

JANUARY 2023



OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH

FROM THE DESK OF THE Vice President for Research

Welcome back, Lobos!

A new year brings a new semester, new problems to solve, and new research opportunities. I hope everyone took some time during the holiday break to relax and recoup.

As our momentum from last year continues into the new year, I'm excited to see what 2023 will bring to student, staff, and faculty researchers. We closed out the year with some exciting news, as the National Science Foundation released its annual Higher Education Research and Development report ranking UNM 81 out of more than 900 institutions across the nation in Research and Development expenditures for FY21.

As we look back on all we accomplished last year, there were so many milestones met and so many reasons to be proud. Our researchers made several discoveries including the first-of its kind evidence indicating respiratory infections in dinosaurs. UNM researchers also modeled how zebrafish can be used to understand the loss of smell caused by COVID-19. Also, UNM scientists made history by becoming what is believed to be one of the first research teams to collect uncontaminated gases from an active volcanic eruption. Let's continue this trend of innovation and discovery in 2023!



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

Annual Research Lecture

The Annual Research Lecture has been presented at UNM since 1954 and is one of the highest honors The University bestows on its faculty member in recognition of research/creative activity.

2022's winner, Distinguished Professor Vojo Deretic is chair of the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at the UNM School of Medicine.

Dr. Deretic's main contribution to science comes from the initial report and sustained follow-up studies by his team on the role of autophagy in infection and immunity in which he and his group pioneered and developed this area into a now burgeoning field of study.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Deretic, who will be presenting his lecture later this spring.

Venice Biennale Project

UNM's Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities recently received an award for their successful project at the prestigious 2022 Venice Biennale Art exhibition *Personal Structures*. The exhibition – that seeks to document the diversity of contemporary art in today's world – is hosted by the European Cultural Centre (ECC) in Venice, Italy.

UNM collaborated with Davidson College of North Carolina to create *A Library, a Classroom, and the World*. For the category University and Research Project, the award was presented to a The UNM Venice Biennale project for “having created a project which represents a successful attempt of involving the city of Venice with its culture, traditions, and territory. A genuine proof of interaction and a smart application of art in the field of ecology.”

The art exhibition included 192 projects from 51 countries and was seen by more than 520,000 people from around the world.



STEM Teacher Professional Development Day

UNM's STEM Education Level 1 Grand Challenge Team and Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) collaborated to host a professional development day for APS STEM teachers.

More than 25 APS teachers visited main campus last week and spent the afternoon learning about UNM research and touring its facilities. UNM researchers demonstrated the diversity in ways computational science is being used across disciplines in research around campus.

Research Spotlight

Center on Alcohol Substance use, and Addictions

The Center on Alcohol, Substance use, and Addictions (CASAA) is a national and international leader in research and treatment focused on reductions in substance use and other addictive behaviors, including drinking, and improving health and well-being. Recent grants awarded to CASAA are focused on many areas that will provide a greater understanding of alcohol use disorder, the development and evaluation of new treatments of alcohol use disorder, how to reduce harm related to opioid use, and how to improve well-being among individuals with chronic pain and opioid use disorder.

Research Assistant Professor Cassandra Boness received a prestigious five-year career development award from NIH titled “Measurement and Multimethod Validation of Alcohol Use Disorder Etiologic Mechanisms.” With this grant, Boness will ultimately [develop a measurement tool](#) that could be used to identify the optimal treatment, whether behavioral, pharmacological, or both, for a given person with alcohol use disorder.

Professor Matthew Pearson and CASAA Center Director Katie Witkiewitz have been leading the [UNM IMPOWR Center](#), an NIH-funded center within CASAA that is focused on improving health and well-being among individuals with chronic pain who use opioids. This month, they launched one of the two major projects, the HOPE Trial (Healing Opioid use and Pain through Engagement), which will recruit patients in the Albuquerque metro, as well as in Ann Arbor, Michigan who are taking a medication for opioid use disorder and are interested in behavioral treatment to help with chronic pain symptoms. Research Assistant Professor Frank Schwebel also received a diversity supplement to this award to culturally tailor the intervention materials for Spanish speakers.

Distinguished Professor Emerita Barbara McCrady is in the final year of recruitment of a five-year NIH funded study examining non-medication-based alcohol treatment for people who are looking to reduce or stop drinking. The [ABQ Treat study](#) examines how the brain, behavior, and emotions change during and after alcohol treatment. Participants in the research receive free alcohol treatment and are paid for completing research assessments.

In addition to grant-funded research, CASAA has been active in giving talks locally and globally. This month, Witkiewitz is the keynote speaker for the Denmark National Alcohol Conference, and in March at the Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction Meeting. In April, Witkiewitz, Associate Professor Kamilla Venner, and Distinguished Professor Emeritus William Miller will speak at the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association annual meeting.

Research News

Grand Challenges Level II RFP

UNM Grand Challenges is looking forward to releasing the Request for Proposals for Level II teams next week. Teams will have until the end of April to prepare proposals detailing how their

interdisciplinary research team will work together towards meeting their shared vision of how to address New Mexico's greatest challenges.

Level II awards will be up to \$200,000 over the next two years. Teams do not have to be participants in the Level I program to apply.

Post-Production Lab

Last month, The Department of Film & Digital Arts celebrated the opening of its state-of-the-art Post-Production Lab.

The lab allows faculty to carry out high-end research in the final processes of digital media creation. These processes require high speed rendering, support for color grading, sound sweetening, surround sound mixing, and a variety of output and distribution options. The lab offers a computer, color critical displays, speakers, and a variety of other sophisticated technology allowing faculty and students to engage in cutting-edge experimentation, achieving results that could have a transformative effect on film industry methodologies.

The creation of the space was made possible by an OVPR PERC grant and will soon be available for use by faculty. Stay tuned.

Technology Updates

Streamlyne

Last year, UNM adopted Streamlyne, a new electronic research administration system. We thank you for your patience during this major transition which affects nearly all aspects of research at UNM.



Streamlyne Implementation

UNM'S NEW ELECTRONIC
RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION PLATFORM

We appreciate all the hard work that our research administrators have done to meet deadlines and successfully continue to support our research community through this transition.

As we continue to develop and explore the capabilities of our new eRA system, please note that *Streamlyne is now the system of record for all external funding proposals.*

Additional questions or concerns may be sent to assocvpr@unm.edu.

Did you know?

The UNM Office of the Vice President for Research has a new brochure, highlighting research activity and scholarship happening across The University. Stop by our office and check it out.



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