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FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF UNMC

Discover how
UNMC is making
a difference at
home and beyond



**A World
of Impact**



PRESENTING

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UNMC's footprint is wide, impactful

Jeffrey P. Gold, MD
UNMC Chancellor

Welcome to our latest issue of UNMC Connect magazine. Being chancellor of one of America's premier academic health science centers has its moments of great inspiration, and showcasing our work is surely one of them. I'm thrilled to take the opportunity to open our front door to our world and say, "Please, come on in." Whether it's inviting someone new to take a grand tour with us, or welcoming back an old friend, I'm excited to show visitors, be they in-person, virtual or through the pages of this magazine, but a small snapshot of what we've done with the place in the last year or so.

If you are one of our longstanding friends, you'll notice this is a new look for Connect. We thought it appropriate. As we gradually emerge from this years-long pandemic, we step into a new, wider world with a sense of optimism, achievement and fresh eyes.

It's with that spirit that we bring you these stories. Stories that show how who we were informs who we can be. Stories that show how transforming the lives of children and families here – through the magic of the Munroe-Meyer Institute – can help transform lives everywhere. Stories that show how we, one of the world's leaders in biosecurity, before this pandemic, were forced by COVID-19 to learn new lessons. And how resulting innovation, in one case, is being used to help prevent infections in our rural Nebraska communities.

And, we'll glean insight from some of our medical center's driving forces,

as Connect brings us a feature titled "Women Empowering Women."

These stories are all different, but you'll notice a common theme: At UNMC, what we do reaches that wider world and truly makes a difference!

And, why? Because that work begins here. It is rooted here, in Nebraska. It is conceived here. It is done here.

Our work makes a difference here. According to a recent Tripp Umbach study, UNMC generates \$9.35 in economic impact for every \$1 invested by the State of Nebraska's general fund appropriations. That number grows

to \$36.76 in economic impact when including Nebraska Medicine and to \$39.88 when including Nebraska Medicine and other affiliates.

At UNMC, we have a world of impact. But it is all made possible because everything we do is done for Nebraskans and for the worldwide communities that we serve. And it's in keeping our promise to Nebraska, that we do work impactful enough to change the world.

So, come along with me through these pages, as we show you where we've been, where we are, and where we wish to go. ❤️



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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

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COVER ILLUSTRATION BY ANANDA WALDEN

BURN THE MIDNIGHT OIL

Research, like clinical care, is a 24/7 commitment at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

COVID

Quoted & noted across our 500-mile campus

“It reminds me there are people out there who believe in me.”

Gracie Grote, a diagnostic medical sonography student at the Health Science Education Complex in Kearney, acknowledging the life-changing impact of receiving one of 78 O'Malley Scholarships.

Joking around, I said ‘Why don’t we just hold it in the parking lot of the Baxter Arena?’ But then someone mentioned the drive-in theater.”

Wendy Grant, MD, associate dean for admissions and student affairs in the College of Medicine, describing how the Class of 2021 celebrated its Match Day during the pandemic at Falconwood Park Drive-In in Bellevue, Neb.



“We are far from being done with this virus.”

Ted Cieslak, MD, interim executive director for health security, in a January 2021 campus forum, as the nation began distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

“We should not lose track of all the good things that have come out of the past year.”

Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, noting how UNMC continued to move forward during the pandemic.

“My jaw is still on the floor when I think about it.”

Hildreth (Neb.) Fire and Rescue EMT **Elizabeth Burki**, describing the November 2021 delivery of a baby in an ambulance along a country road – less than 48 hours after receiving specialized, high-tech training in emergency obstetrics from UNMC’s Simulation in Motion-Nebraska (SIM-NE).

\$20.3 MILLION

DESIGNATION

The designation as a Rare Disease Center of Excellence recognizes the expertise and passion of the genetic specialists and clinical providers at MMI, Nebraska Medicine and Children's.

Karoly Mirnics, MD, PhD
Director of MMI

In November 2021, UNMC's Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) announced a collaborative designation as a National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) Rare Disease Center of Excellence.

The MMI Department of Genetic Medicine, partnering with Children's Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine, joined a highly select group of 31 medical centers nationwide as part of an innovative network seeking to expand access and advance care and research for patients with rare diseases in the United States.



The National Institute of General Medical Sciences awarded UNMC the largest research grant in its history in fall 2021. The five-year award, given to the Great Plains Institutional Development Award program for Clinical and Translational Research (IDeA-CTR), is a renewal of a then-record \$20 million National Institutes of Health funding award from 2016. The award will enhance clinical and translational science across the region.



Lead investigator
Matthew Rizzo, MD

CONNECT

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↑ OVERSIZED GREETING

During the summer of 2021, UNMC Facilities installed a 1,200-pound version of the University of Nebraska seal above the 42nd Street entrance of Wittson Hall between Dewey Avenue and Emile Street. The medallion — 7 feet in diameter and 5 inches thick — was created from a casting of the former fiberglass version. The new piece consists of concrete reinforced with glass fiber.

TOP RANKING

UNMC primary care ranks seventh out of 124 institutions and ties for seventh for most graduates practicing in rural areas.

(U.S. News & World Report 2023 Best Graduate Schools)

GRANT

Cancer center renews NCI designation

The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center has successfully renewed its National Cancer Institute Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG).

This grant bestows National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation on the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center and marks continuous NCI funding for the cancer center since 1984.

Renewal of the CCSG, amounting to approximately \$12 million over the next five years, helps cover the costs of administering the cancer center's research programs and operating its core

facilities, which provide sophisticated technical services to researchers throughout the cancer center.

The Buffett Cancer Center received a 12% increase in funding. More than 100 cancer center members and staff contributed to the successful grant renewal, said Kenneth Cowan, MD, PhD, director of the Buffett Cancer Center.

The NCI renewal re-confirms the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center's status as an elite cancer center program, one of just 71 NCI-designated cancer centers in the country.



Saddle Creek development project moves forward

UNMC's plan to transform the western edge of its Omaha campus and further revitalize midtown Omaha continues to move forward. "We will create a space that both advances UNMC's mission and revitalizes an area in a way that will benefit our neighbors and the City of Omaha," said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD.

Innovation technology campus

UNMC's plan is to redevelop two existing structures on the west side of Saddle Creek Road and Farnam Street to create an "innovation hub," where researchers can build companies to turn ideas into products that help improve health and health care.

The \$65 million, 170,000-square-foot project will include a food hall and market, event center and collaborative office space that draws on Denver-developer Koebel and Company's experience in designing health care innovation spaces, while GreenSlate Development and The Lund Company offer experience in the Omaha market.

The two structures on the former Omaha Steel Works development site played

"This investment and partnership will provide enormous opportunities for Omaha and advance UNMC and Nebraska Medicine's role as a global leader in research, training, treatment and prevention of disease."

Omaha Mayor **JEAN STOTHERT** in her March 30, 2021, remarks after signing a memorandum of understanding with UNMC.



OMAHA GREEN-LIGHTS EXPANSION

In November 2021, the Omaha City Council approved an interlocal agreement to provide \$93 million in city funds in support for Project NExT and the UNMC expansion west of Saddle Creek Road over the next decade. Project NExT is a proposed multibillion-dollar federal disaster



historically significant roles in World War II, as well as in Omaha's industrial growth. Leaders say historic preservation is a major priority as the project moves forward.

The innovation hub will house such entities as UNeMed; UNeTech, which coordinates business startups from UNMC and University of Nebraska Omaha research; UNeHealth, UNMC's contracting and fiscal arm for industry-funded clinical trials; and The Nebraska Business Development Center.

The City of Omaha has agreed to develop roads and utility infrastructure, as well as build a parking garage to support activities in the area. 🏡

response center and medical research and training facility planned for the med center campus. It will be funded through a public-private partnership between local, state and federal governments and private and philanthropic support.

FUTURECAST

Legislature approves UNMC initiatives

The Nebraska Legislature concluded its 2022 session, having passed several bills that will fund projects associated with UNMC and its affiliates.

"These investments in UNMC and the University of Nebraska will benefit the state for generations to come," said Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD.

Among the highlights:

- Legislators approved \$60 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the Healthier Rural Nebraska initiative, a project that will expand UNMC health care programs at UNK. Of this funding, \$50 million will be allocated to construction of a new rural health facility, and \$10 million will be allocated for one-time purchase of information technology infrastructure and equipment to support iEXCEL on the UNK campus. Also approved was ongoing funding for the project, with \$500,000 scheduled for 2022-23; \$9 million for 2023-24; and \$15 million for 2024-25.
- The UNMC Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence received \$15 million in one-time funding via the Health Care Cash Fund. The funding will be matched by \$15 million in philanthropic support. Already, UNMC receives about \$8 million in grant funding annually

in the area of pancreatic cancer. More physicians and scientists will join the team aggressively pursuing new treatments and therapies. Pancreatic cancer is the fourth-leading cause of cancer deaths in Nebraska.

- The behavioral health workforce in Nebraska will grow through one-time ARPA funding and separate, ongoing funding. Legislators approved \$28 million in one-time funding for students statewide in select behavioral health educational programs and expanding telebehavioral health services. In addition, lawmakers approved \$2.6 million in ongoing, annual support for the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska administered at UNMC. The bills will allow more behavioral health professionals to be trained in Nebraska, where 95% of counties have shortages.
- Lawmakers approved \$1 million in funding for continuation of the assessment and evaluation of the contaminants and potential health effects of the activities and stored waste at the AltEn site near Mead. The work is being conducted by a team of faculty members from UNMC, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Creighton University. 🏡

Allied health celebrates 50 years

by Kalani Simpson

Jan Tompkins, assistant dean for diversity and inclusion (DEI) in the College of Allied Health Professions, is retiring this summer after a 50-year career that has (mostly) seen her as part of the history of the campus – established as a school by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents in 1972 and, in 2015, as UNMC's sixth college. Here, Tompkins reflects on her career and 50 years of allied health at UNMC.

She entered UNMC's medical technology program in

1971: "They were holding an informational session in the old Conkling Hall, where my mother lived when she was in nursing school. I remember my dad bringing me to that evening meeting and I immediately knew ... I liked science, especially chemistry and human biology, and medical technology seemed like the perfect combination of these areas."

The School of Allied Health Professions seemed merely "administrative" at first: "The programs were so scattered around campus. And pretty insular."

The school was a pioneer in what we now call distance learning: "We did a lot of satellite transmission of lectures. ... You could see your site on one screen and the site that was speaking on another screen. ... The problem is satellites are affected by solar flares and sunspots."

Allied health became a true college when it found a home:

"Moving to Bennett Hall (in 2008) changed the culture. ... the Health Science Education Complex (2015) helped solidify that culture."

And 50 years later: "The College of Allied Health Professions has gone from being rather obscure to being a leader on campus. We are a microcosm of the campus. ... Because we have all of these programs, we have to look at 15 different perspectives. And there's good that comes from that diversity." ♥

FAST FACTS

College of Allied Health Professions

- The college has **15 health care professions programs**, with occupational therapy and respiratory therapy the most recent additions.
- The Interservice Physician Assistant Program, a partnership between the college and the U.S. military, is **UNMC's longest-running continual federal contract**. IPAP grads – nearly 5,800 to date – hold UNMC degrees.

UNMC fast facts

5,984

Employed by UNMC as of March 2022.

78,341

Students enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year.

\$228.5

MILLION

UNMC record in total sponsored awards (fiscal year 2021). Total research-only sponsored awards for FY21 was **\$163.9 million**.



500

MILES

UNMC's influence reaches across the state with campuses in Scottsbluff, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk and Omaha.

\$4.2

MILLION

Total impact (through direct and matching funds) that the Charles R. O'Malley Charitable Lead Trust has had on UNMC's College of Allied Health Professions.

\$6.4

BILLION

Overall economic impact on the state from UNMC, Nebraska Medicine and affiliates in Nebraska in FY21. (TRIPP UMBACH STUDY, 2021)

\$841.6

MILLION

UNMC's operating budget for 2021-22. (19% STATE-SUPPORTED)

8,548

Number of trainees taking part in the UNMC Simulation in Motion-Nebraska program (SIM-NE), which provides hands-on training to emergency medical service providers in rural areas across the state, including health professionals. The program launched in 2017. (AS OF 2/28/2022)



DREAMING

BIG



**Building on 100 years of service,
the Munroe-Meyer Institute
creates a new standard of care.**

by John Keenan

Beneath an iconic yellow awning, inside a nondescript building, the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute team, for years, transformed the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Then, in 2021, the MMI community moved into a spacious and vibrant new home, sparking an exciting new chapter in MMI's journey.

A dream come true, MMI Director Karoly Mirnics, MD, PhD, said, recognizing "MMI is positioned as never before to support the IDD community as it strives for awareness, acceptance and opportunity."

And, importantly amid amazing amenities dedicated to clients across the lifespan, one thing remains unchanged: MMI's passionate commitment to its mission and the families it serves.

BEFORE



MMI's mission

The Munroe-Meyer Institute's mission is to be world leaders in transforming the lives of all individuals with disabilities and complex health care needs, their families and the community through outreach, engagement, premier educational programs, innovative research and extraordinary patient care.

**"This is the
place where
people's hearts
feel love."**

Timothy Shriver

Chair of the Special Olympics, at the June 8, 2021, grand opening

THERAPY & FUN

Clients love the new indoor pools with water that, as one said, "stays at a constant temperature."

PHOTOS BY BRAD ANDERSON/
ARCHITECTURALPHOTOGRAPHYINC.COM
AND KENT SIEVERS

“MMI partners with our families to allow us to dream big for our kids. It provides opportunities for our kids to help them achieve their potential at home, at school and within our community. The staff in this facility are truly amazing. They are the reason that Kaleb wants to be here for every opportunity.”

Susan Glass, parent of an MMI client



Inside MMI's new home

In 2021, MMI opened its new building at 6902 Pine St. in Omaha, more than double the size of its previous home. New amenities in the building included dental, wellness and vision clinics, part of the Caring for Champions Program; a larger pool area including both cold and warm-water pools; and an indoor splash pad; a gym area; an outdoor playground and other accessible play spaces; a larger integrated Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (iCASD) that is nearly double its former capacity; a family resource area, which offers seating, Wi-Fi and easily supervised access to the indoor playground for visiting families; and many other amenities.





ENTRYWAY AFTER

Artist Therman Statom's whimsical birds and a quote from Mahatma Gandhi greet MMI visitors and families.



CLASSROOMS

Bright, inviting spaces and colorful toys allow younger clients to play during visits for therapeutic interventions.



