

LOBOscript

Summer & Fall 2020

Passing
**HOUSE
BILL 42**

CONTENTS



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FEATURED STORY House Bill 42

The Pharmaceutical Service Reimbursement Parity (House Bill 42) is passed in New Mexico, ushering in parity for pharmacists.

[Page 8]

- 1 EXECUTIVE**
Dean's Desk Notes

- 3 THE DIAMOND CAMPAIGN**
75th Anniversary Campaign Launch

- 5 STUDENTS GIVING BACK**
UNM Day at the Legislature

- 7 FEATURED STORY**
Passing House Bill 42

- 11 FACULTY HIGHLIGHT**
Truman Health Services

- 13 CONVOCATION**
Class of 2020 Virtual Convocation

- 15 LOBO LIFE**
IDWeek, Student Perspectives
Lobo Women's Basketball Game

- 19 ALUMNI CORNER**
Preceptor Highlight
Lobos in Training
Class of 2009 Reunion
James F. Zimmerman Award

- 25 THANKS & RECOGNITION**
Thanks
Dean's List

from the DEAN'S DESK

Dear Friends,

I am happy to share with you this special Summer/Fall edition of LoboScript, a magazine for everyone from the UNM College of Pharmacy.

Inside this issue, you will discover the many ways our students, faculty, staff and alumni work to improve the health of our local and global communities. From the approval of House Bill 42, a bill ensuring payment parity for our state's pharmacists, to the countless events at which our student pharmacists continue to provide free health care services, the College has been working tirelessly to achieve its mission.

The last seven months have been difficult for the College, the state, and our country. From a global pandemic, civil unrest, and forest fires burning across the west, these are trying times. The College of Pharmacy has responded in an amazing fashion as we went virtual almost overnight. From virtual classes and virtual meetings to a virtual convocation for the Class of 2020 and virtual Pinning and White Coat Ceremonies, we have tried to remain connected, but socially distant. Lecturing and learning from home (with the ever present distractions of children walking in during lecture to the barking of dogs) instead of our usual classrooms has become the norm. Despite the rising and falling number of COVID-19 cases in New Mexico and the country, we were able to bring our students back for those all-important skills labs that cannot be taught and assessed remotely. Our research labs are back up and running and producing the scientific discoveries that will impact the health of New Mexicans and the world. The parking lots are a little less empty, there are fewer closed doors and more lights are on in our buildings.

Despite all of these trials and tribulations, there is no better time to be a Lobo. The resilience of the pack is apparent everywhere I look. It is apparent in the outstretched hands that met our fellow pack members in need. It is apparent in the grief we shared when tragedy struck. It is especially apparent in the acts of solidarity that we offered one another in the presence of injustice. I am proud to say that I have been inspired and moved by the resilience of my Lobo family.

As the summer heat dwindles and the trees welcome their fall colors (and maybe even a little snow in the mountains), we at the College look forward to the next few months with our usual optimism and sense of service before self.

Thank you for your continued support of the UNM College of Pharmacy. Go Lobos!!

Sincerely,



Donald A. Godwin, PhD
Dean





75th Diamond Anniversary Launch

by José Rodriguez

Every year, the UNM College of Pharmacy holds a scholarship reception to thank the generous benefactors whose support ensures the continued success of the next generation of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. The recent scholarship reception, however, was vastly different from previous years. Held within the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, and greeted by a roaring animatronic dinosaur (Bistahieversor), the 2019 Scholarship Reception was special as it marked the beginning of the College's 75th Diamond Anniversary Campaign.

Throughout the night, donors had the chance to mingle with scholarship recipients and catch up with fellow alumni. Student pharmacists Esther

Nalamlieng (PharmD Candidate '21) and Lyndsay Ryan (PharmD '20) were able to share their experiences from pharmacy school, and describe the opportunities that their scholarships provided them. In a particularly touching story, Esther recounted the moment she decided to dedicate herself to the underserved communities of her state as a pharmacist.

