to help increase opportunities for underrepresented students largely from Nebraska to become health care professionals. The O'Malley Trust and fellow benefactors




**"Their goal quite simply is to transform the College of Allied Health Professions - first its faculty, now its students - and there is little doubt they have achieved this outcome."**

DEAN KYLE MEYER, PH.D.

will help UNMC and its students create a high quality, diverse workforce to serve all of Nebraska – including its medically underserved areas – for years to come.


"Our objective is to effectively compete for students to meet our state's health care needs," Dr. Meyer said. "Building a pipeline to serve rural and underserved communities begins with recruiting highly qualified students from these areas and providing them with support to pursue affordable health professions education."

When completed, the funds from the allied health Scholars endowment will double the annual scholarship funds currently available for allied health students. 

## MATCHING MODEL TO DOUBLE DONOR INVESTMENT

The arrangement with the Charles R. O'Malley Charitable Lead Trust allows other College of Allied Health Professions benefactors to endow their own "named" scholarships with the O'Malley Trust providing a match up to \$500,000. The minimum gift eligible for the matching funds is \$30,000 (over five years).

This gift immediately turns into \$60,000, and the proceeds from this portion of the endowment would fund scholarships. These scholarships are then named in honor of the benefactor in perpetuity, with each respective current scholarship recipient known as a Smith Scholar or a Jones Scholar, for example.

"This is typical of the O'Malley Trust," Dr. Meyer said. "The trust's goal is to grow the College of Allied Health Professions and benefit our students by promoting engagement opportunities for other donors." 

### 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.

In 2015, the University of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska Foundation launched *Our Students, Our Future* to raise \$200 million by the end of this year 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

## RAISED

**\$161.7 MILLION**  
AS OF APRIL 30, 2017



# PARKINSON'S DISEASE

## MAY HAVE MET ITS MATCH

by Tom O'Connor

Instead of discovering an entirely new drug for a disease, researchers sometimes find that an existing drug can have positive effects on a different disease.

That's what UNMC researchers did.

In a breakthrough discovery, they found that an existing chemotherapy drug may have restorative, even curative, effects on Parkinson's disease (PD) – a disease that ravages nearly one million Americans and generates direct and indirect costs of nearly \$25 billion per year in the U.S. alone.

The drug, granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (also known as Sargramostim® Sanofi-Genzyme Pharmaceuticals), was found in a Phase I human clinical trial to shift a population of white blood cells from a destructive mode to a protective state to help defend against brain injury.

The research team was headed by two UNMC scientists, Howard Gendelman, M.D., professor and chair of the department of pharmacology and experimental neuroscience, and

R. Lee Mosley, Ph.D., pharmacology and experimental neuroscience professor and head of the Movement Disorders Research Laboratory. The discovery results from more than two decades of laboratory and animal investigation.

The idea was conceived in cell studies then validated in animals. During each step, immune transformation was realized with the chemotherapy drug.

Importantly, such drug-induced transformation not only has been successful for PD but also holds promise for a range of neurodegenerative disorders that include Alzheimer's disease, stroke and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.


A Phase I, double-blind clinical study was overseen at UNMC by Pamela Santamaria, M.D., a Nebraska Medicine neurologist and founder of Neurology Consultants of Nebraska; Danish Bhatti, M.D., assistant professor in the department of neurological sciences; and by David Standaert, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chair of neurology and director of the division of

movement disorders at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The medicine was proven safe and generally well tolerated. Side effects were minimal, but included skin irritation, bone pain and an allergic reaction. Preliminary evidence of improvement in motor skills was observed and recorded in several of the treated patients, but validation will require larger patient enrollments.

The findings – that appeared in a March issue of the journal *npj Parkinson's Disease* – mark a milestone for PD research. At the heart of the discovery was the immune transformation of disease-inciting circulating white blood cells (called effector T-cells or Teff) to cells that protect and defend against brain injury (called regulatory T cells or Treg). The drug changed neurodestructive Teff into functional neuroprotective Tregs.

"To our knowledge, this study represents the first time immune transformation was performed on any patient with neurodegenerative disease," Dr. Mosley said.

Dr. Gendelman said the next step will be a broader study that will include larger patient numbers. This is being planned in the next one to two years, he said, after the manufacture of an oral medicine. 



The three key people on the Phase I clinical trial were (from left) Howard Gendelman, M.D., Pamela Santamaria, M.D., and R. Lee Mosley, Ph.D.



Read the *npj Parkinson's disease* journal article.

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





Campers celebrate at the grand finale of the production.

# Oh, the Thinks You Can Think

by John Keenan

*If you open your mind,  
Oh, the thinks you will find  
Lining up to get loose!*



For the second year in a row, Camp Munroe Theater Company participants, ages 6 to 25, delighted an audience with a summer theater production – “Oh, the Thinks You Can Think.”

Yes, think – think right over the brink. That’s what these 24 campers did as they shined in their roles as the Sneetches and Mayzie.

They performed in July at the Bellevue Little Theater (BLT), the group’s first performance away from the UNMC campus. The Camp Munroe Theater Company is a collaboration between the Munroe-Meyer Institute and WhyArts? that provide a performance experience for children and young adults with disabilities and complex health care needs.

“I think it’s a great idea for the kids to be in a different venue,” said Carolyn Anderson, director of WhyArts?, which once again partnered with MMI’s Department of Recreational Therapy to put on the show.

The actors enjoyed working on the BLT stage before a crowd of approximately 100 people.

“It seems more like a real theater to the performers,” said Michael Crawford, Ph.D., director of recreational therapy. Thanks to the generosity and support of the BLT board of directors, campers had the opportunity to use a real theatre inside an historic building which houses one of Nebraska’s longest running private nonprofit theatre companies.

