

# UNM

# medicine

FALL 2014

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

## **Practicing with Principle**

*Dean Paul Roth Aspires  
to be a Servant Leader*

## **Taking the Long View**

*Faculty Leaders Highlight  
School of Medicine Successes*



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# GIVING BACK TO THE FUTURE

As a member of the first class to graduate from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Effie Medford, MD, has grateful memories of the founding faculty members. “They had a big stake in every one of us coming out of here being able to practice good medicine,” she says. “They made sure they did their share – sometimes more than their share.”

Medford brings that same commitment to the patients in her gynecology practice in Cedar Crest, N.M. “I like people,” she says, “and so I feel like I’m being some help to them, and that makes it nice.” But she remembers the financial challenges her classmates faced. “There were people in our class who would have had to stop medical school and get a job just to feed their families if they hadn’t gotten grants and scholarships,” she says.

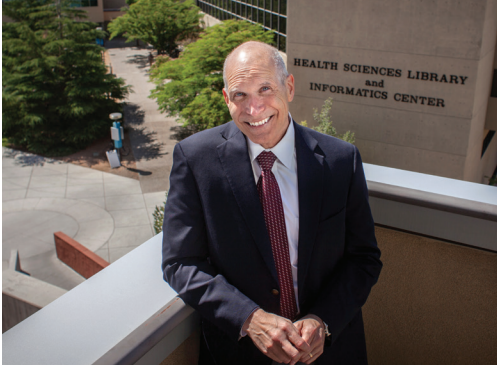
Which is why Medford is happy to support the UNM School of Medicine Alumni Association – and encourages her colleagues to do the same. “We get a lot of support from the university,” she says. “It’s a resource for the whole community.” The way Medford sees it, support for today’s students is an investment in the future of health care in New Mexico.

## Your support helps students and residents in many ways:

- **White Coat** - Welcome each incoming class of medical students with their first lab coats and stethoscopes.
- **Emergency Loans** - Help students and residents fill in the gaps in their financial aid and loan packages.
- **The Nook** - Fuel students and residents with healthy snacks and morning beverages.
- **Scholarships and Awards** - Support the Alumni Association’s annual competitive student scholarships.
- **Travel Grants** - Help students and residents travel to conferences and training, enhancing learning opportunities.
- **Match Day** - Celebrate with the graduating class when they learn where they will serve their residency.



*Back in Time: Effie Medford with a yearbook photo from her first year at the UNM School of Medicine (1964).*



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## COVER STORY

Passionate Commitment

*After 20 years on the job, Paul Roth becomes the nation’s longest-serving medical school dean.*

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We welcome the submission of stories, photographs and letters to the editor.

UNM medicine is published by the UNM School of Medicine Office of Advancement & Alumni Relations and the UNM Health Sciences Center Department of Communications & Marketing.



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One of the greatest rewards of this job is the opportunity to innovate – to continually find fresh, creative solutions to old problems and look for ways to improve on our successes.

In that spirit, we are introducing a new, redesigned *UNM medicine*, timed to coincide with the start of our 50th anniversary celebration. We wanted the magazine to have a clean, modern look, with a mix of stories and photos that captures the scope and vibrancy of our School of Medicine. I hope you'll enjoy reading it.

When our first class of medical students came to campus in 1964, this new medical school in a remote corner of the Southwest must have looked like a long shot – sort of like sending people to the moon. But our founders knew from the start that, if they succeeded, they could help our vast state's medically underserved population while offering a quality medical education to its citizens.

From today's vantage point, it seems like they did almost everything right, creating an academic culture that is willing to question authority while staying faithful to our obligation to serve the community. That culture gave birth to our Vision 2020, which commits us to making more progress than any other state in improving the health status of our residents by the end of the decade.

We have set a high bar for ourselves – and truth be told, we sometimes wonder whether we might have bitten off more than we can chew. But I am an optimist, and I like to think that 50 years from now our successors will look back on our accomplishments with the same regard we have for those pioneers of 1964.

A host of anniversary-themed events are planned for the coming year. I encourage you to make time to return to campus and take part. I think you'll be pleased with what you find.

With warm regards,

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

## Major Gift Opens the Door for New Student Scholarships

### *Longtime Dean Diane Klepper Establishes Matching Fund*

In her 31 years as dean of admissions and student affairs at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Diane Klepper, MD, helped many students find funding for their medical education.

The cost of that education climbed steadily: by 2013 it averaged \$49,000 for a first-year student. The average indebtedness for students graduating that year topped \$127,000.

Now Klepper, a professor emerita in the School of Medicine, has pledged a major gift to support student scholarships and educational activities. A portion of the endowment, designated the Diane J. Klepper Scholarship Matching Fund, will help create scholarships for undergraduate students by matching endowed gifts of \$25,000 or greater that meet certain criteria.

The dollar-for-dollar match will be a boon for donors who can double their gift as they set up their own named endowments. The matching-fund scholarships are intended for “rural” students, defined as those who graduated from high school in a New Mexico city, town or pueblo with fewer than 5,000 residents. Students should also have a genuine need, coming from a family living at or below the federal poverty guideline.

These demographic factors increase the likelihood that the student will practice in New Mexico after completing their postgraduate training. This fulfills a critical need in a state where all but one county (Los Alamos) are federally designated as full or partial Health Professional Shortage Areas and all but Los Alamos are designated as Medically Underserved Areas in primary care medicine.

Paul Roth, MD, dean of the School of Medicine, hailed the gift as a major milestone. “Diane Klepper’s generosity will be of tremendous benefit to our medical students,” said Roth, who is also UNM’s chancellor for health sciences. “It is also a wonderful example of how our alumni can make meaningful contributions to the future of health care in New Mexico.”

To learn how to set up a named endowment, contact Sherry E. Wilson, Senior Director of Advancement & Alumni Relations in the School of Medicine, 505.272.4129, [sewilson@salud.unm.edu](mailto:sewilson@salud.unm.edu); or School of Medicine Development Director Trent Dimas, 505.277.2009, [trent.dimas@unmfund.org](mailto:trent.dimas@unmfund.org).

## Diane Klepper, MD *2014 Living Legend*

Professor Emerita Diane Klepper, MD, was honored as a UNM School of Medicine Living Legend in August during the 50th Anniversary Alumni Reunion. The award recognizes extraordinary contributions to the School of Medicine and the community.

Klepper came to UNM as a pulmonary fellow in 1967. She was the medical school’s assistant (later associate) dean for admissions and student affairs for 31 years. She’s known for her interest in helping students from rural areas earn their medical degrees at UNM and stay in the state to establish their practices. Her clinical practice was statewide, providing a touchstone for health care in rural New Mexico.

Although she retired in 1999, she continues to teach in the undergraduate program and is active as a pulmonary medicine specialist in the Department of Medicine. She is swarmed by admiring current and past students at any School of Medicine event she attends.



Diane Klepper, MD, in 1972.



# Innovation | Service | Balance

## HSC Chancellor Paul Roth Models Leadership on Principle

By Michael Haederle

Most workdays, Paul Roth leaves the office by 5 p.m., briefcase in hand, headed home to spend a quiet evening with his wife and kids. Time spent with the family is sacrosanct for Roth, who, as Chancellor for Health Sciences at the University of New Mexico and dean of the UNM School of Medicine, is chronically overbooked.

He learned the importance of maintaining balance while managing trauma cases in the emergency department and encourages the trait in those around him. “It requires patience and coping skills – things that usually don’t describe an aggressive physician, particularly in an acute medical environment,” he says. “If your reaction is to cry or to yell or to be angry, you’re not doing your job.”

Friends say Roth’s even temperament, coupled with his capacity for outside-the-box thinking, have made him an important leader in the national shift toward community-oriented health care, as well as a quiet role model for his colleagues.

“He is exceedingly genuine and authentic,” says Claire Pomeroy, MD, former dean of the medical school at the University of California, Davis, who got to know Roth through the Association of American Medical Colleges Council of Deans. “He doesn’t need accolades. I think he gets his satisfaction from life. His family is important to him and the community is important to him.”

