

Lobo Researchers,

As I approach my last Research and Discovery Week at The University of New Mexico, I feel both sadness and immense pride. Originally, we envisioned R&D Week would be a way to increase visibility for all the amazing things our researchers do daily. Over the years, it has blossomed into not only that but also a way to bring our communities together to celebrate our achievements. More than anything, I have great hope that this tradition will continue to grow and become an enduring part of UNM's history and culture.

Research embodies one of the most important values of our university, and it is something every Lobo should have the opportunity to experience. Throughout my years at UNM, I've often shared a mantra that I deeply believe: Research *IS* Education.

To me, that means research is an opportunity to discover, innovate, ask questions, make mistakes, and collaborate. It is how we challenge ourselves, expand knowledge, and create meaningful impact in our communities and beyond.

Research and Discovery Week is a celebration of all those things. I encourage everyone to take part in some of the more than 50 events happening across our campuses this week. Meet someone new, learn something you didn't know before, and explore collaborations you may never have imagined were possible.

Thank you for being part of the incredible research community that makes UNM such a special place. I look forward to celebrating with you throughout the week.

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

Research Events

2026 Research and Discovery Week

Happy 2026 Research and Discovery Week! This week, more than 50 events will take place across our campuses, highlighting the incredible breadth of research, scholarship, and creative activity

happening at UNM. Below are just a few examples of the diverse work being done by our researchers.

Lobo faculty, staff, students, and community members are invited to take part in exhibitions, workshops, lectures, field trips, and keynote talks open to the public throughout the week.

Hands ON My Research
Curious about the research happening at UNM? 'Hands ON My Research' offers an opportunity to explore research through interactive exhibits, demonstrations, and conversations with researchers from across UNM.

Designed for students, faculty, staff, and community members, this event showcases a wide range of research and creative activity in an engaging environment where attendees can ask questions, make connections, and experience discovery firsthand:

- Kill Your First Cancer Cell With Turmeric-Loaded Nanosponge
- Explore materials at the atomic and nanoscale levels.
- Understanding how our brains work and what we can learn from animal behavior
- In this hands-on workshop, participants will explore how to translate research data into public-facing, textile-based genres.
- Make it make sense: meet UNM's water and climate communication fellows
- Every Drop of Water Used

Community Engaged Research Lecture (CERL)
Spend the evening with CERL honoree and longtime UNM Professor Steven Walsh. The evening begins at 4 p.m. at PAIS with our annual PI Reception, followed by the presentation of research awards for faculty, staff, and students, and culminating in the lecture in which Walsh will discuss how 'Basic and Applied Research is a Team Sport'.

Postdoc Mentoring Mosaic Mixer
Calling all postdocs and mentors (faculty, staff, postdoc peer mentors)! Please drop by for light refreshments and casual conversation with fellow program participants, including mentors and mentees. This is a great chance to make connections and get started with the Mentoring Mosaic.

Category III Research Center Poster Session
Learn about UNM's 11 transdisciplinary category III research centers. Meet center representatives, explore research and programs happening across campus, and discover opportunities to connect, collaborate, and stay informed. This informal poster session is a great way to learn more about the centers, the work they support, and how you can engage.

LoboBITES
LoboBITES are three-minute presentations on a thesis, dissertation, or other substantial research project or scholarly activity. Think of them as short TED Talks. Graduate students present their research in a compelling and approachable way, using language appropriate for a general, non-academic audience.

Presentations are judged by a panel of UNM and Albuquerque community members. Top contestants can win up to $1,000 in scholarships and a paid trip to represent UNM at a regional competition!

Field Trips
In addition to workshops, talks, and poster sessions, we will wrap up R&D Week with six field trips to

spaces across campus. All field trips require pre-registration. Register here for times and locations, and explore campus in a new way:

- **Library Research Exchange**
- **Koutsakis Propulsion Lab**
- **UNM Art Museum**
- **UNM Biology Greenhouses**
- **ARTSLab**

Research News

Nominations Open: Interim Vice President for Research

As I announced in the October newsletter, I will be retiring from my role as vice president for research during the spring semester. Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Rodríguez announced that nominations for the interim role are open through Nov. 20. Self-nominations are accepted.

