



Honors Convocation

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

December 20th, 2024 | 10:00 A.M.

CEREMONY

Kendra K. Schmid, PhD
Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Interim Dean, UNMC Graduate Studies

***PROCESSIONAL: Pomp and Circumstance
(*Please Stand)**

***NATIONAL ANTHEM**

***INVOCATION**
Kathryn Muilenburg
PhD Candidate, Pharmaceutical Sciences

WELCOME
Kendra K. Schmid, PhD
Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Interim Dean, UNMC Graduate Studies

GREETINGS FROM DIGNITARIES

Elizabeth O'Connor, JD
Board of Regents, District 4

Nick Wojtynek, PhD
(PhD 2020, UNMC Cancer Research)
President, UNMC Graduate Studies Engagement Council

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Jordan Rowley, PhD

Service Learning and Professional Development Badge

Graduate Students of Distinction

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

H. Dele Davies, MD
Interim Chancellor, University of Nebraska Medical Center

INTRODUCTION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

Karen A. Gould, PhD

Interim Executive Associate Dean, UNMC Graduate Studies

Graduate Certificates

Recognition of Certificate Recipients

Master's Degrees

Master's Candidates will be hooded by their Advisors
with the assistance of Dr. Rowley

Doctor of Philosophy

PhD Candidates will be hooded by their Supervisors
with the assistance of Dr. Rowley

GRADUATE STUDENT OATH

Kendra K. Schmid, PhD

Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Interim Dean, UNMC Graduate Studies

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Kendra K. Schmid, PhD

Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Interim Dean, UNMC Graduate Studies

***RECESSIONAL: Pomp and Circumstance**

CEREMONY MARSHALS

Sharon Medcalf, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology
Program Director, MSIA – Health Practice & Medical Education Research

Laura D. Bilek, PhD

Professor, Department of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Associate Dean for Research, College of Allied Health Professions

AUGUST AND DECEMBER 2024 GRADUATES

GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Amanda M. Stabler, Norfolk, NE
Applied Health Informatics
(Advisor: Tammy Webster)

MASTER'S DEGREES

Vanessa Elaine Crookshank, Edwards, CO
Health Professions Teaching & Technology
(Advisor: Tammy Webster)

Jessica M. Engen, Omaha, NE
Healthcare Delivery Science
(Advisor: Tanya Custer)

Katherine Anne Harbols, Kearney, NE
Healthcare Delivery Science
(Advisor: Tanya Custer)

Nikki Alexandra Kudlacz, Omaha, NE
Healthcare Delivery Science
(Advisor: Tammy Webster)

Joseph Ryan Ray, Summersville, WV
Health Professions Teaching & Technology
(Advisor: Tammy Webster)

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES

Mazin T. Abdelghany, Belmont, MA

Biostatistics
(Advisor: Yeongjin Gwon)

Hibah Wasim Chughtai, Lincoln, NE

MSIA Oral Biology
Development of a Streptococcus Mutans Biofilm Model on a Typodont Platform to Investigate its Dynamics in Orthodontics
(Advisor: Minnie Vishwanath)

Kristin Ashley Dickinson, Gretna, NE

MSIA Clinical & Translational Research Mentored Scholars
Biobehavioral Correlates of Multidimensional Fatigue in Men with Prostate Cancer
(Advisor: Bunny Pozehl)

Ghada A. Elmahmudi, Tripoli, Libya

Immunology, Pathology & Infectious Disease
(Advisor: Nora Sarvetnick)

Bhoomika Suresh Gowda, Mumbai, India

Pharmaceutical Sciences
A Third Generation Long-Acting Dimeric Dolutegravir Prodrug Nanoformulation
(Advisor: Benson Edagwa)

Richard J. Hankins, Omaha, NE

MSIA Clinical & Translational Research Mentored Scholars
Prospective, Crossover, Comparative Study of Two Methods of Chlorhexidine Bathing
(Advisor: Mark Rupp)

Katherine Lambert Higgins, Nashua, NH

MSIA Oral Biology
Impact of Space Opening for Prosthetic Replacement of Missing Maxillary Later Incisors on Alveolar Bone, Soft Tissue, and Airway in Cleft Lip and Palate Patients: A CBCT Study
(Advisor: Po-Jung Chen)