**“If your reaction is to cry or to yell or to be angry, you’re not doing your job.”**

Roth has received plenty of accolades in his professional career, which dates back to 1976, when he was an ambitious new resident in family medicine at UNM. With a friend, he started EMS New Mexico Inc., sending his fellow residents off to moonlight in the emergency departments of New Mexico hospitals.

When Leonard Napolitano, then dean of the School of Medicine, got wind of the venture, he called Roth on the carpet to explain himself. “I assured him that I was still learning all the things needed to be a very good doctor,” Roth says. “He just cautioned me. By the end of the discussion I felt both relieved and very humbled, and took his words to heart.”

Roth sold that business, but later, after joining the faculty as a part-time assistant professor, he started another one: Heights Urgent Care Center. It was a new concept, one of the first facilities in the nation to provide treatment for illnesses and minor injuries after hours and on weekends. After a year, he sold that one, too, and moved to the faculty full-time.

On the job, Roth gravitated toward the emergency department. He became chief of the Division of Emergency Medicine (later elevated to department status), and in 1981 took on the job of medical director for the new Lifeguard helicopter service. He also oversaw the designation of University Hospital as New Mexico’s first – and only – Level I trauma center.

In the early 1980s Roth also organized the nation’s first Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), under the aegis of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. He assembled a corps of physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other emergency providers capable of rapidly reaching a disaster scene.

UNM’s DMAT deployed to weather-related events such as Hurricane Hugo in the Caribbean and Hurricane Andrew in Florida. In January 1994 it was dispatched to Southern California to deal with the widespread damage caused by the Northridge earthquake. While there, Roth took a phone call from then-UNM President Richard Peck, asking him to become interim dean of the School of Medicine, filling in for the retiring Napolitano.



*Paul Roth (right), discusses medical education with Robert Bailey, MD, associate dean for clinical affairs.*

Roth, who by then had served as director of ambulatory care, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine and chief medical officer for the medical center, agreed. He won the post permanently in 1995 following a national search.

When Roth’s friend Richard Krugman, MD, who also got to know him through the AAMC, steps aside later this year as dean of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Roth will become the longest-serving medical school dean in the country.

“We’ve kind of grown up together during a very interesting time in American medicine,” Krugman says. Public academic health centers like UNM and CU are now expected to take responsibility for health on a population-wide basis. (UNM’s Vision 2020, pledging that by the end of this decade New Mexico will make greater strides in improving public health than any other state, is an example.)

“Paul has done a wonderful job with that,” Krugman says. “We would talk over the years about what a privilege and really important advantage it was to be the only

medical school in the state with a public mission. You have a responsibility for not just workforce, but education and continuing educational support of health care throughout the state.”

In this vein, Roth launched the Combined BA/MD program, which recruits New Mexicans into a pipeline leading from UNM’s undergraduate college all the way through medical school. The idea, he says, is to graduate doctors who want to practice in their home state.

“His approach, not just to medical education, but to our work in the academic health center at large, is to always be first and foremost student-centered,” says Darrell Kirch, MD, president of the AAMC. “Unlike many people who get caught up in their own expertise and view medical education as simply transferring our expertise to this more junior person, he sees it as a much broader process of building that medical professional in all dimensions.”

As Roth took over the deanship, President Peck was reorganizing UNM’s health-related programs. UNM



“The beauty of the land was the first turning point for me,” Roth says, “but as I continued on, there was a deeper connection with people and the culture. ”

Hospital, the School of Medicine, the Colleges of Nursing and Pharmacy, the cancer center and the dental hygiene program were unified into the Health Sciences Center, overseen by a vice president.

Roth assumed that post in 2005 (succeeding R. Philip Eaton, MD), while retaining his duties as dean of the School of Medicine. In 2010, after another round of reorganization, Roth's title was changed to chancellor. That same year, he served as acting university president when then-President David Schmidly took medical leave.

On Roth's watch, the Health Sciences Center has grown into a sprawling \$1.7 billion operation with more than 10,000 employees.

None of this was planned, he insists. “It was an evolution,” Roth says. “I had entered administration right after I started those companies. I was very much entrepreneurial and business-minded.”

He was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug while growing up in northern New Jersey, the son of a World War II Navy veteran who mainly worked as a salesman. “He

pretty much sold anything you could imagine,” Roth says, “real estate, advertising, cars, insurance.” Later, his father bought a small business that published telephone directories. Roth sold ads door-to-door and laid them out himself. His proud father presented him with a sign reading, “Roth and Son, Advertising.”

“His dream was to have me go into business with him when I got out of college,” Roth says. But by then he had become curious about biology. After seeing a brochure in a doctor's office that depicted blood cells, “I thought, ‘This is kind of cool. I wonder how blood works?’”

That interest led to an uncomfortable car trip with his parents and two sisters the summer before he left for college at Fairleigh Dickinson University. When his father casually asked about his planned major, “I said, ‘Dad, I'm thinking about going into biology,’” Roth says. “The car went silent. They all figured I was going to take business classes in preparation for going into business with my dad.”

In graduate school, Roth took up the ancient Chinese discipline of t'ai chi, which he still practices – an important part of staying balanced. He describes the 34 flowing forms as a kind of meditation in motion.



*Roth consults with assistant university counsel Rosalyn Nguyen.*

“Each movement has its own world that you think about physically and mentally, internally and externally,” he says. “You're sensing the world around you and what's going on inside your body.”

Roth did major in biology (with an eye toward exobiology research for NASA) and applied to medical schools, but didn't get in. He completed his master's in biology and applied again. This time he was admitted to the new medical school at the University of Nevada in Reno, a two-year program. He made lifelong friendships there while exploring the nearby Sierra Nevada range in his spare time.

He finished medical school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., before heading to New Mexico for his residency. He was put off at

first by the brown, treeless landscape, but soon came to appreciate its subtle hues. “The beauty of the land was the first turning point for me,” he says, “but as I continued on, there was a deeper connection with people and the culture.”

Roth gains great satisfaction from innovation. When he started as dean, for example, he oversaw the consolidation of the School of Medicine's six basic science departments into four interdisciplinary units that were more research-focused.

But success is sometimes accompanied by regret. Roth laments that he is so busy he no longer has time to work in the emergency department. “That is a loss that I often grieve,”

he says. “I wish I could be more involved in teaching – I've also had to drift further and further away from students and learners.”

Roth often reminds his colleagues of the importance of service, and the physician's responsibility to put the patient's needs first – and says he aspires to be “a principle-based servant leader” dedicated to ensuring that the faculty and staff are successful.

“The leader must recognize that he or she can never be an expert in all things, and in our setting it is the faculty who bring distinction to the university,” he says, adding that principle-based leadership “means that the leader serves as a role model for those values the organization embraces.”

While Roth supports consensus-building, “there is a time when you just have to make a decision – and that's another balancing act,” he says. “You seek input from others, but at some point you just have to make an executive decision.”

Entering his third decade as dean, Roth is grateful for UNM's culture of innovation. “I felt like I was given a huge opportunity and privilege here to explore different ways of thinking,” he says.

“I don't think I would have been very successful and probably would have felt somewhat stifled in a more traditional medical school setting. There would be less tolerance for characters running around asking, ‘Why are we doing it this way?’”



*From left, Roth, executive vice dean Thomas Williams, executive physician-in-chief Michael Richards, senior executive officer Ava Lovell, Medical Group CEO Anthony Masciotra, vice chancellor Leslie Morrison and vice chancellor emeritus John Trotter.*



# FOCUS ON THE FUTURE:

## A Conversation with Four Faculty Visionaries

By Luke Frank

**T**he University of New Mexico School of Medicine has been taking stock as it enters its second half-century, revisiting the past while looking toward the future. *UNM medicine* asked four longtime faculty members – visionaries all – to help us contemplate this legacy. They are superbly qualified for the task, having collectively spent more than 150 years on the job. All four agree that our internationally recognized primary care curriculum, rooted in problem-based learning, has been the single most transformative innovation. Otherwise, our respondents' answers were as diverse as their experiences.

