

# UNM

# medicine

SPRING 2017

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

## **DECADE OF DIVERSITY:** *Combined BA/MD Degree Program Turns 10*



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*Students Tell What Motivates Them*

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*UNM Team Studies Hikers in the Grand Canyon*

# Taste of Tuscany

## ALUMNI REUNION 2017

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October  
13-14

Albuquerque, NM

*Experience a Taste of Tuscany here in New Mexico!*

*Friday, October 13*

### 6:00PM DISTINGUISHED CLASS DINNERS

The weekend begins with dinners for each of this year's honored classes to reconnect and relax in an informal setting.

1972	Hosted by Dr. Barbara McDougal	1992	Hosted by Dr. Valerie Romero-Leggott
1977	Hosted by Dr. Frank Mares	1997	Hosted by Dr. Jeanell Kious
1982	Hosted by Dr. Ed Rose	2002	Hosted by Dr. Kendall Rogers
1987	Hosted by Dr. Loretta Cordova de Ortega	2007	Hosted by Dr. Nate Roybal

*Saturday, October 14*

### 10:00AM BRUNCH WITH THE DEAN

Enjoy brunch on the HSC campus and get the latest news about the School of Medicine from Executive Vice Dean Martha Cole McGrew, MD.

### 1:00PM A TASTE OF TUSCANY WINE TASTING

After brunch join friends and classmates for a wine tasting featuring vintages from Italy's renowned Tuscan region.

### 6:00PM ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER

Join us at Sandia Event Center, where you will be treated to a Tuscan-inspired meal and authentic Italian music as we honor our alumni award winners.

For more information, contact Lori Peterkin at [lpeterkin@salud.unm.edu](mailto:lpeterkin@salud.unm.edu) or 505.272.8085

**MANAGING EDITOR**

Michael Haederle

**ART & DESIGN**Jana Fothergill  
Rebecca Gustaf**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

Luke Frank

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**Cindy Foster, Kara Leasure,  
Keiko Ohnuma**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER**

Rebecca Gustaf

**NAMEPLATE DESIGN**

Sara Mota

**DEAN'S OFFICE**Paul B. Roth, MD, MS  
Chancellor for Health Sciences  
CEO, UNM Health System  
Dean, UNM School of Medicine**CONTACT**UNM School of Medicine  
Advancement & Alumni  
Relations  
MSC 08 4720 Fitz Hall #182B  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001  
505.272.5112<http://som.unm.edu/alumni>**SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION**[unmsomalumni@salud.unm.edu](mailto:unmsomalumni@salud.unm.edu)**EDITOR EMAIL**[mhaederle@salud.unm.edu](mailto:mhaederle@salud.unm.edu)  
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# LETTER FROM THE DEAN

I had great expectations when the University of New Mexico enrolled its first class of candidates in the Combined BA/MD Program for the 2006-2007 academic year. Students were recruited from communities throughout New Mexico into an eight-year pipeline leading from the UNM College of Arts and Sciences into the School of Medicine. My hope was that they would one day choose to practice here in their home state.

This issue of *UNM Medicine* features several stories highlighting the program's 10th anniversary, including interviews with graduates and current students. I'm very pleased to report that members of that first class have now completed their residencies and returned home to New Mexico to practice.

During graduation season I often find myself wondering whether we have fully prepared our students for the realities they will soon encounter as independent practitioners. It's quite a difficult task, given the dizzying pace at which medical knowledge and practice seem to be evolving.

Nevertheless, I'm convinced that we are well served by remaining true to our core values as physicians – the ethical principles that have served our profession for centuries. They are our bedrock, helping us to remain steadfast amid shifting circumstances in the world around us.

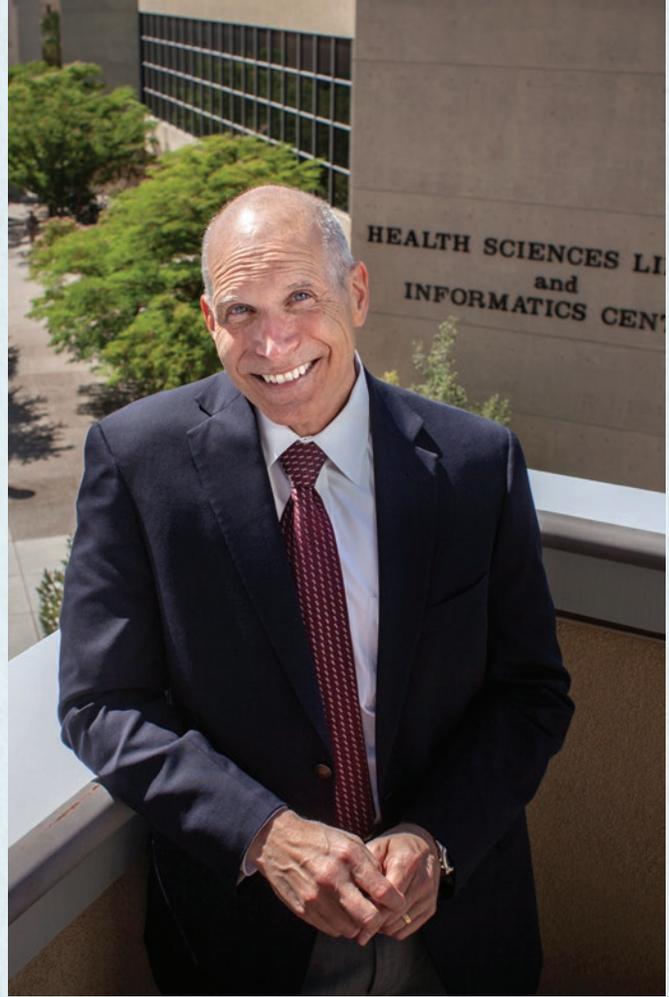
These values are well summed up by the Oath of Geneva, a pledge students recite as they graduate from medical school. A key passage says, "I will not permit considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient."

This sentiment resonates at a time when some in society would seek to drive wedges between different groups of people. I believe these vows require that we devote ourselves to cultivating and promoting all forms of diversity while doing our utmost on behalf of every person who seeks our care. These principles continue to inspire me, as I hope they do you.

With Warm Regards,



Paul B. Roth, MD, MS  
Chancellor for Health Sciences  
CEO, UNM Health System  
Dean, UNM School of Medicine



## Dermatology Chair Named

**A**imee Smidt, MD, has been named chair of the Department of Dermatology in the UNM School of Medicine. Smidt, an associate professor and board-certified pediatric dermatologist, became the department's interim chair in early 2016.

Paul B. Roth, MD, MS, Chancellor for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, hailed Smidt's appointment as a key step in rebuilding the residency program, which had lost accreditation due to difficulties in recruiting and retaining faculty.

"This is a big step forward for us," Roth said. "Dr. Smidt brings impressive credentials to this job, and I am confident she has the skills and

vision we need to get the program back on track."

Smidt, a New England native, obtained her MD from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. She completed a pediatrics residency in the Baylor College of Medicine at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

That was followed by a dermatology residency at Northwestern University in Chicago and a fellowship in pediatric dermatology at Northwestern University-Children's Memorial Hospital.

Smidt sees pediatric and adolescent patients with a broad range of skin disorders. She also performs laser procedures for patients of all ages. Her clinical interests include



birthmarks, laser surgery and skin disease in adolescents.

Last June, she was honored as one of "40 Under 40" by *Albuquerque Business First*. The annual feature recognizes up-and-coming local professionals. ❄️

## New Classroom Building Nears Completion

**T**his fall, School of Medicine students will have the use of 67,000 square feet of additional classroom, lecture and laboratory space, thanks to a new building nearing completion in the Health Sciences Education complex.

The three-story structure will be joined by a sky bridge to adjacent buildings in the complex, at the

corner of Stanford and Marble NE. "We are extremely grateful to the governor, the Legislature, the Board of Regents – and most importantly, the taxpayers – for making this project possible," said Paul B. Roth, MD, MS, Chancellor for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, at a topping-out ceremony in January. Roth noted that the new building, the third

phase of a complex that has been under development since the late 1990s, will cost about \$27 million.

The project, which has created more than 320 construction jobs, is supported by a Bernalillo County general obligation bond, internal Health Sciences Center funding, state general fund money and revenue from state severance taxes.

The energy-saving design includes windows with electrochromatic glazing that automatically darken or lighten based on sun exposure, reducing the energy needed to heat and cool the building. It will also include solar panels to further reduce energy use.

"The investment we are making today in educational infrastructure will be repaid many times over in the future," Roth said. ❄️

Visitors sign beam for topping-out ceremony.