Aadarsh Pradip Khairnar, Nashik, India

Pharmaceutical Sciences
Synthesis and Characterization of an Activity-based Probe to Isolate and Quantify Adduct Formation in NTSRI TRT
(Advisor: Jered Garrison)

Mohammad Khan, New Delhi, India

Pharmaceutical Sciences
Synthesis and Characterization of Block Copolymer-based Nanoparticles for Sustained Release of Therapeutics to Address Secondary Injury Events upon Traumatic Brain Injury
(Advisor: Svetlana Romanova)

Shobhit Prajwal Lall, Madhya Pradesh, India

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Asporin/Crabp2 Axis Drives "Cell-State" Transition to Enable Neuroendocrine-like Phenotype in Prostate Cancer
(Advisor: Parthasarathy Seshacharyulu)

Emily Alcy Leach, Warren, ME

MSIA Oral Biology
Degradation of Orthodontic Clear Aligners from Outdoor Weathering Exposure
(Advisor: Po-Jung Chen)

Megan Lynn Otte, Omaha, NE

Immunology, Pathology & Infectious Disease
Understanding the Role of Malondialdehyde-Acetaldehyde Adducts (MMA) in Inflammatory Bowel Disease
(Advisor: Amar Singh)

Ashley Nicole Reid, Omaha, NE
Medical Physiology
(Advisor: Matthew Zimmerman)

Elizabeth Ann Schmitz, Dillworth, MN
Cancer Research
Dying Right: Supporting Anti-Cancer Therapy through Immunogenic Cell Death
(Advisor: Dalia Elgamal)

Stephen Richard Sobota, Schuyler, NE
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Determining if Cx45 acts as an Arrhythmogenic Substrate in the Diseased Myocardium
(Advisor: Paul Sorgen)

Mehnaz Tabassum, Dhaka, Bangladesh
MSIA Clinically Relevant Basic Research
(Advisor: Maher Abdalla)

Jenna K. Thompson, Omaha, NE
Medical Anatomy
(Advisor: Samantha Simet)

Alex Van Lent, Omaha, NE
Biostatistics - Online
(Advisor: James Dong)

Carson Eugene Walker, Norfolk, NE
Medical Anatomy
(Advisor: Samantha Simet)

Shuo Wang, Tianjin, China
MSIA Clinical & Translational Research Mentored Scholars
Leveraging Radiomics for Improved Diagnostics, Prognosis, and Treatment Response in Pancreatic Cancer
(Advisor: Chi Lin)

Shweta Wani, India
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Synthesis and Characterization of Zoledronic Acid Prodrugs: A Potential Therapeutic for Enhanced Drug Delivery and Targeted Treatment
(Advisor: Aaron Mohs)

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Weilun Ai, Wuhan, China

IGPBS Integrative Physiology & Molecular Medicine

The Role of Thromboxane-Prostanoid Receptor in Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease and Cardiomyopathy

(Supervisor: Saraswathi Viswanathan)

Rima Mohammed Ahmed Al Balushi, Oman

Health Services Research, Administration & Policy

Bio-preparedness in a Global Context: Multi-site International Study Investigating Global Health Security Challenges in Egypt, Oman, and the United States

(Supervisor: Ronnie Horner)

Wafaa Nasser Aldhafiri, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Pharmacokinetics and Tissue Distribution of a Lipid-Based Extended-Release Nano-Formulation of MO-OH-Nap Tropolone to Enhance Pulmonary Delivery for the Treatment of Pulmonary Metastatic Osteosarcoma

(Supervisor: DJ Murry)

Abdullah M. Alshehri, Abha, Saudi Arabia

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Characterization of Population Pharmacokinetics and Associated Interindividual Variability of Drugs Used in Mass Drug Administration Against Lymphatic Filariasis

(Supervisor: DJ Murry)

Sean N. Avedissian, Omaha, NE

MSIA Clinical & Translational Research Mentored Scholars

Central Nervous System Antiviral Pharmacology

(Supervisor: Courtney Fletcher)