The production was a Dr. Seuss-inspired show, and participants seemed to enjoy the performance. Rec therapy’s Jon Purcell emceed as the Cat in the Hat, while MMI Director Karoly Mirnics, M.D., Ph.D., made a brief appearance as the Grinch.

Mary McHale’s son, Daniel, who was making his second appearance in a Camp Munroe show, was particularly enthusiastic.

“This was a real theatrical experience,” said McHale, adding her appreciation for the MMI staff and the WhyArts? artists.

“You can’t beat these professionals,” she said. “And Karoly is such a good sport.”



See a photo album from the production.

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

UNMC Connect

## UNMC Alumni Association Celebrates Alumna Betty Clements, MD

In May, the UNMC Alumni Association hosted a reception celebrating the service of Grace Elizabeth 'Betty' Clements, MD '52.

Clements, a native of Elmwood, Neb., was a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) during World War II. Her accomplishments stemmed from the many roles she played in her lifetime including those of teacher, aviator and physician. While Dr. Clements died in 1965 after a five-year battle with cancer, members of her family, including Nebraska State Sen. Robert Clements, were proud to accept a Congressional Gold Medal on her behalf for her service as a WASP.

UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., recognized the significance of Betty Clements' story for current students, saying she "is a role model for the men and women of this medical school." The campus reception brought generations of Clements family members together to recognize their loved one's accomplishments. A display highlighting Dr. Clements' accomplishments, including a replicate of the Congressional Gold Medal, is on display on the seventh floor of the McGoogan Library of Medicine.



From left, College of Medicine Dean Bradley Britigan, M.D., UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., State Sen. Robert Clements, Gary Clements, and UNMC Alumni Relations Director Catherine Mello. Front, Dwight Clements.

## UNMC Retiree Association Launched

In the fall of 2016, a group of retired UNMC faculty and staff began conversations about forming a group for retirees to maintain their relationships with UNMC and with each other. From those early conversations, the UNMC

Retiree Association was formed. Now with a formal coordinating committee and mission statement, the group already has hosted its first program, attended by 45 retirees and guests. The mission of the group is to offer a platform for continued and meaningful communication and engagement between UNMC and its retired faculty and staff. UNMC alumni also are welcome to participate in the group's activities. The Alumni Relations Office is the university home for the organization. For more information about the group, visit: [unmc.edu/alumni/getinvolved/Retirees.html](http://unmc.edu/alumni/getinvolved/Retirees.html) or call the Alumni Relations Office at 402-559-4385.



Members of the UNMC Retiree Association include: (back row L to R) Karen Grigsby, Virginia Aita GS '95, Merle McAlevy M '71, Barbara Hurlbert M '71, Myrna Newland M '64, Jim Newland M '65; (front row L to R) Nancy Woelfl, Diana Lough, Alice Schumaker MLS '66, GS '82, Mary Haven and Gordon Todd.

## UNMC Alumni Relations Office Welcomes Ashley Dougherty



Ashley Dougherty

To continue to build engagement strategies in the New Era of Alumni Engagement, the UNMC Alumni Relations Office has hired Ashley Dougherty to serve as a strategic engagement coordinator. Dougherty will spearhead new avenues of engagement with the alumni relations office staff, the University of Nebraska Foundation, UNMC deans and alumni. "I am truly looking forward to furthering the mission to engage alumni, students and friends in the life, promotion and advancement of the University of Nebraska Medical Center," Dougherty said. Prior to joining UNMC, Dougherty spent six years as the member relations and database manager at Joslyn Art Museum.



# Alumni Gather for Tailgate, Baseball at Annual Showdown in O-Town

Alumni enjoyed the 7th Annual Showdown in O-Town this year at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha. The historic Creighton vs. Nebraska baseball game took place on May 10. Alumni and friends from seven UNMC colleges attended the event, with a tailgate picnic dinner at the Bullpen, home to the NCAA Men's College World Series' "Baseball Village." Guests enjoyed visiting with old friends, a cook-out dinner, seats behind home plate at TD Ameritrade Park and a 4-0 Nebraska victory over Creighton. The Showdown in O-Town is part of the UNMC Alumni Association's outreach activities for sports fans.



Kelsie Cabrera, DO, and her husband, Matt, attended Showdown for the first time this year. Dr. Cabrera is completing her residency in OB/GYN at UNMC.

# College of Allied Health Professions Hosts Alumni Reunion

On June 10, the College of Allied Health Professions hosted its second all-alumni reunion with the theme Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future. The occasion marked 45 years of educating allied health professionals. The day included continuing education, lunch, tours and an awards reception. View photos from the reunion online at [www.facebook.com/unmc.alliedhealth/](http://www.facebook.com/unmc.alliedhealth/).



College of Allied Health Professions award recipients (L to R): Todd Stover, Sue Schuerman, Barbara Robertson, Mary McGaughey, Chelsea Dockins Reischl and Dave Arthur. (Not pictured James Temme).