Our respondents are:

**Arthur Kaufman, MD**, Distinguished Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Vice Chancellor for Community Health. He joined the faculty in 1974.

**Leslie Morrison, MD**, Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Morrison arrived in 1976 as a physical therapy student.

**David Sklar, MD**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Emergency Medicine and Graduate Medical Education Dean Emeritus. He came to UNM in 1976 as a resident.

**John Trotter, PhD**, Vice Chancellor Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Cell Biology and Physiology. Trotter joined the faculty in 1978.

**The School of Medicine has undergone some amazing changes since its inception in 1964. What have been the three most transformative?**

**Kaufman:** One is our curriculum, which continues to evolve. The second, perhaps less measurable (although we're working on that) is that the school has maintained its social responsibility – its community engagement. It is manifest in our Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, whereby the school is actually measuring its success by the state of our community's health. This social responsibility permeates everything we do.

The third is recognizing that education innovation in itself doesn't transform our communities' health. We thought at first that if we could change education, we could transform health. We quickly realized that we needed a complementary change in service. That's where our service



*John Trotter, David Sklar, Leslie Morrison and Art Kaufman share their collective vision for the School of Medicine.*

innovations become so important, whether it's the health commons or setting up statewide health extension coordinators to deliver education, service and even research solutions to health practitioners and patients.

**Morrison:** My first thought is the profound growth, both on our campus and statewide. It's incredible how much development there has been at the Health Sciences Center, but also in our clinical and research efforts across New Mexico. We are increasingly closer to those who need our services.

We've also grown our student population, including its diversity. In 1964, essentially all of the faces in the first medical school class were white males. We have many more female and Native American health care providers now, so the people providing health care look more like our population. We continue to broaden our

perspective about what's important to the health of all New Mexicans. We have to continue to work for those partnerships and appreciate those communities and what they bring to the table.

Another is our investment in our people – our faculty, students and staff. We've tried to make this a really great place to work. We continue finding new ways to invest in our people and our patients. We have a different kind of heart and soul than other institutions, because so much of it is really centered in what we want to do for the people of the state. That personal touch is essential in a lot of our populations and communities. That's very exciting to me.

**Sklar:** One certainly would be our primary care curriculum. Another was our early commitment to becoming a Level I trauma center. When I first arrived in Albuquerque, trauma care was pretty disorganized. We knew we could address this, but it meant we all had to start working together as a group – the trauma surgeons, the emergency physicians, the neurosurgeons, the critical care specialists, etc. We also had to get involved politically, to convince Albuquerque and Bernalillo County EMS leaders that patients should be transported preferentially to our facility. Becoming a trauma center has given us valuable educational, patient care and research insights.

The third is Project ECHO, which is a new model of education and clinical care for people in rural New Mexico pioneered by Dr. Sanjeev Arora. ECHO is a medical model that addresses complex medical problems like Hepatitis C that demand treatment beyond what most physicians in outlying regions can provide at the level they'd like. Through telemedicine, Dr. Arora was able to multiply his expertise out into the far reaches of the state – not just as a clinical tool, but as advanced training for rural doctors. Of all the things that we're now known for, Project ECHO is probably the one that I hear people talk about most at national meetings.

**Trotter:** I can't say these three have been most transformative, but they stand out in my mind as having had major impacts on our educational programs. Certainly the primary care curriculum transformed the way science and practice are integrated in the initial training of medical students.

The BA/MD program transformed the way UNM provides access to medical education for New Mexico residents, enrolling the most promising high school students from across the state who are interested in the health sciences. Because these exceptional students have deep roots in New Mexico, our expectation is that ultimately they will practice here.





Physical therapist Leslie Morrison as a new medical student in 1984.

### If you could change any single component of the School of Medicine, what would it be and why?

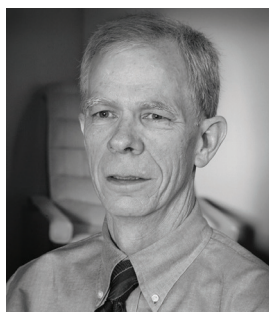
**Kaufman:** We still have a disconnect between what we are incentivized to do in health care – seeing more patients, doing more procedures, filling the beds with paying patients – and what society needs. How can we radically change our residencies and health delivery system to align primary care with behavioral health, alcohol and substance abuse, oral health, dentistry, and so forth?

That's the one area that takes real transformation, not just at the clinical level, but philosophically. I look at large systems, like public health, agriculture and primary care, marching along their own paths, but they could work together. For example, we're trying to put agriculture and health together around the cooperative extension model. We're just kind of nibbling at the corners, but it's big, and if we can overcome these traditional divides, we could create a new national model for health care.

**Morrison:** I would change how we provide clinical care. I think we do a great job, but health care practitioners are not able to fully utilize their talents. Our nurses are sometimes functioning as clerks; our doctors are sometimes functioning as scribes. There are many ways that we can optimize our human capital resources, even though we work in such a very complex health care system.

The Center for Native American Health also has greatly enhanced the experience of students in the School of Medicine, as well as the colleges of Nursing and Pharmacy. Its programs and presence at UNM have increased access to health sciences education and the success of our students, while greatly enhancing the collaborative relationships between the HSC and New Mexico's Native American communities.

**Sklar:** We can better interact and work collaboratively with people in other parts of the university. I've seen some of the most valuable research and educational initiatives occur when people from the Health Sciences Center learned about something at the business school, or the law school, or in the communications department. These boundary areas between disciplines present great opportunities to make contributions. We need to incentivize our diverse experts to think, problem-solve and learn together.



John Trotter joined the faculty in 1978.

**Trotter:** If the School of Medicine had a sufficient endowment, its faculty and staff would be empowered to bring much greater benefit to New Mexico. There are so many people here with so many creative ideas that are often stymied by lack of resources.

### Name one thing about the School of Medicine you hope never changes.

**Kaufman:** Our relationship to the health of the state, which is manifest in education, service and research, must never change. If it does, we're unmoored and indistinguishable from any other medical school. We have to preserve our historical memory and continue to innovate on the principle that we're here for the health of our state, and each one of our missions has to be measured by this metric. Innovations don't succeed by taking over an individual department or school. They succeed through compromise and adoption in some form by the larger institution.

**Morrison:** Our heart. People choose to work here because they believe in the mission: serving the people of New Mexico. We have a remarkable, creative body of students, staff, faculty and leadership, and we must keep striving to bring everything back to 'What are we doing about the health of New Mexicans?' I really think that this school is driven by peoples' idealism about helping other people. I'm very proud of that.

**Sklar:** Our culture of informality. We don't have a rigid hierarchy here. People address each other by

first name and feel comfortable posing problems to one another. I was in the emergency department last night and one of our new faculty members had a pretty complicated cardiac case. He asked me what I would do, and I said, 'I've been here a long time and I don't think I've ever seen this problem. Let's call the attending cardiologist.' He was hesitant, so I said, 'No; it's okay. We do that here.' He called, and the attending was immediately engaged in the problem – no backlash, no criticism, no repercussions. I hope that never changes.

**Trotter:** My coming here was influenced in a major way by the spirit of collaboration and mutual support that I experienced. Despite the huge growth of the School of Medicine and the Health Sciences Center, that spirit still exists.

### What most excites you about the School of Medicine's future?

**Kaufman:** As a profession, we're beginning to explore in earnest what it takes to improve the health of a community and ask ourselves how to design a service system that addresses those needs. That's very exciting to me. We're starting to pay more attention to social determinants of health and engaging communities in addressing their own health issues. People are really starting to pay attention. It's helping drive us in a different direction – looking at what it takes to improve the health of a population. It's fantastic.

**Morrison:** I think it's our ability to attract and keep up-and-coming medical professionals in New Mexico. Our pipeline programs in New Mexico middle and high schools are cultivating interest in the health sciences, our BA/MD program is incentivizing enrollment of our premier high school students statewide to the School of Medicine, and our primary care curriculum and ongoing curriculum innovations draw potential faculty to the school. Whether it's through student interest or

scholarship donations or other means, our former students stay connected. Add to that the culture and beauty of New Mexico, and very few people leave here without coming back one way or another.