Ryan T. Cannady, Knoxville, TN

MSIA Health Practice & Medical Education Research

A Comprehensive Usability and Economic Analysis of Heat-Related Wearable Technologies: Applications to Occupational Health

(Supervisor: Kristina Kintziger)

Luana J. de Campos, Sete Quedas, Brazil

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Development of Dihydrothiazepines as Antimicrobial Agents

(Supervisor: Martin Conda Sheridan)

Nicole Caitlyn Demchuk, Loleta, CA

MSIA Applied Behavior Analysis

A Stepwise Evaluation of Pairing, Shaping, and Nonremoval of the Spoon for Children with Autism and Feeding Difficulties

(Supervisor: Bethany Hansen)

Samantha Ann Dieckmann, Lincoln, NE

MSIA Patient-Oriented Research

CT Scan Identified Sarcopenia and the Relationship with the MST and AND/ASPEN Malnutrition Guidelines in Gastrointestinal Cancer Patients

(Supervisor: Corri Hanson)

Rebecca Anne Drakowski, Harrisburg, NC

MSIA Patient-Oriented Research

SPARKLED: Social Programming Affects Risk in Kids of Latent Endothelial Disease

(Supervisor: Ann Anderson Berry)

Emily L. Ferris, Colchester, CT

MSIA Applied Behavior Analysis

Using Fully Immersive Virtual Reality to Teach Safe Pedestrian Skills to Autistic Children

(Supervisor: Nicole Rodriguez)

Flobater I. Gawargi, East Brunswick, NJ
IGPBS Integrative Physiology & Molecular Medicine
Regulatory Roles of Matrix Metalloprotease-9 in Diabetic Cardiomyopathy
(Supervisor: Paras Kumar Mishra)

Benjamin G. Girardo, Glendale, AZ
IGPBS Immunology, Pathology & Infectious Disease
Characterizing the Francisella Tularensis Universal Stress Protein
(Supervisor: Marilyn Larson)

Hannah L. Harris, Maud, TX
IGPBS Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology
Transcription and 3D Chromatin Organization Interplay at Sub-Kilobase Scale
(Supervisor: Jordan Rowley)

Aaron Alexander Jensen, Henderson, NE
IGPBS Immunology, Pathology & Infectious Disease
The Unfolding Saga: The Role of the CLPC Unfoldase in the Development and Differentiation of Chlamydia Trachomatis
(Supervisor: Scot Ouellette)

Haochen Jiang, Zhenjiang, China
Pharmaceutical Sciences
The Development of Tissue-Specific Glucocorticoid Prodrug Nanomedicines for the Treatment of Inflammatory/Autoimmune Diseases
(Supervisor: Dong Wang)

Chinmay Jogdeo, Pune, India
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Formulation And Characterization of Biologics – From siRNA to Monoclonal Antibodies
(Supervisor: David Oupicky)

Kajal Kamra, New Delhi, India
IGPBS Integrative Physiology & Molecular Medicine
Novel Mechanisms for the Neural Control of Breathing in Acute Lung Injury
(Supervisor: Hanjun Wang)

Raju Lama Tamang, Omaha, NE
IGPBS Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Role of PYCR2 in Colorectal Cancer
(Supervisor: Amar Singh)

Alaina Claire Larson, Bemidji, MN
IGPBS Cancer Research
Chemotherapy-Induced Modulation of Tumor Antigen Presentation
(Supervisor: Joyce Solheim)

Courtney Nicole Loecker, Lincoln, NE
Nursing
Rheumatoid Arthritis Disease Activity is Associated with Frailty in Veterans
(Supervisor: Chi Chi Zimmerman)

Jingyi Ma, Lanzhou, China
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Delivery of Small Molecule Using Polymeric Nanoparticles for the Treatment of Alcoholic Liver Disease and its Pharmacokinetics and Biodistribution in Mice
(Supervisor: Ram Mahato)

Viktoriya Mashinson, Omaha, NE
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Design and Investigation of Small Molecule Drugs for Potential Treatment of CNS Disorders, Flaviviral Infections, and Cancers
(Supervisor: Corey Hopkins)

