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2020-06-05 A Message from Chancellor Roth

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HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

Yesterday was a solemn day for us at the Health Sciences Center. We acknowledged that we have been the victims of a plague that has become a structural part of *human* nature. Racism is brutal – made worse because it has become the norm in our culture.

But it is crystal clear that us-versus-them thinking and all that comes with it – bigotry, racism and hatred – have no place in our world. This mentality must become as vestigial as our appendix.

I am proud of our students and residents who organized the campus Die-In gathering and the messages of justice and reconciliation they promoted. I hope we collectively have arrived at a tipping point, and I pray that we may finally be on our way to evolving into a more just society.

I'd like to congratulate Luke Esquibel from UNM Hospital for receiving the Outstanding Medical Reserve Corps Preparedness and Resilience Volunteer Award for his work in supporting our state's medical response to asylum seekers in 2019.

Luke has also partnered with the City of Albuquerque to help organize shelter and medical care for the city's homeless population. His work exemplifies the compassion and devotion to the well-being of others that are sorely needed right now.

I began writing these daily messages in mid-March, when the stay-at-home orders were issued and our COVID-19 response was gearing up. We have since made progress in reducing the rate of new infections in our state, and we are slowly resuming our clinical, educational and

research operations.

As the situation becomes less urgent, there is less need for constant communication, so starting next week I will send out updates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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.