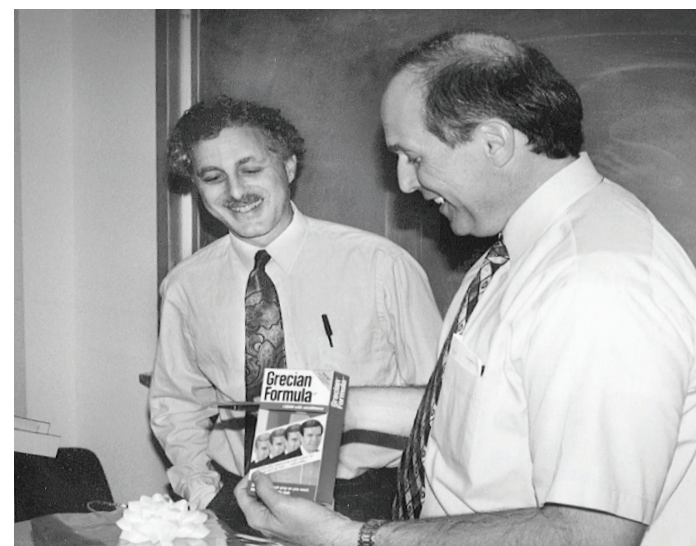
**Sklar:** We are changing the way we deliver health care by developing individual management plans for people with very complex health challenges, while focusing on prevention



Art Kaufman at the lectern (late 1970s).

and acute care access for those who are relatively healthy. So we're providing better health and hopefully reducing costs in the process. We're also looking at working together through medical teams that might include a primary care physician, nurse, nurse practitioner, physician assistant and pharmacist. Interprofessional education is a part of that, and we have the ability to rapidly change our educational paradigm to prepare our students to perform in these environments. We're a little bit smaller, and our informality enables us to change more rapidly.

**Trotter:** The School of Medicine will continue to bring unique opportunities and benefits to the people of New Mexico and beyond through its educational, health care and research programs. Major accomplishments, like the very successful Cancer Research and Treatment Center, the internationally recognized Project ECHO, and the UNM Stroke Center, among others, came about because of inspired leaders and a supportive environment. I'm excited about these accomplishments and can't wait to see what will happen next.



David Sklar presents Dean Roth with a gift in 1997.

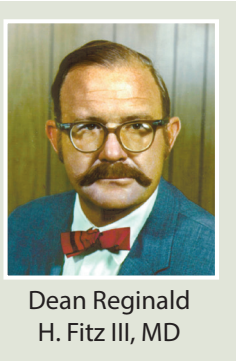


# School of Medicine Milestones



The UNM School of Medicine is the work of many hands. From the earliest founders to today's faculty, staff and students, thousands of people have collaborated to create a vibrant community of learners and clinicians who continue to serve New Mexico's health needs.

1961  
1968



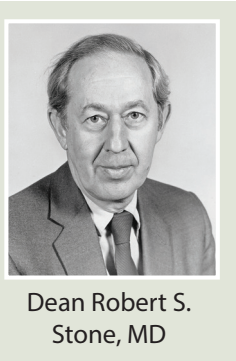
Dean Reginald H. Fitz III, MD

1964



First entering class of 24 students

1968  
1973

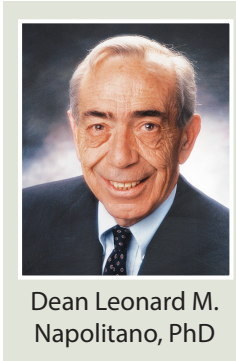


Dean Robert S. Stone, MD

1971

State Legislature designates UNM's cancer center as "the Official Cancer Center of the State of New Mexico"

1973  
1994



Dean Leonard M. Napolitano, PhD

1978

UNM assumes control of BCMC via lease from Bernalillo County

1979



Primary care curriculum starts with 10 medical students

1987

World Health Organization recognizes UNM primary care curriculum as an international model for medical education



1992

New curriculum launched under Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant

1961

Regents approve two-year medical school

1963



Bernalillo County Indian Hospital designated a teaching hospital

1966

New Mexico Tumor Registry established  
Medical school expands to four-year program

1972



School of Medicine now includes occupational therapy, physical therapy, dental hygiene and physician assistant programs

1973

Statewide Office of the Medical Investigator comes under School of Medicine direction

1977

National Institutes of Health funds new General Clinical Research Center  
Dean Napolitano becomes director of Bernalillo County Medical Center (BCMC)

1982



First implantable insulin pump is invented at UNM

1983

First domestic Disaster Medical Assistance Team created  
University Hospital designated Level I trauma center

1993

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome identified as School of Medicine works with health departments, Indian Health Service, the Navajo Nation and Centers for Disease Control



Bernalillo County Indian Hospital admits its first patients October 27, 1954



UNM sets up medical school in former 7-Up bottling plant and mortuary, 1963.



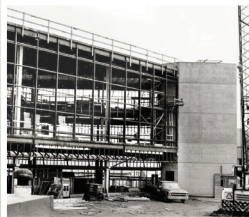
Basic Medical Sciences Building (now Reginald Heber Fitz Hall) becomes first purpose-built facility, 1967.



Mental Health Center admits its first patients, 1969.



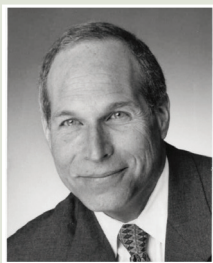
UNM Cancer Center opens its doors, 1975.



Health Sciences Library moves to its current home, 1977.



1994  
Current



Dean Paul B. Roth, MD

2003



Project ECHO telehealth service established, becoming an internationally replicated model for improving access to specialized medical care in rural and underserved areas

2006

Combined BA/MD program launched

Center of Excellence for African American Health and the Black Health Resource Center established

2009

FDA approves Human papillomavirus Vaccine after UNM researchers demonstrate vaccination's prevention potential

2010

Clinical and Translational Science Center created under National Institutes of Health grant

2002

Center of Excellence for Native American Health established

Institute for Public Health established to integrate community service and basic public health principles into the curriculum

2005

UNM Cancer Center becomes one of just 67 National Cancer Institute-designated sites

2014



First BA/MD class graduates

1998



First White Coat ceremony



UNM Children's Psychiatric Hospital opens, 1978.



Domenici Center for Health Sciences Education completed, 2006.



UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center opens, 2012.

# Funding the Fight Against Fetal Alcohol Disorders

*New Mexico Alcohol Research Center Lands \$9 Million NIH Grant*

Dan Savage had just arrived in New Mexico in 1983 when a colleague recruited him to help research an animal model of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. For Savage, who had a PhD in neuropharmacology and an interest in the biological roots of depression and epilepsy, the research became his life's work.



Dan Savage seeks to diagnose and treat fetal alcohol exposure.

Today, Savage directs the New Mexico Alcohol Research Center, a multidisciplinary team of scientists and clinicians that recently landed a five-year \$9 million grant from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The grant elevates the University of New Mexico's program to a full research center, charged with researching fetal alcohol-associated neurobiological mechanisms, behavioral deficits, earlier diagnoses and interventions.

It's a remarkable achievement in a field where the disorder was only described in English for the first time 40 years ago.

"It's a young disorder," says Savage, a Regents Professor and chair of the Department of Neurosciences in the UNM School of Medicine. "We are still newbies at this. Forty years is not a long time to be studying something that is so complex."

Savage made major contributions in the study of what are now called Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders by showing that even moderate drinking by a pregnant mother can damage her baby's developing brain.

Such social drinking can have long-lasting effects on the function of brain regions such as the hippocampal formation, the frontal cortex, cerebellum and midline structures, he says.

**"There are many risk factors in pregnancy – alcohol is just one."**

About 10,000 babies are born each year with some degree of prenatal alcohol-linked impairment, Savage says. In the more common Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (a less-severe form at the far end of the spectrum from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome), symptoms may be subtle, he says.

"If you challenge these kids with a simple task, they'll do fine," he says. "If you make that task more challenging, they encounter difficulties."

