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2020-07-27 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:

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered every facet of our lives over the past few months. Forced to stay at home, we now fulfill our natural human need for social interaction through virtual means. Friends, loved ones and coworkers have become tiny faces on a computer screen. Meanwhile, the very nature of work – and the workplace – is being redefined.

Nationally, the economy is reeling and millions are unemployed. Nearly 150,000 Americans have died and 4.3 million have tested positive for the novel coronavirus – and the numbers are increasing. Here at the Health Sciences Center the pandemic has changed the way in which we interact with our patients and how we provide medical education. It also poses a serious threat to our financial stability.

For many, this all adds up to corona fatigue – the exhausted sense that we simply couldn't endure any more bad news or disruption in our routines. It's not surprising that many people are struggling with feelings of apathy and indifference.

And yet, there are glimmers of hope on the horizon. As many as 25 clinical vaccine trials are underway around the world, and there's a good chance a vaccine may become available by the end of the year. There is also growing evidence that treatments such as remdesivir and dexamethasone, as well as certain antiviral medications and monoclonal antibody therapies, might substantially improve prospects for recovery.

We're in this for the long haul. To fend off corona fatigue, we'll need to enlist every tool at our disposal to enhance those life skills that support resilience and even a degree of equanimity in a time of crisis.

But above all, we must always remember our guiding principles – of service, selflessness and dedication to the well-being of others. These principles will always serve us well in times of adversity. Our patients, our community and the people of New Mexico deserve nothing less.

This will be my final message as Chancellor. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for everything you have done to fulfill our mission in this incredibly difficult time. I know it hasn't been easy, and I am profoundly impressed and inspired by your grace and grit.

I want to thank you for all that you have given me through the years – your friendship, intellectual engagement and professional support. I have been privileged to be part of this organization for most of my adult life, and I could not have asked for better colleagues.

Finally, I hope you stay strong in our shared committed to our vision of improving the health and well-being of New Mexicans. Also, I want to thank you for the support you all are showing Dr. Martha McGrew as the interim SOM dean and Dr. Mike Richards as the interim EVP during this transition. They both have my full confidence and support.

Thank you for the memories. I will miss you all.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul B. Roth".

Paul B. Roth, MD, MS
Chancellor for Health Sciences

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This Week's Wellbeing Connection Webinar

Arnold Cantu, LCSW, a therapist in UNM Hospital Children & Adolescents program, will offer coping tools in Coping With Back-to-School Uncertainty. The webinar will be presented via Zoom on Wednesday, July 29, from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. You may register [here](#).

Please visit the [New Mexico Department of Health website](#) for the latest COVID-19 updates.