The night came to its long-awaited finale during which 75th Diamond Anniversary Campaign Co-Chairs Mona Ghattas (BSPH '84) and Jennifer Ortega (PharmD '01) announced the commencement of the campaign. Former deans John Pieper and Lynda Welage were recognized along with current dean Donald Godwin for their generous lead gifts to jump-start the campaign. Most notably, Kevin Bliss and his husband Damien Brouillard also joined the deans to make a lead gift in memory of the late dean Carman Bliss.

Spirits soared while dean Godwin closed out the event with a final 'thank you' and subsequent welcome to the year of celebration at the College of Pharmacy. The night wouldn't be complete without one final roar of the museum's animatronic dinosaur to ring in a lifetime of pharmacy achievement.



Top: Alumnae pose with the "Bisti Beast" animatronic dinosaur for a photo.

Middle: Former dean Pieper and current dean Godwin.

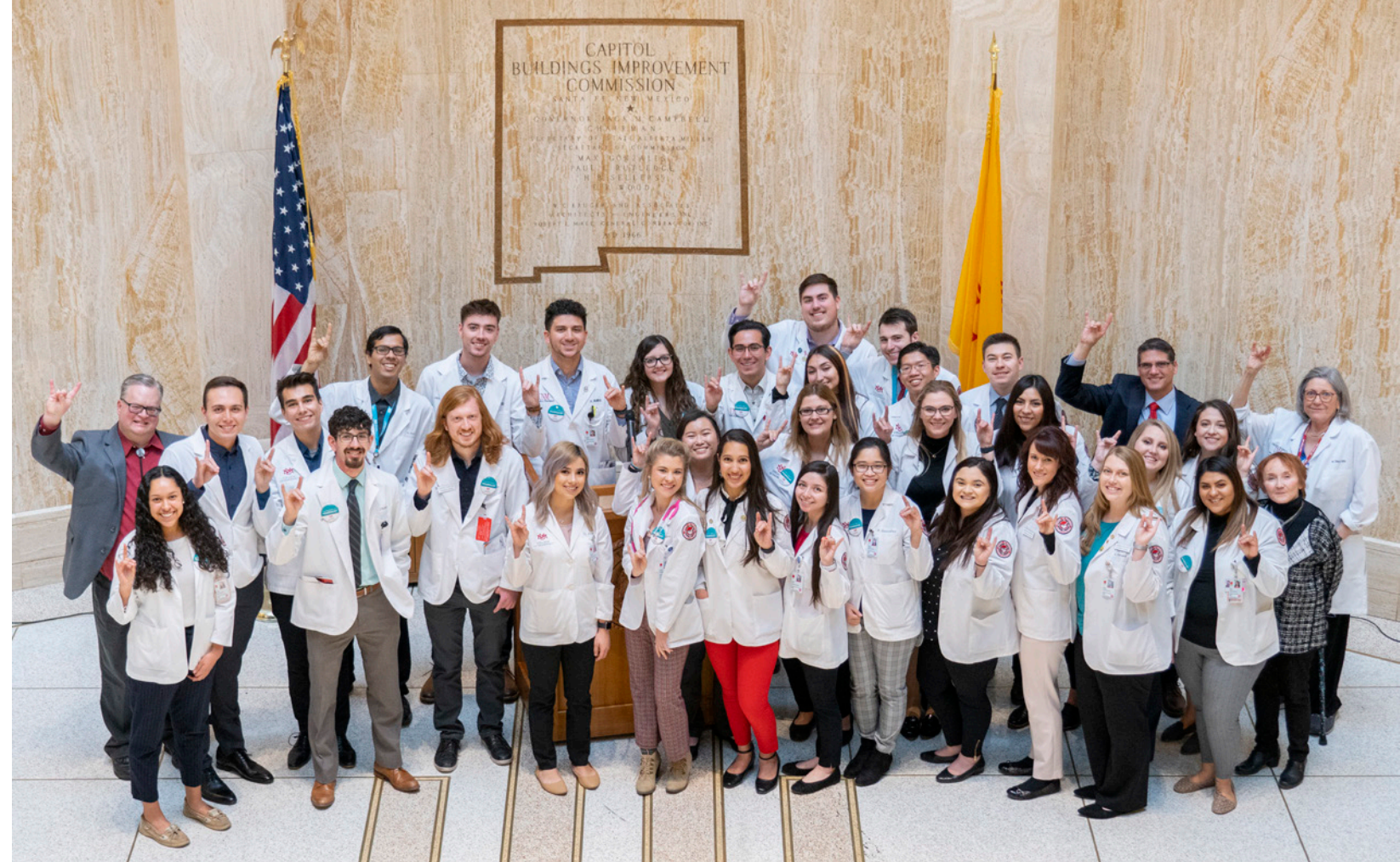
Bottom: Campaign Co-Chair Mona Ghattas (BSPH '84).

UNMDAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Annually, Lobos from across the state converge at the state capital to partake in UNM Day at the Legislature. Occurring annually at the New Mexico State Legislature, UNM Day features Lobos of every program, department, and college of the university.

Student pharmacists traveled from Albuquerque in full force to do what they do best, provide services to their community and advocate for their profession. Throughout the entire day, student pharmacists rotated between providing health screenings and walking the rotunda handing out leaflets in support of House Bill 42 (Pharmaceutical Services Reimbursement Parity).

At every turn within the capitol, student pharmacists donning their white coats were visible advocating for their profession. At every stage of their Doctor of Pharmacy program, student pharmacists from the UNM College of Pharmacy are encouraged to leverage their influence to advance the profession of pharmacy, as well as provide a voice to those underserved communities that benefit most from their care. UNM Day allowed them to demonstrate the tremendous value they currently have as students, and offered a glimpse into their budding potential as health champions for the state of New Mexico as full-fledged pharmacists.



HOUSE BILL 42

HOW HB-42 IS A VICTORY FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES AND THE PHARMACISTS THAT SERVE THEM.

by Ramona Kreidl-Dear and José Rodríguez



New Mexico, much like the rest of the country, is experiencing an immense shortage of health care providers. The effects of this shortage are felt most strongly in the rural and underserved areas of the state. The pharmacists of New Mexico, on account of being the most accessible yet underutilized health care providers, are a wonderful option for expanding access to care, which quickly became a goal for the New Mexico 2020 legislative session. Pre-filed in December 2019, House Bill 42 (Pharmaceutical Service Reimbursement Parity) was introduced into the 2020 New Mexico Legislative session with hopes to increase patient access to care across the state.

The bill was the result of a robust collaboration between the New Mexico Pharmacists Association, the New Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the UNM College of Pharmacy, and many New Mexico pharmacists. Sponsored by House Representative Deborah A. Armstrong,



chair of the House Health & Human Services Committee, the bill garnered great bipartisan support. Charged with mandating equal reimbursement for the clinical services provided by advanced practice pharmacists, the bill proved to be an incredible force in redefining the role of pharmacists serving New Mexico.

Under House Bill 42, pharmacists with prescriptive authority as well as pharmacist clinicians will receive reimbursement from

NM Medicaid and commercial insurance plans at the same rate as other health care providers. In New Mexico, pharmacists with prescriptive authority must undergo supplemental training covering the areas of in-depth patient assessment, thorough clinical decision-making, and the development of evidence-based, patient-oriented treatment plans. With training in the appropriate protocols, pharmacists with prescriptive authority can provide immunizations, tobacco



cessation, tuberculin skin tests, naloxone, and hormonal contraception to patients in their communities.