Early detection is critical in offsetting these deficits, Savage says. "We want to understand the basis for the functional brain damage that will lead to long-lasting learning and memory problems," he says.

Persuading pregnant women not to drink is key, but 10 to 20 percent continue to imbibe despite public awareness campaigns, Savage says. "People say, 'I drank when I was pregnant. My kids are fine,'" he says. "We can't tell people definitively that their drinking will harm their child. There are many risk factors in pregnancy – alcohol is just one."

But there is no doubt that fetal alcohol disorders have lifelong consequences. Sufferers have problems holding jobs or living on their own and are at greater risk for cancer, mental illness and substance abuse.

One day soon, Savage hopes, the center's research will help find more effective ways to diagnose and treat this problem.



# UNM EMS Academy Values Military Service

## *Veterans Bring a Strong Sense of Duty*

**J**.R. Colby developed an intense interest in emergency medicine after taking a combat medic course while he was on active duty as a U.S. Marine.

Colby, who had been an accounting student at New Mexico State University, enlisted shortly after 911 and went on to serve three tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. After leaving the Marines in 2005 he

The academy prides itself on quality training for a broad slate of services, from EMT to Austere and Mountain Medicine to Advanced Hazmat Life Support programs. “We ran more than 3,500 students through our numerous programs last year,” says Shelly McLaughlin, interim director of Rural Programs and Distance Education. “It’s quite a load, but an important one to a state whose population is spread so thin.”

McLaughlin is particularly proud of the military veterans and active duty men and women who come through the program. “These folks are special,” she says. “They have a strong sense of duty to their country, community and family. They also tend to perform well under pressure, utilizing their training and skills quickly and accurately – ideal traits for treating patients on the front line in a medical emergency.”

Colby, now a New Mexico-certified paramedic, feels he was well prepared for his integration into civilian life, drawing from the military’s structure and organization. He is also an instructor for the EMS Academy and is pursuing his master’s degree.

“Paramedic school is extremely challenging,” he says, “but I wanted to advance my skills and help on a different kind of front line.”

completed the basic emergency medical technician course at the UNM School of Medicine’s EMS Academy and became a firefighter for the Rio Rancho Fire Department (RRFD).

“I missed the camaraderie – the brotherhood – I experienced in the service,” Colby says. “Seldom in life can you rely on people who say they ‘have your back.’ I found it in the Marines and again in the EMS Academy and RRFD.”



## Research Review

**Elaine Bearer, MD, PhD**, vice-chair for research in the Department of Pathology, has received a \$569,000 award from the National Institute of Mental Health to live-image brain circuitry in mouse models of PTSD.

**Michael P. Bogenschutz, MD**, professor and vice chair for Addiction Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry, received a \$628,000 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for “Comparing Interventions for Opioid-Dependent Patients Presenting in Medical Emergency Departments.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has awarded a \$750,000 grant to **Sally M. Davis, PhD**, professor in the Department of Pediatrics and director of the UNM Prevention Research Center, to implement the Village Interventions and Venues for Action II project.

**Vojo Deretic, PhD**, professor and chair of the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, is the principal investigator for a \$656,000 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study autophagy as a therapy for tuberculosis and HIV infection.

**Kevin C. O’Hair, DVM**, professor in the Department of Pathology, has received a \$491,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund renovation and new equipment for the Animal Research Facility, where he is director. This will enable the ARF to expand

capacity while continuing to meet high animal care standards and maintain all accreditations.

**David Schade, MD**, Endocrinology and Metabolism division chief in the Department of Internal Medicine, has received a \$630,000 NIH award for a study of comparative glycemia reduction approaches in diabetes.

**Larry A. Sklar, PhD**, the Maralyn S. Budke and Robert E. Anderson Distinguished Endowed Chair in Cancer Drug Discovery in the Department of Pathology, has received an \$800,000 National Institutes of Health grant for the Center for Molecular Discovery, which he directs.

**Julia M. Stephen, PhD**, an adjunct professor in the Department of Neurosciences, has received a \$568,000 grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for her study, “Early Indices of Atypical Neurodevelopment with Fetal Alcohol Exposure.”

The National Institute on Drug Abuse has awarded \$677,000 to **Nina B. Wallerstein, Dr PH**, for her “Family Listening Program: Multi-Tribal Implementation and Evaluation.” Wallerstein, a professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, directs the Center for Participatory Research.

**Bruce Williams, MD, MPH**, professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and medical director of the UNM Truman Health Services

clinic, is the principal investigator for a \$695,000 award from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The money funds the Ryan White Part C Outpatient EIS Program.

**Cheryl L. Willman, MD**, professor in the Departments of Pathology and Medicine and the Maurice and Marguerite Liberman Chair in Cancer Research, has won a \$1.9 million National Cancer Institute grant to support the UNM Cancer Center, where she is also director and CEO.

**Willman and Stephen Patrick Hunger, MD**, associate director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center, have received a \$545,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute for their project, “Molecular Signatures for Outcome Prediction and Therapeutic Targeting in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.”

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences has awarded **Bridget Wilson, PhD**, nearly \$2.6 million to fund the New Mexico Center for the Spatiotemporal Modeling of Cell Signaling. Wilson, the center’s director, is the Maralyn S. Budke Endowed Professor of Cell Signaling in the Department of Pathology.

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases has awarded a \$555,000 grant to **Craig Wong, MD, MPH**, chief of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology in the Department of Pediatrics, for “Pediatric Investigation of Genetic Factors for Renal Progression.”



# Service With a Smile

*Health Sciences Student Council Members Provide New Mexicans with Free Health Care Services*

By Kyle Leggott and Dalton Jones

Busy School of Medicine students somehow found the time to take part in a number of volunteer community service projects this past year as part of outreach efforts by the Health Sciences Student Council.

They joined others from the UNM Health Sciences Center for last September's Fit for Fun 5K race. The event raised money for the Healthy and Fit Clinic at UNM Children's Hospital and was hosted by the American Medical Association student group. Our students helped plan the fundraiser, took part in the race and participated in a free health fair. School of Medicine MD students joined with those in the physician assistant, pharmacy and emergency medical services programs (as well as the New Mexico Medical Reserve Corps and UNM Hospital) to vaccinate some 3,000 people over two days. Our students learned from and worked alongside their peers to provide this public service.

In January, School of Medicine students and others in the student council participated in the First Annual Winter Health & Wellness Fair, held at the Tomé Community Center in Los Lunas. They offered a variety of services, including nutritional education, blood pressure monitoring and blood glucose checks. They also presented information on assisted living and prostheses.

The student council includes representatives from all Health Sciences Center academic programs, including School of Medicine students from the biomedical sciences graduate program, medical students, physician assistants, medical laboratory sciences, physical therapy, occupational therapy, dental hygiene, Emergency Medical Services Academy, radiologic sciences and master in public health programs.

The promotion of inter-professional education and collaboration through service learning and community engagement is a key Student Council goal. Health care is a team effort that requires providers from all professions to work together and communicate efficiently. The Student Council provides a venue to volunteer with other students, learn about/ from other students and look at health care from a team perspective.

As last year's projects demonstrate, students enjoy participating in a wide variety of activities with a willingness to work together toward the common goal of improving health in our community.

*Kyle Leggott and Dalton Jones are School of Medicine students. Leggott is president and Jones a representative for the Health Sciences Student Council.*



Kyle Leggott and Dalton Jones promote student volunteerism.

## 2014 Commencement

### GREETING THE FUTURE

Seventy-two School of Medicine graduates were joined by hundreds of friends and relatives in Popejoy Hall for the 2014 convocation [below right]. They were greeted by Dean Paul Roth and assorted faculty members, with a keynote address delivered by Otis Brawley, MD, executive vice president of the American Cancer Society. Earlier, the first graduates of the Combined BA/ MD program were feted in a backyard barbecue at Roth's home.



### Match Day

THE EXPRESSIONS ON THEIR FACES SAY IT ALL

Match Day, when graduating medical students learn whether they have placed in a residency program, fell on March 21 this year. Students and their families gathered at the Albuquerque Marriott to await the news.