OUTDOOR FUN

Adventuresome, accessible play spaces are built for making friends while building skills and strengths.



FAMILIAR PIECES

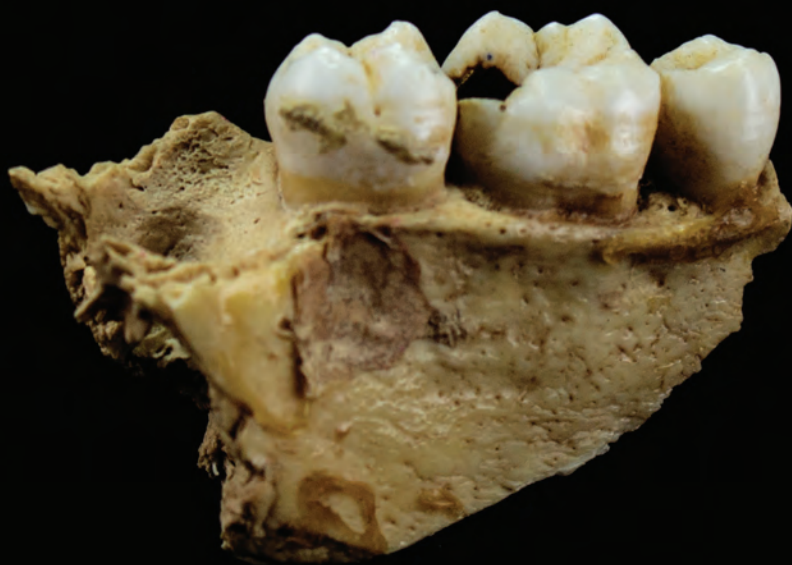
Playful features from MMI's former home were reused while others were donated to other organizations.

"This is the best place. You can feel safe here, and they just do all kinds of fabulous things."

Parent of an MMI client

A Century of Smiles

Welcome to the Victorian-era dental office



by Chris Christen

The first half of the 19th century was a time of great advancement in American dentistry.

In 1800, fewer than 100 dentists were practicing in the United States. By 1859, the American Dental Association was organized. And by 1880, there were at least nine dental schools, with Baltimore College of Dental Surgery as the world's first, in 1840.

Stan Harn, PhD, is the resident authority on such details as curator of the UNMC College of Dentistry Museum in Lincoln. The museum, established in 1977, contains several thousand artifacts, largely from the 1850s to the 1950s.

More than 100 pieces from the Victorian era went on display on UNMC's Omaha campus last July with the opening of the Wigton Heritage Center in Wittson Hall.

In this interview, Dr. Harn, professor emeritus of the dental college and namesake of the new gallery, takes us inside the collection he has single-handedly curated for nearly a half-century.



Q: The Wigton Center features dental office artifacts from the 1870s to 1880s. Why that period?

A: It's an earlier office period than you'll typically see in museums across the country. The most common displays are from the 1890s to early 1900s. The display also demonstrates the beauty of Victorian furnishings and finishes.

Q: Tell me about the dentistry museum on the Lincoln campus.

A: The museum has eight permanent displays at the UNMC College of Dentistry. There's a window display of five of the best dental cabinets made between 1890 and 1900, plus seven large glass cases exhibiting toothbrushes, toothpastes, articulators and teeth. One case is devoted to more than 500 toothpowders.



Stan Harn, PhD

Q. The museum collection is so large, there isn't physical space in the college to display all of it year-round. But you found a creative solution. Tell us about that.

A. Each October, we put the entire collection on special display in the anatomy lab and hallways for two weeks during the college's homecoming.

Q. Where are the pieces kept the rest of the year?

A. Mostly in storerooms, offices and labs of the dental college. A barn on my acreage holds another 5% of the collection.

Q. Your wife, Jenny, gets into the act?

A. Yes, she spends several days setting up, cleaning and tearing down the museum in conjunction with the open house. (Jennifer Harn is a retired UNMC assistant professor in the department of surgical specialties' periodontic section.)

Q. You're not a dentist. You're a professor emeritus of anatomy. How did you come to be so emersed in showcasing the evolution of dentistry?

A. Back in 1977, I was reading an antique magazine and noticed an ad for a 1905 dental equipment catalog for \$75. I thought, 'There's no history of dentistry at the school,' so I wrote the dean to suggest a museum and he was all for it. (The dean, Richard E. Bradley, DDS, had practiced dentistry in Omaha.)

Q. It's about more than collecting, though?

A. Every graduate should know the history of their profession. Dental schools in general removed dental history courses from their curricula in the early 1970s, so I thought that through establishing a dental museum, we could teach some of that history visually.

↑ INSIDE THE STANTON D. HARN, PHD, DENTAL GALLERY

In the Wigton Center display, the opulence of the Victorian era is seen in the reproduction wallpaper, decorative ironwork, and marble, mother-of-pearl and ivory finishes on furnishings and instruments. The Morrison chair (far left) was the first articulating model.

Q. Did you buy that vintage catalog?

A. No. At the time, I didn't have \$75 to spend on anything. But catalogs became a way for me to educate myself on the tools of the trade. They're my knowledge base. I probably have 20 catalogs, from 1867 to the early 1900s, and consult them quite often.

Q. What was your first acquisition for the museum?

A. I got in touch with Morrill Hall (the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's natural history museum) and discovered that it had pieces from the 1860s in storage that it wanted to relocate. Those artifacts started the first office display. Today, there are five period offices from the 1850s to the 1930s, plus a turn-of-the-century laboratory. Back then, I also sent letters to 1,000 dental school alums who had graduated prior to 1950, asking for donations. I got three replies and thought, "Oh, my, this is going to take some time."

Q. How is the museum supported?

A. In the 1980s, I established a fund through the University of Nebraska Foundation. About 300 dentists donate to it annually, which allows me to acquire dental artifacts unattainable through donation. It is largely an alumni-funded collection but people all over the country have donated items as well as financial support.

Q. The museum has thousands of artifacts.

What's the rarest of the rare?

A. A dental cabinet called Archer No. 7 on display at the Wigton Heritage Center is a very special piece. In all likelihood, it's the only one on public display in the U.S.

Q. What is one of the most primitive instruments in the Harn Dental Gallery?

A. The tooth key, which was first used in 1740. Imagine a skeleton key with a movable hook on the end. The dentist would place the hook on the ailing tooth, hold the T-frame handle and begin twisting the shaft – until the tooth was extracted. It could be traumatic. Some teeth came out easily, but others were more difficult.

Q. What's at the top of your acquisition wish list?

A. A bow drill from the 1800s. It actually looks like a bow and arrow. It was used to drill holes in teeth to fill cavities.

Q. You've been retired from teaching for about five years. Who's in the wings, being groomed to take over as curator for the next 45 years?

A. I always thought there would be a dentist or two who would be interested in taking over the collection but so far that hasn't happened. My hope is that a "Dr. Wigton of Dentistry" will come along and fund a permanent home for the entire museum.

Q. You have an affinity for antiques. What do you personally collect?

A. I don't have a personal collection of dental items; I only acquire those for the College of Dentistry Museum. I collect clocks – my earliest is from 1800; ice cream scoops with wooden handles from the late 1800s to 1920s; and walnut wall-mounted match holders from the 1870s to the 1920s. My wife and I have an eclectic décor. ♥



IN-PERSON AND LIVE VIRTUAL TOURS

Arrange a visit to the Wigton Heritage Center by contacting history@unmc.edu or 402-836-9538. Current special exhibit: Nebraska Base Hospital No. 49, World War I-era infant feeders, and teaching tools from the 1800s to the 1950s.



PHOTOS BY STUART DAYTON AND KENT SIEVERS



↑ THE DENTISTRY MUSEUM

The UNMC College of Dentistry Museum in Lincoln represents the history of dentistry in Nebraska and is one of the largest collections of dental artifacts in the United States dating from the 1850s to 1950s.

DEDICATED TO HISTORY

The year-old Wigton Heritage Center showcases the history of UNMC and the health professions in Nebraska. Stan Harn, PhD, worked with Emily McElroy, dean of the McGoogan Health Sciences Library at UNMC, to develop the fourth-floor dental gallery, which is named in his honor.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Wigton Heritage Center is named for UNMC's unofficial campus historian Robert Wigton, MD, a 1969 alumnus of the UNMC College of Medicine who served as professor in internal medicine and associate dean for graduate medical education for nearly 40 years.

Harn Gallery treasures



Toothbrushes on display are hog bristle. With the invention of nylon in 1938-39, the bristles changed.

A tooth key with ivory handle, Todd's patent 1846.



The Morrison foot-powered dental drill operated between 1,000 and 2,000 rpms (compared to 400,000 rpms today).



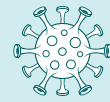
A tall nitrous oxide tank is a thing of beauty. The gas-air mixture, often called laughing gas, was administered as an anesthetic.



Before the 1870s, dentists didn't have specially designed furniture. The R.W. Archer Co. was among the first to introduce custom cabinets with lock and key to secure gold and silver alloys for fillings.

MORE IN STORE Among the treasures maintained by the McGoogan Library's Special Collections Department are 10,000 rare medical books, including 2,600 in The Hiram Winnett Orr Collection on loan from the American College of Surgeons. The oldest volume dates to the 1300s. Coming soon: Reading hours in the rare book room for UNMC faculty, staff and students who want to research the collection.

**SEEING
AROUND
THE
CORNER**



Lessons learned

Ali Khan, MD, MPH, dean of the UNMC College of Public Health, shares five public health lessons learned from the pandemic.

1. Viruses kill people; bad policy kills more.

Failed preparedness and miscarried response policies exacerbate pandemics. China (at great societal cost) and other nations showed that zero to low COVID was a feasible option in the United States instead of 1 million preventable deaths.

2. We need to build trust in government (including public health) and each other.

Trust of government and trust between people is a critical non-clinical factor associated with total COVID deaths. Human lives are a casualty in this low trust, low science literacy environment and impacted when individuals generate and spread disinformation.

3. The nation was unprepared.

I focus on the flawed public health and medical response but the same was true for every government sector. Public health agencies could not provide real time counts of hospitalizations and deaths or effectively combine and share data for unique insights on transmission, risk factors, natural immunity duration or vaccine effectiveness. Risk communications and community engagement were challenged by politicization of the response. Health systems and providers could not credibly and efficiently surge across jurisdictions to meet clinical needs. There is no national clinical network to rapidly test promising therapies and there were inordinate delays for approvals of respirators and diagnostics.

During these tumultuous and divisive times, we saw the tireless efforts of frontline workers from nurses to truck drivers to grocery workers keep our hope alive and remind us of our common humanity.

4. Science is a journey, not a destination.

Uncertainty was the only certainty during this pandemic. While the basics of SARS-CoV-2 infection and effective prevention strategies were known early – even if ignored – the virus evolved, as did the science.

5. Viruses are smart, but people are smarter.

During the pandemic, scientists from almost every field – beyond epidemiologists, virologists, clinicians and immunologists – were recruited to lend expertise. We saw the power of this greater scientific community to rapidly develop countermeasures, public health prevention and control guidelines, and clinical care protocols. We also saw the power of government to incentivize, commission, review and deploy effective and safe vaccines, drugs and diagnostics. ❤️



Necessity breeds invention

How mRNA revolutionized vaccine development

by Vicky Cerino

By now, most people have heard of mRNA.

American pharmaceutical and biotechnology corporations, Pfizer and Moderna, used messenger RNA (mRNA) to develop their vaccines against COVID-19. The vaccines have saved countless lives across the globe and prevented others from being hospitalized.

The vaccines, the first U.S. licensed vaccines using mRNA, developed in about 18 months, are the result of decades of work by many scientists including those at the National Institutes of Health, who ultimately led the way for development of the Moderna vaccine. Vaccines typically take more than 10 years to develop.

mRNA technology has been studied for flu, Zika, rabies and cytomegalovirus, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and others. mRNA vaccines now are being tested in clinical trials for influenza,

HIV, Zika virus, rabies and herpes. Cancer researchers are exploring how to prompt the immune system to target cancer cells.

“The concept of DNA in vaccines goes back 40 or more years,” said James Lawler, MD, director of International Programs and Innovation for the UNMC Global Center for Health Security. “Vaccine application of mRNA started in earnest targeting SARS and flu in the mid-2000s and the H1N1 pandemic in 2009, with U.S. government funding efforts to respond to public health emergencies.”

David Brett-Major, MD, said before the pandemic, a lot of groups were starting to converge.

“The genius in mRNA vaccines was figuring out how to keep the mRNA as it is until it gets into someone’s cell so that it looks and acts like mRNA,” said Dr. Brett-Major, UNMC professor of epidemiology

and infectious diseases. “There’s been fantastic work done by tons of different people. It’s a nice example of how science actually moves.”

Traditionally, vaccines deliver a weakened or inactivated germ, but mRNA vaccines teach cells how to make a protein, which triggers an immune response thereby producing antibodies and teaching cells how to recognize the virus the next time it is present.

“There are several advantages the vaccine has in theory,” Dr. Lawler said. “It can produce robust immunity which is incredibly impressive – at least we know for COVID. Producing it is a chemistry process rather than a biological process, so ramping up production volume is much more predictable.”

And, he said, it creates a “plug-and-play platform,” which is a game-changer for vaccine development.

“The mechanism for making it enables scientists to take the process and apply it to another pathogen. All you do is change the code – make a different mRNA molecule and you don’t need to re-tweak it like you would with the traditional vaccine process,” Dr. Lawler said. “It makes a multiagent platform achievable and revolutionizes how fast and economical we can bring vaccines to use.” ♥

“The COVID vaccine took about 18 months to produce. Part of it was a bit of luck. They did it on the earliest timeline that one could expect. It is like if you are driving downtown, and you hit every green light. They happened to hit every green light.”

David Brett-Major, MD

UNMC professor of epidemiology and infectious diseases

COVID VACCINE PRODUCTION

DEC. 31, 2019

The COVID-19 outbreak in China was first reported publicly.

JANUARY 2020

Researchers in China published the DNA sequence of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The National Institutes of Health Vaccine Research Center worked with Moderna to use the information to customize their prototype approach to the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

FEBRUARY 2020

A COVID-19 vaccine candidate had been designed and manufactured. By March 16, 2020, the vaccine had entered the first phase of clinical trials. Other vaccines, including a similar one from Pfizer and BioNTech SE, entered clinical trials not long after.