Established by the state legislature greater than 25 years ago, pharmacist clinicians have a larger scope of practice, including the ability to prescribe medications, order laboratories, perform physical examinations and manage acute and chronic conditions according to a protocol approved by the New Mexico Boards of Pharmacy and Medicine. Pharmacist clinicians require even further training including a 60-hour physical assessment course and a 150 hour patient-contact preceptorship before advanced licensure. With the approval and signing of House Bill 42, pharmacist clinicians now also have the ability to be reimbursed by NM Medicaid (pending approval of a CMS-waiver) and commercial insurance plans for the clinical services they provide. This will allow for more opportunities for pharmacist clinicians to work outside the metro areas and offer their services to

rural and underserved communities, providing chronic disease and medication management to treat a variety of conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and pain, as well as different populations such as geriatric and pediatric patients. This reformed reimbursement process introduced with House Bill 42 will be a tremendous benefit to not only patients, but other providers as one physician, Jeremy Snyder points out, “I can’t imagine our busy outpatient clinic running without having pharmacist clinicians.”

On February 20, 2020, House Bill 42 unanimously passed the Senate without debate and was signed by Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham on March 6th.. The passage of this bill was largely in thanks to the College of Pharmacy faculty, students, dean, support staff, and many others who made countless phone calls, emails, and were present at the Capitol to have their voices heard. Dean Donald A. Godwin expressed his gratitude and summed up the victory, “the passage of this bill will echo throughout the country and I will make sure to let every Dean of a College/ School of Pharmacy know what we have done here in New Mexico. I cannot wait to see where pharmacy in this state goes next.” In fact, the passing indeed made the national spotlight via an email blast from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

(ASHP) that summarized the historic event, “ASHP is grateful to all of the individuals and organizations that took the time to express their support for the bill, which represents a significant step in expanding access to healthcare in New Mexico. We congratulate and thank the NMSHP and the UNM College of Pharmacy SSHP for their work on this issue and look forward to continuing our advocacy efforts on expanding pharmacists’ scope of practice in other states.”

House Bill 42 and legislation preceding it, showcase how the evolution of the profession of pharmacy can address the health care disparities facing New Mexicans every day. Until all of the state’s pharmacists are practicing at the top of their license, there will be a need for the important advocacy work that the College, as well as its affiliates, does. Bills like House Bill 42 keep New Mexico at the forefront of pharmacy practice around the country. Outside of the state Capitol, the UNM College of Pharmacy does its part to prepare the pharmacists of tomorrow by providing its graduates with prescriptive authority training and opportunities to become full-fledged pharmacist clinicians. Every patient deserves access to an advanced practice pharmacist to optimize his or her healthcare and HB 42 is a step in the right direction towards achieving this goal.





TRUMAN HEALTH

A pharmacist clinician in action



The clock strikes 8:00 am and the health care team at Truman Health Services Clinic readies for another day of serving New Mexicans living with HIV. Among the health care team is UNM College of Pharmacy faculty and alumna, Kelsea Aragon. As the college's newest faculty member, she represents the cutting-edge of advanced practice pharmacy in New Mexico—the pharmacist clinician (PhC).

As a pharmacist clinician, Kelsea's role at Truman Health transcends the pharmacy and places her at the center of patient care, where she and other members of the health care team tirelessly pursue the best possible outcomes for their patients. Whether prescribing medications, performing physical exams, or ordering lab tests, Kelsea proudly does her part to ensure that her patients can achieve an undetectable HIV viral load while maintaining a strong immune system. Today, 250 of New Mexico's 1,800 pharmacists are practicing advanced

pharmacy as pharmacist clinicians, redefining what it means to be a pharmacist. Although clinical pharmacy have seemingly always been an essential part of the continuum of health care, it was not until 1993 that pharmacists were able to embody the contemporary, advanced practice pharmacist. With the shortage of primary care providers state-wide, New Mexico introduced and passed the Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority Act, allowing specialty trained pharmacists to provide care to patients under collaborative agreements with supervising physicians.

