

*Path*FINDER

SUMMER 2026



SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

PATHOLOGY

S U M M E R 2 0 2 6

1. WELCOME FROM NANCY JOSTE, MD, PROFESSOR & CHAIR

3. FEATURE: UNM CRITICAL CARE TOWER TRANSITION

11. CLINICAL FELLOWSHIPS GRADUATION & WELCOME

24. RESIDENT GRADUATION & NEW RESIDENTS

32. STAFF PROFILE: JAMES CHAVEZ

33. CLINICAL TRAINEE & MLS 2026 GRADUATES

34. FACULTY NEWS

37. DEPARTMENT NEWS

41. FEATURE: WILLIAMS FUND

43. MAKE A GIFT



Please connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).

Cover image: New UNM Hospitals Critical Care Tower, courtesy of UNM Health Sciences Image Gallery.

PathFINDER

Greetings and welcome to the Summer edition of *PathFINDER*, the UNM Department of Pathology's semiannual newsletter. Wherever you are in this country or the world, you most likely are experiencing a hot summer, and in New Mexico, also a very dry one as we await the summer monsoons. Our main feature in this issue is UNM Hospital's transition to the new Critical Care Tower (CCT), after about eight years of planning and construction. For those of you living outside Albuquerque, the cityscape of the University Boulevard/Lomas Boulevard area and the UNM Health Sciences Center has been massively expanded with the CCT. The medical laboratory was a critical part of the CCT transition as we moved several essential laboratory divisions into the tower working closely with TriCore Reference Laboratories. This issue features interviews with several of the faculty who were closely involved in this remarkable transition.

I am very pleased to profile our staff member, James Chavez, who has served as our department's Information technology expert, Systems/Network Analyst 2 for the past ten years. James is a fountain of knowledge about all things IT. He has amazing problem solving and fix-it skills, and endless patience for the IT needs of the faculty and staff. We are very fortunate to have James in our department.

This is the time of year for graduations as we applaud our pathology residents, clinical fellows, Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) students, and several departmental PhD graduates in the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program (BSGP). Our resident and clinical fellow graduation was held at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center with one of our largest gatherings of graduates, faculty and families. It was quite a celebratory and convivial event, leading attendees to remark that our Pathology Department is the 'good vibes' department! Graduations also herald the arrival of our new residents and clinical fellows, who are now a month into their new responsibilities. Hearty congratulations to all our graduates and a sincere welcome to our new MLS and BSGP students, residents, and clinical fellows!

Departmental News highlights the many trainees and faculty recently recognized for their accomplishments, including the annual George D. Montoya Research Scholarship Award. Congratulations to all on their award-winning endeavors!

Another feature in this issue spotlights a special departmental fund, the Thomas M. Williams and Margaret G. Williams Endowment for Education and Mentoring. As many of you know, Dr. Tom Williams was a Pathology faculty, and former Department Chair, who passed away in 2015. During Dr. Williams' years in our department he had lasting impact in many areas, notably contributing to advancing our HLA service and helping Dr. Mohammad Vasef to found our Molecular Pathology Fellowship, in addition to enhancing medical school education and conducting NIH-funded research. Dr. Williams left a legacy as an outstanding and beloved educator, mentor, and physician scientist. As are all our departmental funds, the Williams' fund is managed by the UNM Foundation and donation information is found at the end of this *PathFINDER* issue.

Please note all opportunities for gifting to department funds through the UNM Foundation. Links are provided for a variety of funds, each supporting a spectrum of Pathology endeavors.

On a final note, this will be my final *PathFINDER* introductory missive as I am retiring as faculty and Chair. After over three decades as a UNM Pathology faculty member, including seven years as Chair, I am filled with pride in our department and the accomplishments of all its members – faculty, staff and trainees – and the department's amazing collegiality. This department has been my academic home for my entire career, and it could not have been a more supportive and collegial environment. The next *PathFINDER* issue will have an introduction from our new Interim Chair of Pathology, Dr. Devon Chabot-Richards.



NANCY JOSTE, MD, MS
Professor & Chair of Pathology (*retired*)

FEATURE

CRITICAL CARE TOWER TRANSITION

The opening of the UNM Critical Care Tower (CCT) marked a significant milestone in expanding access to advanced patient care across New Mexico. While the transition represented years of strategic planning and collaboration, it was experienced from different vantage points within the Pathology Department. Drs. Nancy Joste, Joseph Griggs, Matthew Luke and Emily Volpicelli, PA, provide their perspectives, highlighting both the vision and the day-to-day dedication that made the CCT transition a success.

BY DR. NANCY JOSTE, PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR

WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CRITICAL CARE TOWER (CCT)?

My role in the planning and implementation of the new critical care tower began many years ago when the initial proposal for an expansion of the University of New Mexico Hospital was put forth in around 2018. I engaged in the design of a new gross room for surgical pathology and frozen sections – important because 18 new ORs were being constructed in the CCT. I worked very closely with our TriCore partners as they planned to move other areas of the clinical lab into the adjacent lab space. Dr. Matt Luke was an important part of this process in addressing the clinical lab decisions and its lab space. I took part in the first discussions with the needs assessment committees and architects, reviewing floor plans and consulting with other stakeholders who would be using the facility. Our original plans underwent many revisions as decisions were changed as to the size laboratory footprint within the new tower.

WHAT WAS YOUR PRIMARY GOAL IN THE PROCESS? WHAT FACTORS WERE IMPORTANT IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL?

The primary goal of the CCT was to improve patient access for the citizens of New Mexico. The CCT would create additional patient care facilities – a critical need as UNM Hospital is continually occupied beyond its capacity. Facilities included intensive care units, 18 new operating rooms, a new adult emergency room, space for multiple critical care and trauma needs, and radiology expansion, among other facilities. This is part of a multi-step strategic plan to increase access in other areas of health care such as outpatient care.

DESCRIBE THE CHALLENGES YOU FACED AND HOW YOU OVERCAME THEM.