# College of Allied Health Professions Alumni Engagement Council Presents Awards

PROFESSION	AWARD NAME	RECIPIENT
Medical Imaging & Therapeutic Sciences	Distinguished Alumnus Award	James Temme, MPA, RT(R)(QM) '73, '74, '84
Physician Assistant	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Dave Arthur, PA-C '75
Physical Therapy	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Sue Schuerman, PT, GCS, MBA, PhD '75, '98
Medical Laboratory Science	Early Career Achievement Award	Chelsea Dockins Reischl, MBA, MLS(ASCP)CM '08
Medical Nutrition	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Barbara Robertson, MA, RD, CNSC, LMNT '82
Cytotechnology	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Mary McGaughey, CT(ASCP) '10
Clinical Perfusion	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Todd Stover, BSRS, CCP, LP '87, '92

## Allied Health Professions

### ◎ Lisa Bartenhagen MITS'93

Omaha, Neb., was appointed program director of radiation therapy, within the newly established Department of Medical Imaging & Therapeutic Sciences (MITS) in the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions. At her February 2017 appointment, she also was named chair of MITS. She began her career at UNMC in 2000, following seven years in clinical practice as a radiation therapist. Since then, Bartenhagen has helped elevate the college's radiation therapy program to national status.

### Nancy Gumb MLS'77

Kearney, Neb., retired on July 7, 2017, after 37 years at the Community Hospital in McCook, Neb. She moved to Kearney to be closer to family.

### Deb Weiss MLS'84

Ainsworth, Neb., was presented the 2017 Award of Excellence by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science of Nebraska. She has been the lab manager at Brown County Hospital for nine years with 33 years of experience as a medical technologist.

### Gretchen Nicholson MLS'97

Jefferson City, Mo., has taken a new position as director of patient safety, quality & risk management at Park Ridge Health in Hendersonville, N.C. Park Ridge Health is one of 45 hospitals in the Adventist Health System.

### Anne McCarville MLS'00

Cambridge, Neb., serves as a medical laboratory professional at Tri Valley Health System in Cambridge.

### Sean Conroy MLS'04

Hays, Kan., published his memoir, *Through the Eyes of a Young Physician Assistant*, in May 2016.

### Ronald Kubus PA'92

Tampa Bay, Fla., was awarded a Certificate of Added Qualifications from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. He is employed at Orthopedic Medical Group of Tampa Bay.

### Chris Nichols PA'98

Geneva, Neb., was selected as the new CEO of the Fillmore County Hospital. Previously he served as the CEO of Horn Memorial Hospital in Ida Grove, Iowa.

### Michelle Hill PA'16

Omaha, Neb., was welcomed to OneWorld Community Health Centers in Omaha as a new provider and works at several of their locations.

### Douglas Hadden PA'95

Bridgeport, Neb., was recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants because of his outstanding contributions to patient care and the profession during the past 21 years of being a PA. He practices at the Morrill County Community Hospital and Sidney Regional Medical Center.

### Randy Lippincott PA'99

Scottsdale, Ariz., has written an autobiographical trilogy since retiring in 2009. The second (*Fifty Years Fly By*) and third (*Out of the Blue*) books were released in 2017. The first book, *Three Days of the Condor*, was released in 2013. In June 2016, he received the prestigious Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.

### Mark Schulthess PA'11

Hudson, Mass., has retired from the Army as a physician assistant.

### Brian Clark PA'13, '14

Iowa City, Iowa, has been working at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics since October 2015. He works for the department of orthopedics and rehabilitation on the spine surgery team. He also is a captain in the Iowa Army National Guard and serves as the Battalion Physician Assistant for the 1-194 Field Artillery Battalion.

### Kayla Ganz PA'14

Fargo, N.D., joined the family medicine department at the Essentia Health 7 Day Clinic Osgood in Fargo. She is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

### Angie Baumert PA'14

Brewster, Neb., began her career at the Broken Bow Clinic. In July 2016, she joined the Central Nebraska Medical Clinic in Sargent, Neb.

### Josey Schomp PA'16

Pueblo West, Colo., recently joined Touchstone Health Pueblo West.

### Karen Brown PT'77

Alliance, Neb., recently joined her husband Don in retirement after a 40-year career. She served as a physical therapist and operated Alliance Physical Therapy. Brown looks forward to spending more time with her husband, gardening, reading and writing.

### Casey Cortney PT'95

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

### Lauren Wright PT'98

Omaha, Neb., has been named the director of operations for Hillcrest Home Care and will spearhead the expansion of skilled home care services to Lincoln, Neb.

### Brandy Escamilla PT'06

Lincoln, Neb., began working at Bryan Health Pediatric Rehabilitation Services in April 2016 after closing her business, Leaps and Bounds Pediatric Therapy. She works 2.5 days per week and spends the rest of her time at home enjoying her kids, Katelyn, 5, and Rudy, 2.

### Doug Wehrman PT'10

Edgar, Neb., was named employee of the year at the Brodstone Memorial Hospital annual banquet. He has been a physical therapist at Brodstone for seven years. Currently, on the patient safety team, he helps with the local sports teams and has been active in the Career Pathways program.

### Ryan Hardin PT'16

McCook, Neb., joined Southwest Nebraska Physical Therapy, providing physical therapy services for the community hospital and the surrounding area.

### Jed Droge PT'10

Tecumseh, Neb., works at the Johnson County Hospital as the director of rehabilitation, primarily as a physical therapist.

### Chelsea Fread PT'17

Grand Island, Neb., joined the staff of Balance Mobility & Aquatic Center in Grand Island. She is a physical therapist who provides rehabilitation for patients in the areas of geriatrics, orthopedics, neurological disorders, vestibular rehabilitation, lymphedema and women's health.

## Medicine

### Leo McCarthy M'62, '64

Indianapolis, Ind., was named the Glenn W. Irwin Jr. Distinguished Faculty Award recipient by the Indiana University School of Medicine Alumni Association Board of Directors.



#### **Herbert Feidler M'63**

Norfolk, Neb., is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Feidler Eye Clinic, a practice he began in 1967 and now runs with his daughter and son-in-law.

#### **Rodney Basler M'71**

Lincoln, Neb., contributed a section in the medical textbook, Sauer's Manual of Skin Diseases. His chapter, sports medicine dermatology, is part of the general text that is among the most commonly referenced for dermatologic conditions.

