

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

*July 2024*

Lobos,

I hope you're enjoying your summer "vacation" - the quotes because I know that summertime is when so many of our researchers are ramping up their research activities, collaborations, and projects.

If you haven't heard the great news, this month the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced 12 Tech Hubs designees, including Elevate Quantum (EQ), the lead agency of a Colorado-New Mexico-based collaboration, would receive nearly \$504 million in implementation grants. EQ seeks to solidify the region's global leadership in quantum information technology.

The EQ Tech Hub is slated to receive \$40.5 million; EQ and the Mountain West secured \$127 million, including \$80 million in committed state incentives and funds from Colorado and New Mexico. These are the types of successes we have the ability to achieve when we collaborate! Special shoutout to Assistant VPR Dave Hanson for leading this effort.

Lastly, congratulations to the 14 faculty members selected for the 2024 Women in STEM Awards. I recognize and have had the opportunity to learn and work alongside so many of these women during my time as a Lobo.

Can't wait to have all of you back on campus next month! Cheers to new goals, new research projects, and a new academic year!



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

# July Safety Spotlight

Given that it's summer and there's a "heat dome" sweeping the country, this month's safety spotlight focuses on staying hydrated while doing your research. I know that research can be very demanding, with a million and one tasks to do and it's super easy to get caught up in the exciting results coming out of your lab or field study. A day in the lab or field or office can make you forget about hydration.

But did you know that our brains comprise nearly 70% water, while our bodies are usually about 50-70% water. Thus, consuming sufficient water on a daily basis means we perform better mentally, and it combats fatigue, both of which also help reduce errors that could lead to serious accidents. So, remember to take a few H<sub>2</sub>O breaks during the day, and you will at the same time boost efficiency, improve focus, and optimize productivity as you work.

## Research Celebrations

### Welcome Incoming and our newly appointed ADRs

This upcoming fall semester, we'd like to welcome the new and incoming Associate Deans of Research:

- Adrian Brearley – College of Arts and Sciences – Started July 1, 2024
- Steve Graves, School of Engineering – Started January 1, 2024
- Meggan Gould, College of Fine Arts – Started January 1, 2024

These faculty wear several hats and serve on our Research Council, working to ensure UNM research activity is happening at the highest level and that our communication channels are clear. We meet regularly to discuss, collaborate, and solve different issues our researchers are facing as our research projects and efforts continue to grow. Make sure you know who your ADR is and ask them to help you with your research needs!

### OSP Associate Director

We are excited to announce Erin Fitzgerald will be joining us as the new associate director for OSP starting this month.

Fitzgerald comes to us from Sandia National Laboratory, where she currently serves as a business operations analyst. With more than 15 years of experience in research administration, she has also worked at HSC in several roles within research the research administration. We are excited to introduce a new leader to our OSP operations. Welcome, Erin!

### CERL Awardee

Congratulations to our 8th Annual Community Engaged Research Lecturer (CERL) awardee, UNM Associate Professor Kimberly Gauderman.

Reflective of her research interests and her concern for social justice and human rights, Gauderman is an associate professor of Latin American history. She has been practicing as an expert witness in Latin American asylum cases since 2010, focusing on gender, sexuality, and racial-based violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America, Ecuador, and Peru. In 2019, she was awarded a Scholars

and Society Fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies and the Mellon Foundation. She was also named Distinguished Feminist Research Lecturer by the UNM Feminist Research Institute in 2020.

Stay tuned for what I'm sure will be a phenomenal lecture from Dr. Gauderman in September! Details to come.

## **Professor Tom Turner named Regents' Professors**

Congratulations to former Interim Associate Vice President for Research Tom Turner on his recent promotion to Regents' Professor for 2025-2027.

Thomas Turner is a professor of Biology and Curator of Fishes in the Museum of Southwestern Biology. He currently directs the Museum Research Traineeship, an NSF-funded graduate research and education program centered in the science museums at the University.

## **UNM Assistant Professor named 2024 McKnight Scholar**

Assistant Professor of Biology Mubarak Hussain Syed is one of 10 neuroscientists selected to receive the 2024 McKnight Scholar Award.

The McKnight Scholar Awards are granted to young scientists who are in the early stages of establishing their own independent laboratories and research careers and who have demonstrated a commitment to neuroscience. Other 2024 recipients are from Princeton University, University of California, Columbia University, and Stanford University.

Congrats Dr. Hussain Syed! We are so grateful for your contributions to science and to educating future Lobo scientists.



## **Research News**

### **ROSE Program**

I want to take a moment to highlight the Research Opportunities for Science Educators (ROSE) Program, which now reports to OVPR through Assistant VPR Melissa Emery Thompson.

Since 2021, UNM has partnered with the state's public education department to bring science teachers to UNM for a full-time, hands-on summer experience. Throughout the five-week program, middle and high school science teachers (ROSE Scholars) join ongoing UNM research projects for hands on participation in discovery-based research. Ultimately, ROSE Scholars then bring their new ideas, tools, and enthusiasm back to their classrooms and students. Having a first-hand experience with the cutting-edge research happening on our campus helps the Scholars convey the joy of discovery students can expect if they choose to explore research opportunities in the future.

The ROSE program wrapped up this month with a poster session on July 12.

### **ORCID Registration**

With the start of a new semester, it's the perfect time for faculty and students to create or update their education and employment affiliation information in their ORCID profiles.

Open Researcher and Contributor Identifiers (ORCID) are unique IDs that you can use as a researcher to identify your academic work. The IDs help funders, publishers, scholarly societies, and other researchers to quickly find and distinguish your work from materials created by other researchers with similar names.

ORCID is available to researchers free of charge. [Register today](#) and reach out to a librarian for more information.

## R&D Week Feature Events

We are seeking campus partners to feature events, such as lectures, open houses, workshops, exhibits, or other activities that showcase or support the range of excellent research, scholarship, and creative activities at UNM.

Register an event and/or request funding here. Contact [memery@unm.edu](mailto:memery@unm.edu) with questions.

## New Mexico Population Projections

One of our Category 3 Research Centers, Geospatial & Population Studies (GPS), has recently released an important study that impacts us all. Demographers from GPS have updated population projections showing the number of older New Mexicans will continue to increase in the coming decades while total population change will remain flat. Stability will be due in large part to international migration, which will offset declining births and increasing deaths.

Researchers concluded that more baby boomers are reaching retirement age each year and they're living longer. At the same time, New Mexicans are having fewer children each year. For more results, click here.

## Research Recipe!



1964 cooked up some special moments in our history – some worth a mention in this month's research recipe that I can't help but share with all of you. Let's celebrate 60 years together!

- 1) The Beatles came to America.
- 2) Cassius Clay changed his name to Muhammad Ali.
- 3) The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin.
- 4) The Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, a double-decked suspension bridge that connects Brooklyn and Staten Island, opened to traffic. The bridge was the largest, longest, and heaviest suspension bridge of its time.
- 5) Walt Disney's *Mary Poppins* has its world premiere in Los Angeles.
- 6) The Smithsonian Institution's Museum of History and Technology opens to the public in Washington, D.C.
- 7) The U.S. Surgeon General published its first report on smoking linking cigarettes to dangerous health effects, including lung cancer and heart disease.