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2020-05-05 A Message from Chancellor Roth

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HEALTH SCIENCES
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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

I'm pleased to report that UNM has now been approved to conduct a research study that entails screening and referring potential SARS-CoV-2 convalescent plasma donors who previously had confirmed COVID-19 and have now recovered.

The work is being coordinated by Jay S. Raval, MD, associate professor in the Department of Pathology. Executive Vice Chancellor Richard S. Larson, MD, PhD, and the Health Sciences Center Human Research Protections Office played a key role in securing approval for the study.

The study will accept plasma donations from people who tested positive for the COVID-19 infection and have gone for 28 days or more without symptoms. These people will not require additional testing in order to donate.

"We're very hopeful that these efforts will provide UNM and the state's health care facilities another useful tool in the armamentarium against COVID-19," Dr. Raval writes.

Please note that the newer COVID antibody tests – which are still in short supply – will continue to be reserved for inpatient diagnosis.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the UNM College of Pharmacy – the oldest of the health provider training programs at the Health Sciences Center – and this Friday the PharmD students will participate in a virtual convocation ceremony.

I want to thank Dean Donald Godwin and his faculty for doing a superb job in transitioning their curriculum to a virtual environment, and for setting such a high academic bar for students in the program. They deserve tremendous credit.

Please join me in congratulating the graduating Class of 2020! The Regents HSC Committee have unanimously approved to recommend to the full Board the awarding of the HSC graduates' degrees. I know this graduation will be out of the ordinary, but we are nevertheless just as excited for these graduates! Congratulations!

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.