UNM SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## President's Letter

### UNM SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Sandra Whisler, MD'88 (President)  
Effie Medford, MD'68 (Vice President)  
Bert Umland, MD'71 (Treasurer)

Manuel Archuleta, MD'73  
Anne Foster-Rosales, MD'93  
Diane Klepper, MD (House Staff)  
Diana Noya, MD'78  
Jennifer Phillips, MD'01  
Hala Toubbeh, MD'88

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS  
Paul B. Roth, MD, MS  
Dean, UNM School of Medicine  
Chancellor for Health Sciences

Sherry E. Wilson, Senior Director of  
Advancement and Alumni Relations

SENIOR DIRECTOR  
Sherry E. Wilson

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR/  
ALUMNI RELATIONS  
Amanda Bassett

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/  
ADVANCEMENT AND SPECIAL EVENTS  
Lori Peterkin

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/  
ALUMNI RELATIONS  
Annie Hooten

EVENTS PLANNER  
Erika Anderson

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>

Dear School of Medicine Alumni and Friends,

The Alumni Association helped to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the UNM School of Medicine by hosting several gatherings during Reunion Weekend, Aug. 1-3.

These included a Friday night get-together, a golf tournament Saturday morning, the Reunion banquet Saturday evening and the Sunday morning PCC brunch. It was a great opportunity for alumni to renew their connection with one another, as well as their alma mater.

Since 1975, the Alumni Association has supported the School of Medicine and its medical students through fundraising and educational programs. Fundraising efforts include annual giving programs, capital campaigns, deferred and major giving programs, special project campaigns, membership dues drives and volunteer training and services.

Our support for medical students and alumni takes many forms:

- **Emergency Loans:** Helping dozens of medical residents with short-term, interest-free loans.
- **Student and Resident Initiatives:** Enhancing student and resident learning opportunities by funding educational experiences, travel grants and social gatherings.
- **Reunions:** Hosting events to help alumni reconnect with classmates and learn more about the School of Medicine.
- **Match Day:** Co-hosting the celebration at which the graduating class of physicians receives residency assignments.
- **White Coat Ceremony:** Welcoming incoming medical students with their first lab coats and gift certificates for their first stethoscopes.
- **Scholarships and Awards:** Providing competitively based student scholarships and awards.
- **The Student Nook:** The Student Nook is a fun, friendly and healthy environment for medical students between classes. Located in the Advancement and Alumni Relations Office, the Nook features coffee, fresh fruit and a selection of healthy snacks.

The Advancement and Alumni Relations staff works alongside the association's board, which is comprised of physician alumni, with the school providing some administrative and financial support. Please feel welcome to get involved, and please let me or another board member know how we can better serve you.

*Sandra Whisler MD*

Sandra Whisler, MD'88  
Alumni Association President

## LA TIERRA SAGRADA SOCIETY

*The School of Medicine's membership giving society provides annual scholarships for UNM medical students and community-based research grants for faculty and students*

### 2013 Grants and Scholarships

Spanish for "the sacred earth," La Tierra Sagrada Society was founded by Paul Roth, MD, soon after he became dean of the School of Medicine in 1994. Roth, who now serves both as dean and chancellor for Health Sciences, continues to promote LTSS, which now includes both corporate and individual members. Holly Shipp Buchanan is the current president.

#### 2013 LTSS Dean's Endowed Scholarship - \$7,500 Awards

The society awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships to medical students between 2006 and 2013. Fifty-eight percent of those recipients are either practicing medicine or doing a medical residency in New Mexico.



Monica Avila, MD'14  
Sponsored by La  
Tierra Sagrada  
Society



Noopur Goyal, '16  
Sponsored by Scott  
Obenshain, MD, and  
Toots Obenshain,  
LTSS Gold Level  
Members



Teresa Leslie, '16  
Sponsored by Jeff  
Doll and Linda Novy-  
Doll, LTSS Gold Level  
Members



Danielle Tsingine, '16  
Sponsored by La  
Tierra Sagrada  
Society

#### 2013 LTSS Community Research Grants

The La Tierra Sagrada Society Awards fund projects to keep us at the cutting edge of medical and scientific research while bringing the School of Medicine closer to the communities it serves. The LTSS board of directors has awarded more than \$400,000 for community research grants since 2003, many of which have seeded ongoing projects.



Alberta Kong, MD, MPH  
Associate Professor,  
Pediatrics  
Awarded \$14,598



Joey Tyner, MD  
Fellow, Maternal Fetal  
Medicine, Obstetrics &  
Gynecology  
Awarded \$14,598

**Research Interest:** Improving Body Mass Index and Insulin Resistance in Emerging Adults

**Research Interest:** Community Initiative to Improve Care in Prolonged Perinatal Hospital Admissions

*To learn more about La Tierra Sagrada Society, contact Lori Peterkin 505.272.8085, [lpeterkin@salud.unm.edu](mailto:lpeterkin@salud.unm.edu), or visit <http://som.unm.edu/giving/tierra-sagrada>.*

#### Nailah Cooper, MD'14 Awarded \$15,000

Nailah Cooper learned the meaning of "underserved populations" first-hand while growing up in a house with a leaky roof and without a working bathroom in Oklahoma City. "Even though I am 35," she wrote in her scholarship application, "the experiences I had are still fresh in my mind." She also found that in some of her experiences with health care, "the nurse or doctor's recommendations were not relevant to me as an African-American."

"I have seen the impact I can have as an African-American provider," Cooper wrote. "On my family medicine clerkship, an elderly African-American woman expressed her pleasure at seeing that I was going to be a doctor and expressed to me she would listen to me since 'we were the same.'"

Cooper, who studied Spanish as a UNM undergraduate to become a bilingual provider, plans to specialize in pediatrics. "I thoroughly enjoy working with children," she wrote, "and feel it is important to provide quality healthcare early." Cooper graduated from the UNM School of Medicine in 2014 and



Nailah Cooper, MD

was matched in a pediatrics-primary care residency at Loma Linda University in California.



# SHOW OF SUPPORT DR. GEORGE BUNCH

**George P. Bunch** became the first person to receive a diploma from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine through alphabetic coincidence: his was the first name called when the school's inaugural class graduated in July 1968. But it was no coincidence that Bunch became a rural doctor. Caring for the people of New Mexico is a Bunch family tradition.

His father, C. Pardue Bunch, was a family doctor for four decades in Artesia, N.M. His mother Marjorie was a social worker who helped pioneer community mental health services in Artesia and Chavez County. Both of Bunch's parents were born in 1913. In honor of the centennial of their births and to recognize their work and many volunteer activities, he created the Dr. C. Pardue Bunch & Marjorie Bunch UNM Medical School Scholarship. The endowed scholarship will be awarded to a medical student who is interested in practicing primary care in rural New Mexico.

As a boy he had no inclination to join the family business. "Growing up in a small town, being the child of a prominent family physician, early on I went to the hospital and his office," he recalls. "Everybody would always ask, 'Are you going to be a doctor like your dad?'"

But after an unsatisfying stint studying architecture, he followed his father's example. "The community really appreciated what he did," Bunch says. "They were thankful for his dedication and willingness to help them at all hours of the day and night. And Mom's, too. Both of my parents were very committed to volunteer work and seemed to get a lot of enjoyment out of it. I thought that was a pattern I would enjoy too. I liked people. I did well in math and sciences, so I changed around."

After practicing for decades in Las Vegas, N.M., Dr. Bunch retired to California, where he serves low-income families through a migratory farm worker community clinic in Watsonville and medical-mission trips to El Salvador.



George Bunch, MD, in El Salvador with young patients (2013).



## Pardue and Marjorie Bunch *A Legacy of Service*

Pardue and Marjorie Bunch married in 1936 and planned to become Methodist missionaries, but World War II intervened. They moved to rural North Carolina, where for a few years he ran a medical practice serving the rural poor. In December 1944 they used their wartime gas rations to resettle their growing family to New Mexico.

