



RELEASE: Thursday, July 10, 2025

Lobo Researchers,

In our last communication, we noted that on June 16, a federal judge [issued a ruling](#) declaring that the administration's decision to terminate National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants due to their association with diversity-related topics was unlawful and thus rendered void. This significant legal decision has implications for New Mexico, as our attorney general is among the plaintiffs in [the lawsuit](#) challenging the grant terminations. Consequently, UNM stands to benefit from this ruling, as several of our NIH grants were included in the list slated for reinstatement.

Since the ruling, the following UNM grants have been reinstated:

- Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST)
- Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (U-RISE)
- Postbaccalaureate Research Education Programs (PREP)
- A T-32 HSC training grant

Despite the defendants, namely the NIH and the federal government, currently having a request for a stay before the Court of Appeals in the case, we are taking this moment to celebrate the joy that this decision brings us.

The reinstatement of these grants marks a significant milestone, reflecting the dedicated efforts of the Research Rapid Response Team (RRRT), the proactive leadership at UNM, and the unwavering commitment of our researchers who have communicated the tangible impacts on their funding. The RRRT's continuing weekly meetings exemplify a steadfast commitment to fostering an environment that promotes, supports, protects, represents, and advocates for the flourishing research enterprise at UNM.

NIH Policy Updates and Shifts

Animal Studies: On Monday, [NIH announced](#) it will no longer fund projects that rely solely on animal testing. Rather, NIH will now require some form of in-vitro testing, computational modeling, or artificial intelligence (AI) be used in studies that may have previously relied on animal testing. This new policy comes on the heels of an [announcement earlier this year](#) that NIH was seeking to integrate data science and other forms of technology to reduce animal use in research. As it appears, UNM researchers may now have to include an outline for alternative methodologies that include:

- Organoids, tissue chips, and other in vitro systems that allow scientists to model human disease and capture human variability and patient-specific characteristics.
- Computational models that simulate complex biological human systems, disease pathways, and drug interactions.
- Real-world data that allow scientists to study health outcomes in humans at community and population levels.



For assistance with data science, high-performance computing and AI methods, here are a few resources available at UNM that may be helpful:

- [UNM AI Resources](#)
- [Data Science & Machine Learning](#)
- [Center for Advanced Research Computing | The University of New Mexico](#)
- [Bioinformatics Shared Resources](#)

Public Access Policy: As a reminder, NIH's [recently announced accelerated timeline](#) for its [2024 Public Access Policy](#) went into effect July 1. The policy applies to all manuscripts from NIH-funded research accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals on or after **July 1, 2025**. The updated policy requires submission of an electronic version of the Author Accepted Manuscript to PubMed Central upon acceptance for publication, and that it be made publicly available without embargo upon the official date of publication. Please visit the Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center (HSLIC) website for more information on this policy.

We also acknowledge this may impact how our researchers create budgets for their NIH proposals moving forward and plan for publications that may not be completed until after funding has ended. Notably, on July 8, NIH issued a [news release](#) about its plans to implement a new policy capping the amount publishers can charge to NIH researchers, beginning in federal FY26.

At UNM, we want to emphasize that we are truly in this journey together, and your contributions are invaluable to our collective success. The changes we're working toward would not be possible without your ongoing collaboration and engagement. We encourage you to continue sharing your insights and updates regarding your grants. Your communication is essential, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

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