Challenges we faced during this process included shifting priorities with the CCT as space and money issues arose. There were competing clinical interests that needed space in the new tower and the laboratory needed to be flexible as to what services we could offer given the space provided, space which diminished over time. There was also the challenge of ensuring we provided adequate space and a safe environment for our laboratory workforce, including hiring staff essential for the work.

WHO WERE YOUR KEY COLLABORATORS?

Our key collaborators over the years were TriCore Laboratories’ staff Marcia Woolley, Ivana Bononcini, Kim Schneider, Jennifer Wooten, Chanelle Salazar, among many others, participating throughout the process.

HOW WOULD YOU PORTRAY THE WORST DAY YOU FACED DURING THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW CCT FACILITY?

I really did not have a “worst day,” but there were unanticipated issues that arose that we needed to address quickly. It certainly was interesting to have such a long delay between planning the lab space, then waiting until we physically transitioned into the newly completed lab in order to be able to assess how well that much earlier planning fit current needs.

WHAT WAS THE MOST UNEXPECTED EVENT THAT OCCURRED?

One unexpected event was being informed, after construction was fully completed, that the CCT laboratory ceiling tiles were not up to code and had to be replaced immediately – before we could move anything into the space! This delayed our ability to move lab instruments and equipment prior to opening day. A later unexpected event was the discovery that our MedSpeed couriers had changed their UNMH delivery routes to include the CCT, resulting in fewer deliveries to the Surgical Pathology main office, which consequently delays slide deliveries to residents and pathologists. We are working to improve this schedule.



Theodore Muka, MD, PGY-2, and Aysha Mubeen, MD, Assistant Professor: Reading the first CCT frozen section.

WHAT WAS YOUR HAPPIEST MOMENT?

My happiest moment was when everything was up and running on opening day and all our planning was shown to be well done and complete, with only occasional –manageable – unanticipated events.

NOW THAT THE CCT IS OPEN, HOW HAS YOUR TYPICAL SERVICE DAY CHANGED? HOW HAS THE FUNCTIONING OF THE HOSPITAL CHANGED?

Now that the CCT has opened, typical days for surgical pathologists on the frozen section rotation include spending working hours in their CCT office so they are close at hand for frozen sections. It is approximately a 10-minute walk to the CCT from our offices in the main UNMH, which requires planning our trips from one site to the other. There are literally lots of steps included in having two different lab sites and attending to the needs of both facilities.

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FEATURE - *Continued*

CRITICAL CARE TOWER TRANSITION

BY DR. JOSEPH GRIGGS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR, UNM HOSPITAL

WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CRITICAL CARE TOWER (CCT)?

I was involved in the early planning of the CCT laboratory back in 2018. We went through several iterative design changes, from reduplicating the entire hospital laboratory in the new tower, to suggesting moving the entire lab to a more central location in the Pavilion, to where we ultimately landed with the Hospital Blood and Tissue Bank, along with Point of Care testing moving to the CCT, and keeping the rest of the lab in the old main building of the hospital. As the Medical Director of UNMH’s Blood Bank, I was involved in planning the move, the lab design, and validation plans for all moved equipment.

WHAT WAS YOUR PRIMARY GOAL IN THE PROCESS? WHAT FACTORS WERE IMPORTANT IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL?

The goal was to place the Hospital Blood Bank in close proximity to high-acuity patients (ED trauma, ICUs, and Operating Rooms) to ensure timely access to and delivery of blood products to bleeding patients. There were also concerns about staffing the laboratory. Duplicating the laboratory was ultimately deemed unfeasible, in part due to the costs and the expected footprint required to duplicate the hospital laboratory in the new tower. There would also be staffing and training issues supporting two hospital laboratories. Ultimately, it was determined that transfusion services in the new tower would be the most essential part of the lab to be in the CCT.

DESCRIBE THE CHALLENGES YOU FACED AND HOW YOU OVERCAME THEM.

As UNMH is the only Level 1 trauma center for the state, the hospital could not afford to shut down its blood bank for any period of time. Therefore our plans had to ensure uninterrupted service. Duplicate devices were moved in advance and validated. Our primary immunohematology platforms were also reaching the end of the functional lifespan. An RFP was opened a year prior to the move to ensure new equipment/devices could be purchased and delivered to the new CCT blood bank. Those devices were validated before the move. Refrigerators were moved and validated, and a portion of our blood inventory was stocked in the various remote-release refrigerators around the hospital as an emergency reserve in case the blood bank transition didn’t go quite as smoothly as planned

WHO WERE YOUR KEY COLLABORATORS?

I worked extensively with Marcia Woolley, Kimberley Schneider, Channelle Salazar, Cindy Jones, Bianca Griego, and Eileen Sierra from TriCore Labs. Dr. Matthew Luke and Dr. Nancy Joste were involved in many of these planning sessions and discussions with TriCore and Hospital leadership (along with me). We worked with hospital administration, primarily Michael Chicarelli, to design, advocate for, and implement those plans.

HOW WOULD YOU PORTRAY THE WORST DAY YOU FACED DURING THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW CCT FACILITY?

The burden of meetings, planning sessions, validations, vendor discussions, new devices, remote release refrigerators, and moving sensitive equipment was a continuous issue in the months leading up to the move, often requiring one or more touchpoints throughout the workday to ensure we were on track. As for the single worst day during the transition, it was likely the 12 hours leading up to going live with the CCT and the 12 hours after opening the tower.

WHAT WAS THE MOST UNEXPECTED EVENT THAT OCCURRED?

After revising and signing off on the last few moving validation plans less than 8 hours before going live with seeing patients in the CCT. I had given the all clear to start moving our blood inventory into the CCT. However, when I arrived at a quarter to 5 am on Oct 5th (go-live day), we only had four platelet units in the new tower. So, I spent the next two hours transporting our blood inventory from the old main location to the CCT, with assistance from a few Blood Bank Technologists. That morning, I saw that I wasn’t the only member of leadership rolling up their sleeves to move equipment and patients over to the CCT.

WHAT WAS YOUR HAPPIEST MOMENT?

