

August 2025

FROM THE DESK OF THE **Vice President for Research**

Lobos,

As we stand on the brink of a new academic year, a sense of hope and endless possibilities fill the air, not just for ourselves but for all New Mexicans who benefit from the impactful research we commit to daily. With the pathways and halls of The University of New Mexico soon bustling with the vibrant energy of faculty, staff, students, and postdocs, I invite each of you – myself included – to embrace this opportunity wholeheartedly. Let us focus on celebrating our wins and envisioning success, even when faced with challenges and change. Together, let's choose to look forward with optimism and determination, leaving the past behind as we embark on this exciting journey ahead!

Last month, we celebrated a win with the reinstatement of 12 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants that had been terminated earlier in the year. In June, a federal judge issued a ruling declaring that the administration's decision to terminate NIH grants due to their association with diversity-related topics was unlawful and thus rendered void. We also shared wins associated with our category III centers, including the addition of new directors for ARID and QNM-I, and new awards from NSF that support EPSCoR and ARID.

As a science of team science (SciTS) researcher, I have worked with numerous interdisciplinary, cross-sector, and dynamic teams focused on building a legacy wherein the total is greater than the sum of the parts. At UNM, we want to emphasize we are truly a team in our research and scholarship journey, and we recognize everyone's contributions as invaluable to our collective success. The changes we're working toward would not be possible without your ongoing collaboration and engagement.

Wishing all Lobo researchers success this year – but as we know from the SciTS literature, you can't have success without having fun in the process! Keep going and don't forget to have some serious fun along the way!



*Ellen Fisher, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Professor of Chemistry*

August Safety Spotlight

This month's safety spotlight focuses on a slightly different type of safety – research (data) security and safety. This generally refers to the measures taken to protect research activities and data from various threats, including espionage, theft, and misuse. It encompasses both physical and digital security, as well as ethical considerations related to research integrity and malign foreign influence. Key aspects of research security and safety include:

- Safeguarding research findings, data, and inventions from unauthorized access, use, or disclosure
- Addressing potential risks associated with foreign governments or entities seeking to exploit or influence research activities for their own benefit
- Implementing robust cybersecurity measures to protect research data from digital threats
- Identifying and assessing potential risks to research activities and developing mitigation strategies to minimize those risks
- Promoting ethical conduct by ensuring research is conducted with integrity, transparency, and adherence to ethical principles
- Adhering to relevant export control laws, intellectual property regulations, and other applicable policies
- Controlling access to restricted research areas through security policies, including badge access, visitor protocols, and procedures for reporting suspicious activity, as unauthorized access can pose significant safety risks.

Ultimately, research security and safety contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge and innovation by protecting the research enterprise. Visit the following UNM resources for more information:

- [Office of Research Integrity & Compliance](#)
- [Information Security and Privacy Office](#)
- [Center for Advanced Research Computing](#)
- [Industrial Security & Export Control](#)

Research News

Huron:

Researchers, with the goal of One University in mind, we are excited to announce UNM signed a contract with Huron Consulting Group to implement and utilize the latest cloud-based version of Huron's electronic research administration (eRA) system. This new partnership will allow central campus, the Health Sciences Campus, and branches to all be on the same system.

This strategic partnership aims to create efficiencies and streamline processes, benefiting both our researchers and our administrative teams. As we take this important first step, we are proud to note this One-University approach to our eRA solutions builds on the UNM HSC long-time partnership with Huron.

The full implementation, which will occur over the next two fiscal years, will integrate Employee Compensation Compliance (effort certification), Grants and Awards, COI/COC, IRB, IACUC, and Animal Operations processes.

ITO Officer:

Welcome to Lobo Nation, Isaiah Smith. Smith began his new role as the OVPR Information Technologies Officer (ITO) last month. Smith is an accomplished cybersecurity engineer with nearly a decade of experience driving cybersecurity and risk management framework compliance.

Given the increased focus on research security and safety, Smith's initial priorities will work to ensure UNM stays compliant with new regulations, as well as ensuring our category III research centers have the IT support needed to compete and expand. Smith will also work with other ITOs regarding research IT needs across campus.

NSF TTP Webinar:

NSF has announced a \$30 million investment in its new Translation to Practice (NSF TTP) program. This initiative offers flexible pathways for researchers to translate cutting-edge discoveries into societal and market impact, with a strong emphasis on cross-sector partnerships and entrepreneurial education.