DEC. 18, 2020

After demonstrating 94 percent effectiveness in qualifying studies, the NIH-Moderna vaccine was authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for emergency use. Just days earlier, the similar Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine had become the first COVID-19 vaccine to be authorized for use in the United States.

Inside the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine

What is mRNA?

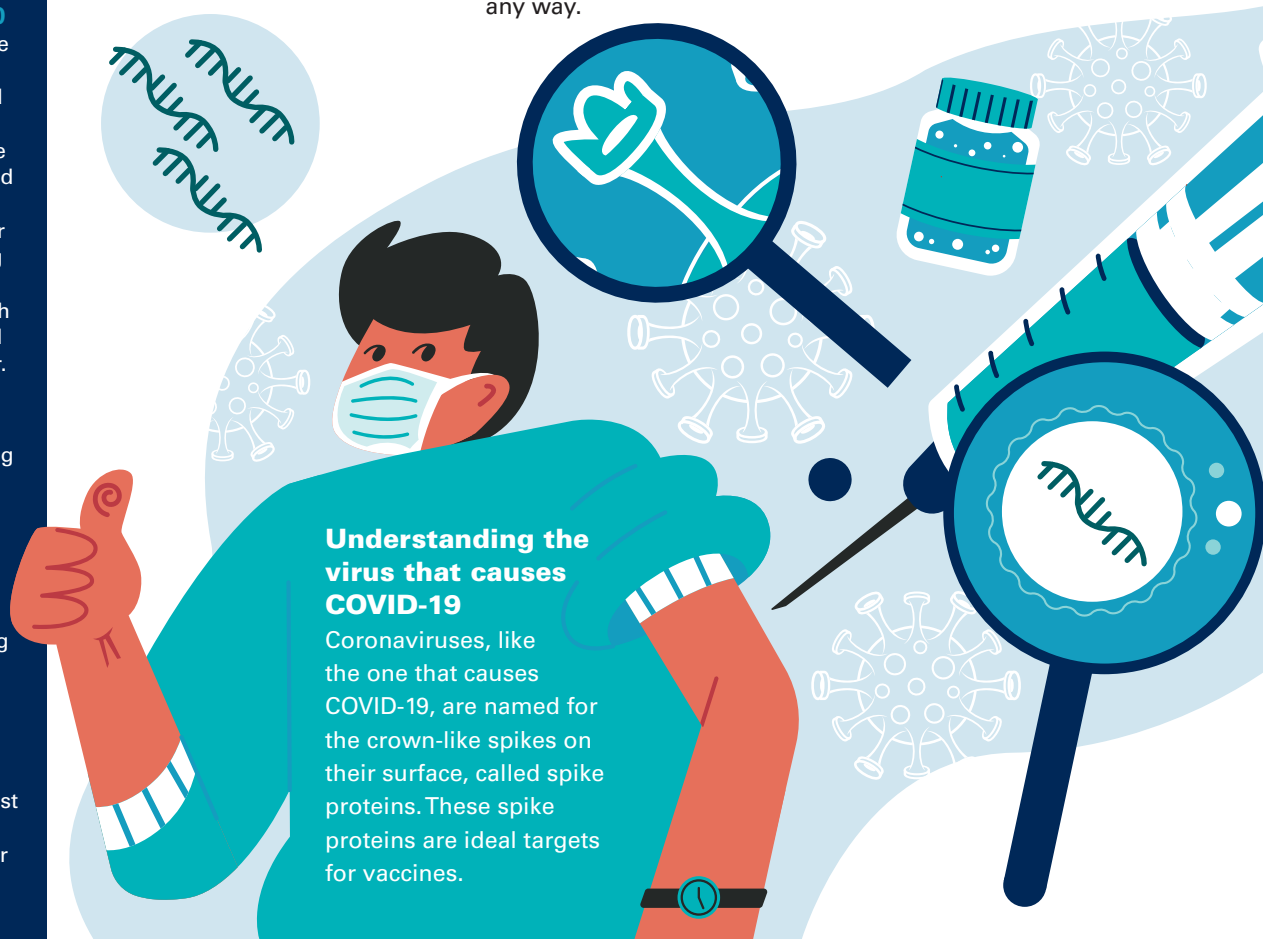
Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is genetic material that tells your body how to make proteins.

What is in the vaccine?

The vaccine is made of mRNA wrapped in a coating that makes delivery easy and keeps the body from damaging it. The vaccine does not contain any virus, so it cannot give you COVID-19. It cannot change your DNA in any way.

How does the vaccine work?

The mRNA in the vaccine teaches your cells how to make copies of the spike protein. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.



Understanding the virus that causes COVID-19

Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called spike proteins. These spike proteins are ideal targets for vaccines.



Virtual reality training helps rural hospitals

Immersive education is a game-changer

by Bill O'Neill

Krista Beiermann remembers her first training using a virtual reality headset. Beiermann donned the VR headset to pilot test an immersive training module focused on sterile processing and decontamination developed by the UNMC/Nebraska Medicine Global Center for Health Security.

She immediately became virtually “immersed” as the module walked her through critical steps to properly clean and disinfect surgical instruments and identify infection control practices outlined by regulatory organizations.

“It was my first experience with virtual reality training, and it was amazing,” said Beiermann, the risk management/infection control and prevention/patient safety coordinator at Columbus Community Hospital in Columbus, Nebraska.

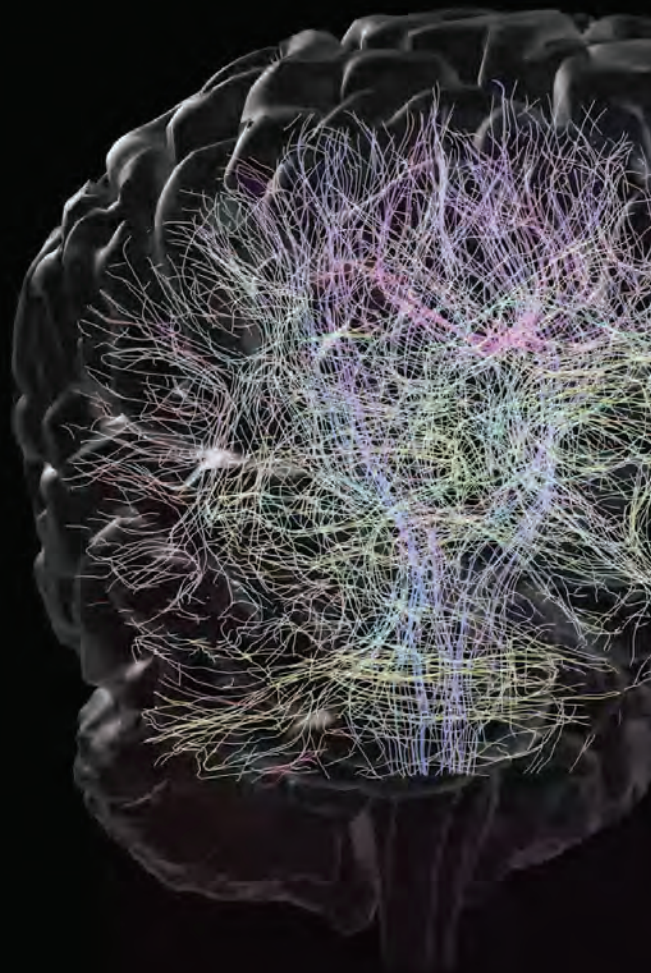
The training is funded through a \$19.1 million grant from the Centers for Disease Prevention Control and Prevention to the UNMC/Nebraska Medicine Global Center for Health Security (CDC-RFA-CK19-1905). The GCHS aims to enhance infection prevention and control initiatives in small and rural health care facilities.

“We want small and rural facilities to have access to the same education and experiences larger institutions have,” said Tess McKinney, instructional technologist for GCHS. “The ability to learn a new skill and apply it to their everyday position using this immersive education is a game-changer.” 🍷



The CDC's multimillion-dollar grant will have far-reaching impacts. Learn more at unmc.edu/virtualreality

3D model of long fiber tracks in glass brain created by the iXCEL visualization team.



Bringing textbook lessons to life

Whether animating a COVID-19 variant or providing simulation training during the pandemic, UNMC's simulation facility enhances health-care training.



Step inside the Dr. Edwin G. & Dorothy Balbach Davis Global Center, and you'll see first-hand how innovation and possibilities meet to transform health professions education. The 192,000-square-foot advanced clinical simulation center, which opened in 2020, is made up of five distinct levels that work together to create safe and innovative learning environments.

The facility houses iEXCEL, a UNMC training model focused on improving the outcomes of care by emphasizing interprofessional collaboration and experiential learning. Through advanced simulation and visualization technology students and existing providers can “practice” a procedure dozens of times before caring for a patient, improving both safety and efficiency. Here are a few ways iEXCEL is making a difference.



Emergency medicine students practice patient care during a simulated domestic dispute on the second level of the Davis Global Center.

Holographic Content

iEXCEL expands holographic content with Robert Norgren, PhD, from the department of genetics, cell biology and anatomy. Through a new holographic introduction to his simulation class, students will learn how the brain functions by showcasing spatial relations of major neurological structures in immersive 3D holographic format. This spring, for the first time, the neuroanatomy portion of the neuroscience block will be held in the Davis Global Center. In addition to digital resources, students will use the skills labs at the Davis Global Center to explore brain anatomy.

Cardiac Surgical Simulation

Through iEXCEL, three departments – surgery, anesthesiology and perfusion – come together in the Davis Global Center to create an interprofessional cardiac surgical simulation. Kim Duncan, MD, oversees the cardiothoracic surgery team; Andrew Maresch, MD, oversees the anesthesia team; and Scott Sanderson oversees the perfusion team. Each department is involved in the interprofessional simulation and plays an integral role in the event.

Simulated Domestic Dispute

Working with local police and paramedics, the iEXCEL team and UNMC Emergency Medicine Department simulated a domestic dispute emergency and transfer of care. This intense scenario combined human actors and high-fidelity manikins for learners to practice communication and patient care in a high-risk, emergency situation. ❤️



Revolutionary patient care system developed



Unique design increases safety, improves quality and reduces cost for high-consequence infectious diseases.

by Karen Burbach

Imagine caring for patients – even visiting hospitalized loved ones – without donning the personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary for high-risk infectious diseases.

UNMC's Global Center for Health Security team, in partnership with Otherlab and funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is making that vision a reality with ISTARI (the Isolation System for Treatment and Agile Response for high-risk Infections), a modular, disposable, negative pressure isolation patient care system that can be assembled rapidly for COVID-19 and other biological threats.

"The ISTARI concept is revolutionary," said James Lawler, MD, co-executive director of the Global Center for Health Security at UNMC. "We essentially wrap the PPE around the patient so health care workers can interact without having to don and doff PPE, enabling quick, immediate and persistent access to the patient."

Pending FDA clearance, the first ISTARI device (marketed as the CareCube) will be available nationwide as a cost-effective way to improve care and infection control for patients with COVID-19 or other infectious diseases. ❤️

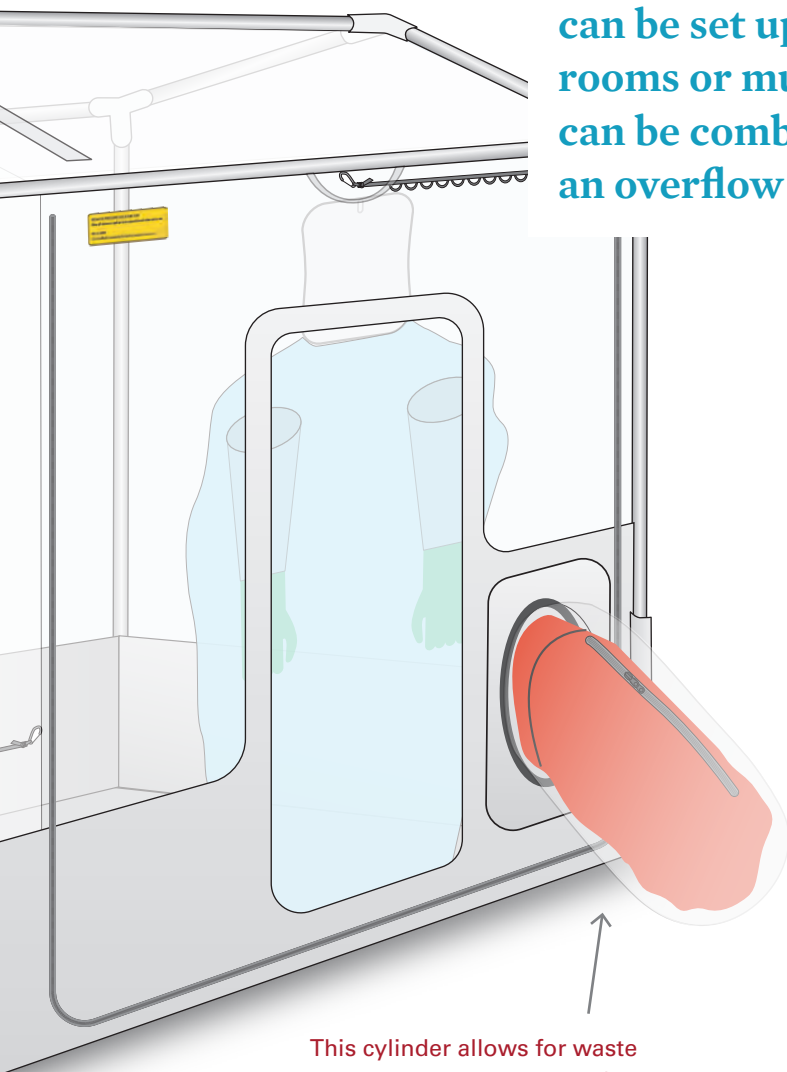


ISTARI provides a safe way for family and other visitors to have close contact with a patient.



With extended-care ISTARI models, the HugSuit allows health-care providers to interact with an isolated patient without donning PPE.

The ISTARI model, below, can be set up in less than 15 minutes. Units can be distributed to hospitals, clinics and field medical units, as well as remote, resource-limited settings. Single units can be set up in existing rooms or multiple units can be combined to form an overflow isolation unit.



This cylinder allows for waste and specimens to be transferred out of the unit while maintaining airborne containment.



Portals enable the transfer of personal items, food, procedural materials and equipment without breaking airborne isolation precautions.



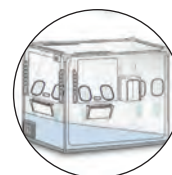
MODEL 1 ENCLOSURE

For patients who require extended care and critical care interventions in a hospital environment.



