



Lobos,

About halfway in, it already feels like it's been a busy summer, and I know many of you may feel the same way. In the last month, the OVPR worked with Academic Affairs, the Office of University Counsel, and the UNM Board of Regents to propose a new 501(c)3 organization under the University Research Park and Economic Development Act (URPEDA). The non-profit will aim to assist UNM in competing for new opportunities at the state and federal level, focusing on quantum information science along with other emerging technologies. The purpose and articles of incorporation for the Lobo Catalyst were unanimously approved by the Board of Regents on June 16. We are now embarking on all the things we need to do to stand up this new entity that will undoubtedly advance New Mexico.

In addition, AVPR Om Perumal and I attended the Association for Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) Council on Research annual summer meeting in Boulder, Colorado. The 3-day meeting was packed full of interesting speakers talking about critical topics for the academic research enterprise across the country. Although some of the discussions gave us all pause (e.g., heightened scrutiny on research security, proposed changes to uniform guidance), there were also reasons to celebrate, including many schools focusing on enhancing support for research in Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS). Indeed, I've been asked if UNM would like to join a national group, the HASS Research Leaders Network, given the strong support we have demonstrated through programs like FRESSH.

June was not, however, all work and no play. I've also taken some time to explore some new places for breakfast (my favorite meal to eat out), both in New Mexico and Colorado; attend a fabulous 5-course meal with wine pairings in support of a fantastic program, [Global Leaders](#), a non-profit organization that empowers high-school students through service at home and abroad; read a couple of books (just for fun!); and just hung out on patios and decks with friends and family.

I hope all of you are finding the right mix of productivity and relaxation that will allow you to start the new academic year feeling grounded, calm, and ready-to-go!

Ellen R. Fisher
UNM Vice President for Research
Professor of Chemistry

Safety Spotlight & Compliance Corner

As we continue to highlight fellow Lobos who prioritize research safety every single day, Museum of Southwest Biology (MSB) Senior Collections Manager Tom Giermakowski is a perfect example. He takes safety in his labs very seriously, always asking questions and making improvements. He is also responsible for implementing a color-coding system to assist staff with hazard recognition. Here are Tom's thoughts on safety.

Lobos, safety in our MSB operations is a topic of continuous discussion among all our students and staff. Working in a complex, shared environment, where we overlap with other lab groups and face a variety of hazards (mechanical, biological, and chemical), is a constant reminder to communicate effectively.

I actively encourage everyone to bring up their concerns and make suggestions to actively prevent accidents and promote personal safety. While everyone takes the required training and reviews our standard operating procedures, it is imperative that safety is taken personally (you worry about yourself) and that everyone is aware of their impact on others (you worry about others, too!). Remembering these two angles (thinking about yourself and your community) has been key to developing and implementing new approaches in our day-to-day operations.

As a manager, I believe that success in safety is driven by continuous feedback, and I appreciate that our students and staff can see new potential hazards and communicate effectively to maintain a safe lab culture within MSB.

Research Events

Save the Date: 2026 Research and Discovery Week

Calling all Lobo researchers across our campuses wanting to participate in our 2026 Research and Discovery Week (R&D Week). A call for proposals is out! UNM R&D Week is officially scheduled for Nov. 3-6 in the Student Union Building and at the Health Sciences Center. Events are open to everyone including undergraduates, graduates, postdocs, faculty, and staff.

Lobo faculty, please consider building R&D week attendance into your fall syllabi. The week is a great opportunity for students to learn more about the world-class research happening across our campuses.

Research News

Grand Challenges: New Level 2 Teams

I'm excited to announce the two interdisciplinary research teams that have been invited to progress to level 2 of the UNM Grand Challenges program.

Both teams participated in level 1 of the program. Both teams' proposals bring together expertise from across the university to conduct cutting edge collaborative research. Level 2 provides teams with \$220,000 to support them as they expand their research programs and prepare to seek larger external funding opportunities. Together, these teams exemplify the Grand Challenges program's mission of bringing diverse expertise together to address complex issues with lasting impact for New Mexico and beyond.

Research Security Training

Due to increasing federal regulations surrounding research security, effective Aug. 1, all principal investigators, co-investigators and key personnel listed on proposals to all federal agencies must have completed Research Security Training within the previous 12 months of the proposal submission. This will be verified by OSP staff upon proposal review. Research Security Training must be taken annually for as long as you receive federal funding.

