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2020-06-03 A Message from Chancellor Roth

Paul B. Roth

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HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

Our Health Sciences community joins the rest of the nation in mourning the senseless police killing of George Floyd – and so many other African Americans and people of color. Massive numbers of people are turning out to peacefully protest racism all across our country because they know it is important for their voices to be heard.

At 12 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, June 4), a group of residents, medical students, faculty and others will stage a die-in in front of the Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center, to call attention to this pattern of abuse as part of an event known as White Coats for Black and Indigenous Lives.

At this critical moment, it is important that leaders everywhere take the time to pause, listen and learn. This mass movement has underscored the injustice of systemic racism and the recognition that it is also a pressing national public health issue. Chronic health disparities continue to afflict too many New Mexicans.

We want to ensure every voice can be heard and doing so during the time of COVID requires a bit more precaution. We encourage everyone attending to maintain six feet of distance from the next person, do not touch or shake hands, wear masks at all times and wash your hands thoroughly after the event. As it will be hot outside, we also encourage bringing water to stay hydrated.

I believe we have shown vision through the years in acknowledging and addressing the social determinants of health, but as recent events have made clear, we still have much work to do.

Working with community and government partners, we will need to redouble our efforts to implement effective and lasting solutions.

Given these developments, I will postpone the Chancellor's Chat that had been scheduled for the same time on Thursday. Stay tuned for the new date and time when they become available.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul B. Roth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Roth" being the most prominent parts.

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.