



Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Evaluation, Health Sciences Center Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, University of New Mexico (UNM)

Tenured Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Preventive Medicine

Founding Co-Director and Community Engagement Lead, UNM Center for Native Environmental Health Equity Research (An NIH Center for Excellence in Environmental Health Disparities Research)

Co-Investigator, and Research Translation Lead, UNM Metals Exposure and Toxicity Assessment on Tribal Lands in the Southwest (METALS) Superfund Research and Training Center

Dr. Melissa Gonzáles was born in the beautiful Española Valley as a 12th generation Northern New Mexican. Raised in Phoenix, Arizona, she attended the University of Arizona and University of California at Berkeley before returning to New Mexico to be closer to family and cultural ties and join the faculty of the UNM School of Medicine.

Dr. Gonzáles' community-engaged research is to understand how exposures to environmental contaminants impact health and how to reduce environmental health disparities among rural, minority and other underserved communities. She has also served on several National Academies committees related to veterans and community health. Dr. Gonzáles is a leader in several UNM research Centers that strive to foster professional development and research success among Hispanic, Native American and other junior investigators interested in developing transdisciplinary, team-science approaches to improve health equity. The majority of her peer reviewed publications have been co-authored by her mentees and community partners. Most of her mentees have completed post-graduate degrees, and have become successful educators, clinicians and researchers. You can learn more about Dr. Gonzáles' research at <https://vivo.health.unm.edu/display/n5226> and on Twitter @AbqGonzales.

As a member of the Health Sciences Center teaching faculty, Dr. Gonzáles has taught a range of students and trainees from across the School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy and College of Population Health. She was a founding faculty member and Assistant Program Director of the UNM Preventive Medicine Residency Program.

Throughout her career, Dr. Gonzáles has been an advocate for equity and inclusion of diverse students and faculty. She is currently an Associate Vice Chancellor with the UNM Health Science Center's Office for Equity Diversity and Inclusion where she oversees the evaluation of programs and research.

Activities:

HSC Student Enrollment and Graduation Dashboards
(<http://oia.unm.edu/facts-and-figures/hsc-specific-data.html>).

HSC Student Recruitment Toolkit <https://hsc.unm.edu/diversity/files/minority-student-toolkit.pdf> provides concrete steps for implementing best practices to enhance racial and ethnic minority (R/EM) student recruitment across the HSC.

*groups underrepresented in the health professions across New Mexico relative to the state's demographics