Pharmacist clinicians like Kelsea have had a tremendous impact on the health of their patients throughout New Mexico and around the country, addressing disparities in health care access and improving outcomes for patients. Around the state, pharmacist clinicians hope to continue redefining the clinical role of pharmacists in the health care team.

Class of 2020 **Virtual Convocation**

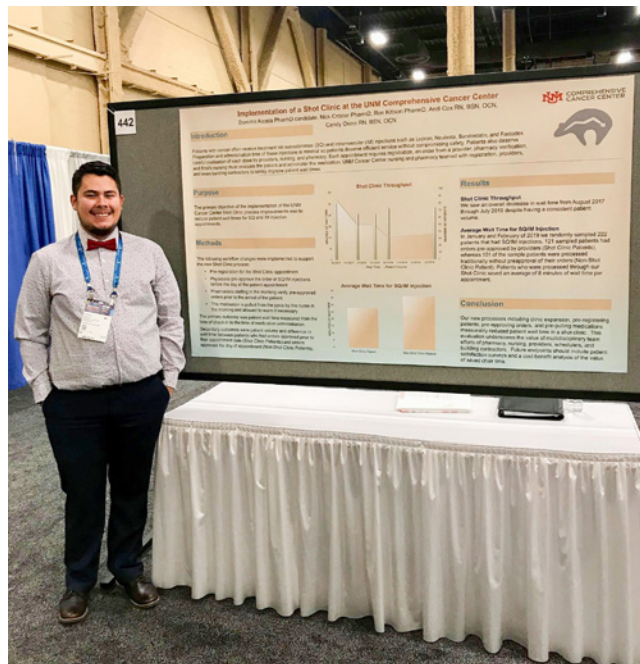
Words wouldn't suffice, see our touching highlight video:



THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

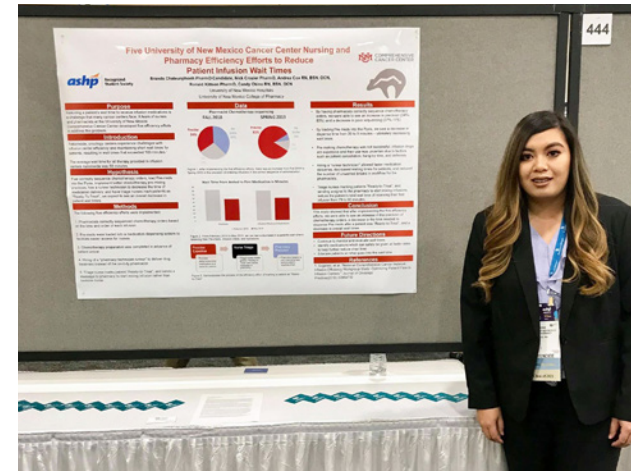
ashp MIDYEAR 2019

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists



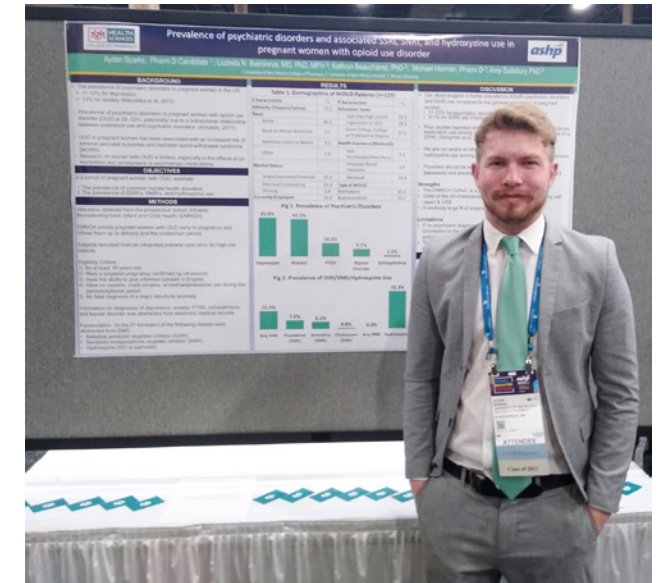
"I was very excited, but also very nervous when I found out I was going to be presenting at ASHP Midyear. I had never worked on a research project before so the whole process was all very daunting to say the least. When I arrived at the conference I was immediately intimidated, and my nerves were beginning to get the best of me. However, I had realized that I had spent a great deal of my time working on this project and I was not going to let my nerves get in the way of anything. Once the poster presentation session began everything that I was worrying about began to dissipate and my focus shifted to the true task at hand, my poster presentation. This was a learning experience that I will never forget. I am happy that I was able to push myself out of my comfort zone and do something that scared me. I am glad I was given the opportunity to present and hope I will be able to do it again in the future."