Vaibhavi Mone, Ujjain, India

Health Services Research, Administration & Policy
Telehealth for Healthy Aging: A Multi-Level, Multi-Methods Approach
(Supervisor: JY Kim)

Kathryn Margaret Muilenburg, Aurora, NE

Pharmaceutical Sciences
Specifically Targeting MUC16 for Fluorescence-Guided Surgery of Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma
(Supervisor: Aaron Mohs)

Satera A.Y. Nelson, Lincoln, NE

MSIA Health Practice & Medical Education Research
How Does Health Professions Student Engagement Differ Across Campuses in a Synchronous Multi-Campus Learning Environment?
(Supervisor: Martonia Gaskill)

Nghi Minh Nguyen, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

IGPBS Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology
Long-Term Neurodevelopmental Outcomes Post-Chronic Midazolam Exposure During Early Life
(Supervisor: Gurudutt Pendyala)

Abiola Abidemi Oladapo, Idanre, Nigeria

IGPBS Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology
Involvement of NLRP6-Dependent Pyroptosis in Methamphetamine-Induced Neuroinflammation
(Supervisor: Palsamy Periyasamy)

Milankumar J. Patel, Surat, India

MSIA Patient-Oriented Research
CCR5-Ligand Decorated Rilpivirine Lipid-Based Nanoparticles for Sustained Antiretroviral Responses
(Supervisor: Howard Gendelman)

Kristina Pravoverov, Stockton, CA

IGPBS Cancer Research
Understanding the Role of NASTL in Colon Homeostasis and Colitis-Associated Cancer Development
(Supervisor: Puita Dhawan)

Aiden E. Quinn, Brewster, NY

Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Research
Queer Health in Nebraska: Patient Perspectives and Provider Education
(Supervisor: Dejun Su)

Itidal Mohamad Ali Reslane, Tripoli, Lebanon

IGPBS Immunology, Pathology & Infectious Disease
Adaptation through Mutation: Arginine Auxotrophy in Staphylococcus Aureus
(Supervisor: Paul Fey)

Ramia J. Salloom, Damascus, Syria

IGPBS Immunology, Pathology & Infectious Disease
Therapeutic Effects of Targeting the Heme Degradation Pathway in Prostate Cancer
(Supervisor: Maher Abdalla)

Harlan Russell Sayles, Kearney, NE

Biostatistics
Mean from Median Estimation in Longitudinal Meta-analysis of Quality of Life in Radiation Oncology Patients
(Supervisor: Lynette Smith)

Gwenn Lucille Skar, Omaha, NE

MSIA Clinical & Translational Research
Advancing Diagnostics for Pediatric Cerebrospinal Fluid Shunt Infection
(Supervisor: Tammy Kielian)

Jabeen Taiba, Vijayawada, India

MSIA Health Practice & Medical Education Research

Association Between Agrichemical Mixtures and Pediatric Health Outcomes: Evidence from a Nebraska Population-Based Surveillance

(Supervisor: Eleanor Rogan)

Heidi Maria Vieira, Vancouver, British Columbia

IGPBS Cancer Research

Targeting KSR1 to Inhibit Stemness and Therapy Resistance

(Supervisor: Robert Lewis)

Kasidy Kay Dobish Weber, Kearney, NE

IGPBS Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology

P85-alpha Degradation Mediated by Ubiquitin E3 Ligase FBXO21 Offers Therapeutic Potential in Leukemia

(Supervisors: R. Kate Hyde & Shannon Buckley-McKeown)

Elayne Lea Wilson, Atlanta, GA

MSIA Preventive & Societal Medicine

Priorities to Care within the Military Health System: A Mixed Methods Study on Military Spouse Access to Care During COVID-19 on Okinawa

(Supervisor: Sharon Medcalf)

Chen Zhang, Beijing, China

IGPBS Neuroscience

Molecular Characterization of Viral Escape from ART and CRISPR HIV-1 Excision in Infected Humanized Mice

(Supervisor: Prasanta Dash)

STUDENT AWARDS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES

The students listed below previously received awards from local, regional, national or international organizations. Other significant achievements during their graduate training are also indicated.