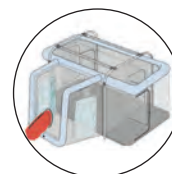
MODEL 1A ENCLOSURE

For temporary care of patients during transport.



MODEL 1B ENCLOSURE

For patients in a temporary care setting such as an urgent care or emergency department.



MODEL 2 ENCLOSURE

For extended care and critical care interventions for patients in an improvised health care setting without hospital infrastructure.



WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN

We are Unstoppable

**Advice from —and to— the bold
and amazing women of UNMC**

Compiled by Karen Burbach



Interviews have been edited
and condensed for clarity. Visit
unmc.edu/empoweredwomen
for more of our conversations with
these inspiring women of UNMC.

PHOTOS BY KENT SIEVERS



*We are all more than our careers.
Taking care of my life is the only
way that I can be good at my career.*

HER MENTORING ADVICE:

- Your patients place their lives in your hands. It's the greatest honor anyone can give you. Don't forget that.
- When someone appears to be disrespectful, address it – tactfully.

Ally Dering-Anderson, PharmD

Clinical associate professor,
UNMC College of Pharmacy



Be an active part of championing DEI work instead of expecting the DEI officers and other women to fix problems that were not created by them. Be an accomplice.

Sheritta Strong, MD

Assistant vice chancellor of inclusion, UNMC

MORE ADVICE FROM DR. STRONG:

- Take responsibility for your own learning and share what you've learned with others.
- Become comfortable with being uncomfortable and willing to grow. Accept feedback.

CUNNINGHAM'S ADVICE:

- Let your haters be your motivators.
- Know in your heart that you ARE enough. Period.

This Jack Welch quote has always resonated with me: "Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others."

Linda Cunningham

Associate director,
UNMC Human Resources



UNMC has grown and become an institution where female leaders are valued and welcomed and can make a significant impact. I wish I had known what I was capable of accomplishing early on. I got bad advice that I couldn't be a mom, a clinician and a researcher.

Ann Anderson Berry, MD, PhD

Executive director, Child Health Research Institute



Working in health care is deep human work, and at times requires emotional processing to stay in the long game. So process things you experience and don't be afraid to lean on others at times; it will strengthen your resilience and your team's efficiency.

Dare to dream and don't lose sight of that. There are many people willing to help you get there.



Yun Saksena, DMD

Associate dean for education, diversity, equity and inclusion, UNMC College of Dentistry

DR. SAKSENA'S ADVICE:

- Hang on to who you are. Do you.
- Be open to different opportunities.

Sasha Shillcutt, MD

Vice chair of strategy, UNMC
Department of Anesthesiology



MORE ADVICE FROM DR. SHILLCUTT:

- Set fierce boundaries for your time and energy.
- The biggest thing we can all do is to be aware of our biases and ask ourselves, "Why not her?" for a job or promotion, or, "Why not me?"



Formal mentorship programs, where mentors share their successes and failures, are a key part of the success equation.

Being a leader – female or male – requires energy, passion, resilience and thick enough skin to not get bogged down by those not on board.



Jennifer Larsen, MD
Vice chancellor for research, UNMC

Michelle Johnson, PhD

Assistant dean, UNMC College of Nursing,
Lincoln Division

DR. JOHNSON'S ADVICE:

- Take time to reflect on your strengths and your passions.
- Use your perceptions, attitudes, communications, actions, etc., to help create a culture where everyone is encouraged to thrive.
- Membership on boards also is a way for rising stars to gain leadership experience.

Women in leadership need to be supported and respected and given the freedom to take risks and fail without fear.

Brandy Clarke, PhD
Director of equity, UNMC





***"I owe so much to the
University of Nebraska."***
– Dr. Dwayne Zobell

When Dwayne Zobell, DDS, graduated from the College of Dentistry, he couldn't have known that another health care field would make as much impact on his life. Several years ago, he traveled to Omaha for coronary bypass surgery. He suffered a stroke, which was a complication of the surgery, leading to an unexpected diagnosis that required a heart transplant.

UNMC provided care before and after the lifesaving transplant surgery. To show his appreciation, Dr. Zobell made a planned gift to help doctors and their patients for decades to come. Half of his gift will benefit the transplant patient fund at Nebraska Medicine, while the other half will benefit historical exhibits at the College of Dentistry and UNMC.

"Supporting UNMC and Nebraska Medicine with a planned gift is a small token of my appreciation for the opportunities I have been given during my lifetime," says Dr. Zobell.

To learn more about Dr. Zobell, go to nufoundation.org/zobell

Cutting-edge clinical trials
provide new hope for early
detection of pancreatic cancer

Charting a course to survival

by Ed Rider

“You have pancreatic cancer.”

These four words are among the most devastating a person will ever hear. The difficulty of diagnosing cancer of the pancreas early makes it one of the most lethal and aggressive types of cancer — the third leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. These individuals face just a 10% chance of living for five years. Most are diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and have little hope of long-term survival. On average, 115 Americans die from this dreadful disease every day.

“Jeopardy” host Alex Trebek and baseball Hall of Famer Bob Gibson both died from pancreatic cancer about a month apart in fall 2020. Every year, more than 60,000 people in the United States are faced with a similar diagnosis — people like Linda Kimball, owner of Old School Clipper, a men’s barber shop in Atlantic, Iowa.

“I was in shock and a little scared because I knew that it was a bad cancer to have,” Kimball said.

Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence

Despite the dismal outlook for survival, researchers and clinicians at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine believe pancreatic cancer can be detected in its earliest stages. That belief is so strong that in 2018, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved establishing the Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

James Armitage, MD, and Shirley Young both lost their spouses to pancreatic cancer. Jim Young, former chairman of Union Pacific Railroad, died in 2014, two years after his diagnosis. Nancy Armitage died 16 months after hers.

“It’s hard to describe how much this disrupts your life,” said Dr. Armitage, the Joe Shapiro professor of medicine, division of oncology and hematology at UNMC and a cancer physician at Nebraska Medicine. “I went to talk to Shirley’s family about developing a pancreas cancer program and she understood the situation.”

The result was the establishment of the Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence, which involves a comprehensive program of research and care. The new center capitalizes on UNMC’s existing expertise in research, conducting new studies in diagnostics and leading clinical trials for novel therapies developed in Nebraska. Sunil Hingorani, MD, PhD, an internationally recognized pancreatic cancer researcher and clinician, begins work in May 2022 as the center’s first director.

The Path to Better Outcomes

Kelsey Klute, MD, assistant professor of internal medicine in UNMC’s division of oncology and hematology and a gastrointestinal medical oncologist at Nebraska Medicine, has treated more than 300 patients with pancreatic cancer, and most have had advanced disease. Dr. Klute said that UNMC’s world-class researchers and clinicians are working

diligently to find new ways to detect pancreatic cancer earlier through four clinical trials and a recently developed program in early detection — initiated by Tony Hollingsworth, PhD, the Hugh and Janet Hunt chair in cancer research at UNMC — that screens family members with an inherited risk for this cancer.

Dr. Klute said she and her colleagues hope to expand the availability of clinical trials at UNMC and Nebraska Medicine. She said she is confident the trials, which will focus on early detection, will help lead to increased survival of the disease.

“Clinical trials are our best way to improve survival not only for patients diagnosed with pancreas cancer over the next five or 10 years, but also for patients facing pancreas cancer today,” Dr. Klute said. “Their best chance at beating the status quo is by enrolling in a clinical trial.”

Kimball never considered in March 2021 that she might have pancreatic cancer when she began to experience pain in her stomach that radiated to her back. Although she had developed acid reflux disease, high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes in her 50s, she considered herself to be healthy for a woman in her early 70s. Thinking her acid reflux medication was no longer working, she went to see her physician in Atlantic. Additional tests at the Buffett Cancer Center revealed pancreatic cancer.

“I went into it thinking, ‘OK, it’s stage 1. Let’s get it fixed,’” Kimball said. “I just decided that I was going to take things one day at a time because I wasn’t ready to lie down and die.”

Dr. Klute presented Kimball with the opportunity to take part in a clinical trial that incorporated a heart failure medication called digoxin with FOLFIRINOX, a standard chemotherapy drug. Kimball said she jumped at the opportunity.

“I had no reservations once Dr. Klute explained that this was not a new medication, that it had been around for years and had been used for heart conditions,” Kimball said.

The trial included eight rounds of chemotherapy, each consisting

“I hope to never have to go through it again, but I would certainly refer anyone facing cancer to the cancer center. It’s a great system. The staff took a lot of the stress away and coordinated everything for me.”

Linda Kimball, survivor



of six hours of treatment at the cancer center and another 48 hours of treatment at home. The process was repeated every two weeks. Six weeks after completing this treatment regimen, Kimball underwent Whipple surgery — a complex, eight-hour procedure to remove the head of the pancreas, where most cancerous tumors are located. After recovering from surgery, Kimball completed four more rounds of chemotherapy independent of the trial.

Despite some lingering effects from the chemotherapy, Kimball is feeling better about her prognosis. On Dec. 30, 2021, she received news that her most recent CT scan showed no signs of cancer.

“At this point, my body is still healing. I’m getting stronger every day,” she said. ❤️

AWARDS
AND
CLASS NOTES



NEWS

Connecting online just got easier for UNMC alumni & students

Alumni have a new online community, UNMC Alumni Connections. Launched in April 2021, this is a dedicated place for alumni and students to connect through messaging, meetings, groups, discussion boards and more. It serves as a new-and-improved alumni directory and facilitates mentorship, networking and connection. More than 770 alumni and students have exchanged more than 200 messages since the site's launch. Join today at connections.unmc alumni.org.

 @UNMC_AA
 @UNMCalum
 @unmc alumni
 @UNMCAA



Scan to see
UNMCAA's 2021
year in review.

2021 ALUMNI AWARDS

The UNMC Alumni Association and its councils recognize alumni and honorary alumni for their meritorious service. These honorees make a difference in their profession, communities and university, and we are proud of their far-reaching accomplishments. Current students stand on the shoulders of these alums and friends who have blazed trails for them and generations of health-care professionals to come.

GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM



**Adi Pour, PhD,
MS '83, PhD '86**
Distinguished Alumnus
Award



**Jennifer Pluznick,
PhD '05**
Early Career
Achievement Award



Dennis Robinson, PhD
Honorary Alumnus
Award

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



**David Henry Chait,
MD '71**
Distinguished Alumnus
Award



**Gerald "Jay" Moore,
MD '71**
Dedication to Student
Excellence Award



**Natalie (Stavas) Laub,
MD '11**
Early Career
Achievement Award



Robert Bartee
Honorary Alumnus
Award

COLLEGE OF NURSING

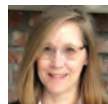


**Kathleen Hanna,
PhD '72, MSN '81**
Distinguished
Alumnus Award

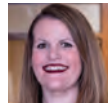


**Burty MacWan,
BSN '09, Dorothy Patach**
Spirit of Service Award

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY



**Susanne Hiland,
PharmD '86**
Distinguished
Alumnus Award



**Elizabeth Chentland,
MPH '12**
Distinguished
Alumnus Award



Shelby Braun, MPH '17
Early Career
Achievement Award

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY



David Brown, PhD
Distinguished Service Award



Janet Guthmiller, DDS, PhD
Distinguished Service Award



**Jon Asbjörnson, DDS
'87 & Chuck Genrich,
DDS '83** for work with
Clinic With a Heart
Alumni Achievement
Awards



Byron Tullis, DDS '58
Posthumously, Alumni
Achievement Award



Joan Sivers, DDS
Honorary Life Membership



Darlene Carritt, RDH '78
Outstanding Educator



Robin Hattervig, DDS '84
Outstanding Educator

**Nebraska Innovation Campus Hand Sanitizer
Team (Hunter Floodman, David Martin,
Jerry Reif, Max Wheeler and Terry Howell Jr.)**
Honorary Life Membership



Photos, biographies, video acceptance remarks
and more from the awardees at bit.ly/UNMCAA21Awardees.



For the College of Dentistry, visit
go.unmc.edu/2021codawards.



We love hearing from you!

Send us your news through this online form: go.unmc.edu/unmcaupdate.

Don't see your submission here? It may not have reached us in time for our print deadline. Check out our Special Edition of Class Notes at <https://bit.ly/Cnotes21>, or watch for our next digital update in late summer 2022.

2020s

Hailey Battle N'20
Seaside, Calif., celebrated her one-year anniversary as a staff psychiatric nurse practitioner at Montage Health and as a member of the consult liaison psychiatry team at Community Hospital.

Jared Baxter M'20
Omaha, Neb., became engaged in July 2021 and is getting married in fall 2022. His fiancé serves as a nurse case manager for the hospice and palliative care teams at Children's Hospital & Medical Center.

Brittani Bjelland P'20
Emmons, Minn., joined MercyOne Northwood Pharmacy in summer 2021.

Maureen Gatere N'20, PH'11
Omaha, Neb., joined the faculty of the UNMC College of Nursing part time to help cover psychiatric NP student clinicals. She is a psychiatric nurse practitioner at Think Whole Person Healthcare.

Zach Kaster P'20
Syracuse, Neb., became the new pharmacist at Chief Drug in Tecumseh, Neb., in December 2021.

Paul Lewis D'20
Andover, Kan., completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency at the University of Florida and joined his father in general practice at Wichita Dental Group to continue building on the 34 years of patient care at the clinic.

Ben Lindquist D'20
Chugiak, Ala., works as a hygienist for Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska.

Zach Smith, Anesthesiology '20, Pain Medicine '21
New Braunfels, Texas, joined Central Texas Pain Center in San Marcos in fall 2021. In his spare time, he enjoys home brewing, skiing and playing board games with his wife.

Nick Wojtynek GS'20
Westchester, Ill., has completed his first year with Karyopharm Therapeutics as a medical science liaison.

Kennedy Ayer N'21
Gretna, Neb., joined CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center - Bergan Mercy as a postpartum RN in August 2021.



ALUMNI
CODES

BS Bachelor of Science **CP** Clinical Perfusion **Cyto** Cytotechnology **D** Dentistry **DH** Dental Hygiene **GS** Graduate Studies **HPTT** Health Professions Teaching and Technology **MS** Master of Science **MHA** Master of Health Administration **M** Medicine **MLS** Medical Laboratory Science **MN** Medical Nutrition **MT** Medical Technology **N** Nursing **P** Pharmacy **PA** Physician Assistant **PH** Public Health **PT** Physical Therapy **RST** Radiation Science Technology **RT** Radiologic Technology

Shannon (Hegemann) Capraro M'21 *Kansas City, Mo.*, and Marco Capraro were married in Denver, Colo., on June 12, 2021. She started pediatric residency at Children's Mercy Hospital in summer 2021.