#### **Craig Bartruff M'73**

Gothenburg, Neb., closed his clinic in Gothenburg after more than four decades. Though he is no longer seeing patients in Gothenburg, he is not completely retiring from medicine. Bartruff continues to work in the emergency room in McCook and also serves as medical director of the Decatur County Hospital and Clinic in Oberlin, Kan.

#### **Ⓢ James Hung M'74**

Fresno, Calif., released his book, Practical Ophthalmology, an informational guide on common eye conditions, treatments, tips on when to refer, as well as basic guidelines for helping patients with their eye care. In 2015, he released his book, Silk Road on My Mind, about his 10 years of volunteer work as an ophthalmologist in the remote Xinjiang province in China.

#### **Gary Penner M'74**

Fairfax, Va., was named a 2017 Aurora Nebraska High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame recipient. After practicing in Aurora, Penner enlisted in the Navy, where he served as flight surgeon on two carriers. He also served as the foreign medical officer for more than 90 countries. While in Washington, D.C., he served as the medical director for the State Department. He holds licenses in both Nebraska and Virginia. He retired from the Foreign Service in 2016.

#### **John Michael Finkner M'75**

Kearney, Neb., recently joined Harlan County Health System in Alma, Neb. He was in private practice in Alma from 1980-1988 and, in recent years, has assisted with clinic and emergency room on-call duties.

#### **Paul Paulman M'77**

Kearney, Neb., received the Innovative Practices in Education Award at the UNMC Academic Affairs Impact in Education Awards Ceremony in February 2017. He is a professor in the UNMC Department of Family Medicine.

#### **Milo Anderson M'78**

Fremont, Neb., and his wife **Cheri Anderson, N'76**, retired in December 2016. They worked alongside each other for 35 years in Fremont.

#### **Les Veskma M'78, '81, '91**

Lincoln, Neb., recently joined the Saunders Medical Center in Wahoo. He was previously at the Lincoln Family Medical Program. He fills in as needed in the clinics and works every-other-weekend in the emergency room.

#### **Ronald Greeno M'79**

Los Angeles, Calif., visited UNMC in June and spoke on how federal health care policy is impacting providers. He serves as president of the Society of Hospital Medicine and the senior advisor of medical affairs at TeamHealth.

#### **Michael Ferris M'80**

Lincoln, Neb., retired from clinical medicine and as the chief medical officer at CHI Health St. Elizabeth. He enjoys his lake home in Wisconsin and wood working.

#### **Ⓢ Cary Peterson Jr. M'82**

Lincoln, Neb., serves as a physician at the Southeast Nebraska Cancer Center in Lincoln. In March 2017, he began hosting a monthly clinic at the Crete Area Medical Center, where he also oversees chemotherapy treatment plans for patients.

#### **David O'Dell M'84**

Omaha, Neb., was honored in February as UNMC's first Educator Laureate. The award recognizes an individual with sustained achievement in education who has significantly improved the UNMC learning environment through the provision of outstanding educational experiences. He serves as a professor in the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine, division of General Medicine, and is the LeeRoy Meyer Professor of Medicine.

#### **Teri Jo Mauch M'87, Residency'90, GS'90**

Omaha, Neb., professor and chief, pediatric nephrology at UNMC and Children's Hospital & Medical Center, was one of two physicians to receive the Hobart E. Wiltse, M.D., Ph.D., Excellence in Medical Education Award at the UNMC pediatric residents banquet in May.

#### **David Watts M'88**

Omaha, Neb., is the new president of the Metro Omaha Medical Society. During his term, he plans to focus his attention on health education.

#### **Terry Wooldridge M'90, GS'91, M'93**

Fremont, Neb., has practiced in the Fremont area for more than 20 years and most currently at Kid Care. Kid Care has transitioned into Children's Physicians, the primary care network of Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha. This new affiliation will allow him to expand his services and provide better access to the hospital's network of specialists.

#### **James Weekly M'91, '97**

Mina, S.D., has joined the Columbus Community Hospital in the otolaryngology clinic. He has practiced in Aberdeen, S.D., for the past 20 years.

#### **Hans Dethlefs IV M'92**

LaVista, Neb., travels four times a year on a weeklong trip to the Dominican Republic to provide health care and fight chronic disease among the population. He is the medical director and board president for Chronic Care International.

#### **Thomas Clinch M'95**

Kearney, Neb., joined the team of Kearney County Health Services and takes referrals for cataract surgeries from the Minden Vision Clinic.

#### **Bob Rauner M'95**

Lincoln, Neb., accepted the role of chief medical officer with OneHealth Nebraska. He coordinates quality improvement efforts for OneHealth Nebraska clinics who participate in accountable care organization contracts. His time is split between this role and as president of the Partnership for Healthy Lincoln.

#### **Hank Newburn M'95, '98**

Seward, Neb., now practices at the Saunders Medical Center in Wahoo, Neb. He previously practiced in Seward for more than 14 years.



UNMC College of Medicine alumni enjoyed conversation at the home of Ron Caniglia M'87 and Bonnie Caniglia in Scottsdale, Ariz., in February. Pictured: (from left) Michelle Knolla M'79, Suzanne Urwiller and Richard Urwiller M'56.

# (alumni class notes)



Members of the UNMC Alumni Association board of directors pictured after the May 2017 meeting: (front row) Joshua Hite P'06; Justin Frederick PH'12; Brad Britigan, M.D.; Pat Leuschen GS'76; Austin Clark, student representative; (back row) Juliann Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN; Kyle Meyer, PhD, PT'79; John Mitchell M'84; Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.; Bill Lydiatt M'88; and Catherine Mello, alumni director.