Probably two weeks after the move had concluded. Those first few weeks were filled with working out a bunch of kinks, including IT issues, phones not working, phone numbers not transferring, printers double-printing all requisition forms, finalizing equipment move validations, workflow efficiency problems, including moving the tissue bank twice, badge readers for the door not working, emergency power outlets not working after power checks, among other issues.



NOW THAT THE CCT IS OPEN, HOW HAS YOUR TYPICAL SERVICE DAY CHANGED? HOW HAS THE FUNCTIONING OF THE HOSPITAL CHANGED?

The hospital blood bank used to be just around the corner from the faculty and resident offices, but now it’s two buildings away. This means our trips to the blood bank tend to be more scheduled, and we manage more things via TigerConnect or over the phone. For patients on the old main side of the hospital, trips to get blood take significantly longer to pick up and return, placing products at risk of going out of temperature. The number of trauma bays down in the ED resuscitation unit has expanded, and as a result, we are seeing a notable uptick in the number of cases and products we are transfusing during trauma season. The vertical movement of patients in the CCT is a notable improvement over transporting them to the old main side of the hospital through heavily trafficked hallways.

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FEATURE - *Continued*

CRITICAL CARE TOWER TRANSITION

BY DR. MATTHEW LUKE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND VICE-CHAIR, CLINICAL AFFAIRS

WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CRITICAL CARE TOWER (CCT)?

Our team was tasked with working to ensure a functional laboratory in the UNM Hospital Critical Care Tower. The Critical Care Tower (CCT) is a Level 1 trauma center and is the largest and most expensive public building in New Mexico history with a price tag of nearly a billion dollars; the actual price \$842 million. My specific role on the team was to ensure that the testing done in the laboratory would meet the needs and expectations of the providers who would be working in the tower. As the space given to us in the new tower was insufficient to accommodate what would be needed for the entire hospital laboratory, we quickly came to the realization that the CCT laboratory had to be integrated into the existing laboratory to be able to meet the needs of the entire hospital system.

WHAT WAS YOUR PRIMARY GOAL IN THE PROCESS? WHAT FACTORS WERE IMPORTANT IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL?

My primary goal was to satisfy the end users of the laboratory and work within the constraints that were placed upon us from hospital administration. It became a balancing act between space, cost, ability to find appropriate staffing, and the main group of providers for whom we are going to be doing the testing. We really had to home in on this last item as it was constantly changing. In the beginning, the lab was meant to support the groups that would be in the Critical Care Tower (namely the emergency room, the ICUs and the surgical suites) with quick turnaround times. This made us look at the types of testing these groups would want and then set up a laboratory that would meet these goals.

DESCRIBE THE CHALLENGES YOU FACED AND HOW YOU OVERCAME THEM.

The biggest challenge that I faced was the changing end goal. It seemed as if no sooner than we created a plan to meet the requirements given to us, than the plan changed. The original plan was to mainly use the CCT laboratory to support the groups that were in the CCT. This meant that there was a need for significant redundancy with performance of a test in the CCT lab for the CCT and still performing the test in the old laboratory for the remainder of the hospital. This redundancy of testing meant more instrumentation, more staffing, more QC, more proficiency testing, and the need for more space. This need for two separate labs made the lab less efficient, and costs grew to the point that it became untenable. We then had to push for a split of the laboratory into two non-redundant pieces. Once this compromise was accepted by hospital administration and the service groups within the CCT, it then became a task of identifying which sections of the laboratory would be moving. This became an easier decision when looking at the laboratory work that would be coming from the CCT, several sections of the lab became obvious candidates to move. The sections included the anatomic pathology area and blood bank. We also moved some administration activities to include Point of Care Testing.

HOW WOULD YOU PORTRAY THE WORST DAY YOU FACED DURING THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW CCT FACILITY?

The biggest uncertainty was whether some of the new instrumentation purchased for the opening of the new CTT laboratory would be delivered and validated before we had to have it ready to go for the opening of the CCT laboratory. I was on pins and needles wondering if we would have the equipment ready to go or not. At one point in time, it looked like we would need to take our older equipment to the new lab, validate it and then within a week or two we would then have to repeat the validation of the new instrument. In the end things worked out with the team pulling together and spending some late nights getting the necessary validation on the new instrumentation done in time, such that we only had to do the validation once.

WHAT WAS THE MOST UNEXPECTED EVENT THAT OCCURRED?

The unexpected event that stuck out in my mind occurred shortly after the opening day. There was a loss of power, and the backup power source didn't come online as expected. This meant that many of the instruments in the lab had to be shut down. The tube station to deliver specimens was down as well. Luckily many of the instruments in the CCT lab were brand new, which meant that the older instruments had been left behind in the old laboratory. We were able to pivot back to using the old instruments and had some extra staff to help move the laboratory specimens to the appropriate spots. I was proud that the team was so nimble and could make the necessary adjustments to keep the laboratory running and able to get the needed results to the providers.

WHAT WAS YOUR HAPPIEST MOMENT?

The best moment was the day the tower opened. All of the hard work of the team paid off, the lab functioned as we had planned, and everything went well. There were only a few minor tweaks that needed to be made.

NOW THAT THE CCT IS OPEN, HOW HAS YOUR TYPICAL SERVICE DAY CHANGED? HOW HAS THE FUNCTIONING OF THE HOSPITAL CHANGED?

My typical workday has not really changed that much. There are longer walks to meet in person with people who work in the CCT. I find the walk through the new CCT with its wider, taller, light-filled hallways invigorating. It makes me feel like I am working for a hospital that is working hard to keep up with the times. The main lab has a bit more room, and we can begin planning to relieve the congestion that exists in multiple areas. The hospital has more room to serve more patients, as a result we have seen some increase in volume of laboratory testing. We also hope to get a patient draw center closer to the CCT lab to be able to better serve the patients.

WHO WERE YOUR KEY COLLABORATORS?

A big shout out to TriCore Labs' Marcia Woolley and Channelle Salazar and their teams for all of the hard work that made this possible!