MASTER'S DEGREES

Vanessa Elaine Crookshank

5 presentations

Joseph Ryan Ray

1 publication
7 presentations

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES

Mazin T. Abdelghany

Simon Biostatistics Scholarship

Hibah Wasim Chughtai

Certificate in Orthodontics

Kristin Ashley Dickinson

1 publication
2 presentations

College of Nursing CRISP Just in Time Accelerator Funding
Nellie House Craven Scholarship
PhD Curriculum Taskforce

Bhoomika Suresh Gowda

Member, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Student Chapter

Richard J. Hankins

11 publications
10+ presentations

Internal Medicine Scientist Development Award
Nebraska Infectious Diseases Society

Katherine Lambert Higgins

Certificate in Orthodontics
Chief Resident, Orthodontics

Aadarsh Pradip Khairnar

Member, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Student Chapter

Shobhit Prajwal Lall

2 publications

Emily Alcy Leach

Certificate in Orthodontics
1 presentation

Megan Lynn Otte

1 publication

Elizabeth Ann Schmitz

3 publications

Chair, Cancer Research student committee for Community Engagement
Chair, UNMC Garden Club planning committee

Stephen Richard Sobota

1 presentation
UNMC Graduate Studies Assistantship
St. Theresa of Calcutta Market Food Pantry Volunteer

Mehnaz Tabassum

1 publication

Shuo Wang

4 publications
4 presentations

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Weilun Ai

5 publications
12 presentations
American Heart Association Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
Best Poster Award, Nebraska Center for the Prevention of Obesity Diseases
GIL Section Research Recognition Award
John Forte Distinguished Abstract Award

Rima Mohammed Ahmed Al Balushi

15 presentations
College of Public Health best PhD research presentation award
Facilitator, Interprofessional Education Day

Wafaa Nasser Aldhafiri

Business for Bioscientists Certificate
5 publications
18+ presentations
Child Health Research Institute Mini Grant
Dean of Graduate Studies Conference Attendance Award
Presidential Trainee Award, American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
Chair, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Student Chapter
Outreach Chair, UNMC Graduate Student Association
International Student Ambassador
Abstract and Proposal Reviewer, American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics

Abdullah M. Alshehri

3 publications
2 presentations
Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission funding

Sean N. Avedissian

20+ publications
4 presentations

Ryan T. Cannady

1 publication
4 presentations
National Safety Council Rising Stars
Tennessee Valley Section AIHA, Board of Directors

Luana J. de Campos

12 publications
4 presentations
UNMC Graduate Studies Assistantship
Best Poster, Pharmaceutical Technologies Workshop
American Chemical Society Conference Travel Award
D.E. Shaw Research Graduate and Postgraduate Women's Fellowship

Nicole Caitlyn Demchuk

2 publications

4 presentations

Secretary, UNMC ABA PhD Student Task Force

Samantha Ann Dieckmann

2 presentations

Rebecca Anne Drakowski

10 publications

20+ presentations

NIH F30, Ruth L. Kirschstein Individual Predoctoral Fellowship

Graduate Student of Distinction

Volunteer, Heartland Equine Therapy Riding Academy

Mentor, Girls Inc.

President, EMPOWER

Emily L. Ferris

2 publications

3 presentations

Flobater I. Gawargi

QIAGEN CLC RNA-seq Bioinformatics Certification

8 publications

10 presentations

UNMC Graduate Studies Assistantship

CHRVI mini-grant

American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship

Dean of Graduate Studies Conference Attendance Award

Best Poster, Nebraska Center for the Prevention of Obesity Diseases

Graduate Student of Distinction

UNeMed Innovation Awardee

Spotlight Recognition, American Physiological Society

Benjamin G. Girardo

4 publications

4 presentations

Hannah L. Harris

9 publications

4 presentations

UNMC Graduate Studies Assistantship

Team Contribution Award, ENCODE Nuclear Architecture Working Group

Mentor, High School Alliance

Mentor, INBRE Undergraduate Student Program

Volunteer, Omaha Public Schools Head Start Program

Aaron Alexander Jensen

4 publications

9 presentations

UNMC Graduate Studies Assistantship

Semi-finalist, Midwest Healthcare Case Competition

Cofounder, Vice President, and President, UNMC Student Consulting Club

Haochen Jiang

6 publications

3 presentations

Best Abstract Travel Award

Chinmay Jogdeo

10 publications

3 presentations

Bukey Memorial Fund

Graduate Student Research Award, American Association of Indian Pharmaceutical Scientists