- **Dominic Acosta**
PharmD Candidate 2021



"My experience at the ASHP Midyear Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada was very enriching and unforgettable. The conference provided an amazing opportunity to network, learn more about health-system pharmacy, and enhance my knowledge and communication skills. I was able to meet student pharmacists from different schools across the country, and talk to residents to gain insight on their experiences at their programs. There were multiple courses/ ce's that you can choose to attend based on your interests, and any course you attended was an opportunity to learn. I had the pleasure of presenting a poster at Midyear, and it was remarkable! Being able to see so many student pharmacists in one area focused on improving patient care and expanding the field of pharmacy was an amazing sight. Since it was my first time attending a conference such as this, it was quite stressful and overwhelming due to the amount of people who attended. However, I feel that it has prepared me for when I attend next year's Midyear. I was honored to be able to attend the conference and represent the University of New Mexico's College of Pharmacy along with my fellow colleagues. Midyear was an incredible experience and I would recommend all student pharmacists to attend!"

- **Branda Chaleunphonh**
PharmD Candidate 2021



"My experience at the ASHP Midyear Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada was very enlightening. I had the honor to present research on behalf of the college out of Dr. Bakhireva's lab. I was able to professionally engage with pharmacists from around the country and talk about my research as well the broader topics in pharmacy. I believe this will help me have a broader perspective in pharmacy and help to contribute to patient care in the future. I would like to thank Dr. Bakhireva, Dr. Beauchamp, Dr. Herman, and Dr. Salisbury for their immense help on the research and the poster and for making this great experience possible. I also had the privilege to attend the residency showcase, which was a great experience because I was able to know what to expect in my fourth year and help me to secure a residency when applications roll around. I will take both of these experiences to continue to my journey and ultimate goal of becoming a clinical pharmacist and I am excited for the future."

- **Aydan Sparks**
PharmD Candidate 2021

LOBOS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

On Saturday, February 1st, 2020, a large group of student pharmacists provided free health screenings at a Lobo women's basketball game in support of the American Heart Association's *Go Red for Women* campaign. The campaign seeks to increase women's heart health awareness and serve as a catalyst for change to improve the lives of women globally. Despite a stinging loss to the Fresno State Bulldogs, all Lobos at the game took an opportunity to celebrate women's health and the pivotal role that pharmacists play in the health of their communities.





PRECEPTOR SPOTLIGHT MARIA APODACA

by Jessica Gama

Dr. Maria Apodaca (PharmD '07) grew up in New Mexico and earned her PharmD from the UNM College of Pharmacy, then joined the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service. Maria has been with the Commissioned Corps at the Albuquerque Indian Health Center for ten years now, and has precepted students for nearly as long. When asked what motivates her to precept students, Maria spoke about her time as a student and how her preceptors taught her so much while on rotation. Precepting, she says, is her opportunity to give back, to share with students what she's learned over the years, and to mentor them throughout their training.