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FEATURE - Continued

CRITICAL CARE TOWER TRANSITION

BY EMILY VOLPICELLI, PA, SENIOR LECTURER II

WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CRITICAL CARE TOWER (CCT)?

The PA's role in the planning and implementation of the CCT was limited. Working with TriCore Labs, we personalized our grossing benches and we took part in a post-construction walk-through where we identified a few deficiencies. My primary responsibility was preparing for the move by packing my books, grossing bench, and the resident bench into totes for transport.

WHAT WAS YOUR PRIMARY GOAL IN THE PROCESS? WHAT FACTORS WERE IMPORTANT IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL?

Our primary goal was a smooth, seamless transition into the new space, with all critical equipment and systems fully operational from day one. This depended on everything – from scanning and dictation to cryostats, ventilation, and network access – being ready and functional. Key to achieving this was a shared sense of urgency and strong collaboration across teams, with coordinated efforts from IT, facilities, and lab staff ensuring nothing was overlooked.

DESCRIBE THE CHALLENGES YOU FACED AND HOW YOU OVERCAME THEM.

One of the biggest challenges I faced was becoming comfortable in the new space, both physically and procedurally. Adjusting to a new layout required relearning workflows and making changes to maintain proper ergonomics. It took weeks of trials and adjustments to find a set-up that supported both efficiency and comfort. Over time, through ongoing adjustments, these issues have been addressed, and the workspace has gradually become more functional and better equipped to meet our needs.



Joseph Stenberg, DO, PGY-4, Dalton Wise, MD, Clinical Fellow, and Alexander Gross, MD, Assistant Professor: Welcome to the Plaidology Department!

WHO WERE YOUR KEY COLLABORATORS?

While many contributed behind the scenes, I'd especially recognize TriCore supervisor Taran Taylor and lead Kendra Hough as key collaborators. They went above and beyond, working nights and weekends, while sustaining a calm, solutions-focused approach. The Tricore team's efficiency in relocating and reorganizing the gross room, along with their openness to feedback and responsiveness to our needs, played a critical role in a smooth and successful transition.

HOW WOULD YOU PORTRAY THE WORST DAY YOU FACED DURING THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW CCT FACILITY?

The closest thing to a "worst day" was the anticipation leading up to the move; we braced for a level of chaos that never came. Instead, the gross room team transitioned with a calm, steady coordination that is rare for a change of this scale. What stood out most wasn't disruption, but the absence of it, which made the experience so remarkable.

WHAT WAS THE MOST UNEXPECTED EVENT THAT OCCURRED?

The biggest surprise was how quickly everything ramped up. I hadn't expected the ORs to be running at full capacity on day one, but almost immediately we were handling multiple frozen sections and large, complex cases. I assumed there would be a gradual transition into the new space, but that was definitely not the case.

WHAT WAS YOUR HAPPIEST MOMENT?

My happiest moment was our very first frozen section. There was something incredibly satisfying about watching everything come together in a brand-new space. The case was smoothly accessioned and labeled, the cryostats cut beautifully, and the stain line worked flawlessly. It all felt seamless, and it was at that moment that the transition came to life.

NOW THAT THE CCT IS OPEN, HOW HAS YOUR TYPICAL SERVICE DAY CHANGED? HOW HAS THE FUNCTIONING OF THE HOSPITAL CHANGED?

My typical service day includes somewhat less day-to-day interaction with attendings, residents, and surgeons due to the physical distance. I enjoy sharing unknown touch-preps, and showing interesting cases, to spark interest and learning. From a broader perspective, hospital functioning has been challenged with increased OR volumes and delays in turnaround due to the transition. We continue to work towards improved efficiency and workflow.



Neveah Cherry, TriCore Labs, and Theodore Muka, MD, PGY-2: Preparation of the first CCT frozen section.

FELLOWSHIPS

FORENSIC PATHOLOGY

BY DR. LAUREN DVORSCAK, DEPUTY CHIEF MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR, OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The University of New Mexico Forensic Pathology Fellowship is honored to have the opportunity to recognize our fellows graduating in June 2026. This cohort of fellows has played an integral role in decedent care, by providing autopsy and general medicolegal services during their fast-paced, year-long fellowship. Perhaps they would agree with me when I say, although the days can seem long, one year never quite feels long enough.

So much has been accomplished in the year behind us. Our fellows have not only handled a wide variety of complex, often high-profile cases, but attended death scenes, contributed to the training of medicolegal death investigators, provided quality didactic lectures and case-based presentations, were expert witnesses in mock depositions with students from UNM School of Law, and participated in innumerable other scholarly activities as well as quality improvement projects that benefit both faculty and staff at the Office of the Medical Investigator.

We wish them well in their future endeavors!

PRESENTATION OF 2025-2026 FORENSIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP CLASS

Brandon Gehris, MD

Dr. Gehris received his medical degree from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and completed AP/CP residence at UT Health in Houston, Texas. He returned back to the land of

enchantment for fellowship and may be the most recognized for winning the Costco-sized toilet paper at last year’s White Elephant gift exchange. In all seriousness, he has also become the fellow expert in gross brain section orientation. At this point, we’re pretty sure he can orient the brainstem blind-folded, and his functional neuroanatomy knowledge has become nothing to scoff at. We hope these skills serve him very well as he heads to start his career with the West Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner as a deputy medical examiner.



Megan Matlock, DO



Dr. Matlock earned her medical degree from the Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed AP/CP residency here with us at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, staying on another year as a fellow in our department. Every year there is one fellow who seems to attract the most difficult and strange cases like a magnet, and this year, that honor has gone to Dr. Matlock. She has handled some very difficult cases with unwavering diligence and has developed a knack for keeping cool in the face of chaos. This will serve her well as she travels back to the Midwest to become a forensic pathologist at Southwest Missouri Forensics, a consulting group in Ozark, Missouri.