UNM's Research Security Training can be accessed in [Learning Central](#).

If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact Industrial Security Officer Mikell Coleman at industrialsecurity@unm.edu.

Academic Publishing Costs

Earlier this spring, HSC VPR Hengameh Raissy and I formed a task force charged with evaluating recently updated policies related to academic publishing costs. At the end of the spring 2026 semester, the committee submitted a report and recommendations that we are currently reviewing for both short-term and long-term solutions.

Kudos to the task force led by Hannah Torres from FRDO and Melissa Rethlefsen from HSC libraries for their outstanding work. Their thoughtful, well-researched report provides leadership with a strong foundation and actionable recommendations for moving forward. We look forward to sharing additional updates this fall.

SHRI Director

I'm excited to announce that UNM Associate Professor Myrriah Gómez has been appointed as the permanent director of the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute (SHRI). Since stepping into the role as interim director last October, Professor Gómez has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to advancing research initiatives that celebrate and empower our researchers.

Gómez, an associate professor in Honors College, is the author of *Nuclear Nuevo México: Colonialism and the Effects of the Nuclear Industrial Complex on Nuevomexicanos* (2022), which was awarded a Southwest Book Award and an International Latino Book Award. Her research interests include Chicanx Literature; Indigenous Literature; Chicanx Studies; New Mexico Critical Regional Studies; and Nuclear Cultural Studies. She directs the [Conexiones-Spain](#) study abroad program in Cáceres, Spain, and serves as faculty coordinator for the [Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program](#) at UNM.

Congrats Myrriah! I look forward to continuing our work to build and grow SHRI within the UNM research enterprise.

All About Quantum Science

As the talk about quantum information science (QSI) continues to ramp up, so will our efforts to make sure we're communicating about how our researchers are staying at the forefront of innovation in this field as well as others.

We know so many people have questions related to QSI and we're hoping to answer some of them in our new social media and web series '[Questions About Quantum](#)'.

Research Technology

Huron Suite Update

Researchers, our first certification period for the ECC module ended in May. Although the new ECC system has helped us complete more certifications and reduce the number of delinquent projects compared to previous periods, we are not yet at 100 percent compliance.

As of July 6, we are approximately 98.75 percent compliant, with 9 projects still requiring pre-review and 26 projects awaiting certification. These projects are now more than 30 days past due and present potential audit and compliance risks for The University. In addition, uncertified effort reports could result in sponsors rejecting salary and related costs charged to sponsored projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind researchers of the Faculty Handbook Policy E120, *Effort Reporting*, which states: *"Effort reports that are outstanding at the certification deadline may result in salary and related costs being disallowed by the federal funding agency."*

As we prepare for the next effort certification period beginning July 22, we will continue to strengthen processes and procedures to ensure the timely certification of effort reports. Researchers and administrators should be aware that repeated noncompliance may require additional oversight, escalation to department and college leadership, and other corrective actions to ensure adherence to federal requirements and University policy.

Cross-campus teams continue working with Huron to build and test modules for Grants and Agreements, Conflict-of-Interest (COI), and Institutional Review Board (IRB). These modules are scheduled for deployment later this year, and our coordinated efforts promise to ensure a smooth rollout.

Research Radiates

This month, I have the pleasure of introducing a researcher whose work focuses on cancer-induced muscle atrophy and cellular mechanisms, especially the role of immune cells. Associate Professor Michael Deyhle is a perfect example of a Lobo who understands the value of collaboration with our colleagues on North campus. He is also a recipient of a 2024 Program for Enhancing Research Capacity (PERC) Award through the WeR1 faculty success program.

Lobos, my name is Michael Deyhle. I am an exercise physiologist in the department of Health Exercise and Sports Science. I have been on the faculty at UNM since 2020 and was recently promoted to associate professor.

During my doctorate degree, studying skeletal muscle biology, I became impressed with the deep connection between the immune system and skeletal muscle health. Since then, my research has centered around this connection.

My current research at UNM is aimed at 1) uncovering a deeper understanding about how the immune system and its related processes (such as inflammation) are involved in the beneficial health effects of exercise; and 2) understanding how the immune system and inflammation can promote detrimental outcomes, such as muscle weakness and wasting in some disease states such as cancer. I hope that my research can impact people of New Mexico and beyond as health, exercise and, sadly, cancer are relevant globally.