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2020-05-18 A Message from Chancellor Roth

Paul B. Roth

chancellor-roth@salud.unm.edu

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

We're in the early stages of ramping up our clinical operations this week, I'm happy to report. I'll have more to say about that soon.

Today, I'd like to tell you about some of the ways in which faculty, students and staff at the Health Sciences Center have extended themselves on behalf of others during the COVID-19 response.

In our Division of Occupational Therapy, principal lecturer Heidi Sanders did an exceptional job of converting her instruction for second-year students to an entirely virtual format, writes OT division chief Janet Poole, PhD, OTR/L.

"The emotional support she gave our students is what is in my mind, extraordinary," Janet wrote. "Right after spring break, Heidi recognized the stress and anxiety the students were experiencing with all the changes. She sent out weekly uplifting messages and music videos to our students . . . She has been truly supportive and instrumental in supporting the well-being of our second-year students during their final and challenging academic semester of the OT program."

We have also received some favorable news coverage over the past couple of days.

I checked in with OSIS and there was a very smooth ramping up of outpatient procedures. Thanks to the incredible cooperation and ingenuity of the staff and faculty. We continue to work on return to full operation plans and will be sharing those in the coming days and weeks.

[This story](#) highlighted the effort mounted by UNM Hospital nursing staff to ask members of the community to send get-well cards to patients who are being treated for COVID-19. As of this week more than 2,800 cards had been sent.

These cards have brought smiles to our patients and our employees. It's been a very visible way of seeing all the support the community is offering us during this time.

And an [op-ed](#) by graduating medical student Baillie Bronner described in detail how more than 250 student and faculty volunteers from across HSC and in the School of Medicine stepped forward to serve the community. Her inspiring tale showcases how we can see the best of humanity during trying times and I felt she captured her feelings in such a poignant and moving way.

They participated in collecting personal protective equipment, created educational materials in English, Spanish and Navajo, staffed COVID-19 hotlines and helped out overburdened colleagues by picking up groceries.

Finally, this week's Wellbeing Connection webinar will be a Spanish-language presentation on how to overcome COVID-related insomnia and get a good night's sleep. The [webinar](#), offered by Lucia Darlach, PhD, a psychologist at the UNM Atrisco Heritage clinic, will be offered on Wednesday, May 20, from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul B. Roth".

Paul B. Roth, MD, MS
Chancellor for Health Sciences
CEO, UNM Health System
Dean, UNM School of Medicine

Please visit the [New Mexico Department of Health website](#) for the latest COVID-19 updates.