Daniel Nguyen, MD

Dr. Nguyen received his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria and completed AP/CP residency at the University of California Irvine Medical Center. During fellowship, he was the fellow that has gotten the most real-world experience with testifying, as it felt like every time he finished one pre-trial interview, he was being called for another. But that certainly wasn’t his greatest accomplishment by any stretch of imagination. That, hands-down, was his honor of being the first and only forensic pathology fellow, in our history of over 130 fellows who graduated, to receive an award for excellence in patient care from UNMH. Specifically, it stated, “he is always super helpful and friendly... offering to get a blanket for patients or drawing a blood glucose level.” Daniel, the OMI team wants to frame this in the fellow’s room as something to aspire to. Joking aside, UNMH did get the first part right.

Regardless, Dr. Nguyen, our best to you as you make your way back to California to become a deputy medical examiner with the San Diego County Medical Examiner’s Office.



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Matthew Uy, DO

Dr. Uy came to us as a Major in the Air Force, earning his medical degree from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and completing an AP/CP residency at the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health and Education Consortium. He was serving as a Staff Pathologist with the 99th Medical Support Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base when we were able to snag him as a military-supported forensic pathology fellow. Dr. Maj. Uy brought military diligence and dedication to his work both in the autopsy suite and out. But he also has the honor of being the only fellow this year selected by the Air Force for a very important mission. Thank you, Dr. Uy, for your service in “peeing for America”, as you so eloquently put it. His future military assignment is also with OMI while under contract with the Air Force, so he will be staying with us as a Deputy Medical Examiner for the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System.



Tiffany Wang, MD



Dr. Wang received her medical degree from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. She completed AP/CP residency at Mount Sinai Icahn in New York City. During fellowship, she brought an interest in anthropology to the table, and often regaled tales of exploring the far reaches of the state on her weekends off. She might be most remembered, however, for borrowing some harbor freight buckets and 42-gallon trash bags from another fellow. These items just so happened to be eerily similar to a dismemberment case that came into the office within a harbor freight bucket and trash bags... do with that what you may. But in all seriousness, we wish Dr. Wang the best in her adventures moving up to our neighbor to the north, as she will become a forensic pathologist in British Colombia, Canada for Surrey Memorial Hospital.

Please welcome our new 2026-27 Forensic Pathology fellows:



Cristina Fernandez Gonzalez de la Vega, MD

AP/CP Residency: Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Coming from Brookfield, Wisconsin



Simmi Patel, MD

AP/CP Residency: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Coming from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Caitlan Reich, MD

AP/CP Residency: University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Coming from Calgary, Canada



Hiro Ross, MD

AP Residency: University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles, California

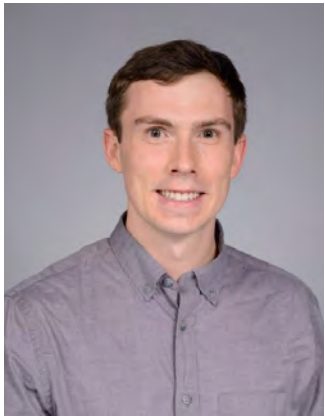
Coming from Los Angeles, California

FELLOWSHIPS

HEMATOPATHOLOGY

BY DR. DANIEL BABU, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR HEMATOPATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

We are very happy to present Drs. Hogarth, Hwang, Percy, and Shields as our graduating hematopathology fellows, and personally, I express great pride in having recruited this class during my first year as program director. We are happy to say they have continued the excellent legacy of this program. Throughout the year the fellows balanced taking on clinical cases from UNM and multiple other sites, as well as teaching residents and medical students, managing weekly tumor boards and interesting case conferences, weekend call duties, giving scholarly presentations, interviewing (many!) fellowship candidates, and managing numerous test triage requests, among other tasks. While they started out as fellows, they blossomed into colleagues, managing complex cases independently. We will miss them and wish them all the best in the next phase of their careers and lives.



Nathan Hogarth, MD

Dr. Hogarth, originally from Kentucky, earned his MD from University of Louisville where he also completed AP/CP training. Nathan, who actually honeymooned in New Mexico years ago, came to this fellowship after taking on impressive projects during residency in molecular validations and AI work in gastric carcinomas, and last summer he published a study comparing in-house solid tumor molecular testing versus send-out NGS testing. He gave excellent presentations on KIR analysis in NK cell testing and on molecular MRD testing in AML. He will next be entering practice at Southern Ohio Pathology Consultants in Cincinnati, OH, which will be close to family.



Chase Hwang, MD

Dr. Hwang, originally from Korea, attended undergraduate studies at University of Hawaii and earned his MD at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, also completing his AP/CP training there. Although Chase has traveled to the mainland United States a few times, this year at UNM is his first time actually living anywhere on mainland USA. During the year he gave excellent talks on prognostic findings in DLBCL and on CD20-negative B-cell lymphomas. After fellowship, Chase returns to his home state where he will join Hawaii Pathologists Laboratory (HPL), which actually carries out much of the teaching for the University of Hawaii residency program.



Martika Percy, MD

Dr. Percy, originally from Trinidad & Tobago, came to the UNM residency program from St. George’s University School of Medicine, after which she spent several years as an intern and house officer. During her time as a trainee, she completed multiple successful projects, including on IRF8 staining in BPDCN and NPM1 mutated AMLs, among others. During fellowship year, Martika gave formal presentations on measurable residual disease testing and on LMO2 immunohistochemical assessment in lymphomas. While she leaves us after five productive years, Martika is not yet finished. Dr. Percy will be moving on to the University of Washington for a fellowship in bone and soft tissue pathology.



Andrea Shields, MD

Dr. Shields, originally from northern California, completed undergraduate studies at UC Irvine, and then medical school and AP/CP residency at Loma Linda University. While in residency, Andrea actually observed on the UNM hemepath service to explore an interest in the fellowship, and upon returning to her home institution, actually gave a grand rounds presentation there on Hantavirus and related blood smear findings. Presentations in fellowship centered on use of flow cytometry in the diagnosis of MDS and on nodal marginal zone lymphoma. During her busy fellowship year, she and her husband Jason also celebrated the arrival of their second son, Albert! Andrea will be continuing her training at UNM to take on a surgical pathology fellowship year.

