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2020-06-15 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:

At the Health Sciences Center, we place a very high value on diversity, equity, and inclusion in our workplace, in how we treat our patients and in our interactions with the community at large.

This month marks the 50th observance of LGBTQ Pride, celebrated each year in commemoration of the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York that became a tipping point in the gay rights movement. It's an excellent opportunity for us to reach out and support the LGBTQ community and reaffirm our longstanding institutional values.

We created our [Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#) in 2010. The following year, the UNM Hospitals formed the [LGBT Collaborative](#), a resource for University Hospital, Health Sciences Center and UNM Medical Group employees. It partners with community groups including the UNM LGBTQ Resource Center and the New Mexico Transgender Resource Center.

In 2015, Dr. Cameron Crandall was appointed associate vice chancellor for LGBTQ Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. He leads LGBTQ Students and Allies in Healthcare, which includes students from across the HSC, providing mentorship, outreach to pre-professional students, community engagement and curricular enhancements to address LGBTQ health.

He also co-led the Health System's efforts to incorporate patients' sexual orientation, gender identity, preferred name and pronoun into the electronic health record. We were among the first health systems in the nation to capture this data in compliance with Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

I'm proud that UNMH is the only hospital in New Mexico to have consistently achieved recognition from the [Human Rights Campaign Healthcare Equality Index](#) in recognition of our organization's commitment to serve the needs of the LGBTQ community.

Our country has come a long way since 1969, as evidenced by the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 2015 ruling recognizing the validity of same sex marriage in all 50 states. But we continue to see discrimination – and even violence – directed against LGBTQ people.

Clearly, we still have a long way to go until diversity, equity and inclusion are a reality, rather than an aspiration. I hope that during Pride Month each of us will take some time to consider and renew our devotion to these ideals.

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.