## **Michael Zaruba M'95, '97**

Auburn, Neb., was presented the Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award by the UNMC Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha. AOA is a national honor medical society in which membership is based upon scholarship and moral qualities.

## ⊙ **Daniel Tomes M'97, '03**

Falls City, Neb., is a new board-certified neurosurgeon at the Community Medical Center (CMC) and sees patients at the CMC Specialty Clinic in Falls City.

## ⊙ **Jeff Yosten M'98**

Norfolk, Neb., now serves as director of emergency medicine at Faith Regional Health Services.

## **Kris Huber M'01**

Omaha, Neb., joined the OneWorld Community Health Centers as a new provider and works at the West Omaha location.

## **William Lawton M'05**

Walton, Neb., and **Penny LeDuc N'84, '86**, introduced the fecal transplant procedure to Bryan Health in January 2015 and, together, have performed more than 50 fecal transplants. The procedure is recommended for those with colitis and has a 90 percent cure rate.

## **Chris Cornett M'05, PT'01**

Bennington, Neb., received the Cambridge High School Distinguished Alumni Award in April.

## **Antara Pothuloori M'06**

Omaha, Neb., joined the OB-GYN clinical practice at Methodist Physicians Clinic Women's Center.

## **Jeremiah Ladd M'07**

Omaha, Neb., practices at the Nebraska Spine & Pain Center in Omaha and, in April, also began seeing patients at the Columbus Community Hospital Visiting Physicians Clinic.

## **Rachel Swim M'10**

Omaha, Neb., joined the Methodist Physicians clinics as a new OB-GYN.

## **Natalie Manley M'10, PH'10**

Omaha, Neb., is the new medical director of Palliative Care Services at Hillcrest Health Services and the associate medical director for Hillcrest Hospice Care. She also serves as an assistant professor in the division of geriatrics and gerontology in the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine.

## **Andrew Opp M'11, Residency'14**

Wahoo, Neb., joined the Saunders Medical Center as a family physician. Previously, he was with 23rd Family Medical of Fremont.

## **Megan Schuckman M'12**

Chadron, Neb., was a guest speaker at the undergraduate commencement ceremony at Chadron State College. She is a family medicine physician at the Chadron Medical Clinic.

## **Brett Hays M'12**

Omaha, Neb., returned to Methodist Physicians clinics in orthopedics where he interned.

## **Brady Fickenscher M'13**

York, Neb., and his wife **Jillian Fickenscher, M'13, PH'14**, joined the York Medical Clinic. He began seeing patients in November 2016 and she joined him in early 2017 after taking time off with their daughter. They both practice family medicine, deliver babies at York General Hospital and cover shifts in the emergency room.

## **Adam Rasmussen M'14**

Lincoln, Neb., joined Premier Family Medicine in Papillion. He is originally from Mead, Neb.

## **Nicole Akers M'15**

St. Petersburg, Fla., is completing her family medicine residency and has committed to join the Saunders Medical Center in Wahoo, Neb., in fall 2018.

## Residency

## **Ned Mack, Internal Medicine '85**

North Platte, Neb., was elected president of the Great Plains Health Board of Directors and has retired to pursue interests outside of medicine.

## **Alan Berg, Medical Oncology '85**

Crete, Neb., holds monthly clinics at the Crete Area Medical Specialty Clinic and oversees chemotherapy treatment plans for local patients.

## **Matthew McMahon, Gastroenterology '11**

Tecumseh, Neb., joined a team of specialty clinic providers at Johnson County Hospital.

## **Julie Larson, Internal Medicine '13**

Metairie, La., wrote a children's book, *I Have a Doll Just Like You*, which was released in February 2017. Passionate about working with children with disabilities, she wrote the book after finding few books available to help families and educators better understand and be inclusive to people with disabilities.

## **Patty Terp, Ophthalmology '15**

Fremont, Neb., is an ophthalmologist at Fremont Eye Associates, where she's worked for the past two years. She uses a procedure called Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty, a laser surgery that can lower the pressure inside a person's eyes as a treatment for glaucoma.



## Nursing

### Nancy Kadavy N'70

Omaha, Neb., was recognized as a Nurse of the Year by the March of Dimes and Omaha Magazine. She implemented the perinatal hospice program for CHI facilities. In notifying OB groups about the program, she has helped patients who receive the news that their unborn has a lethal condition or diagnosis that is either incompatible with life or limits their life expectancy.

### Peggy Everitt N'74

Trenton, Neb., retired in May after 43 years in the nursing profession. The changes she has seen in her career have been dramatic – from sterilizing everything to using disposal needles and syringes and going from hand-written notes to computerized records. She plans to travel more with her husband, attend several Kansas City Royals games and enjoy a few musicals.

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

Lincoln, Neb., joined Nobl as the new chief nursing officer. Through her 35-year nursing career, she has held positions in performance improvement, quality, advanced practice, academia and hospital leadership. More recently, she has served as an educator and consultant for the ANA Nursing Knowledge Center, assisting hospitals to achieve Magnet Recognition Program® success. She recently joined the UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Engagement Council.

### Kathleen Duncan N'83

Omaha, Neb., was recognized as a Nurse of the Year by the March of Dimes and Omaha Magazine. She has been heavily involved with a UNMC College of Nursing team that focuses on improving the quality of life for heart failure patients through exercise promotion.

### Corey Aldy N'86, '87

Omaha, Neb., was promoted to assistant vice president, Underwriting Services Division, at Physicians Mutual in Omaha. She holds the professional designation of Long-Term Care Professional.