Elenna Cowen PT'21 *Holdrege, Neb.*, joined the physical therapy center at Phelps Memorial Health Center in September 2021. She and her husband, Dalton, have one child, Linden.

Zac Keating D'21 *Lincoln, Neb.*, joined Crete Dental Center in summer 2021 and is the third generation of his family to practice there. He joined his uncle **Jim Jirovec D'88** and is carrying on the legacy of his grandfather **Richard Jirovec D'59**.

Megan Knutson N'21 *Fairbury, Neb.*, joined Jefferson Community Health & Life in June 2021 after completing her Doctor of Nursing Practice at UNMC.

Jillian Lonowski PT'21 *Ansley, Neb.*, and husband, **Derek Lonowski PT'21**, both practice at TEAM Physical Therapy in nearby Broken Bow.

Jackson Matuella PT'21 *Omaha, Neb.*, is in practice as an outpatient/sports physical therapist and his wife is a pediatric PT. They both also work part-time in acute care.

Matthew Richey, Cardiothoracic Surgery '21 *Chattanooga, Tenn.*, joined the Chattanooga Heart Institute in January 2022.

Lane Rohrich PT'21 *Pierce, Neb.*, joined Hausmann Physical Therapy in June 2021.

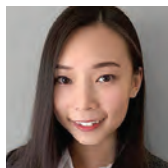
Jessica Sidwell N'21 *Papillion, Neb.*, is a pediatric rehabilitation RN at Madonna Rehabilitation in Omaha and has certified rhythm analysis technician cardiac rhythm monitoring certification through the American Hospital Association. She plans to get certifications in pediatric advanced life support and advanced cardiovascular life support in the coming year.

Nick Swan N'21 *Omaha, Neb.*, works as a night staff RN on the float pool at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

Zhuo Wang PT'21 *Sichuan, China*, received the nationally prestigious 2021 Alpha Eta Lee Holder Award for Excellence in Graduate Allied Health Education, which recognizes excellence in the areas of scholarship, collegiality and leadership. ➔



Saniuk serves as anesthesia and perfusion manager at Bryan Health in Lincoln, where she has worked for more than five years.



While at UNMC, Dr. Wang completed all her courses with high distinction and contributed to clinical research by publishing three top-tier peer-reviewed articles.

2010s

Angela Hill PA'10 *Omaha, Neb.*, is president of the Nebraska Academy of Physicians Assistants (NAPA) and chair of the communications committee. She has practiced at MD West One in Omaha for the past 12 years.

Owen Neesen N'10 *Columbus, Neb.*, joined the Boone County Health Center as a nurse anesthetist in fall 2021. He works in the operating and emergency rooms and assists with births and other pain management procedures.

Sarah Palay PT'10 *Plymouth, Minn.*, started as a rehab liaison at M Health Fairview in June 2021. She welcomed her second child, Louis Ezra, in September 2020.

➔ **Rachael Saniuk CP'10** *Lincoln, Neb.*, and her team at Bryan Health were recognized in November 2021 by the board of trustees for their unwavering service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Christine Chrisman N'11 *Norfolk, Neb.*, recently retired from Faith Regional Physician Services in hospital medicine and palliative care and acute care specialties.

Steven Gogela M'11 *Lincoln, Neb.*, and his wife, **Kate Gogela M'10**, welcomed their fourth child, a son, Jake, in June 2021. He joined older siblings Henry (7), Max (4), and Julia (2).

Jason Jones D'11 *Kearney, Neb.*, practices at Prairie Meadows Dental in Kearney.

Lisa Kuechenmeiser PA'11 *La Vista, Neb.*, received the Physician Assistant Excellence Award from Nebraska Medicine in fall 2021. She works in the Diabetes and Endocrinology Center.

Amanda Marshall M'11, Cardiology'14 *Gretna, Neb.*, and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their first son, Liam Joseph.

Deniece Petersen PT'11 *Tilden, Neb.*, joined Faith Regional Health Services Rehabilitation Therapies at their outpatient center in Tilden. She is excited to be back in her hometown after having practiced in Lincoln, Broken Bow and Neligh. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Kyle, and their four children: Ella, Ryker, Drew and Leo.

Elizabeth Chentland PH'12 *Elmwood Park, Ill.*, received accreditation in public relations from the Public Relations Society of America in November 2021.

Hernando Lopez-Bertoni GS'12 *Baltimore, Md.*, is an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He was featured in *Scientia* in October 2021 for his cancer research and discoveries into how miRNA genetic material can be utilized and delivered to the brain via nanoparticles.

Hilary Miller M'12, Family and General Medicine'15 *Spalding, Neb.*, has been named Valley County Health System chief of staff. In this one-year term, she acts as the liaison between VCHS administration and medical staff as well as oversees physician credentialing, education and quality assurance.

Haley Peters GS'12 *Elkhorn, Neb.*, was promoted to field director of the west team of the genitourinary oncology medical science liaisons at Janssen Medical Science Liaisons.

Anja Zann M'12 *Omaha, Neb.*, has joined Children's Specialty Physicians in pediatric urology. She also is an assistant professor of surgery in pediatric urology at UNMC.

Lisa Bilek GS'13 *Omaha, Neb.*, started a new role as field medical scientific associate director of training with Sanofi Genzyme in June 2021.

Whitney Clausen PH'13 *Omaha, Neb.*, and **Sarah Malesa PA'11** welcomed twins, Gidian and Adelaide Malesa-Clausen, to their family in June 2021.

Molly McCarthy PH'13, GS'17 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions in the division of occupational therapy education. She teaches evidence-based practice and grant writing, plus a systematic review class in the OT curriculum. Her ongoing research addresses diversity and inclusion in occupational therapy as well as support for mothers of infants in the neonatal intensive care unit. She enjoys spending time with her family, swing dancing, running, cooking and gardening.

Alisha Mor M'13, Family Medicine '16 *Denison, Iowa*, joined the Crawford County Memorial Hospital Medical Clinic in fall 2021. Previously, she was employed by the Baptist Medical Group in Gulf Breeze, Fla.

Kristin Schmidt PT'13 *Lincoln, Neb.*, and her husband, **Ty Schmidt PT'13**, lived in western Nebraska and worked in rural health care for seven years and returned to Lincoln in 2020. Ty completed his fellowship of manual therapy (FAAOMPT) through Regis University in 2019 and recently opened a clinic in southeast Lincoln for Lincoln Orthopedic Physical Therapy (LOPT). Kristin works for Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical, concentrating on clinical research trials on pediatric patients with rare and ultra-rare diseases.

Edward Williams PA'13, '14 *Enterprise, Ala.*, has served the Army as a physician assistant since 2015. He plans to retire in fall 2022 and start his first civilian job in 22 years.

Rajeev Anchan M'14, Internal Medicine'17 *Lincoln, Neb.*, joined Bryan Heart as an interventional cardiologist in fall 2021.

Jordeyn Burks N'14 *York, Neb.*, and her spouse, Tree, welcomed their daughter, Khyrie Selah Ann, in June 2021.

Chaeli Fortina N'14 *Omaha, Neb.*, received the Courage ITEACH Award from the Office of Advanced Practice at Nebraska Medicine in fall 2021.

Nikki Heidemann MLS'14 *Albion, Neb.*, was promoted to clinic laboratory director at Boone County Health Center.

Collin Horton PA'14 *Elkhorn, Neb.*, received the Teamwork ITEACH Award from the Office of Advanced Practice at Nebraska Medicine in fall 2021.

Andrea Johnson RST'14 *Albion, Neb.*, became director of the Boone County Health Center Foundation in August 2021. She previously served as the administrative coordinator and prior to that, practiced as a sonographer. She and her husband, Joel, have two children.

Tess Kuenstling GS'14 *Bellevue, Neb.*, was named assistant vice chancellor for research resources at UNMC in fall 2021. She previously was the director of research resources for three years. This change of title reflects how the position has progressively expanded in scope and now aligns with peer institutions.

Whitney Polen N'14, '21 *Phillips, Neb.*, joined the team of family medicine professionals at Memorial Community Health Inc. in Aurora, Neb., after becoming board-certified as a family nurse practitioner. She and her husband, Adam, enjoy outdoor activities, sports, and spending time with family and friends.

Tory Sasse DH'14 *Gordon, Neb.*, joined the Gordon Rushville High School staff in 2021. She serves as the director of student information and handles administrative tasks and accounts payable. She and her husband, Dan, have two children, David and Lily.

Erin Schmitz M'14, Pediatrics '17 *Lincoln, Neb.*, practices with the Lincoln Pediatric Group as a general pediatrician. She and her husband are expecting their third child this fall.

Thang Thanh Nguyen N'14, GS'20 *Elkhorn, Neb.*, became an assistant professor in the UNMC Department of Emergency Medicine and received the Innovation ITEACH Award from the Office of Advanced Practice at Nebraska Medicine in fall 2021.

Karen Tucker M'14, Oral Surgery '17 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the faculty at UNMC as an assistant professor in the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery in July 2020. She and her husband, James, welcomed a daughter in October 2021.

Grant Turner M'14, MHA'21 *Los Angeles, Calif.*, completed a pulmonary/critical care fellowship at UNMC from 2018-2021 and is currently in a transplant fellowship at UCLA. In July 2022, he will join the team as a transplant pulmonologist with a specialization in cystic fibrosis. ➔

Lauri Vargo M'14, Internal Medicine'15 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the faculty of the UNMC Department of Dermatology as an assistant professor.

Alvin Wee GS'14 *Eagan, Minn.*, joined the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry as a tenured full professor and director of the division of prosthodontics, department of restorative sciences in 2019. He treats patients at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System one day a week, holds numerous leadership positions in professional organizations and is an assistant editor for the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*.



In January 2022, Dr. Turner was accepted as a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Paul Wilken N'14, '17 *Elkhorn, Neb.*, joined the faculty of the UNMC College of Nursing part time to help cover psychiatric NP student clinicals. He is a psychiatric nurse practitioner at the Douglas County Community Mental Health Center in Omaha.

Natalie Buhr MLS'15 *Doniphan, Neb.*, was promoted to laboratory manager at Hastings Internal Medicine. She is married and has two daughters, Ellistyn (5) and Lennox (2).

Erin Cameron-Smith M'15, Neurology '19, Movement Disorders '21 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the faculty at UNMC as an assistant professor in the department of neurological sciences, division of movement disorders in fall 2021.

Kati (Lackas) Hogan MITS'15 *Waterbury, Neb.*, and Justin Hogan were married in Wayne, Neb., on May 2, 2020.

Ben LaCrosse M'15 *Omaha, Neb.*, became a faculty member at UNMC in fall 2021. He joined the department of radiology as an assistant professor.

Kelsey Morris P'15 *Olathe, Kan.*, and her husband, Andrew, have three children, Makenna, Carter and Weston.

Benjamin Owen M'15 *Lincoln, Neb.*, joined Advanced Medical Imaging in fall 2021. After completing an internship in Chicago, followed by a diagnostic radiology residency in Sacramento, he and his wife and son are excited to be back in Nebraska.

Jessica Semin N'15, '21, PH'17 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the faculty of the UNMC College of Nursing and is supporting the undergraduate courses.

Savannah Stansbury N'15 *Evergreen, Colo.*, was recently accepted into nurse anesthesia school at the University of Maryland.

Lindsay Helget M'16 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the UNMC Division of Rheumatology as an assistant professor.

Ann Kastrup PT'16 *Columbus, Neb.*, and her husband, **Ross Kastrup P'17**, welcomed a daughter, Eleanor Sloane, in February 2021.

Brandy Kennec N'16 *Lincoln, Neb.*, works for the Nebraska Department of Corrections and received the One Team/One Vision Award for helping vaccinate teammates throughout its facilities. She welcomed her third child in July 2021.

COMING EVENTS



JUNE

10-11

College of Allied Health Professions Alumni Reunion
Omaha

OCTOBER

14-15

Alumni Reunion Weekend
For alumni with class years ending in 7 or 2 from the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and the Graduate Studies Program
Omaha

28-29

College of Dentistry Alumni Reunion Weekend
Lincoln

Events are subject to change.
Find the latest information at unmc.edu/alumni.

Dalton Nelsen M'16, Emergency Medicine '19
Omaha, Neb., has stayed at UNMC, completing an emergency ultrasound fellowship after his emergency medicine residency. He is an assistant professor in the department of emergency medicine and oversees EM resident ultrasound education. He also was recently appointed to assistant program director of the EM residency. He received the Golden Apple Teaching Award for Excellence in Medical Student Education for 2019-2020 and the Emergency Medicine Faculty Teaching Award for 2020-2021.

Jerod Post PT'16 *Cañon City, Colo.*, attained board-certified specialist in orthopedic physical therapy in 2021.

Megan Zavorka Thomas GS'16 *Columbus, Ohio*, finished her postdoc at the Ohio State University in the experimental cancer pharmacology laboratory in August 2021. She started a new job as a research and development scientist in the diagnostic immunology laboratory at Nationwide Children's Hospital in September 2021.

Austin Barnes M'17 *Cheyenne, Wyo.*, joined Cheyenne OBGYN in November 2021, where his specialties are laparoscopic and robotic surgery and family planning.

Sydney (Brouillette) Berg PA'17 *Omaha, Neb.*, and Ryan Berg were married in Cancun, Mexico, on Oct. 2, 2021.

Rocky Esterach M'17 *Omaha, Neb.*, became an instructor in the UNMC Department of Psychiatry in fall 2021. He also practices at Nebraska Medicine.

Laura Freese PA'17 *Lincoln, Neb.*, received the Excellence ITEACH Award from the Office of Advanced Practice at Nebraska Medicine in fall 2021.

Anna Hughart-Smith N'17 *Rochester, Minn.*, welcomed a daughter, Brylee Victoria, on Nov. 25, 2021.

Nicole Kouma N'17, '21 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the faculty of the UNMC College of Nursing and supports the undergraduate courses.

Melissa Mathes M'17, Obstetrics and Gynecology '21 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the faculty of the UNMC Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology as an assistant professor and sees patients at Nebraska Medicine.

Derek Miller D'17 *Bismarck, N.D.*, completed oral and maxillofacial surgery residency at the University of Minnesota in June 2021 and returned home with wife, Krystal, and three children to Bismarck to join the Face and Jaw Surgery Center.