Treasurer, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Student Chapter

Kajal Kamra

3 publications

14 presentations

American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship

Graduate Student of Distinction

Supplemental Instructor

Peer Academic Consultant

IGPBS Student Representative

Global Student Ambassador

Raju Lama Tamang

7 publications

9 presentations

Alaina Claire Larson

Teaching Online: Course Design, Delivery, and Teaching Presence

8 publications

13+ presentations

NCI Cancer Biology T32 Training Grant Fellowship

American Association of Immunologists Careers in Immunology Fellowship

UNMC Student Impact Award

UNMC Harris Award Honorable Mention

Immunology Course Instructor

SURP Mentor

High School Alliance Instructor

NCI R25 Youth Enjoy Science Mentor

Courtney Nicole Loecker

8 publications

2 presentations

Berger Nursing Scholarship

Jim and Faye Rasmussen Scholarship

Patach Fellowship

College of Nursing Dean's Travel Award

Muriel Munchrath Scholarship Award in Nursing

Jingyi Ma

5 publications

2 presentations

Viktoriya Mashinson

8 publications

8 presentations

ACS Medchem National Travel Award

Organizer, Medical Supplies for Ukraine Project

Chemistry Instructor, UNO

Vaibhavi Mone

4 publications

8 presentations

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Graduate Assistantship

Carruth J. Wagner, MD, Scholarship in Public Health

First Place, Public Health Innovation and Research Expo

President, Gamma Omicron Chapter of Delta Omega Honor Society

Volunteer, Red Cross

Public Health Educator, Summer Career Readiness Program, Urban Health Collaborative

Kathryn Margaret Muilenburg

3 publications

4 presentations

UNMC Student Leadership Scholarship

President, UNMC Graduate Student Association

Senator, UNMC Student Senate

UNMC Mentorship Committee, Domestic Student Representative

Satera A.Y. Nelson

Chair, French Alliance Teacher Scholarship Committee

Nghi Minh Nguyen

8 publications

8 presentations

Lieberman Travel Award

Judge, Nebraska Junior Academy of Science

Co-host, Ask and Tell with Medical Science Liaisons webinar series

Abiola Abidemi Oladapo

9 publications

6 presentations

NIH T32 Neuroimmunology of Disease Training Program Fellowship

Milankumar J. Patel

14+ publications

5 presentations

2 New Invention Awards, UNeMed

6 Research Innovation Awards, New Invention, UNeMed

Kristina Pravoverov

5 publications

5 presentations

UNMC Graduate Studies Assistantship

Harris Award for Cancer Research

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society

Vice President, President, UNMC Student Alliance for Global Health

Student Medical Proier, Jamaica Medical Service Trip

Creative Director of UNMC Doc'Apella group

Instructor, High School Alliance

Aiden E. Quinn

3 publications

7 presentations

COPH Research and Development Committee

OutNebraska Board of Directors

River City Mixed Chorus Board of Directors

Itidal Mohamad Ali Reslane

6 publications

12 presentations

Fulbright Scholar

American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship

Travel Award, Wind River Conference

Graduate Student Representative, Pathology and Microbiology Graduate Committee

Educational and Meritorious Awards Review Committee

Ramia J. Salloom

3 publications

4 presentations

Best Poster Award, Midwest Student Biomedical Research Forum

Harlan Russell Sayles

3 presentations

Council of Chapters Outstanding Service Award, American Statistical Association

COPH Student Research Conference Award

Senator, UNMC Student Senate

Lay Leader, First United Methodist Church of Omaha

Gwenn Lucille Skar

11 publications

8 presentations

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society Research Affairs Subcommittee Chair

Jabeen Taiba

2 publications

7 presentations

Buffett Early Childhood Institute Graduate Scholar

Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute and Nebraska Water Center, Graduate Fellow