## Mentoring a Second “Daughter”

ONE FACULTY MEMBER’S EXPERIENCE AS A BIG SISTER TO A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT



*Dianna Rodriguez meets with Shelly McLaughlin*

BY CINDY FOSTER

The moment she read the email four years ago, Shelly McLaughlin knew she had found something she wanted to do.

Big Brothers Big Sisters was recruiting volunteers for its Mentor 2.0 Program, which matches mentors to high school students at the South Valley Academy and Amy Biehl High School.

McLaughlin, assistant dean for Health Professions Programs, looked at the time commitment: an email a week and three in-person, supervised events during a semester.

“Everyone gets a million emails, but this was something I knew that any supervisor could do,” she remembers. She applied to the program and found herself the

“Big Sister” to ninth grader Dianna Rodriguez.

“In the beginning we thought we couldn’t have been more opposite – I’m outgoing and she is shy,” McLaughlin said. “But I began to see that we had much in common.”

The program’s emails follow a weekly theme, something to break the ice and start a dialogue, McLaughlin said. Volunteers know they’re in it for the long haul, she says.

“The true commitment comes in longevity,” McLaughlin said. “They ask that you stay with a student throughout high school.”

Research shows that simply reaching out through email and making a few visits can increase college enrollment and graduation

rates for low-income and first-generation college students.

McLaughlin received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in community health education from UNM. She serves as the Interprofessional Education Coordinator and is a faculty member in the Emergency Medical Services Academy.

“I think it is very important in the program to be vulnerable,” she said. “I came from a disadvantaged home and I started as a work-study at 19 in the EMS department. Now I’m EMS faculty, and the department comes under the Health Professions Programs where I serve as dean, so I can talk about both the similarities in our upbringing and how important education is.”

This has been a bonding experience with other faculty and staff members McLaughlin encounters at Big Brother Big Sister events.

“We are looking for more people on North Campus who would be interested in this,” she said. The goal for the 2017-2018 academic year is to match nearly 250 freshmen students with mentors.

With graduation, McLaughlin and her mentee will also be able to meet outside of the Big Brothers Big Sisters structure. McLaughlin is excited that both her “daughters” will be meeting for the first time at lunch.

“They are the same age and have been hearing about each other for four years,” she said. “It is going to be fun when they finally meet.” ❁

## Around the State, Around the Country

### ... AND AROUND THE WORLD

► UNM research revealing unique differences in musicians' brains was highlighted by **KRQE TV** (March 5, 2017). David Bashwiner, PhD, associate professor of music theory at UNM, teamed up with Rex Jung, PhD, associate professor of neurosurgery, to study how musical training shapes the brain. "We have the tools to start to peek into the human brain and see how that develops over time," Jung explains.

► The Perry Outreach Program, hosted by the UNM Department of Orthopaedics, gives high school girls hands-on experience for what it's like to be a surgeon or engineer, according to a **KRQE TV** report (March 4, 2017). The group says young women who attend the one-day event are more likely to pursue careers in medicine and engineering.

► **CureToday.com** (February 6, 2017) interviewed Melanie Royce, MD, PhD, professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, regarding treatments for HER2-positive breast cancer. Royce emphasized the need to carefully select patients who are amenable to new therapies. "If we are able to select the proper patients, we can give them selective therapies with very few toxicities," Royce said.

► **The Boston Globe** (December 31, 2016) described how doctors at an Española Valley clinic consulted with UNM Hospital specialists via Project ECHO to manage care for more than 200 patients with drug-use disorders."

► **The Albuquerque Journal** (December 24, 2016) featured School of Medicine alumna Karen Guice, MD '77, who was wrapping up her tenure as acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. The Las Cruces native led the Military Health System after a long career as a successful surgeon.

► **KOB TV** (December 13, 2016) reported on an open forum hosted by White Coats For Black Lives, a UNM medical student group. The event was advertised as a welcoming space for students, faculty, staff and even patients who have been discriminated against, or for anyone who wanted to share their thoughts on police actions and the Black Lives Matter movement. "This is all of our issue, not just as health professionals but an issue as a society that we live in," said UNM medical student Judea Wiggins. "We have a vital role as health professionals and a privileged role to address these issues."

► **The Albuquerque Journal** (December 5, 2016) highlighted the GrowBio initiative, which aims to unite the public and private sectors around policies and incentives to turn New Mexico's biotechnology sector into a national powerhouse. Richard S. Larson, MD, PhD, executive vice chancellor at the UNM Health Sciences Center, led the effort, which reported on the state's biotechnology environment and spearheaded efforts to establish a Bioscience Authority in the New Mexico Legislature's 2017 session.

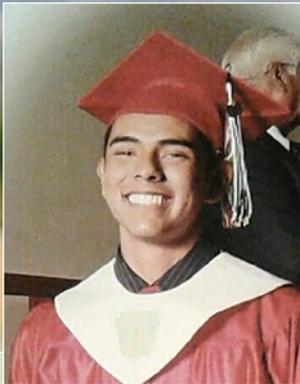
► **Harvard Business Review** (November 22, 2016) published an essay by David Barash, MD, chief medical officer at the GE Foundation, praising UNM's Sanjeev Arora, MD, founder and director of the Project ECHO tele-mentoring program. "Leadership begins with sharing a vision with many people in numerous communities from diverse walks of life," Barash wrote. "This rare genius truly shines in Dr. Sanjeev Arora."

► **KRQE TV** (November 17, 2016) described an app developed at UNM to help patients manage their alcohol use. To use the Personal Alcohol Management System – PALMS – app, patients fill out a questionnaire about their drinking habits. The app then helps gauge their alcohol use before a doctor's appointment. It also offers patients advice on safe drinking and compares their alcohol use with the national average. The app is being tested at UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center and could go out to other hospitals around the country.

► **The Silver City Sun-News** (November 7, 2016) reported how physicians and nurses at Gila Regional Medical Center consult with UNM Hospital doctors and nurses about their pediatric patients via live video. The program provides specialized medical care to children via telehealth technology so they won't have to leave their communities. Families save money and face less stress and inconvenience involved in traveling long distances.

# FILLING THE DIVERSITY PIPELINE

## COMBINED BA/MD PROGRAM MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY



*David Hernandez*

BY KEIKO OHNUMA

It's like an instruction manual for how to build a good doctor – from what some would consider very raw materials.

Ten years on, UNM's Combined BA/MD Program is unique among its kind for never losing sight of this dual focus: building well-rounded, humanistic physicians with a passion to serve and providing all the assistance needed to hone these diamonds in the rough after carefully sifting them from remote rural corners of the state.

The program serves as the School of Medicine's "diversity pipeline," enrolling top students from under-represented communities. But it also has a special mandate to address New Mexico's chronic physician shortage by recruiting from the very communities that are most underserved. It was an "epiphany" for program founder Paul B. Roth, MD, MS, Chancellor for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine.

The idea is to offer high school seniors a full pre-med scholarship with a guaranteed spot in medical school (upon meeting minimum academic requirements), and then to buttress that with the academic and social support they need to succeed. The reasoning is that these students will be more likely than others to come home to rural New Mexico as physicians.

David Hernandez is one of 28 students who started the program in 2009, its fourth year, selected from a

typical applicant pool of 250. Raised in Loving, N.M., where his Mexico-born father was a ranch foreman, Hernandez learned about the program "by accident," while visiting UNM as a high school senior.

"I was just like, 'Wow, this is not going to happen,'" he thought when he saw all the city kids competing for admission. But the program limits Albuquerque students to less than a third of each class, taking the other 20 from rural communities. Students are housed together in Redondo Village dormitory and given mandatory tutoring in science and math, as well as a special curriculum and preparatory class for the MCAT entrance exam.

In other respects, however, the undergraduate experience is richer and broader than in many pre-med programs of its kind. Students can major in the humanities or social sciences – in fact, the director of the undergraduate half of the BA/MD program is an English professor, Greg Martin.

He credits Roth's vision in wanting to give these students a well-rounded education, "not because they were from rural New Mexico, but in thinking, what kind of people and what kind of training do we want doctors to have?" This has made for a program that reflects not only economic and ethnic diversity, but intellectual diversity as well, Martin says.

As a faculty member who started out teaching a BA/MD class on Literature and Medicine, Martin went on, as director, to build a coalition of faculty and administrators that would help bridge the gaps between a rural New Mexico high school education and medical school at UNM.

That meant hiring additional faculty to offer special classes targeted to BA/MD students, as well as a counselor-to-student ratio comparable to an elite liberal arts college.