Rodriguez said nominees for the interim role should hold the rank of full professor on UNM's Albuquerque campus and have a strong record of scholarly achievement, academic leadership, and experience in research administration. Nominees should demonstrate the ability to support faculty research, advance externally funded research, and oversee research operations, compliance, and resources. Collaborative leadership, sound judgment, and the ability to work effectively across disciplines and campuses are essential.

PI Survey

PIs, if you received an email to participate in our PI Satisfaction Survey, please respond by Nov. 25.

The email was sent from **OVPR@qualtrics.unm.edu** with a direct link to the survey. If you are unable to find it, please email vpr@unm.edu and we will resend it.

The survey takes about 10 minutes, and your input will directly inform improvements to the offices and processes that support UNM researchers.

2027 Hazardous Waste Inspection

UNM anticipates a campus-wide routine inspection by the New Mexico Environment Department's Hazardous Waste Bureau within the next year. Inspectors will look closely at how labs handle, label, store, and dispose of chemicals and hazardous waste. Good practices protect our community and the environment, and they help departments and labs avoid significant fines.

Please check your research spaces and their practices for the following:

- **Keep waste containers closed** except when adding or removing waste.
- **Label every waste container** with the words "Hazardous Waste," its full contents (no abbreviations or formulas), and its hazards.
- **Keep waste where it was generated.** Don't move waste containers to another lab or room.
- **Never evaporate solvents** or other waste in fume hoods to reduce volume.
- **Make sure all chemical containers are labeled** and legible. Relabel faded containers and submit a pickup request for damaged containers or chemicals you no longer need.

- **Keep a spill kit** accessible in the research space.

Hazardous waste training is required for all lab personnel and is available on the EHS Training page. To request a pickup, use the Hazardous Waste Management page. If you have any questions, contact EHS.

Research Technology

Huron Research Suite Update

Due to the recent cybersecurity event affecting the UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC), the Huron Research Suite has been taken offline.

This affects both the v12 and HSC v10 environments. Out of an abundance of caution, Huron has taken the following systems offline:

- Huron Research Suite v10
- Huron Research Suite v12
- Huron Employee Compensation Compliance (ECC)
- Huron Revenue Cycle Performance Accelerator (RCPA)

IT teams at both HSC and Central Campus are working with Huron to safely restore access as soon as possible. We will provide additional updates as they become available and look forward to resuming data migration, implementation, and normal operations.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Research Radiates

In this month's Research Radiates, I'm highlighting one of the keynote speakers during R&D Week, Setso Metodi.

Metodi is the director of Computational Design and Theory at Quantinuum, the world's largest integrated quantum computing company. He directs global multi-disciplinary theory working groups across atomic molecular and optical (AMO) theory, quantum characterization, quantum error correction (QEC), and application development to shape next-generation hardware architectures.

With more than two decades in quantum computing, Metodi's career is anchored in pioneering scalable architectural frameworks, particularly for trapped-ion systems. His early co-authored book, *Quantum Computing for Computer Architects*, established baseline resource estimation and fault-tolerant techniques that helped catalyze major federal investments in utility-scale quantum systems. Prior to joining Quantinuum, Metodi served as a co-founder of the Quantum New Mexico Institute (QNM-I) while leading Sandia National Laboratories' quantum computer science programs.

His address traces the field's journey from early ideas and laboratory experiments to today's demonstrations of quantum error correction. Using recent results, he will explain how combining

imperfect qubits creates more reliable ones, and why this marks a turning point toward fault-tolerant computing. We welcome you to attend his keynote address and learn more about an emerging technology that promises to help transform the New Mexico economy.