Register for an upcoming webinar to learn more on Aug. 12.

The TTP program builds on lessons from NSF's Partnerships for Innovation program but expands eligibility and flexibility. TTP supports a broader range of translational goals, beyond commercialization, including startup formation, open-source ecosystems, licensing, and more. This is a key opportunity for researchers to deepen university-industry-government collaboration and accelerate innovation adoption.

Research Staff Awards:

You have less than a month to submit nominations for the 2025 Outstanding Research Staff Awards. Every year, we recognize the expertise, dedication, and professionalism of our diverse research support staff contributes essentially to the success of UNM's research mission. The deadline for nominations is Aug. 31.

Award winners will be selected by the OVPR executive committee. Each winner will receive \$1,000 and will be recognized during the Research Administrator's Symposium in October. Submit nominations via UNM [InfoReady](#). Please contact Assistant Vice President for Research Melissa Emery Thompson (memery@unm.edu) if you have any questions.

Annual Research Lecture

UNM is still accepting nominations until Sept. 30 for the Annual Research Lectureship (ARL) for Career Achievement.

The ARL one of the highest honors that UNM can bestow upon a faculty member in recognition of their scholarly activity. The nominee must be an active, full-time professor or exceptional associate professor at the time the nomination is submitted, in the tenure track, research track, or clinician-educator track.

The awardee will receive a \$7,500 honorarium or a funding allocation to be placed in a research-related account and the awardee's name will be included in the UNM Roll of Honor. Submit nominations via UNM [InfoReady](#).

Grand Challenges Day

We're kicking off the semester with the celebration of our Grand Challenges teams – including our newest Level 1:

- Multilingualism Matters
- Disaster Resilience
- Gaining Time
- Perinatal Care
- Safer Streets
- Trustworthy AI

Join us Friday, Sept. 12, 1-4 p.m., SUB Ballroom C, for a hosted panel discussion on pivoting your research, meet the new Level 1 Grand Challenges teams, and hear about the GC Level 2 teams' progress over the last year.

IEEE Conference

UNM is gearing up for the 2025 IEEE International Conference on Quantum Computing and Engineering (QCE25) that will take place right here in Albuquerque the first week of September. QCE25 will feature keynote addresses by world-renowned quantum computing experts. There will be a variety of exhibits, tutorials, workshops, technical papers, posters, and panels.

UNM's Quantum New Mexico Institute will host and participating in several events including a panel discussion in collaboration with our two state laboratories, and the unitaryCON invitation-only collaborative workshop.



Research Celebrations

UNM physicist named to leadership role in global ATLAS experiment

Congratulations to UNM Research Assistant Professor Svende Braun who has been selected as co-convenor of the B-Physics Weak Decays Working Group within the ATLAS Experiment — one of the world's largest and most high-profile scientific collaborations.

Each year, members of ATLAS nominate standout researchers to lead specific subfields of inquiry. In her new role, Braun will oversee international teams exploring the weak interactions of systems involving the b-quark, a heavy subatomic particle whose behavior may hold clues to why the universe is made mostly of matter rather than antimatter.

ATLAS is a massive particle physics experiment located at CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Geneva, Switzerland. With more than 5,500 collaborators from 183 institutions across 42 countries — including UNM — the collaboration investigates fundamental questions about the universe using high-energy particle collisions.

This month's read, *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather, was written nearly 100 years ago, yet her vivid descriptions of New Mexico landscapes withstand the test of time. Cather's novel fictionalizes, to a certain extent, the historical figures of Archbishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy and Bishop Joeseph Projectus Machebeuf. Both were Roman Catholic missionaries in the desert southwest just after the Mexican-American War when New Mexico became an U.S. territory through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Lamy is accredited with the construction of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi that lies near the center of Santa Fe. Cather's Archbishop, Jean Marie Latour, struggles with his solitary and relatively austere life far away from his home in France. He works diligently along with his Vicar, Joeseph Valliant to proselytize across the territories of New Mexico and Arizona. Yet, through Cather's empathetic and respectful (albeit dated) portrayal of the Mexican and Indigenous peoples of New Mexico, as well as the Franciscan priests, it becomes clear that New Mexico has become Latour's home.

Such as it still is for many who migrate to the U.S., especially to the southwest, ultimately finding solace, a stunning, everchanging landscape, and an enchanted new, old way of life in New Mexico.