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Laura J. Hall

University of New Mexico, Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center, ljhall@salud.unm.edu

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HSLIC News - LibGuides at University of New Mexico

Melissa Rethlefsen Named Head of UNM Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center

by Laura Hall on October 6th, 2020 | [o Comments](#)





The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center is pleased to announce that Melissa L. Rethlefsen, MSLS, AHIP, has accepted the position of executive director for the Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center (HSLIC) to begin January 1, 2021.

Rethlefsen joins UNM with more than 20 years of experience working and advancing initiatives for academic health sciences libraries. She is coming to UNM from University of Florida in Gainesville, where she has served as the Associate Dean for George A. Smathers Libraries and Fackler Director for Health Science Center Libraries.

Rethlefsen is a well-respected leader in the field and is passionate about the critical role that biomedical librarians play in improving the quality of health care, research, and education through integrated involvement throughout curricula, the health care environment, and research teams.

According to Rethlefsen, “The Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center is a unique and important resource to the state of New Mexico, as the only publicly accessible academic health sciences library. I’m excited to work with the HSLIC team and colleagues across the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center to fulfill this vital role.”

“I’m very pleased to have such an accomplished faculty to join us here at UNM, and lead our health sciences library,” stated Richard L Larson, MD, PhD, executive vice chancellor for health sciences, in response to Rethlefsen’s appointment.

Prior to Rethlefsen’s experience in Florida, she worked at the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library at the University of Utah, Mayo Clinic's Learning Resource Center, the Minnesota Department of Health RN Barr Library, and the University of Minnesota Bio-Medical Library. Rethlefsen has received many awards for her work in medical librarianship, including receiving the Estelle Brodman Award for Academic Medical Librarian of the Year in 2015. She received her master's degree from the University of North Texas, and she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in English and history from the University of Minnesota.

Join us in welcoming Melissa to UNM!

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