C. Pardue Bunch, MD, was born in North Carolina and first discovered New Mexico at age 10 when he was sent West to seek relief from his childhood asthma. He made several visits to stay with relatives in Loving, and was the senior class president at Carlsbad High School in 1929. He later told an interviewer: "I learned to love New Mexico thoroughly, so much so that when I moved out in 1944, my wife says I forgot to tell her about the dust storms." The senior Dr. Bunch was a family practitioner in Artesia from 1944 until his retirement in 1984. He helped lead the New Mexico Medical Society during its reorganization in the late 1940s and was its president for the 1963-1964 term. He died suddenly in 1985.

Marjorie Adelaide King met Pardue Bunch at Duke University, where he was preparing for medical school and she was studying social work. She was a lifelong social and education activist, deeply engaged in community service through both civic and religious organizations. She served on the Artesia Board of Education for 14 years. She was the executive director of the Artesia Counseling & Resource Center until her retirement in 1979. She moved to Albuquerque after her husband's death and continued her commitment to social outreach until her own death in 2010.

## New Scholarship for Rural New Mexicans *The Longo Class of '81 Medical Student Scholarship*



**Jim Longo, MD, is grateful for the education and support** he received as a University of New Mexico undergraduate and as a member of the School of Medicine class of 1981. Now, with his wife Debby, he is returning the favor with an endowed scholarship for UNM medical students. Longo was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society during his time at UNM, and the scholarship is open to students from rural New Mexico who have been accepted into AOA.

Longo, a radiation oncologist, has practiced on the rural central California coast for more than 20 years. During that time, he has been a clinical professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and has been involved in physician leadership and education at the local hospital. He has been director of Templeton Radiation Oncology Medical Center in Templeton, Calif., since 1991.

## In Memoriam

### FACULTY

**Gregory C. Davenport, PhD**  
Greg Davenport was a research assistant professor in the Center for Global Health. He first came to the center as a postdoctoral fellow, working later as a contractor for the Department of Defense on projects in East Africa and the former Soviet Union. He joined the center's faculty in 2012. He had a prolific publication and funding record in the field of infectious diseases. (Albuquerque, August 2013). Please leave your remembrance in the Faculty Memorial: <http://som.unm.edu/memorial/remembrances/davenport-gregory.html>

**William R. Galey, PhD**  
William R. (Bill) Galey is remembered for his excellence as an educator and his penchant for mentoring the next generation of physicians and researchers. Galey joined the faculty of the Department of Physiology as an assistant professor in 1972 and attained the rank of full professor in 1984. His faculty appointment was transferred to the newly reorganized Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology following the consolidation of the six

original School of Medicine basic science departments in 1997. Galey was appointed director of the Biomedical Science Graduate Program and assistant dean for graduate studies in 1994, appointments he held until his retirement from UNM in 2002. Galey spent the last decade of his career at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. (Rio Rancho, May 2014). Please leave your remembrance in the Faculty Memorial: <http://som.unm.edu/memorial/remembrances/galey-william.html>

**Walter Kisiel, PhD**  
Walter Kisiel's passion was scientific research. He is remembered as a pioneer of protein chemistry. He was a professor of Pathology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from 1984 until his retirement in 2009. Among the achievements of his four-decade career was the creation and development of the blood coagulation enzyme Factor VIIa, used to control bleeding in hemophilia patients. (Albuquerque, October 2013). Please leave your remembrance in the Faculty Memorial: <http://som.unm.edu/memorial/remembrances/kisiel-walter.html>

### HOUSE STAFF

**George Baca, MD'86** was a psychiatrist and U.S. Air Force major. (Albuquerque, September 2013).

**John Michael Baca, MD'92** practiced internal medicine in Albuquerque. (Albuquerque, October 2013).

**John F. Howard, MD'94** was an internist, geriatrician and rheumatologist who held faculty appointments at the University of Rochester, Tufts and Harvard medical schools. He retired as regional medical director for the western region, New York State Department of Corrections. (Penn Yan, N.Y., February 2013).

**Carl Andrew Lepisto, MD'70** practiced ophthalmology in Colorado for 28 years, and later in Saudi Arabia and Tasmania. (Grand Junction, Colo., April 2014).

**John M. Menello, MD'94** practiced at the Seraphine Medical Clinic in Salt Lake City. (Missoula, Mont., June 2013).



# 2014 Distinguished Alumni

The Alumni Association presented the 2014 Alumni Awards at the 50th Anniversary Reunion in August

## Distinguished Alumnus Award

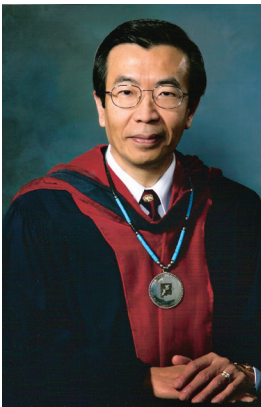


**Anthony T. Yeung, MD**  
Class of 1970

Anthony Yeung developed a groundbreaking technique in the 1990s for spine surgery using endoscopically guided lasers and minimally invasive tools, leaving incisions so small they can be covered with a Band-Aid. He and his wife donated \$2.5 million in 2013 to create the Dr. Anthony T. and Eileen K. Yeung Endoscopic Spine Center at the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center. Yeung practices at the Desert Institute for Spine Care in Phoenix.

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations and careers have honored the legacy of excellence of the UNM School of Medicine.

## Leonard M. Napolitano, PhD, Award



**Albert M. Kwan, MD, FACS**  
Class of 1983

Albert Kwan is active in New Mexico medical education and advocacy. Highlights of his military service include duty as a surgeon during Operation Desert Storm and chief of surgery at Kirtland Air Force Base Hospital. He is a past president of both the New Mexico Medical Society and the state chapter of the American College of Surgeons. He has practiced general surgery in Clovis since 1993 and founded the Clovis Surgery Center in 2000.

The Napolitano award is named for the School of Medicine's innovative third dean (1972-1994). The award recognizes alumni for their innovation and commitment to UNM medical education while building strong public and private partnerships.

# 2013 Alumni Scholarships

Student scholarships are among the highest priorities for the Alumni Association. Five \$5,000 scholarships were awarded in 2013 to medical students.



Dani Castioni, '17, Tijeras, N.M.



Gopi Mara Kooshman, '17, Ankapur, India



Daniel Paredes, '15, Lima, Peru



Kaitlin Petranovich, '16, Gallup, N.M.



Bradley Singer, MD'14, Rio Rancho, N.M.

# CLASS ACTS

## 1970s

**MANUEL ARCHULETA, MD'73** retired in August from his practice at PMG Isleta Pediatrics. Archuleta



Manuel Archuleta, MD

is a member of the Board of Directors of the UNM School of Medicine Alumni Association. He received the UNM School of Medicine Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013.

## JOSE LOPEZ, MD'76

has received the Distinguished Achievement Award from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMT). Lopez graduated from New Mexico Tech with a bachelor's in chemistry. He was a Tech Scholar and the recipient of the Morris F. Stubbs Award given to the top Chemistry Graduate. Lopez is chief scientific officer at the Puget Sound Blood Center and professor of medicine in the Division of Hematology at the University of Washington School of Medicine.



Dr. Jose Lopez (center) accepts the Distinguished Achievement Award from NMT President Dr. Daniel H. Lopez (left) and NMT Alumni Association President John Dowdle.

## 1980s

**DEBORAH HEATH, MD'83** has retired from practice at the Lovelace Clinic in Las Cruces. She hopes to relocate to Albuquerque to contribute to the UNM medical community.

## JOHN KOSTER, MD'83

has retired as president and chief executive officer of Providence Health & Services and has been appointed CEO emeritus. Koster joined Providence as chief medical officer in April 1997 and held numerous roles in system operations until he became president and CEO in 2003. He was selected as one of *Modern Healthcare* magazine's 50 Most Influential Physician Executives in 2012.

## CATHERINE McCLAIN, MD'88

retired in June as director of the UNM Center for Development and Disability. She served UNM and families across New Mexico for more than 22 years at the center, and has traveled extensively, visiting India and other countries, to teach and provide professional development to clinics. She received the prestigious first UNM School of Medicine Alumni Association Leonard M. Napolitano, PhD, Award in 2013.