Funded as a special line-item allocation from the New Mexico Legislature, the Combined BA/MD Program is undoubtedly a priority for New Mexico – one that is beginning to show results as its first graduates begin practicing as MDs [see “The Payoff,” Page 9].

Clint Brayfield can speak to the impact this mentoring had on his academic journey from Las Vegas, N.M. His family of nine ended up there after bouncing around the state while their mother sought to mitigate his father’s bipolar disorder.

“I didn’t really have any college prep in high school,” he says. “Personally, I think the counselors were focused on the kids that weren’t doing well.” A valedictorian who lettered in multiple high school sports, Brayfield was

stunned to get a “C” in his undergraduate chemistry class at UNM. He had applied to the BA/MD program with his best friend, Leah Lucero, and he believes having her in the program saved him.

**“Anyone who goes to medical school is driven, but our students are driven to serve.”**

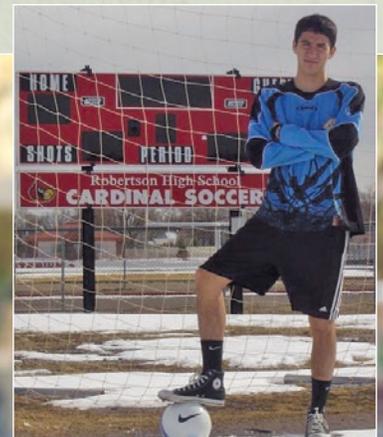
– Greg Martin, Undergraduate Advisor

“The biggest highlight for me was being able to build a community,” he says. “I’m a very relational person, so friends mean a lot to me.” Although the BA/MD students are “de-identified” once they enter medical school, Brayfield says the transition was eased by having a cohort of students who had come through four years together, especially his friend Leah.

“There wasn’t real competitiveness, because we already had seats in medical school,” he says. “The students that were struggling, everyone tried to help.”

Summer practicum at a clinic in Shiprock, N.M., gave Brayfield his first chance to “go home to my Native side and speak to patients in Navajo, and see how impacted they were to see a Native American in a field that’s so underrepresented.”

### *Clint Brayfield*





### *Judea Wiggins*

The experience oriented him toward the idea of practicing family medicine with the Indian Health Service, which had brought him into the world.

Such an outcome would be precisely what the program aims for, investing resources into a select group of students who show not only academic promise, but a commitment to serve their communities.

Hernandez, the student who worked on a ranch in Loving and used to drive the truck around to irrigation ditches from the age of 10, thinks he would like to go into pediatrics. Now weeks from graduating medical school, Hernandez says he discovered that he liked helping young people from his youth group in church. Working at a nursing home in high school, he started thinking the medical field was maybe where he should be.

Finding such promising inclinations among the 18-year-olds who flood the BA/MD applicant pool is a critical piece of the program's success. Robert Sapien, MD, who directs the program's medical school side and is associate dean of admissions, describes a thorough process of interviews and discussion by a committee that looks at "volunteer work, extracurricular, leadership, connections to New Mexico and willingness to serve New Mexico – a constellation of things that is ultimately about what makes a person we would want to see as our doctor."

Then comes the network of programs that strives to build "a true cohort that is interactive and supportive of each other."

Still, "nothing can prepare you for medical school," says Judea Wiggins, only the third African-American stu-

dent in the BA/MD program and one of the eight in 2011 who were accepted from the Albuquerque metro area. Accustomed to being the only one of her race in gymnastics, in piano lessons, in a brief stint modeling – and basically everywhere in New Mexico – Wiggins says it has all come down to a strong work ethic.

"I'm not the smartest individual, I wasn't the valedictorian or anything," she says, but from the age of 10 she knew that medicine was her career path, and she wasn't going to let something like academics stand in her way. "If I find something is too hard or I can't do it, that gives me a huge reason to persist."

But even the most persistent and promising BA/MD candidates represent a gamble at the age of 17 or 18, with eight tough years of schooling ahead of them, followed by three to five years of residency and a board licensing exam.

"There are so many people around both sides of campus who are totally invested in these students' success," explains Martin, the undergraduate advisor, who expresses an evangelical zeal for the BA/MD approach. "Because if you train one doctor and put them in Las Vegas, that one doctor is going to affect thousands of patients over the years. I think that's a really good investment."

"Anyone who goes to medical school is driven," he adds, "but our students are driven to serve. They are not so much status-driven as service-oriented. Our program is a social justice program, and our admissions people find those people." ❁

# THE PAYOFF: FIRST BA/MD GRADUATES ENTER PRACTICE

BY KEIKO OHNUMA

Becoming a doctor takes so long, the 10-year-old Combined BA/MD Program is just now seeing freshmen from its first class emerge as board-certified physicians.

Looking back at the experience now that she is finishing her residency in internal medicine at Oregon Health & Science University, Renee Varoz does not feel the program necessarily made the journey “easier,” especially for those who finished medical school in the allotted four years.

“If anything it was more difficult, especially classes where we had seminars,” she says. “It was pretty compressed.”

What she will say is, “I don’t know if I would be where I am today without the BA/MD program.” She is fulfilling her dream of becoming a physician as she begins work at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque.

“Most 18-year-olds have no idea what they want to do,” she says, recalling her high school years in Gallup, N.M., “and looking back, it was a much harder path than I realized.” She credits the support group that formed immediately among the cohort at the Redondo Village dorm, and grew with every incoming class into what many students refer to as their second family.

Quynh-Anh Bui was the first BA/MD student to finish her residency – in family medicine at UNM – after racing through the undergraduate portion in three years.

A first-generation immigrant from Vietnam, she has been a practicing *locum tenens* physician in Albuquerque

for nearly a year. Bui recalls translating for her family at age 13 when her father was diagnosed at UNM with the stomach ulcer that ultimately killed him.

“As I continue my journey through medicine, I’ve realized that I can most help others through becoming an educator and facilitator,” she says. “My goal is to bridge the gap between medical knowledge and patients’ autonomy to make their own decisions, while preserving their dignity of care.”

Classmates Ariel Scott-Blea and James Crumbacher came up through the BA/MD program together and will both be working in family medicine in Lovington, N.M., after completing their residencies at UNM this summer. Crumbacher was one of many BA/MD students who chose an undergraduate major in the humanities, in his case Asian Studies. He took a year abroad in Japan and met his wife there, but the Santa Fean came home to practice in New Mexico, where his family lives.

“Where you have roots is a big part of it, and where you do your training is also a big part of it,” program founder Paul B. Roth, MD, MS, said when the 2006 class graduated from medical school. That insight led him to propose the cross-campus collaboration that grew into the BA/MD program.

As the program marks its first 10 years, a total of 59 students will have graduated from medical school as of May, and start preparing – it is hoped, like these four – to practice medicine in the Land of Enchantment. ✨



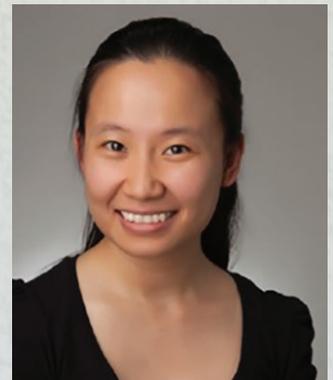
Renee Varoz



Ariel Scott-Blea



James Crumbacher



Quynh-Anh Bui

# WHAT IS YOUR WHY?

*“What is your why?” It’s what Martha McGrew, MD, executive vice dean of the School of Medicine, is prone to ask in getting people to think deeply about their motivations to persevere through the rigors of a medical education. Here are some current students’ reasons why.*

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BY KEIKO OHNUMA

## **CECILLE THOMAS**

**PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENT, FIRST YEAR**

I’ve seen how much exercise and movement can really have a positive impact on someone’s life. My dad has exercised all his life, and at 82 years old he is very healthy and looks like he’s in his 60s. My hopes are to help people who now have physical impairments to heal, and encourage them to keep moving so they have the opportunity to live that same long healthy life. Physical therapy encompasses everything I want to do, and seems like something I could love forever because we can spend a lot of time with patients. Just seeing how we can impact the patients is really motivating, and when I started going to clinic I realized that no matter how hard it is, I don’t want to give up.



## **CHARDAE DURDEN**

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENT, SECOND YEAR**

At age 15 and 16, both my parents became disabled. I knew I wanted to do something in health, and that was a catalyst to go on and do it. Occupational therapy takes a person as a holistic being, and we work across the lifespan really trying to help people do things they need to do, and also want to do, that are meaningful in their lives. Watching your parents deteriorate in front of your eyes at 16, and in my father’s case lead to a total loss of independence, was one of the biggest motivators for me. Coming from where I was and what I’ve seen, I have such a heart for this and for the families I’m going to be working with. And I want to make my family proud. Everything they’ve given me has led me to this point.