Jena Mizner PT'17 *Grand Island, Neb.*, joined the staff of Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab of Hastings. She previously worked in an outpatient setting focusing on orthopedic injuries, as well as in an aquatic setting that treated patients with acute/chronic pain and neurological conditions.

Prasanth Ravipati, Internal Medicine '17 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined UNMC in fall 2021 as an assistant professor in the division of nephrology.

Steven Ready D'17 *Pender, Neb.*, opened his business, Wisner Family and Implant Dentistry, in November 2021.

Nicholas Reed PA'17 *Kearney, Neb.*, has worked as an orthopedic surgery assistant with CHI Health Good Samaritan Clinic-Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine since 2019. In April 2022, he joined Valley County Health System's medical clinic in Loup City, Neb., and the emergency department at the hospital in Ord, Neb.

Alicia Rogers N'17 *Weston, Mo.*, has been an ICU nurse for 3.5 years. She was accepted into the University of Kansas Doctor of Nurse anesthesia program for the 2022 school year.

Matthew Stephany M'17 *Omaha, Neb.*, became a faculty member at UNMC in fall 2021. He joined the department of dermatology as an assistant professor and Nebraska Medicine as the director of general dermatology.

Melissa Suh, Surgery '17 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined the pediatric general and thoracic surgery team at Boys Town National Research Hospital. She is certified in the use of the da Vinci surgical robot and uses this skillset to advance the use of robotic surgery and to improve pediatric patient care.

Shailendra Tallapaka GS'17 *Apex, N.C.*, and his wife, Aishwarya, welcomed twin daughters in June 2021.

Michaela Belt MLS'18 *Lincoln, Neb.*, was promoted to hematology specialist at Bryan Health and welcomed a daughter in July 2021.

Ian Engebretsen M'18 *Wayne, Neb.*, joined Faith Regional Physician Services Wisner Family Medicine in September 2021. He and his wife, Katlyn, have two children, Ellen and Jack. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, and being outdoors — hunting, fishing, running and biking.

Abbey Klein Schmeits N'18 *Omaha, Neb.*, and her husband, Evan, welcomed a son, Arlo Crosby, on Oct. 5, 2021. She received a 40 Under 40 Nurse Leader Award from the Nebraska Action Coalition in fall 2021. She is currently a PhD student at UNMC.

Lindsey Kostal M'18 *Odell, Neb.*, joined Beatrice Community Hospital in September 2021 in pediatrics.

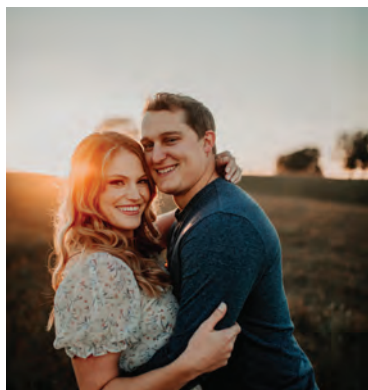
John-Emmett Mahon M'18 *Danville, Ky.*, joined Ephraim McDowell Health in their Mercer Pediatrics location in Harrodsburg in fall 2021. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Shilah, and their two children, Bryson and Ruby, reading, exercising, and being active in church.

Sean Nelson M'18 *Cherokee, Iowa*, joined Cherokee Regional Medical Center in July 2021. He sees patients in the emergency and surgery departments, as well as at the medical clinic. He and his wife, Heidi, have four children: Desyree, West, Alex and Zoey. He enjoys hunting, fishing and hiking.

Hannah Painter M'18 *Beatrice, Neb.*, joined Beatrice Community Hospital in August 2021 in family medicine.

Riley Santin D'18 *Giltner, Neb.*, joined the St. Francis Foundation board for fiscal year 2022. He practices at Island View Dental in Grand Island, Neb. He and his wife, Haley, have a son, Hudson. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, sports and helping on the family farm.

Ellie Sittig PT'18 *Lincoln, Neb.*, and **Bryce Rolenc PT'19** recently became engaged. ↓



Alan Spanel M'18 *Norfolk, Neb.*, joined the Yankton Medical Clinic as an internal medicine physician and sees patients in the clinic in Norfolk.

Katie Speer N'18 *Lincoln, Neb.*, and her husband, Nathan, welcomed a second daughter, Isabelle, on Oct. 14, 2021. Speer received her master's in nursing leadership from Bryan College of Health Sciences in December 2020. She is the clinical resource nurse for the cardiac medical unit and central monitoring unit at Bryan Health.

Spencer Steffen M'18 *Rapid City, S.D.*, joined Rapid City Medical Center's (RCMC) Westside Family Clinic in fall 2021. His wife, **Shelby Steffen M'18**, practices at the RCMC Medical Arts Clinic. They have three children and enjoy hiking, mountain biking, skiing, camping, hunting and fishing.

Jamie Zillig Kielian M'18 *Beatrice, Neb.*, joined Beatrice Community Hospital in family medicine at the Gage County Medical Clinic in August 2021.

Rebecca Buss D'19, Pediatric Dentistry '21 *Omaha, Neb.*, joined Pedodontics, P.C. in Omaha in July 2021. She enjoys spending time with her husband, **Daniel Buss PT'19**, trying new recipes, traveling, playing with their dog and being outdoors.

Gillian Loseke D'19 *North Platte, Neb.*, joined Maple Park Dental Associates in September 2021 and sees patients at their North Platte and Sutherland locations. She and her husband, Brock, have two daughters, Brooklyn and Anika.

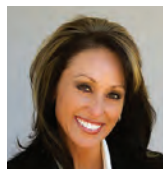
Sarah Meier N'19 *North Saint Paul, Minn.*, has been working this past year in a small ICU in the Twin Cities area. Previously, she was a progressive care neuro nurse.

Shayleen Olsen N'19 *League City, Texas*, and her husband, Jacobi, were married shortly after graduating from UNMC. She works in Houston, Texas, as an operating room nurse.

Grant Saltzgaber M'19 *Tecumseh, Neb.*, will join the staff at Johnson County Hospital as a full-time primary care physician in July 2022. Until then, she's spending time in the emergency room and at Tecumseh Family Health, getting to know the staff and seeing patients.

Austin Wheeler M'19 *Lincoln, Neb.*, was awarded the Dr. Ephraim P. Engleman Resident Research Preceptorship by the Rheumatology Research Foundation. The purpose of the resident research preceptorship is to introduce residents to the specialty of rheumatology by supporting a full-time research experience, with the goal of attracting promising physician scientists to the field of rheumatology.

Carli Zegers GS'19 *Lee's Summit, Mo.*, received the President's Award from the National Association of Hispanic Nurses in November 2021.



Dr. Webb has been in practice for 16 years in Scottsbluff, providing high-quality orthodontic care and serving the unique needs of children enrolled in the Nebraska Medicaid Program.

2000s

Annette Dillon N'00 *Elkhorn, Neb.*, is now retired.

James Hornberger PA'00 *Mount Pleasant Mills, Pa.*, changed employers in summer 2021 and is in orthopedics at the Orthopedic Institute of Pennsylvania. He loves it and has gotten back to his roots from the Army. He and his wife celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary. He spent 14 days in the ICU with COVID-19, two weeks prior to the first immunization being approved.

Stacy Solomon D'00 *Lincoln, Neb.*, joined the UNMC College of Dentistry in summer 2021 as an assistant professor in the department of adult restorative dentistry.

← **Sami Webb D'00** *Scottsbluff, Neb.*, was one of four practitioners across Nebraska to be honored by Gov. Pete Ricketts and the Department of Health & Human Services in October 2021 with a Nebraska Medicaid Provider Award. She is the only full-time resident orthodontist in western Nebraska participating in the Medicaid program.

Ann Anderson Berry, Pediatrics '01, GS'14 *Omaha, Neb.*, was named executive director of the Child Health Research Institute, a collaboration between UNMC and Children's Hospital & Medical Center. She also stepped into the role of vice president of research at Children's.

Deepak Madhavan M'01 *Omaha, Neb.*, became chief medical officer and vice president of medical affairs at Boys Town National Research Hospital in October 2021. He previously served as the executive director of the pediatric neuroscience initiative since May 2019.

Christopher North MT'01 *Omaha, Neb.*, received the 2021 Caring Kind Award from the Nebraska Hospital Association.

Kyle Skiermont P'01 *Omaha, Neb.*, became chairman of the board of directors of the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy in fall 2021. He serves as vice president, pharmacy and therapeutics at Nebraska Medicine, and as the assistant dean for clinical affairs in the UNMC College of Pharmacy. Prior to that, he served as senior vice president, specialty pharmacy and home delivery services at Prime Therapeutics.

Allison Stavaridis N'01 *Pasadena, Calif.*, has a new position teaching and practicing at Loma Linda Medical Center.

Kristin Bertrang N'02, '06 *Lincoln, Neb.*, has been the tuberculosis program manager for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services since 2019. She was elected to the board for the National TB Controllers Association as the low incidence representative.

George Papineau P'02 *Pella, Iowa*, was named director of pharmacy for Pella Regional Health Center in December 2021. Most recently, he was employed at Montrose Memorial Hospital in Colorado as director of pharmacy. Prior to that, he was director of pharmacy at Grinnell Regional Medical Center in Iowa.

Lisa Perrin N'02 *Columbus, Neb.*, was named director of the acute care and intensive care units at Columbus Community Hospital in May 2021. She has worked at CCH since 2002.

Shane Schuster P'02 *Pender, Neb.*, was named interim chief executive officer of Pender Community Hospital. He serves as ancillary services director, and is active in his community.

Stephen Galya PA'03 *Acworth, Ga.*, recently retired after nearly 30 years of family practice. He is doing his own research in atherosclerosis and hypothyroidism.

Shaun Horak PA'03 *Omaha, Neb.*, is president elect of the Nebraska Academy of Physicians Assistants (NAPA). He also received the Bonnie Shearer Professional Scholarship from NAPA in 2021. He is working toward his PhD in the medical sciences interdepartmental area, health practice and medical education research at UNMC. In January 2022, he received the Pat and Susan McClaughry Physician Assistant Excellence in Teaching Award. This is a student-nominated and voted upon award. →

Sasha Shillcutt M'03, Anesthesiology '07, GS'16 *Omaha, Neb.*, was awarded the Dr. Gail Walling Yanney Endowed Professorship in Anesthesiology in the UNMC Department of Anesthesiology.

Kathleen (Katie) Brandert PH'04 *Omaha, Neb.*, was named interim assistant dean of public health practice in the UNMC College of Public Health in December 2021.

Dr. Grimm was promoted to senior associate dean for public health practice in the fall and continues to serve as an associate professor in the department of health promotion in the UNMC College of Public Health.



Rebekah Keyser N'04 *Grass Valley, Calif.*, moved to the Sierra Foothills in northern California where she works in a local birthing center and at the high school. She and her husband have a son and are remodeling a home with an attached apartment for Airbnb/travel nurse rental.

Sheritta Strong M'04, Psychiatry '08 *Omaha, Neb.*, was recognized in October 2021 with a Health and Wellness Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women's Greater Omaha Chapter during the 11th annual Women of Color in Leadership Conference and Legacy Awards. She was promoted to assistant vice chancellor of inclusion at UNMC, following a year in which she served as the interim director. She provides psychiatric care in the student-run free clinic and at the Charles Drew Health Center. She also is an assistant professor in the UNMC Department of Psychiatry.



Dr. Horak is associate program director/academic director and assistant professor in UNMC's physician assistant education program.

Kristen Cook P'05 *Omaha, Neb.*, was the inaugural recipient of the UNMC College of Pharmacy's Impact Award. The honor goes to a faculty member who has excelled at advancing the college's mission, specifically for improving programs related to the education, research, patient care, service and community outreach goals of the college. She is a practicing pharmacist and is heavily involved in the SHARING Clinics. She went above and beyond in ensuring continuity and rigor was not lost in the pharmacotherapy lab during the pandemic. She also chairs the college's curriculum committee.

Christy Godbee-Awe PA'05, '06 *Punta Gorda, Fla.*, completed a Doctor of Medical Sciences degree from the University of Lynchburg in Virginia in January 2022.

↑ **Brandon Grimm PH'05, GS'13** *Papillion, Neb.*, received an Outstanding Alumni Award from Wayne State College in fall 2021.

Audrey Kerr PA'05 *Glendive, Mont.*, joined the Glendive Medical Center's (GMC) family medicine clinic in Gabert in December 2021. She has been employed with the GMC for the last 11 years and has worked in emergency medicine and in urgent care. She recently began her Doctor of Medical Sciences degree through Rocky Mountain College.

Elizabeth (Libby) Mollard N'05, GS'16 *Lincoln, Neb.*, was accepted into the National Institutes of Health's Health Disparities Research Institute. She serves as an assistant professor in the UNMC College of Nursing Lincoln Division.

Jill Selzle PA'05 *Omaha, Neb.*, received the Accountability ITEACH Award from the Office of Advanced Practice at Nebraska Medicine in fall 2021.

Melissa Soester PA'05 *Louisville, Neb.*, joined the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions, Division of Physician Assistant Education, as an assistant professor in fall 2021. She recently completed her PhD in health sciences from the University of South Dakota. She and her husband, Cameron, have two sons, Braden and Brecken. Her hobbies are hiking, biking, skiing and kayaking.

Maggie Emerson N'06, '11, '17 *Omaha, Neb.*, received a 40 Under 40 Nurse Leader Award from the Nebraska Action Coalition in fall 2021. She serves as an assistant professor in the UNMC College of Nursing and as an advanced practice psychiatric nurse practitioner.

Jessica Grosse PA'06 *Omaha, Neb.*, started a new position at Think Whole Person Healthcare in internal medicine/geriatrics in June 2020.

Joshua Hite P'06 *Omaha, Neb.*, received the Preceptor of the Year Award from the UNMC College of Pharmacy Class of 2020.

Glenn Hurst M'06 *Minden, Iowa*, in July 2021, announced his campaign to run for U.S. Senate. He operates a private medical practice in his hometown of Minden and oversees clinics in the county. He is chair of the rural caucus in the Iowa Democratic Party, as well as a member of the Minden City Council.

Angela Kratochvil-Stava M'06, Pediatrics '10 *Kearney, Neb.*, and **Sharon Stoolman M'99, Pediatrics '03**, and Alice Sato, MD, received the Outstanding Child Advocate of the Year Award from the Nebraska chapter of the American Association of Pediatrics during its virtual conference in October 2021.