Catherine McClain, MD

## 1990s

**GAYLE DINE'CHACON, MD'93** has been named medical director for the Pueblo for Sandia. Dine'Chacon, a professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, founded



Gayle Dine'Chacon, MD

the UNM Center of Excellence for Native American Health in 2002. In 2011, she was appointed Surgeon General of the Navajo Nation through an agreement with UNM Health Sciences Center, helping to create and develop the Navajo Nation Department of Health. In 2013 she was recognized by Gov. Susana Martínez as one of that year's New Mexico Women of Influence.



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: 505.272.5112  
Email: abassett@salud.unm.edu



# back story

## Teach

By R.C. Schenck, Jr., MD

**W**e were fixing an ankle fracture in an Osler-era operating room when I decided that teaching, research and service would be my life's work. I was a senior resident, and I recognized how much fun it was to help a junior resident learn to perform a surgery as well as I could have done it myself.

The majority of my role models in residency a quarter century ago were in academic medicine, although we also rotated with private surgeons. I saw great surgeons in both worlds, but I always empathized with the underserved. I found research interesting and I published, but my greatest interest was helping people who had no other place to go. Being as broke as most of my patients, I had no sense of entitlement and realized early that my life's work should be for them.

Money had to be a very small part of it anyway, as there was little to go around in academics in 1990. My wife, Trish, closed the deal for academics. She liked what I was doing in academic medicine a heck of a lot more, and she has never once complained. The lack of money actually strengthened our marriage, as we lived for what we were doing and took very simple, joyful vacations while scrimping every step of the way to pay for the needs of our five children.

While financial times in medicine have generally changed for the worse, they are, remarkably, better in academics these days. But what really keeps us in academics is the knowledge that we professors have the best teachers: our residents. Evidence-based medicine and decades of experience with complex knee surgery have given me something unique to teach. But the energetic modern resident who absorbs information like a sponge is a spectacular teacher as well. My residents routinely update me on anything that can be clicked, downloaded or searched.

In January I operated on a tragically injured 11-year-old in the middle of the night. Earlier that evening I had spoken with Erica, a pony-tailed orthopaedic intern wearing salmon-pink running shoes, who correctly assessed that the child needed to go to the OR immediately. Later that night, I worked with Judd, a third-year orthopaedic resident, to surgically manage the child's mangled extremity. I was humbled by his amazing postoperative care, serious approach and persistent bedside manner.

I am grateful for these experiences as a teacher – but also for the way things have changed for the better. In the 1980s a professor was never questioned. I, on the other hand, am excited to learn from my students. I have stayed in academic medicine because of the opportunity to learn; the orthopaedic resident who spends five years in residency is my key teacher.

Breaking down much of the hierarchy in resident-faculty interactions has yielded real benefits. Students are not as anxious about being wrong, making them less likely to need to always be right. Academic departments – the good ones – focus more on the lives of the med students, residents and faculty. In many ways, I view my residents as junior faculty and myself as one of the senior residents.

Modern-day academic medicine has had a comeuppance, especially at UNM. We are family oriented. We are respectful, we teach, we publish and we serve all with a respectful sense of stewardship. Apparently, we professors are teachable.

*R.C. Schenck, Jr., MD, is professor & chair of the Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation.*



## Paying it Forward

Third-year medical student Kaitlin Petranovich majored in biology and religious studies in the University of New Mexico's Combined BA/MD program. "Religion is this huge part of people's lives," she says. "In order to be a good provider you need to see the whole person."

The Gallup native wants to practice family medicine in rural New Mexico, but she worries about the loans she is accumulating. "It's a burden to think of the debt piling up that we'll have to pay back once we finally finish," she says.

That's why Petranovich is so grateful to have received a \$5,000 scholarship from the UNM School of Medicine Alumni Association. "Medical school is one of those things that's really rewarding and challenging in ways that are hard to explain to people who haven't experienced it," she says.

"Even if we don't meet them in person, the members of the Alumni Association provide students with a constant, solid level of support and understanding that we are forever grateful for. The support they provide means a lot and cannot be matched."

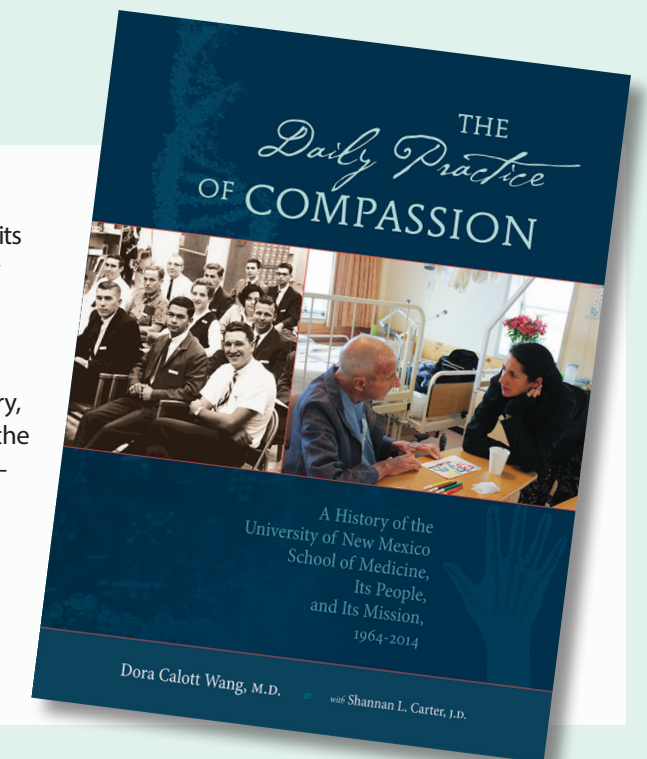
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## READ ALL ABOUT IT

**T**he School of Medicine commissioned a commemorative book in honor of its 50th anniversary, *The Daily Practice of Compassion: A History of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Its People and Its Mission, 1964-2014*.

The book chronicles the school's history, capturing the essence of why it attracted faculty from established medical schools throughout the country, how its mission evolved and who played a role in gaining the support of the state legislature. Learn about the groundbreaking discoveries and innovations that were born here.

It will be published in December 2014 by UNM Press (800.249.7737, [custserv@unm.edu](mailto:custserv@unm.edu)). The book will also be available at local booksellers. Pre-order your copy online now at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or [BarnesandNoble.com](http://BarnesandNoble.com).



*Dora Wang is an assistant professor and historian for the UNM School of Medicine. Shannan Carter worked as a special assistant to the dean at the School of Medicine from 2002 until 2010.*

***The Daily Practice of Compassion: A History of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Its People and Its Mission, 1964-2014*** by Dora L. Wang, MD, with Shannan L. Carter, JD, and the University of New Mexico School of Medicine (UNM Press; 2014).



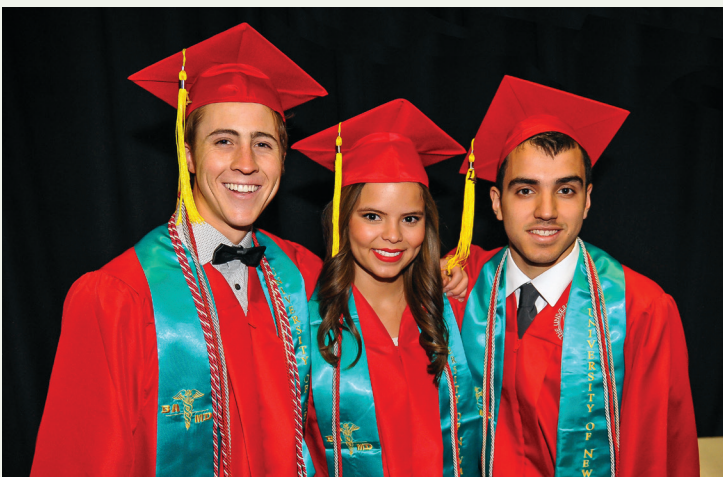


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