## **DAPHNE OLSON**

**MEDICAL STUDENT, FOURTH YEAR**

Through all my rotations I’ve realized how many of our patients have no one in their life that cares for them, advocates for them, worries about them or even listens to them. We have so many homeless people and patients with mental illness. We have the opportunity in the medical profession to be the one person who sees their suffering and their joy, and tells them that they’re important and valuable. Without even knowing it, we could be the one person in their life who made them feel supported. I became interested in medicine because I could use my skills in science and math and have that human aspect that is really important to me.

# SIX SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENTS

## TELL WHAT MOTIVATES THEM

### **DOMINIC ROMERO**

#### **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDENT, FIRST YEAR**

During my freshman year in high school, my father was in a severe head-on collision and airlifted to UNMH. Many weeks were spent at the hospital, but thanks to the awesome medical staff he survived. This event influenced my decision to enter the medical field so that I could provide the same joy and medical care to my future patients. I chose to become a PA because it allows me to help those in need much quicker than going to medical school. No one is perfect, but I want to be able to look in the mirror at the end of each day knowing that I did my best to help each patient. I also want my family to be proud of my accomplishments, and my future children to know that their father worked hard to become a successful PA and provide for them.



### **JARON KEE**

#### **MEDICAL STUDENT, SECOND YEAR**

My family is still very traditional and involved in ceremonial life, so healing and health have always been part of who I am. In high school I was set on becoming an engineer, but then as a senior I shadowed at the Indian Health Service. I saw the need and health deficits there, and because I'm fluent in Navajo, the huge benefit I could have in medicine communicating to people who aren't proficient in English. The medicine people I grew up around continue to be a source of encouragement, even though they don't always understand what the training is about. Participating in ceremonies keeps me well balanced, so I try to participate as much as possible.



### **SUMIT J. PATEL**

#### **MEDICAL STUDENT, SECOND YEAR**

I never thought of becoming a doctor, because of the stereotype in India – a number of Dr. Patels exist – and I didn't want to conform. But that all changed when my father, a known alcoholic, fell ill during the fall of 2004. It was a hard time for my family. With all the time spent in the hospital, I started appreciating the physician's role, and I was awestruck with the amount of teaching they did. The physicians who helped my father became my role models. I wanted to be like them – caring, brilliant, involved in someone's life like they were in mine. Then, during my first clinic, I had a patient who gave me a hug and told me I was going to be a great doctor. That and similar moments gave me strength to try even harder. I realized that patients are what drive me to go on. ❁



# BRINGING IT BACK HOME

Alumnus works to expand emergency training in Latin America



*Haywood Hall, MD, (front row, second from left) has brought best-practices health care to rural Mexico*

BY KEIKO OHNUMA

Haywood Hall, MD, has built his life around the principle of making lemonade from lemons.

When he found himself adrift as a high school dropout reading meters in New York, an emergency ward across the street from one of his stops inspired him to get his diploma and become a physician.

As an emergency medicine doctor taking a trip back home to Mexico, he ended up launching a humanitarian agency that provides practical training for Latin American physicians and other health care workers.

Two decades on, the organization he founded – the Pan American Collaborative Emergency Medicine Development Program (PACE MD) – has won multiple awards for its work reaching remote, underserved areas of Mexico with community-based training programs.

Hall's flash of inspiration arrived after coming upon a car crash in the Sonoran Desert, rigging a chest tube and saving a man's life. He realized that emergency medicine could help bridge the gap between the 70 percent of

Mexican physicians who work in urban areas, and rural communities that are served primarily by fresh-out-of-school doctors with scant practical experience.

"I wanted to become a doctor in emergency medicine because I could help people," Hall said by phone from Mexico. "I became interested in public health trying to understand problems in society as a whole."

Hall continues to improvise as he looks for ways to broaden his training model to connect disjointed parts of the Latin American health care system, and recast PACE MD as an example of social entrepreneurship in action.

Born to an African American and Creek Indian father and a Caucasian mother, Hall had a happy childhood in Mexico until the age of 8, when his parents separated and moved him back to the U.S. But a magnetic pull drawing him back to his roots brought him to UNM as a resident in emergency and internal medicine in the late 1980s – and ultimately to settle with a Mexican wife in Guanajuato.

During his residency, Hall helped launch UNM's master's in public health program as his community project. "Throughout his training in emergency medicine he was constantly thinking outside the box," remembers Paul B. Roth, MD, MS, Chancellor for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, who was an attending physician in emergency medicine during Hall's residency. "He came up with different and new ways of thinking about old issues."

Hall later practiced in Taos and served as Region III EMS director for New Mexico. He formulated the idea for PACE MD in the late 1990s, incorporating it in 2002 when he had arrived at a funding model. His original idea was to create a nonprofit organization to help Mexican doctors get practical training in emergency medicine.

**"I BECAME INTERESTED IN PUBLIC HEALTH TRYING TO UNDERSTAND PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE."** – Haywood Hall

"The more I got involved, the more I realized my skills were falling short," he said. When raising donations proved difficult, Hall realized that he could instead sell training in lifesaving techniques to the Mexican government and organizations like the Red Cross.

"That's how we developed into a hybrid nonprofit/for-profit organization," he says.

Without outside investment, PACE MD grew into a training center offering dozens of courses in emergency obstetrics, CPR and life support, along with immersion programs in medical Spanish for health care workers from the U.S.

PACE MD has trained more than 35,000 people, Hall notes. That includes 14,000 trained in the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics Program developed with the help of Larry Leeman, MD, from UNM's Department of Family & Community Medicine. It also includes trainings in emergency ultrasound, public defibrillators, disaster advanced airway, and ventilation and neonatal resuscitation.

Another turning point came when Hall encountered Ashoka, a social entrepreneurship organization, in the early 2000s. "They said, 'You are social entrepreneurs,' and I said, 'I have no idea what you're talking about,'" he says with a laugh. Hall has since embraced the term, becoming one of Ashoka's 2,000 international Fellows.

"What's really impressive is that he has begun with his background in emergency care and now really expanded training for doctors and nurses and even mid-



*Hall's PACE MD offers certification in OB/GYN advanced life support, emergency ultrasound and other specialties*

wives in partnership with the federal government," says Armando Laborde, who was Ashoka's executive director in Latin America when he first met Hall.

Hall's ability to forge partnerships with various people and organizations gives PACE MD a wide impact, Laborde said. "He always has in mind some of the most important social problems we have in this country, and he built his company around that," Laborde said. "The social problem is always the starting point, and he delivers programs on an important scale."

Hall also thinks large-scale when it comes to elevating the status of emergency medicine in Latin America – and Latin America in emergency medicine. He helped bring Panama, Peru, Venezuela and Cuba into the International Federation of Emergency Medicine, for which he won the federation's International Humanitarian Award. He also was named an American College of Emergency Medicine "Hero of Emergency Medicine" and chaired its International Ambassador Program.

Hall next plans to create a "medical university without walls," using online learning and teleconferencing to bring down costs and "improve care for all, out to the last kilometer."

Just as in the Sonoran Desert, or reading meters in front of a hospital, Hall does not hesitate when he sees a way to have an impact.

"Through my work at PACE MD," he proposes, "I am uniquely committed and positioned to significantly improve the health care outcomes of Latino populations." ❁



*Ambassador Jennifer Phillips, MD, visits with preceptor Willie Nuñez, MD*

# HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

## AMBASSADOR PROGRAM ENGAGES COMMUNITY FACULTY

The long process of mastering clinical practice has always involved experiential learning and close mentoring by a senior care provider. It's the crucial step in which book learning and classroom instruction is translated into first-hand understanding of how to interact with and treat patients.

The School of Medicine relies on its alumni throughout New Mexico to provide opportunities for students to hone their skills and gain insight into real-world practice. Students benefit from working alongside preceptors – and preceptors themselves report that mentoring up-and-coming practitioners is a rewarding experience. Coordinating these educational opportunities takes time and effort – and is especially important when class sizes are expanding to meet the state's growing health care needs.

For years, the School of Medicine has operated a circuit rider program for its community and rural Practical Immersion Experience (PIE). The program places students in primary care sites throughout the state for six

weeks following their first year of medical school. Faculty members “ride the circuit,” visiting each site to meet with students and community faculty and participate in the training process.

Now, that program is receiving a makeover. The new Ambassador Program, led by executive vice dean Martha Cole McGrew, MD, seeks to strengthen the school's relationship with the preceptors by recruiting leading faculty members to interact with preceptors.