Ann Philbrick P'06 *Saint Paul, Minn.*, was selected for induction into the University of Minnesota Academy of Excellence in Clinical Practice. She serves as an associate professor in the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy Department of Pharmaceutical Care and Health Systems and the Medical School Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. ➔

Melissa St. Germain M'06, Pediatrics '09 *Omaha, Neb.*, was promoted to vice president and medical director of Children's Physicians.

Paula Whittle N'06 *Omaha, Neb.*, is a psychiatric nurse practitioner and entrepreneur. As owner of Great Plains Mental Health Associates, she is proud of the work they do every day in the community. She also is a grandmother of two.

Kelli Jacobsen MLS'07 *Moreno Valley, Calif.*, became core laboratory supervisor at VA Loma Linda in June 2021.

Matthew Lunning, Internal Medicine '07 *Omaha, Neb.*, was named assistant vice chancellor for clinical research at UNMC in December 2021. He previously served as the medical director of the UNMC Clinical Research Center.

Viswanathan Rajagopalan GS'08 *Marion, Ark.*, was promoted to associate professor in the basic sciences department of the New York Institute of Technology on their Jonesboro campus. He also was elected fellow of the cardiovascular section of the American Physiological Society.



Dr. Philbrick is on the faculty of Woodwinds Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program and maintains her pharmacy practice at Bethesda Family Medicine Clinic.

Maegen Wallace M'08 *Omaha, Neb.*, was promoted to associate professor in the UNMC Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation in July 2021. She joined the department at Children's Hospital & Medical Center in 2015, specializing in the care of pediatric orthopedic conditions of the lower extremities. She is the director of the osteogenesis imperfecta clinic and treats patients at the Omaha and Lincoln locations.

Hilary Catron MN'09 *Omaha, Neb.*, received the 2021 Outstanding General Biology Graduate Award from Chadron State College in fall 2021. She is the supervisor in Nebraska Medicine's Department of Clinical Nutrition and is a registered dietitian/medical nutrition therapist for the adult intestinal rehabilitation program. Additionally, she and her brother, Mike, own and operate Chung Do Kwan Taekwondo school.

Joe Gatti PA'09 *Medford, Ore.*, is a founding member of the Clinic for Dermatology & Wellness in the heart of East Medford. The clinic was founded in 2016 and offers medical, surgical and aesthetic dermatology services, as well as Mohs micrographic surgery. A native of the Pacific Northwest, he moved back home to focus on his family and love for dermatology after 15 years of active-duty military service in the U.S. Army.

1990s

Beth Hultquist N'90 *Mesquite, Texas*, is the inaugural holder of the Harris and Anne Clark FastBacc Endowed Professorship at Baylor University.

Gail McCorkindal PT'90 *Wayne, Neb.*, joined the staff at KEL Physical Therapy and Wellness in Wayne. In her free time, she enjoys baking gluten-free desserts, water gardening and being with family and friends.

Douglas Fry, Sr. D'91 *Wilmington, N.C.*, retired after 50 years of dentistry, 36 of which were practiced as a pediatric dentist. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, a board-certified pediatric dentist, member of the College of Diplomates, and lifetime member of the American Dental Association.

➔ **Jon Lundquist D'91** *Ligonier, Penn.*, serves as the state dentist for the Pennsylvania National Guard.



Dr. Lundquist is in his 30th year serving in the Army.

Charlene Gerner PA'92

Grey Eagle, Minn., retired 29 years to the day of starting her own family practice group in Albany, Minn. Her career spanned work in clinic, hospital and emergency medicine.

Keith Lawson MS' 92, M'96

Lincoln, Neb., just passed the 20-year mark with the Lincoln Orthopaedic Center and has the pleasure of announcing that the two premier orthopaedic groups in Lincoln have joined forces to form Nebraska Orthopaedic Center. He is proud to be a Husker physician! His wife, Staci, is a CASA volunteer and enjoys her free time competing at quarter horse shows. Their first daughter is a sophomore at the University of Georgia and is on the 2021 National Champion Equestrian Team. Their second daughter is a junior at Lincoln High School and is on the golf and diving teams.

David Minnick M'92 *Broken Bow, Neb.*, was named Physician of the Year by the Nebraska Medical Association in September 2021.

Laura Peter M'93 *Eleva, Wis.*, retired from clinical practice in 2014 and retired completely in 2021.

Amelia Sheehy PT'93 *Plano, Texas*, has been working for a digital health care company, Recovery One, for the past year as a physical therapist doing telehealth visits.

Joann Falkenburg M'94 *McCook, Neb.*, moved to McCook in July 2021 to activate a few empty downtown spaces with art and cultural events. She now works as a virtual family physician.

Kris Johnk PT'94 *Bellevue, Neb.*, is regional manager for Athletico Physical Therapy.

Daniel Park PA'94 *Murphy, N.C.*, is retired.

Carolyn Penharlow N'94 *Southport, N.C.*, relocated to Southport in October 2020. She is in her seventh year of employment with the U.S. Peace Corps.

Jodell Yank N'94, '08, '12 *Lincoln, Neb.*, is the executive director and APRN at Family Health Services Inc. in Lincoln and Tecumseh, Neb.

Debra McClure N'95 *West Des Moines, Iowa*, is retired. She ended her nursing career teaching as an assistant professor at Fort Hays University.

Ted Mikuls M'95, Internal Medicine '99 *Omaha, Neb.*, was awarded the Dr. Ephraim P. Engleman Resident Research Preceptorship by the Rheumatology Research Foundation. The purpose of the resident research preceptorship is to introduce residents to the specialty of rheumatology by supporting a full-time research experience, with the goal of attracting promising physician scientists to the field of rheumatology.

Shanna Stofer P'95 *Council Bluffs, Iowa*, became vice president of ancillary and professional services at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital in summer 2021. Prior to that, since 2013, she was a key player at Kearney Regional Medical Center and was one of the original leadership team members when the hospital was built and opened.

Christopher Boes M'96, Internal Medicine '97 *Rochester, Minn.*, was named designated institutional official at the Mayo Clinic and began in April 2022. He trained in neurology there and has been on staff since 2001. An Elgin, Neb., native, he remains an avid Husker fan.

Elizabeth Draper DH'96 *Lincoln, Neb.*, joined the team at Star City Dental. In her spare time, she enjoys camping, biking and baking with her husband, son and daughter.

James McGraw, III PA'96 *Woodstock, Ga.*, is working on his Doctor of Medical Science degree from the University of Lynchburg in Virginia.

William Michael M'96, Psychiatry '00 *Lincoln, Neb.*, recently moved to Lincoln with his family. He is a consultation/liaison psychiatrist at Bryan Medical Center.

Ryan Lieske PA'97 *Ravenna, Neb.*, joined the orthopedic surgery/sports medicine team at CHI Health Orthopedics-Good Samaritan in Kearney, Neb.

Jennifer Swantek N'97 *Genoa, Neb.*, joined the psychiatry clinic at Columbus Community Hospital in summer 2021.

Shawn Vogen GS'98 *River Forest, Ill.*, became vice president of advancement and secretary of Lake Forest College in November 2021. For the past two years, he served as associate vice president and philanthropic counsel for BWF, a national philanthropic consulting firm based in Minneapolis. From 2015 to 2020, he was at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago where, as associate vice president, he led a development team that secured seven- and eight-figure gifts to support research, education and patient care.

Mia Hyde PA'99 *Kearney, Neb.*, received the 2021 Clinical Education Award from the Physician Assistant Education Association. She serves as association director and director of clinical education for UNMC's PA program and is on the Kearney campus. She also practices family medicine in nearby Grand Island.

Jennifer Parker M'99 *Omaha, Neb.*, was named acting division chief of the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine-Division of General Internal Medicine while a national search is conducted. She served as the internal medicine/pediatrics program director from 2005-2018.

Rebecca Villeneuve N'99 *Breda, Iowa*, retired in May 2021 from nearly 22 years in cardiology and 23.5 years with UNMC, UNMC Physicians and Nebraska Medicine.

1980s

Linda Bellows N'80 *Ocala, Fla.*, retired from Ocala Family Medical in October 2021 after 12 years of family practice.

Blake Butler M'80 *Beatrice, Neb.*, retired in July 2021, after 32 years of service to the Beatrice Community Hospital. During his tenure, he focused on abdominal surgery, including gallbladder, hernias, appendix, appendicitis, colon surgery and endoscopies. When he first started, he also performed gynecological surgeries, because there weren't specialty surgeons at the time.

James Linder M'80 *Omaha, Neb.*, and his wife, Karen, were inducted into the Omaha Business Hall of Fame by the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce in August 2021.



“It makes me very proud to have gone to UNMC.”

Douglas County Health Director **LINDSEY HUSE, DNP**, an alumna of the UNMC College of Nursing in Scottsbluff, while touring the Omaha campus.

Christine Campbell-Grossman N'80, '83 *Roca, Neb.*, retired in August 2021, after 38 years on faculty in the UNMC College of Nursing. She was hired as a nursing instructor in August 1983 after completing the MSN program at UNMC that May. She was promoted to assistant professor in 1986, received graduate faculty status in 1998 and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2010. She also held leadership roles, including serving as interim assistant dean of the Lincoln nursing campus from 2012-2013, being the Lincoln coordinator of the BSN exchange students from China for eight years, coordinator of the Lincoln accelerated students for seven years, and faculty coordinator for the United Way campaign for 14 years.

Patricia Klarr M'80 *Northville, Mich.*, is the director of anesthesiology at the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center.

Judith Holsinger N'80, Burlington, N.C., retired from teaching in 2014, at 75 but continues to hold an RN license for Faith Community Nursing from Duke University. She has two sons; one graduated from the University of Nebraska in environmental engineering and is an engineer with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and the other is director of reimbursements for Applied Technologies in Seattle, Wash. She continues to work in her community and church. She has three grandchildren; two are grown and in college and one is 2 years old.

Kelly Burch Molaskey P'81

Des Peres, Mo., retired in June 2020 and has two granddaughters.

Wayne Mathews PA'81 Omaha, Neb.,

was appointed to the education committee of the Point of Care Ultrasound Certification Academy in January 2022.

John Steely M'81 Eagan, Minn., was elected Fellow of American College of Radiology and has been practicing neuroradiology in Minneapolis for the past 32 years.

Dan Hyslop M'82 Culver City, Calif., was elected to the USA Ultimate Hall of Fame in the contributor category for photography.

Julie Timme PA'82 Lincoln, Neb., retired in January 2021.

Susan Hassmiller N'83 Cary, N.C., was one of four honored with the title of Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing in August 2021. →

Carol Larson N'83 Kearney, Neb., had a devotion published in a compilation of devotions; *She Writes for Him: Stories of Living Hope*, by Cynthia Cavanaugh, editor, 2021. It received the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association (AWSA) 2021 Golden Scroll Award, third place inspiration gift book of the year.

Michael Murphy M'83 Topeka, Kan., retired from practice in June 2020.

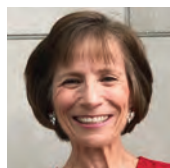
Eric Williams M'84 Lincoln, Neb., retired after 32 years with the Lincoln Radiology Group and providing service to the Bryan Health System.

Eileen Kingston N'85, '86, '21 Omaha, Neb., was named director of the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in December 2021. She has been with the VA for more than 24 years and had been serving as the acting executive director.

Carol Lydiatt M'85, Anesthesiology '89 Omaha, Neb., is retired. She has two daughters and three grandchildren.

Kreston Anderson D'86 Carson City, Nev., retired from dental practice in May 2021.

Ally Dering-Anderson P'86 Lincoln, Neb., received the UNMC College of Pharmacy Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award in fall 2021. →



Dr. Hassmiller's award is the academy's highest honor. It recognizes an individual's lasting impact to advance the public's health through leadership, innovation, science and policy.

Kyle Bryans M'88, Diagnostic

Radiology '93 Anderson, S.C., has lived in South Carolina for 26 years. He has a 21-year-old daughter and loves his career in radiology.

Mary Duryea M'88 Lee's Summit, Mo.,

published a book in December 2021; *Yoga as Integrative Medicine: Yoga Sutras Meet Gray's Anatomy*.

Michael Kozal M'88, Internal

Medicine '91 Menlo Park, Calif., was appointed professor of medicine and senior associate dean for veteran affairs at Stanford University School of Medicine and chief of staff, VA Palo Alto Healthcare System. Prior to moving to Stanford, he was professor of medicine and associate dean for veteran affairs at Yale University School of Medicine.

Anne Williamson D'88 Lincoln, Neb., joined the UNMC College of Dentistry faculty as professor and director of postgraduate endodontics in the department of surgical specialties.

John Wood N'88 Lee's Summit, Mo., recently completed a Doctor of Education degree in health professions from A.T. Still University.

Kathleen Chavanu Gorman N'89, '95 Arlington, Va., was named a member of governor-elect Glenn Youngkin's Medical Advisory Team in January 2022. She serves as the executive vice president for patient care services and chief operating officer at Children's National Hospital.

Jay Hinkhouse M'89, Pediatrics '92 Ames, Iowa, is medical director of the new Grifols BioMat Plasma Center in Ames.

Kristine McVea M'89 Omaha, Neb., was one of four practitioners across Nebraska to be honored by Gov. Pete Ricketts and the Department of Health & Human Services in October 2021 with a Nebraska Medicaid Provider Award. She serves as medical director at OneWorld in Omaha, where she helps advocate for all Medicaid members in the state.

Dale Miller PA'89 Lincoln, Neb., retired in January 2021.



Jill Reel M'89, Pediatrics'92 Blair, Neb., joined the staff of Charles Drew Health Center in Omaha as a pediatrician.

1970s

Richard Elliott M'70 Sun City West, Ariz., fully retired on Jan. 2, 2021, and has stayed busy. He enjoys reading the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Family Physician Journal, and Family Practice Essentials and does all the quizzes for continuing medical education. It remains to be seen if he will take the recertification exam in 2024.

Donald Pont M'70, Family Medicine'75 Mesa, Ariz., published a book, *Reflections From an Aging Book Lover*.

Dennis Koziol M'71 Venice, Fla., completed his residency in Colorado, practiced for 32 years in Virginia and is now living the dream in Florida.

Kenton Shaffer M'71 Kearney, Neb., was recognized for his outstanding career in pediatrics when an anonymous donor requested to name a new emergency room at CHI Health Good Samaritan in Kearney in his honor. The Kenton Shaffer Emergency Care Center opened in late 2021.

Ricke Waldman P'71 Renton, Wash., is retired.