Heidi Maria Vieira

2 publications

4 presentations

UNMC Graduate Studies Assistantship

NIH National Cancer Institute Ruth L. Kirschstein Individual Predoctoral Fellowship

Norman & Bernice Harris Award in Cancer Research

Volunteer, Eppley Institute Adopt-A-Family Committee

Kasidy Kay Dobish Weber

4 publications

20+ presentations

Elayne Lea Wilson

10+ presentations

National Military Family Association Scholarship

Nebraska Admirals Appointment

Founding member, Public Health Awareness and Communications Team

Military Family Liaison, Department of Defense, Okinawa, Japan

Chen Zhang

Teaching Online: Course Design, Delivery, and Teaching Presence

7 publications

8 presentations

NIH T32 Neuroimmunology of Disease Training Program Fellowship

Early Career Investigator Travel Award, SNIP

Young Investigator Travel Award, American Society for Virology

POSTGRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

MASTER'S DEGREES

Vanessa Elaine Crookshank

Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, Colorado Mountain College

Nikki Alexandra Kudlacz

Lead Radiation Therapist, Methodist Health System, Omaha, NE

Joseph Ryan Ray

Director of Education, UCF Greater Orlando/HCA Osceola Emergency Medicine, Kissimmee, FL

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES

Hibah Wasim Chughtai

Orthodontist, Dallas TX

Richard J. Hankins

Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases, Nebraska Medicine, Omaha, NE

Shobhit Prajwal Lall

Research Technologist, UNMC, Omaha, NE

Emily Alcy Leach

Associate Orthodontist, Rockport, ME

Ashley Nicole Reid

Pursuing PhD in Clinical Psychology

Elizabeth Ann Schmitz

Medical Student, UNMC, Omaha, NE

Stephen Richard Sobota

Medical Student, UNMC, Omaha, NE

Jenna K. Thompson

Pursuing Physician Assistant Program

Carson Eugene Walker

Pursuing Physical Therapy Program

Shweta Wani

PhD Student, Pharmaceutics, University of Iowa

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Weilun Ai

Postdoctoral Fellow, UNMC, Omaha, NE

Rima Mohammed Ahmed Al Balushi

Medical Doctor and Public Health Doctor, MOH, Muscat, Oman

Wafaa Nasser Aldhafiri

Clinical Reviewer, Division of Cancer Pharmacology, Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD

Abdullah M. Alshehri

Assistant Professor, King Khalid University, Abha, Saudi Arabia

Sean N. Avedissian

Faculty, College of Pharmacy, UNMC

Luana J. de Campos

Postdoctoral Research Associate

Nicole Caitlyn Demchuk

Associate Clinical Director, BlueSprig Pediatrics, Granite Bay, CA

Rebecca Anne Drakowski

Medical Student, UNMC

Emily L. Ferris

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, State University of New York, Syracuse, NY

Flobater I. Gawargi

Postdoctoral Research Associate, UNMC

Benjamin G. Girardo

Quality Assurance/Quality Control Supervisor, Viero Resources, Plattsburgh, NE

Hannah L. Harris

Postdoctoral Research Associate, UNMC

Haochen Jiang

ORISE Fellow, Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD

Chinmay Jogdeo

Senior Scientist, Merck, Rahway, New Jersey

Kajal Kamra

Postdoctoral Research Associate, UNMC

Raju Lama Tamang

Postdoctoral Fellow, Veterans Affairs, Omaha, NE

Alaina Claire Larson

Postdoctoral Neurology Medical Science liaison Fellowship, Sanofi, Boston, MA

Viktoriya Mashinson

Chemistry Instructor, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE

Kathryn Margaret Muilenburg

Postdoctoral Fellow, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD

Satera A.Y. Nelson
Assistant Professor, UNMC

Nghi Minh Nguyen
Postdoctoral Research Associate, UNMC

Milankumar J. Patel
Scientist-I, Analytical Research and Development, AbbVie, Chicago, IL

Kristina Pravoverov
Medical Student, UNMC

Aiden E. Quinn
Research Specialist, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, Lincoln, NE