In fact, several students have returned to IHS after their clinical rotation to volunteer and continue learning with Maria. These mentorship opportunities are confirmation that she's doing well and making an impact, Maria says. One such mentee, Mandy Ferris (class of 2020), had this to say about her time with Dr. Maria Apodaca at IHS:

“My first experiential rotation was at Indian Health Services in Albuquerque, NM. I was nervous and a little deflated after my first year of pharmacy school. I was fortunate to be placed with Dr. Maria Apodaca as my preceptor. Her passion and knowledge of pharmacy surpassed my expectations and made my experience positive and motivating. She helped renew my passion for pharmacy and encouraged me to continue on my pharmacy journey in areas that I never thought I would pursue. Dr. Apodaca is the best kind of preceptor; she is knowledgeable, passionate, nurturing, positive, and guides her students throughout the journey. We all know that pharmacy school is stressful and at times emotionally draining. When school was challenging and seemed unbearable, I am able to look back on my rotation with Dr. Apodaca and get my passion for pharmacy on track. I hope every student has a preceptor as amazing as Dr. Apodaca.”

Dr. Maria Apodaca is a valued preceptor and partner of the College, and we look forward to working with her for years to come!



LOBOS IN TRAINING

ARE YOU EXPECTING A LITTLE LOBO?

Let your family at the College of Pharmacy know!

We would be thrilled to send you a gift in celebration of your new child or grandchild.

Find us on social media
@unmcop

or email us at
cop-alumni@salud.unm.edu



CLASS OF 2009

10 Year Reunion



The packs that pharmacy Lobos form while roaming their halls are unbreakable, and there are few examples better than the Class of 2009. After a decade, the class greeted each other warmly for the first phase of their reunion, a guided tour of the newly-constructed Domenici North Wing, where current pharmacy students take the majority of their classes.

Outfitted with the latest audio/video technology and featuring a fully-stocked mock pharmacy lab, the Domenici North Wing gives the visiting class a look into the future of pharmacy education, where learners in pharmacy, medicine and nursing learn the delicate interplay that they have with one another as members of the interdisciplinary health care team.

After touring the new facility, the class took a stroll through memory lane by paying their old building, the Nursing & Pharmacy Building, a visit. They reminisced about their glory days in pharmacy school and even stopped by their class composite, which now lives in the basement floor of the pharmacy building among other classes of proud Lobos.

The reunion celebration came to its grand finale as the Class of 2009 joined one another at the Albuquerque Seasons Rotisserie & Grill where they had the opportunity to reclaim some memories and honor their late classmate, Dr. Nathan Wayne Marks. To close out the night, they raised a glass not just to past ten years, but also to the many years ahead.



JAMES F. ZIMMERMAN AWARD

C. FRANK BENNETT (BSPH '80)

C. Frank Bennett, PhD, is the chief scientific officer at, and founding member of, Ionis Pharmaceuticals. He is responsible for the advancement of antisense technology and expanding Ionis' drug discovery platform. Bennett is also the franchise leader for neurological programs at Ionis. He has been involved in the development of antisense oligonucleotides as therapeutic agents, including research on the application of oligonucleotides for inflammatory, neurodegenerative diseases and cancer, oligonucleotide delivery, pharmacokinetics and medicinal chemistry.

Bennett is a co-recipient of the 2019 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences for his contributions to the discovery and development of Spinraza (nusinersen) and the 2018 Hereditary Disease Foundation's Leslie Gehry Brenner Prize for Innovation in Science for his leadership and continued commitment to developing antisense therapies for Huntington's disease.

He has published more than 230 papers on antisense research and development, and he is an inventor on more than 175 issued patents.

