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Paul B. Roth

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HEALTH SCIENCES

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

Today is my last day as dean of The University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Time is a funny thing. Reflecting on my 26 years as dean, there are years that flew by and others where we struggled with difficulties and time seemed slower. What remains constant is our ability to continue to grow, learn, and improve, and a deep and passionate sense of purpose.

I am proud of my tenure and I hope my deep love for our institution is evident in the advancements we made, the programs I helped start and the care that has gone into transitioning us into a new era. We still have work to do, but our attention to increasing diversity and inclusion has put us on a path that will continue to guide us. We have made medical school more affordable by cutting tuition annually, and increased opportunities to attend medical school through La Tierra Sagrada by awarding scholarships to students. We have taken a stand to support our dreamers, we are a in the top five medical schools in having a diverse student body and top five in primary care, we have also identified and are addressing learner mistreatment, to ensure instruction is appropriate and compassionate.

It's amazing work – it's a lifetime of work, and I am so humbled and proud that it's been my life's work. I know these passions are shared by all of you, and maybe none more so than Dr. Martha Cole McGrew.

Dr. McGrew has been more than just an executive vice dean, she's been a close friend for several years. She has the heart for service, the mind to help us continue towards excellence and the work ethic to push us toward continued meaningful change. She is an incredible leader who does so through listening and learning.

I have full confidence in Dr. McGrew and I look forward to seeing her passion for our students, faculty and staff guide SOM. I am also enormously proud that she will be the first woman to serve in the dean role at SOM.

As you all know, I will be retiring as Chancellor/Executive Vice President on July 31st. The search is well underway for the next Executive Vice President (EVP). I want to thank the search committee who has worked so hard and I offer my full support to the HSC's next leader.

The new EVP will launch a search for a permanent dean for the SOM. This is a process that most likely will not happen until this winter or next calendar year. I feel very good knowing that Dr. McGrew will be at the helm during this interim time to ensure that the critical and crucial projects we have in the works do not slow down.

Speaking of slowing down, I may be retiring but I have no intention to slow down. I am looking forward to the next chapter where I will mentor medical school students and spend more time with my wife, mother-in-law and college-aged children. I also want to thank them for their support, I love them dearly.

So, this is not goodbye. I will be seeing all of you again. Don't be surprised in the coming years, as we all can gather more in groups and return to our pre-COVID routines, if you catch me enjoying the sunshine on the terrace outside Fitz Hall, or popping into the back of a grand rounds lecture, or watching from the plaza as the new UNM Hospital tower is constructed. Please, stop and say hello, because one of the things I am most looking forward to is getting more time to catch up with my friends – all of you.

Thank you for letting me serve you, it's been an honor.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul B. Roth". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Paul Roth