“Our faculty leaders will focus on building relationships with community faculty across the state,” says Helene Silverblatt, MD, director of the Office of Community Faculty and professor psychiatry and family medicine.

“This will be an opportunity for community faculty to provide feedback, connect with faculty leaders and create long-term ties with our institution,” she says. “The ambassadors will visit all preceptors in the PIE program this year. Next year, we'll expand the program to include all of our community faculty across disciplines.” ❄️



## MEDICINE

“Giving back is important to being part of the medical community. Helping new docs find their way brings great value to our clinic and is a way of giving back at the same time.” (Jack Greenberg, MD, with James Jung)

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

“I enjoy being a preceptor, because not only do students bring a lot of energy and curiosity to the workplace, which definitely keeps me on my toes, but it is also a way for me to pay it forward and help promote the development of the PA profession.” (Marisa Aiken, PA-C, with Brian Muniz)



## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

“Being a clinical instructor for students should be an unwritten rule. It’s a way to give back to our profession and guide the new therapists who will be shaping our profession.” (Maurice Lopez, OTR/L, with Sandy Clough)



## VITAL SIGNS

# HEARTBREAK HIKE:

## UNM RESEARCHERS STUDY THE HARDY SOULS WHO TREK RIM TO RIM IN THE GRAND CANYON

BY MICHAEL HAEDERLE

On a weekend in May – and again in October – dozens of volunteers will gather at trailheads on the north and south rims of the Grand Canyon to engage hikers embarked on the arduous rim-to-rim traverse.

It's not for the faint of heart.

The trip covers 24 miles of rugged trail and 11,000 feet of elevation change, much of it in hot, inhospitable conditions. Thousands of people attempt it each year, but some get in trouble along the way, succumbing to exhaustion, dehydration and depleted electrolytes.

Jon Femling, MD, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, helps lead the Rim-to-Rim Wearables at the Canyon for Health (WATCH) study, which explores the physical and cognitive challenges that get hikers in trouble.

“We have essentially three tiers of investigation,” Femling says. “Everyone gets a survey before their hike, at the bottom, and the finish. Those who want to participate further can use a fitness device and/or have a small blood sample collected.”

The surveys provide data on each hiker's food and water intake, while the fitness devices measure movement, temperature, heart rate and elevation changes throughout the hike. The blood samples have been



*Emily Pearce and Jon Femling at the Grand Canyon*



used to gather a complete metabolic panel, and there are plans to examine inflammatory and stress response markers as well, Femling says.

The study, a collaboration between UNM, Sandia National Laboratories and the National Park Service, has gathered data on nearly 2,000 people since the first weekend in May 2015, Femling says. It is being funded by a three-year grant from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, a branch of the Department of Defense.

The Sandia team, led by cognitive scientist Glory Aviña, primarily focuses on studying human performance. “They’re interested in measuring cognitive deterioration under extreme conditions,” Femling says. “Do people lose the ability to think clearly?” That could affect a soldier’s performance in the field.

The Park Service, on the other hand, wants to reduce the number of people needing first aid or helicopter rescue, he says. Some hikers suffer seizures or fall unconscious from drinking too much water and not taking in enough salt while sweating continuously.

Emily Pearce knows the problem first hand. Hiking the canyon every day as a Park Service search-and-rescue ranger and paramedic, she found that many hikers attempting the route were unprepared. Their sheer numbers placed a burden on rescuers, who would spend hours coaxing them to finish the trek or, in extreme cases, summon a chopper to airlift them out.

“It was starting to take a toll, because we were up all night or on the trail all day with someone who had put themselves in this situation,” says Pearce, who now works in the Department of Emergency Medicine and is an incoming first-year medical student at UNM. The rangers respond to about 300 incidents a year, she says, with about 160 resulting in helicopter evacuations.

“We needed to gain a better understanding of this population of hikers,” she says. “How do we better understand what’s physiologically happening to these people?” Pearce applied for a study grant in 2014 and coordinated with the University of New Mexico Emergency Medical Services Consortium, which provides medical direction at the canyon under a contract.

There, she met Femling, who was intrigued by the prospect of studying subjects under extreme conditions. People take about 12 hours to complete the hike on average, usually starting well before dawn, he says. Temperatures can range from a chilly 30 degrees at the top – where elevations range from 7,000 to 8,000 feet – to 115 degrees at the bottom. It’s a challenge for even the fittest hikers.



“People are going uphill during the hottest time of the day,” Femling says. “We have hard data that it’s going to take you twice as long to come up as it took you to go down.”

Such exertion can compromise a hiker’s cognitive performance, compounding the likelihood of misjudging the severity of their situation. The volunteers, who include UNM students, Park Service volunteers and members of the Grand Canyon Association, administer cognitive tests that measure attention, short-term memory and decision-making.

“Preliminary analysis does reveal a link between fatigue and cognitive ability,” Femling says, “but more work needs to be done.”

The research is also showing that while people usually take in plenty of fluids during the hike, they may not realize how much salt is lost through perspiration, which can lead to hyponatremia – a dangerously low blood sodium level.

“Having an appropriate mix of electrolytes and water is essential to success,” Femling says. “We’re still working on figuring out exactly what that is.” ❄

# ANSWERING THE NEED TO KNOW

## How Does Alcohol Affect the Developing Brain?

BY LUKE FRANK

**C** Fernando Valenzuela, MD, PhD, is every bit as much student as he is professor and researcher.

Each step in his journey has led to new interests and experiences – from being a primary care doc during a turbulent time in his native Colombia, to his present-day role as a leading Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder investigator in UNM's Alcohol Research Training Program in Neurosciences

Valenzuela, Regents' Professor of Neurosciences in the Department of Neurosciences, was raised with two siblings in a middle-class family in Bogota. He was interested in science as a kid – along with soccer, of course. Astronomy was an early passion, but Valenzuela didn't feel he was a strong enough math or physics student. He excelled in biology and chemistry, however, and with support from his parents, he graduated with honors from the Colombian School of Medicine as a primary care physician.

His first job out of school was working for the national railroad, which operated a primary care clinic for employees and families behind Bogota's Central Station. "I saw everything (while) working for the trains," he says. "Those certainly were interesting times. It was so chaotic, and we dealt with all kinds of patients."

But Valenzuela had interests beyond what Colombia offered. Pharmacology, a subject of keen interest as a student and young physician, beckoned. Early in his career, he participated in cholesterol drug research, worked as a pharmacology instructor for medical students and wrote a therapeutic manual. The more he learned, the more interested he became.



Valenzuela visited his brother, a recording engineering student in Los Angeles, to see California, scout universities and improve his English. That inspired him to earn his biomedical sciences doctorate in Southern California.

Along the way Valenzuela met and married his wife Julia, and they decided to make a home in Riverside, where he finished his PhD. Colorado was their next stop, where Valenzuela completed a pharmacology fellowship.

"That's where I began my alcohol research career," he says. "I really started to explore my interest in how neurons communicate, and how this process is affected by alcohol consumption."

Five years later, Valenzuela found a faculty position at UNM, where he has studied the impact of alcohol exposure on brain development.

"The School of Medicine has one of only a few dedicated Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder programs in the country," he says. "It's an enormous public health issue in New Mexico, where as much as 5 percent of the population might be affected by FASD."

Valenzuela's experience over the past 20 years has taught him to forever be a student. "It has become so much more important to listen," he says. "It's absolutely a necessary skill in FASD work. I feel like a student every day." ❁

# Research Review

► **Sanjeev Arora, MD**, founder and director of Project ECHO and professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, received a \$10 million Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation grant for Reducing Disparities in the Prevention and Care of Cancer Through the ECHO Model. He also received a \$2.5 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration for Expanding Substance Abuse Services Through the ECHO Model.

► **Caroline Bonham, MD**, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences and director of Community Behavioral Health, received a \$2 million grant from the New Mexico Human Services Department for MSU CBHTR II. She also received a \$1.2 million grant from the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative for the MSU Early Clinic.

► **Loretta Cordova de Ortega, MD**, chair of the Department of Pediatrics, received a \$1.2 million grant from the New Mexico Department of Health for the Children's Medical Services Outreach Clinics Project.

► **Jane McGrath, MD**, professor in the Department of Pediatrics, received a \$1.1 million grant from the New Mexico Human Services Department for Envision NM: The Initiative for Child Healthcare Quality.

► **Marcia Moriarta, PsyD**, associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics and executive director of

the Center for Development and Disability, received a \$1.2 million grant from the New Mexico Department of Health for ECEP SGF/ECEP Part B/ECEP Part C.