SPECIAL THANKS

COMMUNITY AND ALUM PANEL PARTICIPANTS FOR
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Hospital Pharmacist Panel

Scott Roach
Lisa Bolden
James Brown

Employer Panel

Jeff Bettner
Theresa Sanchez
Monique Dodd
Jarvis Mixon
Jennifer Haddock
Jeremy De Graaf
Alexis Abbatantuano
Teo Borunda
Christina Kim
Eric Garcia
Joe Dinallo
Robert Hellinga

Preceptor Panel

Carly Floyd
Madeline King
Capt. Siloise Binikiseh

CV + Review Panel

Rebecca De Moss
Jeff Betner
Pree Sarangarm
James Brown
Scott Roach
Kyle Milberger
Jason Koury
Kelsea Aragon
Jessica Lewis
Amy Bachyrycz
Monique Dodd
Didi Okpareke
Shannon Saltclah

DEAN'S LIST

Spring 2020

Albazzaz, Haya
Alcon, Joshua
Alcon, Marissa
Anderson, Beverly
Asanga, Louis
Bennett, Hillary
Boisvert, Lydia
Browder, Wesley
Burciaga, Esteban
Bustamante, Andrea
Cappuccilli, Amanda
Carlton, Lance
Carrillo, Adriana
Carrillo, Dulce
Chacon, Veronica
Chairez, Isabella
Chaleunphonh, Branda
Chavez, Yvanna
Coons, Isabelle
Darling, Brenna
DeAngelis, Haedi
Dockery, Chanelle
Doose, Andy
Dow, Ryan
Doyle, Chaniece
Drummond, Elise
Ferris, Amanda
Flory, Charlotte
Gabaldon, Joslyn
Gallegos, Michaela
Garcia, Marcus
Garrett, Kaitlin
Gibson, Kayla
Glover, Sarah
Goehler, Ashley
Goel, Neil
Gonzales, Bianca
Gonzales, Pamela
Gooden, Jada
Goundar, Vani
Gul Mohammad, Samir
Gutierrez, Alexandra
Hawkins, Charles

Haynes, Aaron
Hernandez, Brandy
Hernandez, Maria
Hitchcock, Cassidy
Horinek, Devin
Howse, Tyler
Huang, Shih-Hsuan
Isidro, Maria Angelika
Jaramillo, Sierra
Johnson, Brooke
Johnson, Miel
Jordan, Sarah
Knipfing, Troylyn
Kooiman, Jamie
Kuskov, Brianna
Le, Peter
Lee, Moochan
Livingston, Janalee
Lucero, Pauline
Macias, Nestor
Makens, Courtney
Manno, Jordan-Nicho
Marquez, Carlos
Martinez, Jason
Martinez, Mercedes
Martinez, Victoria
Mayberry, Dustin
Miera, Lauren
Montoya, Isaiah
Moyers, Ryan
Nguyen, Avy
Nguyen, Caryn Hong
Nguyen, Duyen
Nguyen, William
Novick, Kayla
Nunez, Derek
Ortiz, Kyle
Ortiz, Zachary
Park, Sarah
Patel, Sajni
Patel, Sarthak
Pesko, Bryan
Pham, Hong

Phan, Jacqueline
Pino, Onnica
Pleil-Pino, Tatiana
Powell, Ashley
Reise, Rachel
Robertson, Colton
Rocco, Jared
Rodriguez, Daniel
Romero, Vanessa
Ryan, Lyndsay
Salazar, Laura
Sanchez, Arianna
Sanchez, Daniel
Sanderson, Evan
Sandoval, Karissa
Santillanes Lopez, Rosalia
Santistevan, Eden
Seazzu, Micaela
Severin, Jessica
Shah, Meera
Shojaee, Mahya
Signs, Devin
Solano, Jason
Sparks, Aydan
Standiford, Nicole
Stever, Erin
Tadfor, Yomi
Tarango, Edson
Toribio, Iris
Torres, Eleazar
Valencia, Dreanna
Vasquez, Nathan
Vo, Hao
Vo, Nam
Wegener, Kevin
Wesselkamper, Danyelle
Williams, Sydney
Wilson, Thomas
Winters, Ashley
Wong, Kimberly
Zarick, Cory



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A teal-tinted photograph of a modern, multi-story building, likely the College of Pharmacy building. The building has a prominent corner and large windows. The text 'COLLEGE OF PHARMACY' is visible on the building's facade. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter.

Pharmacy is the future.