Please welcome our new 2026-27 Hematopathology fellows:



Elyssa Glassheim, MD

AP/CP residency: University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Coming from Albuquerque, New Mexico



Stefanie Hettwer, MD

AP/CP residency: Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas
Coming from Dallas, Texas



Anthony Marchand, MD

AP/CP residency: Naval Medical Center San Diego, California
Coming from Portsmouth, Virginia



Mustafa Oraibi, MD

AP/CP residency: University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky
Fellowship in Breast & Gynecologic Pathology: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Coming from Tampa, Florida



FELLOWSHIPS

MOLECULAR GENETIC PATHOLOGY

BY DR. RAMA GULLAPALLI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR MOLECULAR GENETIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



Mukul Divatia, MBBS

Dr. Mukul Divatia’s journey in pathology spans continents and decades, beginning with his MBBS with honors from Medical College Baroda in India, followed by training at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, and ultimately bringing him to the United States. He has built an extraordinary career across some of the finest institutions in the country, including Houston Methodist Hospital, Cedars Sinai, and the University of Washington. Dr. Divatia came to UNM to fill an unexpected open spot in the MGP fellowship. Dr. Divatia joined the MGP fellowship to pursue his true passion in molecular pathology. Dr. Divatia holds board certification in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, and has completed three ACGME-accredited fellowships — in Ophthalmic, Genitourinary, and now Molecular Genetic Pathology — a testament to his intellectual curiosity. He is a co-editor of two major Springer Nature textbooks and the author of an impressive body of peer-reviewed publications and book chapters spanning genitourinary, hepatic, ophthalmic, and molecular pathology. Dr. Divatia has also been a dedicated mentor and associate program director previously, shaping the careers of fellows and residents alike before joining us here at UNM. As an MGP fellow, he has been engaged in teaching UNM Pathology residents, winning the iTeach award. Dr. Divatia brings thoughtful precision and depth to every case and is methodical with even the most complex of diagnostic challenges. UNM has been lucky enough to recruit him as a faculty continuing on here at UNM as a full professor.



Donald Mignogna III, MD

Dr. Donald Mignogna III graduated with honors from Carnegie Mellon and subsequently earned his M.D. from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. He then went on to serve as a Captain in the United States Air Force Medical Corps before pursuing pathology training at the University of Louisville and was the chief resident of the program. Dr. Mignogna completed his Hematopathology and Molecular Genetic Pathology fellowship at the University of New Mexico. He holds dual board certified in Anatomic/Clinical Pathology, and Hematopathology. Dr. Mignogna has contributed to research that was presented at various national meetings. Dr. Mignogna has an extensive resume of leadership roles at every place he trained - U. Louisville, USAF Medical Corps, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine and Carnegie Mellon University. He has also served as a certified instructor of Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) in USAF. During his molecular fellowship here at UNM, Dr. Mignogna’s ability to approach complex molecular cases with focus and intellectual rigor has impressed everyone in the program. Dr. Mignogna is persistent until he truly understands the cases he is assigned to. Dr. Mignogna is genuinely collaborative with all of the team and trainees around him, a quality that makes him a natural teacher and a colleague who elevates everyone around him. Dr. Mignogna now moves onto an attending position in South Carolina. We wish him all the best!

We congratulate our graduating fellows and would like to welcome our new 2026-27 Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellow:



Arshad Ahsanuddin, MD
AP/CP Residency: East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina
Coming from Morganton, North Carolina



FELLOWSHIPS
SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

BY DR. SAM REYNOLDS, PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR SURGICAL PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The University of New Mexico Surgical Pathology service is proud to recognize the trainees and faculty who have dedicated this past academic year to excellence in diagnostic pathology and patient care. This group has played a vital role in supporting clinical teams across the health system, providing timely and accurate interpretations of a broad spectrum of surgical specimens. From routine biopsies to complex oncologic resections, their work has directly contributed to patient diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment planning. While the daily workflow can be demanding and fast-paced, the year has passed quickly—perhaps more quickly than any of us expected.

Over the course of the year, so much has been achieved. Our trainees have encountered a diverse and challenging case mix, participated in multidisciplinary tumor boards, and collaborated closely with clinicians and laboratory staff to ensure high-quality care. They have contributed to educational conferences, delivered thoughtful case presentations, and engaged in scholarly activity, including research and quality improvement initiatives that strengthen our department. Through mentorship and hands-on experience, they have also supported the education of medical students and junior residents, fostering the next generation of pathologists.

We are deeply appreciative of their hard work, curiosity, and commitment to excellence, and we wish them continued success in their future careers.

PRESENTATION OF 2025-2026 SURGICAL PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP CLASS

Dalton Wise, MD

With great pride and pleasure, the Division of Surgical Pathology announces the graduation of Dr. Dalton Wise from his Surgical Pathology Fellowship at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Wise joined our department following the successful completion of his Anatomic and Clinical Pathology (AP/CP) residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Throughout his one-year fellowship at UNM, Dalton demonstrated outstanding progress, significantly advancing his diagnostic expertise in surgical pathology. This dedication culminated in a major professional milestone in the Spring of 2026, when he began independent sign-out of surgical pathology cases.



Over the past year, Dalton’s contributions have been vital to our department. He was instrumental in keeping the understaffed neuropathology service running seamlessly by triaging complex cases, independently conducting tumor boards, and confidently rendering independent frozen section diagnoses for the neurosurgeons.

Beyond his clinical responsibilities, Dr. Wise proved to be a dedicated educator. He devoted significant time to revamping the resident surgical pathology study sets, held frozen section teaching conferences for the trainees, and served as a highly valued consultant and mentor for residents rotating through the surgical pathology service.

Dalton has been an exceptional colleague and a true pleasure to work with. We are incredibly proud of his achievements this year and look forward to his continued success. We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Wise will be staying in our division in 2026–2027 to complete his upcoming fellowship in Cytopathology.