### Ⓢ Chris McElroy N'92

Kansas City, Mo., has spent the past 24 years in the nursing field. She has received numerous awards, including the Shirley Elam Clinical Excellence Award in 2011, the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses in 2011 and 2015 and the Kansas City Metro March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Procedural Care in 2016.



College of Nursing dean, Juliann Sebastian PhD, RN, FAAN, pictured with outgoing president of the College of Nursing Alumni Engagement Council, Amy Thimm N'91. Thimm recently concluded a three-year term as the organization's president.

### Raime Misko N'04

Lexington, Neb., joined the Lexington Regional Health Center's Family Medicine Specialists. Previously, she worked as a registered nurse gaining experience in post-surgical care, long-term care and family practice.

### Deaun Carpenter N'06, '11

Imperial, Neb., a family nurse practitioner, recently opened a private practice, Myrtle Health, LLC. Her practice follows a direct primary care model, which creates an alternative option to fee-for-service insurance billing.

### Shelly Andre N'06

Omaha, Neb., was recognized as a Nurse of the Year by the March of Dimes and Omaha Magazine. At CHI Health St. Elizabeth, she had a significant role in reducing the number of catheter days in the intensive care unit. By initiating a role for infection prevention on the daily multi-disciplinary round within the intensive care environment, she had a direct impact on reducing infections within the department.

### Melissa Snyder N'07, '15

Scottsbluff, Neb., was awarded the "40 Under 40 Nurse Leader Honorees" Award by the Nebraska Action Coalition for her unique contributions to leadership within the nursing profession. In addition to working as a full-time nursing instructor at the UNMC College of Nursing West Nebraska Division, she works weekends and during school breaks in the intensive care unit at Regional West Medical Center.

### Mark Huber N'11

Omaha, Neb., joined OneWorld Community Health Centers as a new provider and works at the Bellevue location.

### Jennifer Lemmons N'12

Randolph, Neb., was one of the first graduates of the UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division in Norfolk when it opened in 2012. Her love for nursing influenced her daughter, Mackenzie, to become a nurse. Mackenzie recently finished a clinical rotation experience at Pender Community Hospital and will graduate from the Northern Division in 2018.

### Mareesa Hasenauer N'15

Curtis, Neb., accepted a position at the Curtis Medical Center as a nurse practitioner, where she began providing full-time care on Jan. 5, 2017. Previously, she was a nurse practitioner in North Platte, Neb.

### Jennifer Dombush N'15

Omaha, Neb., joined OneWorld Community Health Centers and works at the Northwest Omaha location.

### Ian Mitchell N'15

Omaha, Neb., joined OneWorld Community Health Centers and works at the Northwest Omaha location.

### Suzanne Gregg N'15

Kearney, Neb., offers psychiatry clinic services at Kearney County Health Services on the first Monday of each month. Her services include providing medication management for a number of psychiatric disorders including autism, depressions, bipolar disorder, ADHD and schizophrenia.



Tom and Mary Clabaugh, Suzanne Clabaugh GS'10, and Adam Birnley enjoyed the UNMC Alumni Association's Showdown in O-Town.

## Pharmacy

### Tooley Marks P'56

Columbus, Neb., was recognized for 35 years of service on the board of directors of the Loup Power District. He serves as the board's treasurer and also has served as chairman, first vice chairman, second vice chairman and secretary.

### Keith Hentzen P'75

Springfield, Neb., has served sundaes and shakes, as well as filled prescriptions for 40 years as the owner of Springfield Drug. To celebrate his success and service to the community, he was inducted into the Sarpy County Business Hall of Fame in May 2017.

### Debra Farver P'83

Yankton, S.D., received the Edward Patrick Hogan Award for Teaching Excellence on Feb. 21, 2017, from South Dakota State University. She is known for her passionate and engaged teaching, including the use of current and historical events that keep classes upbeat.

### Daniel McPherson P'85

Bismarck, N.D., was named Adjunct Preceptor of the Year by the fourth-year pharmacy students at North Dakota State University. He is a critical care pharmacist at CHI St. Alexius Health in Bismarck.

### Jenni Peters P'98

Rogers, Neb., joined a team of pharmacists at Medicine Man in fall 2016.

### Lacey West P'09

Omaha, Neb., joined the Nebraska Realty team in April 2017. She will focus on residential home sales in Omaha and the surrounding areas.

## Dentistry

### Chris Nix D'78

McCook, Neb., was honored by the Nebraska Dental Association at its annual meeting in Omaha. He was recognized for his outstanding contribution to organized dentistry and for achieving Life Membership status with the American Dental Association.

### Jon Richman D'98, '00

Imperial, Neb., accepted a position with Delta County Memorial Hospital in Delta, Colo., and joins a team of 10 other family practice doctors.



Physical Therapy alumni reunited at the College of Allied Health Professions alumni reunion on June 10, include: (front row) Cindy Dennis PT'93, Karla Bryant PT'73, Debra Cornelius PT'93, (back row) Greg Karst, PT, PhD, Executive Associate Dean, Barbara Leymaster PT'93, Lisa Gates PT'93, Renee Haliburton PT'93 and Robert Fuchs PT'84 and UNMC faculty member.

### Martin Killeen D'04

Lincoln, Neb., completed a week-long mission trip, alongside a group of UNMC dentistry alumni, on behalf of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lincoln. The February trip was their ninth visit to Haiti to the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Haiti Kobonal Mission, where they provided medical and dental care to more than 2,500 people. Over the nine years, they have provided \$2.9 million worth of free care to one of the poorest areas in the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Also on the trip: **Beth Rawlings, Internal Medicine '09, Addison Killeen D'11, Tim Calkins D'89, Justin Villafane D'07, Daniel Tylka D'10, Erica Jasa DH'10, D'16, Zack Krei D'14, and CJ Stec D'14.**

### Jordan Cochran D'05

Kearney, Neb., was presented the January Spotlight Business Award by the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Business & Education Committee. She practiced as an associate for five years before establishing her own practice.