► **Tudor Oprea, MD, PhD**, professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, received a \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for Illuminating the Druggable Genome Knowledge Management Center.

► **Janet Page-Reeves, PhD**, research assistant professor in the Department of Family & Community Medicine, received a \$2.3 million Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute award for the Diabetes Cultural Competence Study.

► **Gary Rosenberg, MD**, professor in the Department of Neurology and director of the UNM Memory & Aging Center, received a \$1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for MRI and CSF Biomarkers of White Matter Injury in Vascular Cognitive Impairment and Dementia.

► **Reed Selwyn, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Radiology, received a \$1.8 million National Institutes of Health grant for the purchase of a 7 Tesla magnetic resonance imaging machine.

► **Vallabh O. Shah, PhD**, professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, received a \$2 million award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for Home-Based Chronic Kidney Disease Care in Native Americans

of New Mexico: A Disruptive Innovation.

► **Mark Unruh, MD**, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, received \$1.2 million grant from an anonymous nonprofit foundation for Medical Directorship and Quality Assurance.

► **Jennifer Ann Vickers, MD**, a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Neurology, received a \$1.4 million grant from the New Mexico Department of Health for Continuum Outside Review Project.

► **Cheryl Willman, MD**, distinguished professor in the departments of Pathology and Internal Medicine, the Maurice and Marquerite Liberman Distinguished Endowed Chair in Cancer Research and director and CEO of the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center, received a \$900,000 grant from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for a clinical trial.

► **Bridget Wilson, PhD**, Maralyn S. Budke Endowed Professor in Cancer Signaling and professor in the Department of Pathology, received a \$2.5 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for the Center for Spatiotemporal Modeling of Cell Signaling.

► **Howard Yonas, MD**, chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, received a \$5 million Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services grant for Access to Critical Cerebral Emergency Support Services (year 3 continuation).

# LATE NIGHTS, BLIND ALLEYS AND COLD PIZZA

## Graduate Students Persevere in the Hunt for Answers



*Janie Byrum*

BY KARA LEASURE

A graduate student in the biomedical sciences can expect late nights in a lonely laboratory, scavenging for free food after seminars, red-lined dissertation drafts and numerous unsuccessful experiments.

But graduate school also means membership in a select club that, if you get through the 2 a.m. time-points and dead-end projects, can lead to assorted opportunities.

Pursuing biomedical science today is more of a calling, due to heightened professional competition, according to David Peabody, PhD, professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology and the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program director.

Persistence – a highly-valued trait in applicants – is necessary, says Peabody, who perceived his time in graduate school as a privilege. “I just remember loving it,” he says. “It was discovering the thing that I thought I loved, and it turned out I did.”

Some students have always wanted to be scientists. “Instead of playing house, I would play mad scientist,” says third-year student Janie Byrum. The pastime eventually led to her interests in immunology and microbiology. Although she enjoys her fields, she appreciates their volatility – the exploration comes from the “terrible strings of nothingness” that characterize much of the data she collects.

“It would just leave less to be discovered if you knew that stuff was going to work out ahead of time,” Byrum says. Her goal in earning a PhD is to develop and investi-

gate hypotheses in a lab of her own because to her, finding out how a biological system works is deeply gratifying.

The lure of elucidating the unknown is the driving force for many students. Doctoral candidate Robert Oliver considers his field of neuroscience to be “the Wild West, in terms of science.” Its interdisciplinary nature and the challenge of studying the brain was appealing early on, despite a professor’s warning him that it would be a demanding topic.

“Why wouldn’t you want to do that?” he asks. “If you want to just do the easy thing that’s fine, but I wanted to do something harder with a lot more facets to it.”

The pressure of graduate school is not unique compared to other jobs, Oliver says. It just requires additional shifts in thought. “In science, you work off a frame of reference,” he says, “but there’s always this underlying idea that the frame of reference could be wrong.” Oliver believes this unpredictability – and knowing that scientists may never completely decipher what they study – are valuable insights.

“You have to decide there are things that are true and you should fight for them,” he says, but still be able to adapt your perspective should contrary evidence come to light.

In the end, Oliver says, it’s about gaining knowledge. “We’re not going to get truth, which is perfect,” he says. “We’re just going to get pretty good. If we keep working on it, if we keep pushing, if we keep asking, we’ll get something that works most of the time.” ❄️

*Kara Leasure is a fourth-year BSGP student.*

*Robert Oliver*



## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM MARKS 20 YEARS OF MEETING HEALTH CARE NEEDS



*Physician assistants provide primary care to New Mexico children and their families*

BY KEIKO OHNUMA

The University of New Mexico's Physician Assistant program celebrates a major milestone this year, 20 years after the idea of a training program was first put into practice.

Back in the 1990s it was felt that the growing demand for physicians in New Mexico's rural and underserved areas could be addressed partly through the accelerated training of PAs, especially in primary care.

Associate program director S. Yvonne Ellington, MPA, PA-C, says the idea was to recruit native New Mexicans and persuade them to practice here. "As of July 2016, we are meeting our mission," she said. "Seventy-eight percent of graduates are working in New Mexico, 55 percent of them in primary care."

The rigorous, 27-month, year-round program has PA students learning alongside medical students for the first year, and includes at least 2,000 hours of rotations in rural clinics.

"One thing we're really proud of is a very high first-attempt pass rate for the national certifying exam," Ellington said. One hundred percent of the 2016 graduating class passed the test.

"It was the hardest thing I've ever done," says 2014 graduate Sasha Sokolowski of the accelerated training. "I don't think you could describe it unless you went through it, but it was also what I wanted to do."

UNM's program is small – it enrolls 17 students a year – which allows for tight integration with the School of Medicine, Ellington says. Of the 700 PAs practicing in New Mexico, 187 are graduates of the UNM program.

PAs diagnose, evaluate and treat patients. They work under the supervision of physicians but independently of them, doing most of the same tasks. They focus on working with patients one on one, freeing up physicians for more serious or complicated cases.

The use of PAs has been growing in specialties from obstetrics to surgery, but it is in primary care that they are making the biggest difference, especially in underserved areas – which in New Mexico includes locales in 32 of 33 counties, Ellington noted.

This greater patient involvement appealed to Sokolowski, who originally planned to specialize in dermatology, but fell in love with family practice during her clinical rotation in Los Lunas – and ended up accepting a position there.

The PA program is administered in the Department of Family & Community Medicine. It was funded by the New Mexico Legislature in 1994 to address the state's rural health care needs, Ellington said. ❁



## President's Letter

Dear School of Medicine Alumni and Friends,

One of my biggest priorities as Alumni Association president is to increase mentorship opportunities and ensure that we do our part to highlight all the professional possibilities available to you.

The Alumni Association is working closely with the new Office for Community Faculty to engage preceptors from around the country – and especially here in New Mexico. We will be hosting alumni receptions in Houston, San Diego and Boston this year and look forward to reconnecting with you and helping you connect with fellow alumni and community faculty.

This spring we will launch our *Coming Home* campaign, which will focus on promoting greater engagement here in our home state. We hope to remind you of how beautiful and diverse our culture is while promoting a variety of opportunities available to you.

One experience that stuck with me in college was meeting one of my mentors, Dr. Frank Mares, who was instrumental in teaching me to truly appreciate our state.

I saw his dedication to New Mexico through his inspirational family and his passion for ophthalmology. In the same spirit, I would like to encourage you to share your love and passion for our state with students, residents, fellows and young physicians.

Getting diverse training is essential for every physician, but we want to make it easy for our alumni to stay and practice in New Mexico or keep them abreast of the opportunities should they desire to *come home*.

Many of you have inquired about how to engage with our medical students, and we want to help connect you. We will be reaching out to alumni from across the U.S. as we develop a formalized host program for fourth-year medical students who are preparing for residency interviews. Please don't hesitate to contact the Alumni Association and let us know if you are interested in hosting a medical student who might be interviewing in your area.

Watch for more information on our *Coming Home* campaign and please keep us posted on all the amazing things you are accomplishing!

Rob Melendez, MD '00, MBA

Alumni Association President  
UNM School of Medicine

## Board Report

### UNM SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Relations

MSC 08 4720 • Fitz Hall #182B

1 University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

505.272.5112

<http://som.unm.edu/alumni>

# MEDICAL MISSION IN THE EMERALD CITY

## ALUMNA PROVIDES ACCESS TO CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED

BY KEIKO OHNUMA

Tiffany Snyder, DO, pauses after describing her work in an affluent Seattle neighborhood as “challenging.” It sounds odd, she knows, especially because she spent 15 years practicing in New Mexico – 10 of them with the Indian Health Service (IHS).