Congratulations, Dr. Wise!

We would like to introduce our new 2026-27 Surgical Pathology Fellow:



Andrea Shields, MD
AP/CP Residency: Loma Linda Medical Center, Loma Linda, California
Staying here in Albuquerque, New Mexico, after her Hematopathology Fellowship at The University of New Mexico, SOM



FELLOWSHIPS

TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

BY DR. JOSEPH GRIGGS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR TRANSFUSION MEDICINE PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The University of New Mexico Transfusion Medicine Service is pleased to recognize our trainees completing their service in June 2026. This dedicated group has made meaningful contributions to patient care by supporting the safe, timely, and effective provision of blood products across our health system. Their work reflects the critical role of transfusion medicine in modern clinical practice and underscores the importance of precision, collaboration, and continuous quality improvement.

Over the past year, our trainees have demonstrated proficiency in the management of complex transfusion scenarios, including massive transfusion protocols and challenging antibody investigations. They have worked closely with multidisciplinary clinical teams to ensure optimal patient outcomes, while also contributing to donor blood utilization, regulatory compliance, and laboratory quality assurance processes.

In addition to their clinical responsibilities, our trainees have actively engaged in the academic mission of the department. They have delivered didactic lectures, facilitated case-based discussions, and participated in multidisciplinary conferences. Their involvement in scholarly activities and quality improvement initiatives has helped strengthen laboratory operations and enhance patient care delivery within our institution.

We are grateful for their commitment, professionalism, and contributions to the Transfusion Medicine Service. We proudly acknowledge their accomplishments and extend our best wishes as they continue their professional journeys.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2025-2026 TRANSFUSION MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP CLASS



Dr. Neesha Chandani Siriwardane, MD
It is a true pleasure to recognize Dr. Neesha Chandani Siriwardane as she completes her Transfusion Medicine fellowship at the University of New Mexico.

Dr. Siriwardane’s journey reflects both exceptional academic achievement and a deep sense of purpose. A second-generation immigrant from Sri Lanka, she earned her undergraduate degree in Biomedical Engineering from Louisiana Tech University, graduating cum laude, before obtaining her MD from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. She went on to complete her AP/CP Pathology residency at Houston Methodist Hospital, where she served as Chief Resident—an early demonstration of the leadership qualities she has continued to exhibit throughout her training.

During her fellowship, Dr. Siriwardane has exemplified excellence in transfusion medicine. She has been an outstanding clinician, contributing significantly to daily service operations, expertly managing apheresis patients, and responding to a high volume of transfusion-related consultations with professionalism, insight, and composure.

Her contributions extend beyond clinical care. She has led impactful quality improvement initiatives, including a cost analysis of IFC cryoprecipitate utilization, modernization of obstetric RhIG workflows, and advancement of work on a Blood Availability Project aimed at addressing transfusion access challenges across New Mexico. These efforts reflect her commitment to improving systems of care and advancing the practice of transfusion medicine.

Dr. Siriwardane’s dedication has been recognized across the institution. She has received three iCare awards from clinical services as well as an iTeach award, underscoring her excellence in both patient care and medical education.

Following completion of her fellowship, Dr. Siriwardane will join Vitalant as Field and Laboratory Director for the Las Vegas District. This role represents an exciting and well-deserved next step, where she will undoubtedly make a meaningful impact on blood systems and patient care at a broader level.

Dr. Siriwardane has left a lasting impression on our program, our patients, and our colleagues. We are proud to celebrate her accomplishments and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors. Congratulations!

Welcome to our new 2026-27 Transfusion Medicine Pathology Fellow:



Alanah Hosford, MD

AP/CP Residency: The University of New Mexico, SOM, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Staying here in Albuquerque, New Mexico



FELLOWSHIPS

CYTOPATHOLOGY

BY DR. AYSHA MUBEEN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR CYTOPATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Welcome to our new 2026-27 Cytopathology Fellow:



Dalton Wise, MD

AP/CP Residency: Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, West Carson, California

Staying here in Albuquerque, New Mexico, after his Surgical Pathology Fellowship at The University of New Mexico, SOM



RESIDENT GRADUATION

YONATON CARL, MD

BY DR. MARISSA TAFOYA, VAMC

Dr. Carl is the definition of empathy and compassion. He is a clinician who leads with vulnerability and offers a genuine heart to every human being that he encounters. Whether he is sharing thoughtful gifts or checking in on a colleague and offering his presence and kind words, he has brought many of us much goodness over the years. I have sat alongside Dr. Carl for many thoughtful discussions about the human experience and the openness with which we approach life and understanding others. Having crossed many mountains to reach this milestone, he has demonstrated an inspiring commitment to personal and professional growth. We are immensely proud to see him advance to his forensic pathology fellowship in July where his kindness and compassion will undoubtedly serve as a comfort to the communities he will serve in his career.

Congratulations, Dr. Carl!



ELYSSA GLASSHEIM, MD

BY EMILY VOLPICELLI, PA, SENIOR LECTURER II

Elyssa first came to us as a Post-Sophomore Fellow, and from the very beginning it was obvious we were not dealing with your average trainee. I'll never forget her early days, when Kelly, our locum PA, casually handed her a total colon for familial polyposis... just a light, starter case featuring approximately nine million polyps. Although she may or may not have been crumbling internally while re-evaluating her career path, Elyssa stared it down and dug in. It was that combination of grit, composure, and determination that defined her from day one.

After absolutely crushing the PSF rotation, we were genuinely sad to see her choose University of Colorado for residency. It was during her time there that she stepped into one of life's most transformative roles: becoming a mom. With that came a whole new level of balance, priorities, and superhuman strength that can only be achieved by surviving on minimal sleep and maximum responsibility.

When we welcomed her back, it was with open arms, and Elyssa 2.0 did not disappoint. She returned with sharper skills, deeper knowledge, and the same unstoppable drive, pouring her heart and soul into every report and call shift, all while navigating the beautiful chaos of motherhood. On top of that, she still found the energy to inspire those around her by leading physical challenge breaks, organizing health walks, and volunteering for the community.