Itidal Mohamad Ali Reslane
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

Ramia J. Salloom
Postdoctoral Fellow, UNMC

Gwenn Lucille Skar
Associate Professor, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, UNMC

Jabeen Taiba
Postdoctoral Research Associate, UNMC

Heidi Maria Vieira
Medical Student, UNMC

Kasidy Kay Dobish Weber
Assistant Professor of Anatomical Sciences, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, UT

Elayne Lea Wilson
Public Health Emergency Management, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Chen Zhang
Postdoctoral Fellow, UNMC

UNMC GRADUATE COUNCIL

IGPBS = Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences

MSIA = Medical Sciences Interdepartmental Area

Mark D. Shriver, PhD	Applied Behavior Analysis (MS program)
Moorthy Palanimuthu Ponnusamy, PhD	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (MS program)
Jenenne A. Geske, PhD	Biomedical Informatics
Christopher S. Wichman, PhD	Biostatistics
Tammy L. Webster, PhD	Certificate in Applied Health Informatics; Certificate in Quality Improvement; Healthcare Delivery Science; Health Professions Teaching & Technology
JoEllyn M. McMillan, PhD	Environmental Health, Occupational Health & Toxicology
Ariane R. Rung, PhD	Epidemiology
Tzeyu Michaud, PhD	Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Research
Hongmei Wang, PhD	Health Services Research, Administration & Policy
Matthew C. Zimmerman, PhD	Director, IGPBS
Rebecca Deegan, PhD	IGPBS – Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Michael (Jordan) Rowley, PhD	IGPBS – Bioinformatics & Systems Biology
Joyce C. Solheim, PhD	IGPBS – Cancer Research
Rakesh K. Singh, PhD	IGPBS – Immunology, Pathology & Infectious Disease
Erika I. Boesen, PhD	IGPBS – Integrative Physiology & Molecular Medicine; Medical Physiology (MS program)
Kyle Hewitt, PhD	IGPBS – Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology
Keshore R. Bidasee, PhD	IGPBS – Neuroscience
Justin L. Mott, MD, PhD	MD-PhD Scholars
Samantha M. Simet, PhD	Medical Anatomy (MS program)
Laura D. Bilek, PhD	Director, MSIA
Gargi Ghosal, PhD	MSIA – Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology (MS program)
Nicole M. Rodriguez, PhD	MSIA – Applied Behavior Analysis
Joshua L. Santarpia, PhD	MSIA – Biological Defense & Health Security
Anthony Podany, PharmD, PhD	MSIA – Clinical & Translational Research Mentored Scholars Program
Carol A. Casey, PhD	MSIA – Clinically Relevant Basic Research
Sharon J. Medcalf, PhD	MSIA – Health Practice & Medical Education Research
James K. Wahl, PhD	MSIA – Oral Biology
Ka-Chun (Joseph) Siu, PhD	MSIA – Patient-Oriented Research
Roxanne Vandermause, PhD	Nursing
Luis A. Marky, PhD	Pharmaceutical Sciences

UNMC GRADUATE STUDIES

Kendra K. Schmid, PhD	Interim Dean, Graduate Studies
Karen A. Gould, PhD	Interim Executive Associate Dean, Graduate Studies
Evie Ehrhorn	President of the Graduate Student Association
Terri A. Vadovski	Director of Graduate Studies
Kayla Lorenzo	Graduate Studies Specialist
Rhonda MacDonald	Administrative Associate II

UNMC GRADUATE STUDENT OATH

I faithfully pledge to uphold my professional integrity by maintaining the highest standard of ethics and quality in my pursuit of academic and professional excellence.

I will uphold an unwavering commitment to report and interpret my research or professional findings with steadfast honesty and clarity.

I pledge to share openly and generously my discoveries, obstacles, and triumphs.

I will work to improve our world through communication with peers and teaching students of all ages.

I will strive to be continually conscious of the responsibility that accompanies the endowment of my degree.

It is with tremendous pride and enthusiasm that I seal my commitment to advance humanity through extraordinary biomedical research, teaching, or provision of service.

CEREMONY PICTURES

Pictures of today's ceremony will be viewable on the [UNMC flickr](#) account within the next two weeks.