### Kole Kugler D'12

Minden, Neb., is a partner with the Minden Dental Clinic. A native of Eustis, Neb., he prides himself on his small-town, rural Nebraska values and applies these same values to his dental practice.

### Alicia Lyon D'16

Minden, Neb., is a partner with the Minden Dental Clinic. Her in-depth training brings new procedures to the clinic, including full-size dental implants.

### Arielle Brinkman D'16

Ord, Neb., joined Complete Family Dentistry. This past year, she completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Dentistry.

## Public Health

### Nizar Wehbi PH'06

Omaha, Neb., was named board chair of the 2017 Omaha Home for Boys Board of Directors. He is an assistant professor and acting deputy director of the Center for Health Policy at the UNMC College of Public Health.

### Katelyn Jelden PH'16

Axtell, Neb., was presented with the 2017 Excellence in Public Health Award from the United States Public Health Service. The award recognizes medical students (she is now a medical student at UNMC) who show their dedication to public health by making exceptional contributions to the community and who increase the U.S. Public Health Service's mission to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of the nation. She was an integral member of the Nebraska Patient Care Biocontainment Unit, which was activated as a part of Ebola care and response efforts in 2014.



## Graduate Studies

### Ernest Prentice GS'76

Omaha, Neb., associate vice chancellor of academic affairs, retired in July 2017 after a 44-year career at UNMC. He was recently elected to the Board of Trustees for the Association of Clinical Research Professionals.

### Peter Iwen GS '82, '01

Omaha, Neb., was elected as a fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology. He is the director of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory and professor of pathology and microbiology at UNMC.

### Dawn Venema GS'07, PT'99

Omaha, Neb., is an assistant professor in the division of physical therapy education in the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions. In May, she received an Outstanding Teaching Award and an Excellence in Teaching honor.

### Tiffany Moore GS'12

Omaha, Neb., was recognized as a Nurse of the Year by the March of Dimes and Omaha Magazine. She serves as an assistant professor in the UNMC College of Nursing in Omaha and has completed 10 publications with her team and made more than 20 presentations related to her practice and research. Her research focuses on the effects of stress and health and disease in the perinatal population, oxidative stress and inflammation in the perinatal population, and feeding intolerance in the neonatal population.