To be perfectly honest, she says, it’s a real shift to be serving a population that has commercial health insurance. She was drawn to New Mexico in 2000 for a residency with IHS, finding real satisfaction in serving communities where the need is great.

“I don’t think you can practice medicine anywhere in New Mexico and not have some of that experience,” she says. “I feel that my growing up as a doctor was enormously enriched by it.”

Snyder credits her mentors in UNM’s Department of Family & Community Medicine for inspiring what she hopes will be “a lifelong career being involved with and serving my community, especially people who struggle with access to health care.”

While at UNM, she also volunteered with the mobile clinic that serves Pajarito Mesa, a *colonia* with no running water or electricity that is home to some 1,200 to 1,500 Latin American migrants.

She chose to continue working with IHS after her residency, spending four more years at the Acoma-Cañoncito-Laguna Hospital to fulfill her scholarship commitment with the National Health Service Corps.

Recruited to UNM’s Family & Community Medicine faculty, Snyder then went back to serving the IHS at the Albuquerque Indian Health Center until leaving for Seattle in 2014.

“I do think what draws many of us to train in New Mexico is really the pull of serving communities with enormous need,” she says.

Experiences like this may be a far cry from the high-tech hub of Seattle, but Snyder says her new home does not lack for populations that need help.

Recently she has seen growing numbers of young women coming in to request IUDs. They have been “justifiably afraid of losing access to affordable birth control” since the presidential election, Snyder says. It is a contribution to women’s health she finds “enormously fascinating and very rewarding.”

Meanwhile, gentrification is pricing out longtime residents, leading to growing homeless encampments by her clinic near the Ballard Bridge.

As a family medicine physician in the University of Washington’s Neighborhood Clinic system, Snyder was tasked with starting the Ballard clinic, where she is medical director. The UW clinics accept all payers, including Washington state ACA – unusual in a city where many providers do not accept Medicaid or much Medicare.

Once again, Snyder finds herself providing access to care where it is most needed. “In some ways,” she says, “it sort of brings me back to my roots.” ❁



## LA TIERRA SAGRADA SOCIETY

# GOING ON GIVING

## Scholarship Organization Elects New Officers

BY LORI PETERKIN

La Tierra Sagrada Society, the School of Medicine's vehicle for medical student scholarships, is growing up.

Back in 1996, La Tierra Sagrada was little more than a twinkle in the eye of Dean Paul B. Roth, MD, MS. He had a vision of lessening the financial burden of a medical education by creating a charitable organization to raise money to provide scholarships.

Roth assembled a board of directors, recruited a few individuals (mostly from within the university) and told them proverbially to "go forth and multiply."

They did just that. Ten years later, in 2006, the society had grown in membership and increased its endowment enough to award five students \$1,000 each. They were off to a good start.

Fast forward to September 2016, La Tierra Sagrada's 20th anniversary,

when 33 grateful students received a total of \$150,000.

In reviewing La Tierra Sagrada's accomplishments at the annual business lunch in March, Roth reminded his listeners that the cost of completing a medical education continues to climb.

"These steep increases underscore the continued need for scholarship assistance," he said. "That's why your support is so important – and so deeply appreciated."

Like most 21-year-olds, La Tierra Sagrada is branching out. Its membership of approximately 150 has grown beyond the School of Medicine to include businesses and individuals from a variety of backgrounds who see the value of investing in New Mexico's future health care providers.

The newly elected officers and members of the board of directors clearly reflect that trend.

At the March lunch, La Tierra Sagrada members elected retired financial advisor Linda Novy-Doll as president and elected as vice president Diane Harrison Ogawa, a community relations executive with specialties in corporate philanthropy who previously practiced corporate law.

"La Tierra Sagrada is beginning a new year with a new board and an infinite amount of possibilities," Novy-Doll said.

The new board members are Kim Helm, a certified financial planner with Merrill Lynch, Luis Izquierdo, MD, a professor in the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Clarissa Krinsky, MD, a retired pathologist and certified financial planner with ClariFinancial, Shirley Murphy, MD, retired pediatric pulmonologist, and David Sklar, MD, professor emeritus in the Department of Emergency Medicine.

They join continuing board members Charles North, MD, Ben Curet, MD, Phil Eaton, MD, Maggie Gunter, Harvey White, MD, Cristina Beato, MD, Pug Burge, Corey Ford, MD, PhD, Martha Cole McGrew, MD, and Betsey Swan.

To become part of this organization, or learn more about it, please contact Lori Peterkin at (505) 272-8085, [lpeterkin@salud.unm.edu](mailto:lpeterkin@salud.unm.edu).

Meet the 2017 scholarship recipients at our awards dinner on September 14. See the 2016 scholarship recipients at <http://som.unm.edu/giving/scholarship-recipients.html>. ❄️



*The 2017-2018 La Tierra Sagrada Society Board of Directors*

# IN MEMORIAM

## FACULTY

**Terence J. Scallen, MD, PhD**, a longtime faculty member in the Department of Biochemistry, died March 24, 2017, in Duluth, Minn., at the age of 82. He received his MD and PhD in biochemistry from the University of Minnesota Medical School before joining the UNM faculty. His laboratory discovered the biological activity of Lescol, the first synthetic HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor. He is survived by his wife, two brothers, four children and four grandchildren.

**Walter William Winslow, MD**, former chair of the Department of Psychiatry, died Jan. 29, 2017, at the age of 91. He joined UNM in 1966 and played a key role in the growth of the Department of Psychiatry, helping to launch the UNM Mental Health Center, UNM Children's Psychiatric Hospital and the UNM Center for Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Other Addiction. He also published *History of Psychiatry in New Mexico, 1889-1989*. He is survived by eight children, a sister, 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

## HOUSE STAFF

**Daniel T. Eglinton, MD**, of Asheville, N.C., died Aug. 2, 2016, at age 65. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from UNM and went on to become a respected orthopedic surgeon in Asheville, where he performed North Carolina's first adult stem cell knee transplant. He is survived by his wife, his mother, three children and seven grandchildren.

**Randolph Kessler, MD**, of Boulder, Colo., passed away March 16, 2017, at age 66. A University of Washington School of Medicine graduate, he did his surgical residency at the University of Utah and completed a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at UNM. He was chief of cardiac surgery at Boulder Community Hospital until March 2014. He is survived by

his wife, two children, a granddaughter and five sisters.

## ALUMNI

**Christine M. Braden, MD '77**, died Feb. 11, 2016, at age 67, in Los Alamitos, Calif.

**George H. Peacock, MD '68**, of Creede, Colo., passed away on July 5, 2016, at the age of 76. He was born in Farmington, N.M., graduated from Stanford University and was a member of the UNM School of Medicine's first class. He retired from the U.S. Air Force as a lieutenant colonel, returned to Farmington to practice medicine and later became an Episcopal priest. He is survived by his wife, two sons, three siblings and five grandchildren.

**Patrick E. Kavanaugh, MD '77**, died in Danville, Calif., June 19, 2016, at the age of 64. He graduated from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, received his MD from the UNM School of Medicine and completed an internship-residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology at the Veterans Administration medical center in Martinez, Calif. He is survived by three children and six siblings.

**Betty L. Newville, MD '88**, died Aug. 24, 2016, at age 54. She graduated from Emory University and completed medical school at UNM. She later served as chief hospitalist at UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center and was a School of Medicine faculty member. She is survived by her husband and their two children.

**John D. Kiker, MD '78**, died April 23, 2016, in Round Rock, Texas, at the age of 65. He received a BS from Eastern New Mexico University before attending the School of Medicine. He practiced urology in Roswell, N.M., until his retirement in 2009. He is survived by his wife, his mother, two siblings, two daughters and six grandchildren.

**Ronald V. Cordova, MD '86**, died Sept. 13, 2016, at the age of 58. He graduated from Stanford University and received his MD at UNM. He was an emergency medicine physician

in California and Oregon for more than 30 years. He is survived by his parents, three siblings and nieces and nephews.

**Brad T. Manny, MD '80**, died Nov. 6, 2016, in Tucson, Ariz., at the age of 62. He earned his MD at UNM and completed an anesthesiology residency at the University of Arizona Health Science Center. He later practiced in Santa Fe, N.M., and Reno, Nev. He is survived by his wife, two sisters, two children, two stepchildren and eight grandchildren.

