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Paul B. Roth

chancellor-roth@salud.unm.edu

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HEALTH SCIENCES

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

As of this morning, **686** New Mexicans have tested positive for the novel coronavirus and **12** patients have died. A total of **21,825** tests have been administered. Please visit the [New Mexico Department of Health website](#) for the latest updates.

Those of you observing Passover or Easter this week may be grieving the inability to join together with your faith communities. Many houses of worship will be streaming services, and the [Yale Divinity School](#) offers additional online resources.

Here are some updates on what we've been doing at the Health Sciences Center:

- The UNM Foundation has established two funds to support our colleagues at **UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center**. Please visit [Sandoval Regional Medical Center Employee Crisis Relief Fund](#) and the [Sandoval Regional Medical Center Crisis Relief Fund](#) to learn more.
- UNM College of Pharmacy research faculty continue to secure NIH grant funding. **Jim Liu, PhD**, and **Laurie Hudson, PhD**, received a \$524,000 grant award for their research into Mutational Signatures of a Combined Environmental Exposure: Arsenic and Ultraviolet Radiation, and **Johnnye Lewis, PhD**, has been awarded a \$1.3 million grant for the Metal Exposure Toxicity Assessment on Tribal Lands in the Southwest

Superfund Research Program.

- **Miranda Mares, MS, RT**, a UNM Hospital radiology quality analyst, described how removing internal silos helped her department improve quality outcomes in an article for the Bulletin of the American College of Radiology. “We have established a reputation nationally for best practices in quality and safety in radiology and so were invited to write the article,” wrote Gary Mlady, MD, chair of the Department of Radiology.

- I want to thank **UNM Athletics** for supporting our health care personnel by encouraging Lobo fans to **Take the Pledge** to protect themselves and the community by practicing good hygiene and social distancing. You can sign the Lobos Lead Pledge [here](#), receive a free ticket to UNM’s season-opening football game on August 29 or enter to win a prize.

Finally, I’m proud of our **UNM Center for Global Health** faculty for creating a method for decontaminating personal protective equipment – including N95 respirators – using vaporized hydrogen peroxide. This will enable us to extend our critical PPE stockpile as the rising tide of new infections drives greater demand.

Kudos to **Drs. D.J. Perkins, Terry Wu** and **Steven Bradfute**, who worked with HSC Biosafety Officer **Timothy Muller** and the UNMH logistics and safety staff to devise and validate the procedure. “I am so impressed that they took so much time and effort to work with UNMH in establishing this process,” wrote **Mark Unruh, MD**, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine. “it was the group pitching in during a time of need.”

Warm regards,



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