## In Remembrance...

### Dorthea Yeutter N'41

Lexington, Neb., May 18, 2017

### Lynn James M'45

Grand Junction, Colo., May 5, 2017

### Ⓢ Marvin Vollertsen P'47

Hamburg, Iowa, March 23, 2017

### Ⓢ Marjory Laymon N'49

Mira Loma, Calif., April 26, 2017

### Lawrence James M'50

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 14, 2017

### Martin Bakken P'50

Scottsbluff, Neb., March 15, 2017

### Lyle Hall P'51

Worland, Wyo., March 10, 2017

### Hans Rath M'52

Omaha, Neb., June 11, 2017

### Alpha Tamsiea N'52

Spirit Lake, Iowa, Feb. 24, 2017

### Ⓢ Meredith Dubois N'52

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 2, 2017

### Edward Schaumburg M'53

Carefree, Ariz., Jan. 25, 2017

### Verlyn Steinkruger M'53

Manhattan, Kan., Feb. 20, 2017

### Anta Krievins P'53

Newton, Kan., March 18, 2017

### Robert Svanda P'53

Ravenna, Neb., Jan. 4, 2017

### Donald Walker P'53

Kearney, Neb., March 31, 2017

### Edward Brewer M'54

Phoenix, Ariz., May 10, 2017

### Walter Allen Bennett D'54

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 21, 2017

### William Day D'55

Weems, Va., March 8, 2017

### Dale Ebers M'55

Lincoln, Neb., April 23, 2017

### Marion Allen N'55

Lincoln, Neb., April 27, 2017

### William Griffin M'56

Omaha, Neb., June 4, 2017

### Ⓢ Donna Klawitter N'57

Fort Calhoun, Neb., May 11, 2017

### Elaine Mansfield N'57

New Brighton, Minn., Aug. 14, 2016

### Morris Skinner M'58

Gothenburg, Neb., Feb. 4, 2017

### Edgar Smith M'58

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 8, 2017

### Kirk Lewis M'60

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 9, 2017

### Werner Kramer M'60

Bainbridge Island, Wash., March 3, 2017

### Leslie Rivers M'60

Vancouver, Wash., Jan. 24, 2017

### Noble Swanson M'65

Roca, Neb., June 6, 2017

### Ransom Varney P'65

Broken Bow, Neb., Jan. 8, 2017

### Gary Evans P'66

Houston, Texas, April 5, 2017

### Jean Reese N'69

Iowa City, Iowa, May 18, 2017

### Kathleen Lang DH'70

Paradise Valley, Ariz., March 22, 2017

### Thomas Munn P'71

Holdrege, Neb., June 25, 2017

### Richard Penney D'71

Surprise, Ariz., March 30, 2017

### Kathryn Schmolke MITS'74

Mason City, Iowa, March 24, 2017

### Mary Fee N'74

Asheville, N.C., Jan. 19, 2017

### Dennis DeRoin M'76

Papillion, Neb., Feb. 7, 2017

### Blain Larson P'77

Schuyler, Neb., Feb. 19, 2017

### Jeanelle Thelen N'79

Seward, Neb., Feb. 7, 2017

### Osa Jensen N'80

Grand Island, Neb., May 11, 2017

### Corrine Weihe N'84

Norfolk, Neb., June 20, 2017

### Larry Hansen M'86

Grand Island, Neb., March 5, 2017

### Mark Baxa M'86

Belmont, N.C., June 18, 2017

### H. Kevin Happe M'91

Council Bluffs, Iowa, Feb. 26, 2017

### Daniel Harrahill M'96

Saint Paul, Neb., April 1, 2017

### Kaye Kvam PT'00

Federal Way, Wash., Aug. 22, 2016

### Kathleen Hansen N'05

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 28, 2017

### Noah Beadell M'10

Tecumseh, Neb., May 26, 2017

### Brandie Taylor N'14

Kearney, Neb., June 8, 2017

## Births

### **Sarah Luebe N'09**

Pierce, Neb., and her husband, Brent, and son, Matthew (2), welcomed a son, Michael Andrew, on Jan. 21, 2017.

### **Libby Henning P'10**

Valley, Neb., and her husband, **Blake Henning P'10**, welcomed a son, Kade Samuel, on May 25, 2017. He joins big brother Wesley.

### **Krystal Davis MLS'14**

Bellevue, Neb., and husband, Jason, welcomed a daughter, Adalind Isobel, on Feb. 5, 2017.

### **Jamie Crowe PT'06**

Fremont, Neb., and husband Adam, welcomed a daughter, Adelyn Jane, on Jan. 13, 2017. She joins big brother Andrew.

## Marriages

### **Brittanie Simonsen PA'15 & Adam Dannehl PA'16**

Waco, Neb., July 16, 2016

### **Molly Berke D'17**

& Blake Kopf  
Kearney, Neb., March 25, 2017

## UPCOMING UNMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

### **SEPT. 28**

College of Medicine Alumni Latta Lecture  
Omaha, Neb.

### **OCT. 20**

College of Nursing Centennial Gala  
Omaha, Neb.

### **OCT. 20-21**

Colleges of Medicine & Nursing Alumni Reunion Weekend  
Omaha, Neb.

### **MAY 16-18, 2018**

European Serenade, Eight-night luxury cruise aboard Riviera • ROME to VENICE  
Trip for all University of Nebraska alumni

For more information about these events, please visit us online at  
[unmc.edu/alumni](http://unmc.edu/alumni).

### **Prefer to receive UNMC Connect electronically?**

Send your request and email address to: [alumni@unmc.edu](mailto:alumni@unmc.edu).

*Please be sure to indicate if you are a UNMC alum.*

### **We love hearing from you! Please send your professional and personal news for Class Notes to:**

UNMC Alumni Relations  
985200 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-5200

Phone: 402.559.4385  
Toll free: 888.725.8664  
Email: [alumni@unmc.edu](mailto:alumni@unmc.edu)  
Website: [unmc.edu/alumni](http://unmc.edu/alumni)



(one last thing)

## COMPOUND MAY OFFER NEW DETERRENT TO MOSQUITOES

by Kalani Simpson



**M**osquitoes buzz, bite, suck our blood, make us itch and worst of all spread serious, even deadly diseases, like chikungunya, dengue, malaria, yellow fever and Zika.

And if that isn't enough?

"A lot of people don't realize that mosquitoes have kidneys, and when they take a blood meal from you they also urinate on you almost simultaneously," Jerod Denton, Ph.D., of Vanderbilt University Medical Center, told NIH Research Matters.

Eww.

But now, UNMC is helping humans get revenge.

Corey Hopkins, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, working out of the College of Pharmacy's UNMC Center for Drug Discovery, joins Dr. Denton and Peter Piermarini, Ph.D., at Ohio State, on a project that targets this, ahem, kidney function.

"They can actually give you a disease and pee on you at the same time," Dr. Denton told Scientific American.

OK! We get the picture!

Only, with the work being done by Dr. Hopkins and his colleagues, they can't do that.

And that's bad for the mosquitoes.

When mosquitoes suck your blood, they take in nutrients, but they also must eliminate the bad stuff immediately. That means... well, you know.

But compounds designed and synthesized in Dr. Hopkins' lab have been found to block kidney function in mosquitoes. Which means they can't...

Ahem.

Unable to flush out the system, they swell up, toxins taking them out from the inside. Some even literally burst.


Dr. Hopkins sends compounds he makes to Dr. Denton for pharmacology testing, who sends them on to Dr. Piermarini for work on unsuspecting mosquitoes.

Their study in the Nature-affiliated journal Scientific Reports calls it an "insecticide resistance-breaking mosquitocide." That's important, because

mosquitoes are developing resistance to the stuff we fight them with now.

Thus far the compounds look safe for mammals and honeybees, but further testing is needed.

It's the kind of world-leading impact envisioned by UNMC leadership and benefactors when planning the Center for Drug Discovery.

Dr. Hopkins said: "It is an exciting project to be involved with using my experience in medicinal chemistry to design new compounds with a novel mechanism of action in order to potentially make a major impact against these devastating diseases." 



Read the journal article on mosquitocide.

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



University of Nebraska Medical Center  
985230 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, Nebraska 68198-5230

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# Connect

NON-PROFIT.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
OMAHA, NE  
PERMIT NO. 454



# *New Era of Alumni Engagement*

## Mark Your 2017 Calendar

### UNMC Alumni Reunion Events

**College of Nursing Centennial Gala**  
Omaha, Neb. | October 20, 2017

**College of Medicine Alumni Reunion**  
**College of Nursing Alumni Reunion**  
Omaha, Neb. | October 20-21, 2017

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