Stuart Heydt M'72, D'70 Willow Street, Pa., retired in 2000 as the CEO of Geisinger Health System in Pennsylvania.

David Leaming M'72 Palm Springs, Calif., retired from the practice of ophthalmology in April 2021. After nine years in the Army, he started a practice in Palm Springs in 1979 and he and his wife, Cindy, raised their two children there. In 2004, he was the honored guest at the annual meeting of the U.S. Cataract and Refractive Surgery Society for his work on a survey of practice styles within the membership. The findings have been part of the meeting since 1984. In 2004, he was the second most referenced author in the *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*. He surveyed the membership annually for 28 years and the European Society of Cataract Surgery for 14 consecutive years, presenting at their annual meeting as well. He looks forward to traveling, relaxing, golfing and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

George Steinke N'72 Lakewood, Colo., and his wife, Nancy, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends in Lakewood in July 2021.

Kenneth Torrington M'72

San Antonio, Texas, unexpectedly retired in March 2020. He had been serving as an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education site visitor for almost nine years when the pandemic caused the process to change from on-site interviews to electronic site visits. The prospect of conducting interviews on a computer and missing out on the subtle human interactions that take place during face-to-face meetings led him to quit. Now totally retired, he and his wife spend their summers in Keystone, Colo., and the remaining months in San Antonio. In 2011, he was named a Master of the American College of Physicians. He looks forward to the class' 50th reunion in fall 2022 and hopes many classmates will return to Omaha for the festivities.

Stephen Erickson M'73

Rochester, Minn., is reducing his hours to half time at the Mayo Clinic in 2022, but remains active in clinical practice, education and research as an associate professor. He specializes in kidney stones.

Chris Frazee RT'73 Fremont, Ind., is in her 48th year as a technologist, having worked in Iowa, Arizona, California, Indiana and now Michigan for the past 38 years. Her plan is to reach 50 years of service before retiring and can't believe all the changes in the field of radiology. She is a proud Nebraska Cornhusker fan and follows all the athletic teams. She is grateful for an excellent education.

Deborah Lindquist MT'73, M'80

Flagstaff, Ariz., retired April 26, 2019, and started working locum tenens in July of that year in Nebraska, Colorado and Arizona. She enjoys teaching the Avatar course for self-empowerment, which moved to Zoom during the pandemic. As of August 2021, there were 222 people from 12 countries participating.

Mary Lou Steinkruger DH'73

Lincoln, Neb., completed her master's degree in business in 1993, served as human resources director of Ameritas for 20 years and is now retired. She married Roger Steinkruger in September 2015.

"This plaza is my 'thank you' for what this institution has meant to me."

William Northwall, MD, a 1967 graduate of the UNMC College of Medicine, while celebrating the dedication of the William H. Northwall, MD, Plaza on the Omaha campus.

David Dempsey M'74 San Francisco, Calif., entered his 49th year of full-time emergency medicine practice in 2022.

Mary Green N'74 Allen, Texas, retired from school nursing in 2013 after 23 years at an elementary school. She has six grandchildren.

John Herrmann D'74 Kearney, Neb., retired in December 2021.

Shirley Wiggins N'74, '78 Lincoln, Neb., retired on Dec. 31, 2021, after 43 years of service to the UNMC College of Nursing. She began her career in 1978 as an instructor of nursing at Kearney State College. She was promoted to assistant professor in 1985, before coming to the Lincoln division in 1991. She advanced in rank to associate professor in 2013.

Paul Hansen D'75 Lenexa, Kan., recently retired from the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Dentistry. ➔

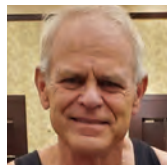
Bruce Holcomb P'75 '76, M'79, Ophthalmology '81 Omaha, Neb., is retired.

R. Michael Kroeger M'75 Omaha, Neb., retired in July 2021. He was one of the founders of West Omaha Urology and Urologic Surgeons, which opened in 1988. He also served Clarinda (Iowa) Regional Health Center's Specialty Clinic with their urology needs for more than 35 years.

Robert Rohs M'75 Cincinnati, Ohio, was recently appointed as medical director of Richmond State Hospital in Richmond, Ind.

Alan Sooho M'75 West Newton, Mass., is a senior deacon at his church.

Kevin Wycoff M'75 Omaha, Neb., retired in 2018 after 40.5 years of practice in Hastings and moved to Omaha to be closer to family.



Dr. Hansen represented the U.S. as a weightlifter in master's weightlifting at the Pan Am games in 2021 and earned a bronze medal.

George Chamock M'76 Valencia, Calif., recently celebrated 40 years in his solo endocrinology practice. He also has lectured for Novo Nordisk diabetes company for 22 years and serves as an assistant clinical professor in the UCLA Department of Medicine. His middle child, Katie, is a pediatrician and runs the pediatric department for the Air Force at Wilford Hall in San Antonio, Texas.

Cynthia Francisco N'76, '91

Lake Havasu City, Ariz., retired in 2016, following 40 years of service at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, Neb. A fascinating career as a faculty member working for Healthy Children took her all over the U.S. for one-and-a-half years. Her final two years in nursing were as a professor at Mohave Community College teaching fundamentals to RN students, as well as the LPN curriculum. The pandemic restricted classroom attendance so the Zoom classroom became a daily routine. Now fully retired, she remains busy with her husband of 21 years and is active in the church and ladies Bible studies. Even though they reside in Arizona, they make frequent trips to western Nebraska to spend time with family and friends.

Mark Hutchins M'76 Lincoln, Neb., and his wife **Deanna Hutchins M'76** retired from active practice in 2021.

Nancy Schorr N'76 Estes Park, Colo., is retired and building a house in Colorado.

Michael Benjamin PA'77 Danville, Pa., and his wife, Joanne, received the 25th annual Robert N. Pursel Award for Community Service in November 2021 from the Community Giving Foundation of Danville.

Karen Brown PT'77 Alliance, Neb., published a book in summer 2021; Tell: Stories of Our Extraordinary God Teaching His Ordinary People.

In Memoriam



↑ **Stanley Truhlsen M'44**
Omaha, Neb.
Dec. 23, 2021

Marlin Johnson M'45
Bismarck, N.D.,
Oct. 26, 2021

Elizabeth Wickham N'53
Lincoln, Neb.
Dec. 15, 2021

Carol McGahan MT'55
Grand Island, Neb.
July 19, 2021

Josynne Sherlock P'56
Omaha, Neb.
Aug. 15, 2021

Bernard Beber M'57
Miami, Fla.
Aug. 14, 2021

James Stokos D'57
Bonita, Calif.
Nov. 8, 2021

Leon "Don" Wanek M'58
Wilber, Neb.
Nov. 23, 2021

Maurice Mathews M'59
Saint Paul, Neb.
Sept. 20, 2021

Steven Schwid M'60
Omaha, Neb.
Nov. 6, 2021

Robert Stratbucker M'60, MS'62
Elkhorn, Neb.,
Nov. 24, 2021

Roger Ward M'61, '63
Healdsburg, Calif.
Oct. 1, 2021

David Sullivan P'64
Lincoln, Neb.
Sept. 18, 2021

Wayne Weston M'65
Omaha, Neb.
May 22, 2021

Phyllis Yoest N'67
Elkhorn, Neb.
Aug. 2, 2021

Larry Vonderfecht P'69
Pawnee City, Neb.
Oct. 8, 2021

Patricia Baggenstoss N'70
Bella Vista, Ark.
Sept. 4, 2021

Jacquelyn Bergstrom P'70
Lincoln, Neb.
Nov. 24, 2021

Jimmy Polk P'70
Lincoln, Neb.
Dec. 15, 2021

Marcia Vasek MT'72
Lincoln, Neb.
Dec. 9, 2021

Richard Norgard P'73
Wisner, Neb.
Sept. 22, 2021

William Palmer M'73
Omaha, Neb.
Aug. 5, 2021

Dean Antonson M'74
Omaha, Neb.
Sept. 3, 2021

Theodore London M'74
Bullhead City, Ariz.
Nov. 27, 2021

James Edney M'75
Omaha, Neb.
Aug. 7, 2021

C J LaBenz M'75
Sun City West, Ariz.
Aug. 11, 2021

Kenneth Schaefer M'75
Sioux Falls, S.D.
Sept. 27, 2021

Ortrude Snyder N'76
Fairbury, Neb.
Aug. 28, 2021

Claude Frerichs P'77
Lincoln, Neb.
Dec. 16, 2021



↑ **Kathryn Nickel N'80**
Kearney, Neb.
Aug. 24, 2021

Susan Gust N'86
Nashua, N.H.
Nov. 20, 2021

Jan Lastovica MT'87
Elkhorn, Neb.
Dec. 9, 2021

Holly Rush P'92
North Bend, Neb.
Sept. 7, 2021

Rachel Spady N'95
North Platte, Neb.
Sept. 11, 2021

Matthew Bruner M'04
Scottsbluff, Neb.
Nov. 21, 2021

Teri Bader N'05
Omaha, Neb.
Nov. 30, 2021

Erin Kaiser-Woodward N'14
Lincoln, Neb.
Oct. 19, 2021

Steve Baumert PT'78

Council Bluffs, Iowa, retired from Jennie Edmundson Hospital in June 2021 after 40 years of service.

Richard Brunken M'78 *Chagrin Falls, Ohio*, retired from the Cleveland Clinic in December 2019, where he was director of nuclear cardiology. He continues to serve on the editorial boards and keeps journals devoted to nuclear medicine/nuclear cardiology.

Frank Sargent D'78, '83 *Buckeye, Ariz.*, retired in 2019 from private practice in endodontics in Sioux City, Iowa. He relocated to Arizona in 2020.

Jan Lucas N'79 *Nodaway, Iowa*, retired from Nebraska Medicine in July 2020 after 41 years of service.

Alan Thorson M'79, Surgery '84 *Omaha, Neb.*, retired from active practice in January 2020. He remains busy in retirement by spending time with grandkids and serving on many local and regional boards. He is active in cancer advocacy efforts, serving on the Omaha board, as chair of the Nebraska-Iowa Board and as a member of the North Region Board of the American Cancer Society? He continues to serve as president of the Nebraska Cancer Coalition and was elected chair of the Board of Directors of Surgeons PAC, the political action committee of the American College of Surgeons.

1960s

Margaret Cook N'62 *Lakeville, Minn.*, is retired.

Jerry Reed M'63, BS'78 *Lincoln, Neb.*, practices, but with limited hours. He loves seeing the progress and new miracles of the profession. He is proud of his grandson, Gabriel, who is a senior and is following in his footsteps in internal medicine or a subspecialty. He also became a great-grandfather recently when Gabriel had his first child.

James Newland M'65 *Omaha, Neb.*, and his wife **Myrna Newland M'64** are retired and happy and their children are doing well.

Duane Krause M'67 *Fremont, Neb.*, is enjoying an active retirement with his wife, Helen, spending time with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DEC. 31, 2021

Nancy Waltman M'67, '78 *Lincoln, Neb.*, retired in December 2021, after 42 years on faculty in the UNMC College of Nursing. She was hired as an assistant professor in 1979 and was promoted to professor with tenure in 2009. She was a leader within the college, an active member of numerous committees, and instrumental in the development and implementation of the adult gerontology primary nurse practitioner program at UNMC. She served as a mentor to many students across the MSN, DNP and PhD programs.

Joseph Anderson M'68 *Omaha, Neb.*, retired from UNMC on June 30, 2021, after 50 years.

Gary Biesecker M'68 *High Point, N.C.*, retired after 45 years. He spends time cruising with family and friends, fishing, gardening and more.

John Brazier M'69 *Coquille, Ore.*, and his wife, Janet, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2021. He enjoys retirement, and they love living in Oregon.

Stuart Embury M'69 *Holdrege, Neb.*, enjoys researching his collections, especially autographs and manuscripts. In December 2021, they visited their son and his family in Turkey, where they are serving as diplomats in Ankara.

Richard Hirschler M'69 *Goshen, Ind.*, lives in a retirement center where they have a duplex. He works part time doing home health evaluations for Medicare patients.

Paul Nelson M'69, '67, '65 *Omaha, Neb.*, authored and self-published a book in April 2021, *Better Health for America*.

1950s

Jeanne Runner N'54 *San Diego, Calif.*, works as a nurse practitioner in obstetrics at age 88. She is thankful for her nursing education from UNMC.



Dr. Swarts continues to work as locum tenens, primarily in Alaska.

← **Carol Swarts M'59** *Seattle, Wash.*, received the 2021 Hall of Fame Award from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's department of biological systems engineering, the 2019 Lincoln Award from Northern Kentucky University and the 2019 UNMC College of Public Health Chancellor Sparks Award in Public Health and Preventative Medicine.

1940s

E. Gordon Margolin M'47 *Chevy Chase, Md.*, received an Honor Award from the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health as part of the COVID-19 History Collection Team. He was recognized for an inspired effort to capture and preserve the voices of NIH during the historic COVID-19 pandemic. ♥



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WHO'S PUTTING THE FORCE IN NEBRASKA'S WORKFORCE?

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA FOUNDATION

Watch "**Nebraska Focused: Building Our Future**" on Nebraska Public Media's website to discover how UNMC is helping solve critical issues across the state.

Nebraska faces critical workforce shortages in many areas — especially health care. Thankfully, the University of Nebraska Medical Center is training the next generation of health care providers to improve the quality of life across the state for years to come.

Watch today at nebraskapublicmedia.org/nebraskafocused.





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We're inviting you to join the NU Advocates team—a group of students, faculty, staff and alums sharing how UNMC makes a difference in our lives and the lives of others. Join us in advocating for a stronger future for UNMC, Nebraska and the world.

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and get a free window cling to show your support.

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
System



Goodbye, winter. Hello, spring.

FESTIVAL OF COLORS

In a vivid spectacle of joy, the UNMC community gathered in April to celebrate the Holi Festival of Colors and the arrival of spring. Participants of all ages enjoyed Indian food, music and the traditional color toss as a way to wash away the gloom of winter. Celebrated in India, the Hindu festival has become popular internationally as a symbol of rejuvenation, optimism and social harmony.



From Ebola to COVID-19 to advanced simulation, UNMC has global influence.
In Nebraska, UNMC also is instrumental to the state's economic success.

+\$6.4
BILLION

In the past fiscal year, the economic impact of UNMC,
its primary clinical partner Nebraska Medicine
and affiliates topped \$6.4 billion – further validation
of the med center's impactful work. *(Tripp Umbach, 2021)*