**John K. Bower, MD '84**, died Aug. 18, 2016, at age 62. He graduated from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, joined the U.S. Navy and attended the UNM School of Medicine. After his discharge, he completed a family medicine residency and moved to Carson City, Nev., where he practiced until he retired in 2009. He is survived by his wife, three siblings, a son and a grandson.

**William J. Logue, MD '84**, died Aug. 9, 2016, at the age of 62. He obtained his undergraduate and medical degrees at UNM. After general surgery training at Tulane University and the University of Kansas, he completed a cardiothoracic residency at the University of Southern California before entering private practice. He is survived by his mother, two daughters and three siblings.

**James F. Hopper, MD '77**, died June 8, 2016, in Moriarty, N.M., at age 66. He obtained his undergraduate and medical degrees from UNM before doing a surgical residency at Tulane University. He moved to New Mexico, practicing in Ruidoso and Artesia and later worked as a drug and alcohol rehabilitation counselor. He is survived by his mother, children, siblings and other family members.

**David C. Quintana, MD '07**, died June 19, 2016, at the age of 47. The Las Vegas, N.M., native received his undergraduate and medical degrees from UNM. He is survived by his parents, siblings and daughter.

## CLASS ACTS

**Brea A. Bond, MD '04, MPH**, has joined Presbyterian Medical Group as a family medicine provider.

**Anilla Del Fabbro, MD, (House Staff)** is the new medical director of the UNM Center for Development & Disability. She is an associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, specializing in child and adolescent work.

**Brian Etheridge, MD '04**, is president of the New Mexico Pediatric Society. He is a member of the medical staff at Gila Regional Medical Center in Silver City, N.M.

**Leslie Hayes, MD '91**, works with Project ECHO to treat patients for

drug use disorders as a family medicine practitioner at El Centro Family Health in Española, N.M.

**Therese Holguin, MD '84**, has joined the UNM Department of Dermatology as a visiting assistant professor.

**William Mitchell, MD, (House Staff)** has joined New Mexico Mutual as medical director, providing clinical oversight and helping the insurer navigate the evolving health care environment. Board-certified in internal medicine, he served as medical director of the former St. Joseph Healthcare System and as head of medical informatics at Catholic Health Initiatives in Denver.



**MD Class of 1982 Mini-Reunion.** Classmates **Berette Salazar, Ginger Jaschke and Amy Mills (L-R)** share a moment on the wild Oregon coast.

**Raymond F. Ortiz, MD '82**, has joined the medical staff of Alta Vista Regional Hospital in Las Vegas, N.M.

**Quratulain "Anna" Sabih, MD, (House Staff)** is a board-certified general surgeon practicing in Albuquerque with a focus on abdominal and oncological surgery.



*Ten members of Presbyterian Hospital's Pulmonary Critical Care Service trained at the UNM School of Medicine. The team supports Plains Regional Medical Center in Clovis, N.M., Presbyterian Española Hospital and Presbyterian Rust Medical Center with tele-critical care and pulmonary services. In 2016 the team evaluated and cared for more than 500 patients via telemedicine with the goal of retaining patients in their local community or arranging for a directed transfer when necessary or medically appropriate. Pictured left to right: Matthew Montoya, MD '90, Miguel Pellerano, MD, House Staff, Martin Miller, MD, House Staff, Paul Campbell, MD '98. Other UNM Alumni (Not Pictured): Denise Gonzales, MD '98, Jonathan Hechanova, House Staff, Craig Jensen, MD '96, Eric Magana, MD, House Staff, Christopher Quintana, MD, House Staff, Archie Sanchez, MD '89, and Susanna Gonzales, BS '92.*



**Jon Wang, MD '68**, rowed 281 miles on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon over the course of 19 days. "I lost sweat and skin, blood – and one contact lens," he writes. "Four hundred and fifty-six hours isolated in this unique huge panorama, starkly intimidated by its size and otherworldly rock and earth formations, yet captivated by its beautiful panoply of soft pastels that blend into dark reds and purples with scattered accents of green, yellow and white."

**Mary T. Sale, MD**, (House Staff) an obstetrician and gynecologist, practices at the Presbyterian Medical Group location at 6100 Pan American Freeway NE.

**Donna Sigl, MD**, (House Staff) a professor of child psychiatry, is the new assistant dean for faculty affairs and career development in the UNM School of Medicine. She also serves as vice chair for administration and finance in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences.

**Anita Lee Sloan-Garcia, MD**, (House Staff) has joined the Lovelace Medical Group's Northside location. She is board certified in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, and internal medicine.

**Lawrence C. Tafoya, MD '11**, is practicing at South Texas Eye Consultants in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Los Lunas, N.M., native recently completed an ophthalmology residency at the University of Arizona.

**Lana Wagner, MD '98**, has joined the Presbyterian Sleep Disorders Center. She completed her internship and residency in family medicine and a fellowship in sleep medicine at UNM. She is board certified by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

**Thomas Weiler, MD '10**, is a pediatric intensive care physician with Presbyterian Medical Group. He is board certified in general pediatrics.



**Jon Wang, MD '68**



Please share your updates and professional accomplishments. Contact Amanda Bassett at the UNM School of Medicine Alumni Association to submit information for inclusion in an upcoming issue of *UNM Medicine*

**Telephone: 505.272.5700**

**Email: [abassett@salud.unm.edu](mailto:abassett@salud.unm.edu)**

## BACK STORY

# UNM WOMEN LEARNING LEADERSHIP - TOGETHER

BY LESLIE A. MORRISON, MD

### YES WE CAN, AND YES WE WILL.

Women's voices are critical to the future of health care in New Mexico. We account for more than half of the population, more than half of household health care decision-making, more than half of high school and college graduates and more than half of students in nursing, medicine and health professions – but only one third of faculty in medicine. Fortunately, the UNM Health Sciences Center has had a strong track record in supporting women in leadership training over at least the past 20 years.

I can speak to this from my own experience. I took part in the Early Career Women Faculty Leadership Development Seminar through the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) just before my promotion to associate professor.

There, I learned how to gracefully decline fruitless opportunities while secretly shouting “No” and how to plan my own future. By mid-career I was already an assistant dean for academic affairs in the School of Medicine.

My mentor, Susan Scott, MD, invited me to teach with her in the mid-career course. I later taught it alone and with then-assistant dean, Bronwyn Wilson, MD. We were on our path as tempered radicals hoping to create change. I completed an Executive Leadership in American Medicine (ELAM) fellowship at Drexel University's College of Medicine in 2009 just as I took on the role of associate dean for academic affairs. I also received my first National Institutes of Health funding that same year).

Lessons learned during ELAM training sustained me through many challenges and kept me engaged with patient care, teaching, research and my administrative role. I also gained the confidence to compete for the position of Health Sciences Center executive director for Student and Faculty affairs in 2011. I became the vice chancellor for academic affairs the following year and now serve as a learning community advisor for the ELAM program.

Around that time, I attended an excellent ELAM alumni event, where I learned how to say, “Yes, and. . .” as well as “No.” I realize what I have learned from those who came before us and those walking alongside us, as well as the importance of teaching those who are following behind.

### WHY DOES ALL THIS MATTER?

Women are not well represented in academic medicine. Nationally, the AAMC reported that in 2013, women made up only 21 percent of full-time full professors. Just 15 percent of permanent chairs and only 16 percent of medical school deans were women. We can – and must – do better.

I'm proud of our accomplishments as women leaders. We can count among our victories our parental leave policy, compensation equity reviews for new faculty hires, assuring that women are considered equally for promotion when eligible, and leadership training seminars.

Most importantly, it's the listening and support, mentoring, coaching and sponsorship we provide to one another to grow and retain women leaders who will be represented among future generations in New Mexico.

My leadership training has also taught me to reflect. Over the past year, I have taken the time to explore my personal and family needs. In a move that may surprise many, I have decided to retire from my full-time appointment at UNM to spend more time with family, living in the achingly beautiful mountains of northern New Mexico.

Perhaps I can bring a touch of UNM HSC's influence to future women health care professionals in rural Mora County. And I'll return renewed to UNM as a working retiree, enriched by traveling endless roads not yet taken.

*Leslie A. Morrison, MD, is Professor Emerita in the Departments of Neurology and Pediatrics.*

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# PRIDE OF PURPOSE

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At the UNM School of Medicine we have ample reason to be proud . . .

- We educate doctors, physician assistants, physical and occupational therapists, paramedic-EMTs, dental hygienists, laboratory and radiological technologists and other health care professionals.
- We discover the causes and cures for disease.
- We care for New Mexicans with acute and complex conditions.

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*For more information on donating to scholarships or endowing a named scholarship, please contact Amanda Bassett at 505.272.5700.*



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