The Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR/SEIU Healthcare), a professional union of interns, residents, and fellows at UNM, has worked with the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Graduate Medical Education and UNM Hospital in a collaborative manner for over seven years. This journal is the latest example of such collaboration and cooperation. Patient safety and quality improvement are important priorities for all of the parties involved in this journal.

CIR negotiated a QI fund with UNM, GME and the hospital for $20,000 a year. These funds go toward the production of this journal as well as funding for individual residents’ QI projects. Also, QI funds have paid to bring national experts on QI and resident education to UNM. Dr. Keith Mann, MD, MEd is the Associate Chair for Quality Improvement for the Department of Pediatrics and the Medical Director for Quality and Safety for Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Missouri. He presented to Pediatric and Emergency Medicine residents as well as a Pediatric grand rounds in April, 2014.

Finally, the CIR-UNMH QI Fund provides funds to residents to cover all travel and conference expenses to attend Quality Improvement/Patient Safety conferences around the country. Three residents this year received scholarships to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Family Medicine QI conference, and the Telluride Patient Safety Roundtable.

CIR continues to strive to provide the resources to improve resident QI education. Recently, we launched the national website, QIgateway.org which is a clearinghouse where residents can learn about ongoing safety and QI issues that are common to teaching hospitals, access literature and tools, and communicate directly with colleagues engaged in this work around the country.

Thank you for taking the time to read and think about Quality Improvement and Patient Safety at UNM.

Sincerely,

CIR-UNM Quality Improvement in Healthcare
Journal editors