During her surgical pathology rotations, Elyssa was everywhere: always present, always engaged, asking questions, helping gross when we needed it, sharing and reflecting on what she'd learned, constantly sharpening her skills like some kind of pathology-obsessed samurai. In her own eyes,

- continued on next page -

she could always do better. In mine, she was nothing short of a warrior: Elyssasaurus, The Dominator.

Her inner monologue may have tried to convince herself otherwise, but through continuous battle, she conquered every struggle thrown her way and maintained her composure... sometimes heroically, sometimes by a thread... but always until the very end. The power of thought can make or break you, and Elyssa's pushed her into becoming the brilliant pathologist she left us as.

Elyssa is one of the most unique individuals I have ever met. Her delightfully unfiltered thoughts brought endless entertainment to my work life. One time, she sincerely wished she were a lioness so she

would only have to eat once a week (maybe an entire buffalo) and not have to worry about meals three times a day, a lifestyle choice I think many of us would consider. . She doesn't pretend to be happy when she's not, but she genuinely cares, not only about our patients, but about people as humans. She offers warmth during hardship, has an intuitive sense when something is off, and always remembers the little things about your life... the things that truly matter

Thank you, Elyssa, for sharing your wildly brilliant mind, your caring heart, and your unwavering drive with us. You have always shined brightly in our eyes, and I trust that someday you will finally see what we've seen all along: Dr. Elyssa Glassheim: The Dominating Heroine Pathologist.

DARRELL HORTON, MD

BY KRISTEN BROESDER, C-TAGME, MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER

I am truly honored to have been asked to present Dr. Darrell Horton. I've known Darrell since he was a medical student, having completed both his undergraduate and medical school here at UNM. It is easy to brag about Darrell, as he has received many accolades including the prestigious resident of the year award last year, several i-care recognitions, and award nominations for his research posters. Darrell has been very active in research, especially in endometrial cancer, with several peer reviewed abstracts and presentations at local and national meetings, including presentations at USCAP 2025 and 2026. If you are walking outside the AP division suite, it looks like Darrell's own personal gallery. Since starting residency, he's had 9 posters accepted and an accepted workshop case for the society for hematopathology.

Most importantly, I have never had to remind Darrell to log his work hours in New Innovations, which is pretty much unheard of in my line of work. In all seriousness, this speaks to who Darrell is. He is almost superhuman in his timeliness, his dedication to his work, and the passion he brings to this field. The consensus among the faculty, when asked for Resident of the Year nominations, is



that Darrell is one of the most responsible, dependable, and professional residents they've ever met. He is an exceptional team member and puts the utmost care into everything he does. He is extremely conscientious, hard-working, and generous with his time teaching and helping his co-residents. Darrell stands out as an excellent example of patient-centered care. He challenges the status quo and takes time to solve quality issues. Honestly, just like these nominations, I could go on and on about how wonderful Darrell is, but at the end of the day, it's really my feet thanking him for his spot-on Hoka recommendation.

Darrell will be following the footsteps of Dr. Kathy Foucar, and once again we will be sending a heavy hitter over to the University of Minnesota where Darrell will be completing his Hematopathology fellowship. I look forward to the fact that not only will you become an expert in Flow Cytometry, but by the end of your fellowship year you'll be able to jump start your car and push yourself out of a snowbank in under 5 minutes. And I know you are an avid Saints fan, so I won't mention 'Bounty Gate', but you may end up finding a soft spot for those poor Vikings who've never won a Superbowl.

Now before you and your beautiful family leave us for that frozen, Viking filled tundra, I'd be remised if I didn't give you a few pointers:

If your attendings respond with a 'ya-betcha' or 'okie-dokie', that means you doing good, keep it up! If it's more of an 'ope' or an 'uff da', that's not so good, I'd go back and double check that work.

I also have to warn you about the food, because you will be sorely missing New Mexico's red and green chili. You will be inundated with hotdishes, which are just a casserole, same thing, usually involves tater tots. If someone mentions a salad, there's a good chance that's just tub of cool whip, with chunks of Snicker candy bars mixed in. If you need a conversation started, at one of these hotdish filled potlucks, just mention the weather, or Prince, you won't need to say another word, they'll take it from there. And most importantly, if anyone ever, EVER offers you lutefisk, you get the heck out of there!

Congratulations, Dr. Horton, on your hard-earned, well-deserved success!



ALANAH HOSFORD, MD

BY DR. JOSEPH GRIGGS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, TRANSFUSION MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR



It’s my honor today to celebrate one of our graduating fourth-year residents, Dr. Alanah Hosford—a person who somehow manages to be brilliant, humble, and quietly hilarious all at once. If you’ve ever asked Alanah for a simple recommendation, you know exactly what I mean. I once asked her what music I should listen to. Without hesitation, she said, “Beyoncé.” When I asked which album, she said—completely straight-faced— “her entire catalog.” That’s Alanah: concise, confident, and absolutely correct.

Alanah’s path to this moment has been shaped by dedication and excellence at every step. She completed her undergraduate degree in Cell & Molecular Biology at Oklahoma City University, followed by medical school at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. She then joined us here at the University of New Mexico for residency, where she has spent the last four years training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology.

During her time with us, Alanah has been a leader, serving as “Co-Chief Resident, University of New Mexico Department of Pathology” and as a Medical Student Liaison. She has presented across multiple institutions, contributed to peer-reviewed research, and earned the UNM iCare Award—twice. Her CV also includes the line “Improving Transfusion Reaction Reporting at Sandoval Regional Medical Center,” which perfectly foreshadows her next chapter.

But what her CV doesn’t capture is the way Alanah approaches life with a kind of understated excellence. She casually mentions things like completing 100-mile bike races or competing in board-game tournaments as if they’re normal weekend errands. She’ll say, “Oh, it was fine,” about something that would leave most of us collapsed on the pavement or flipping over a Monopoly board. She is, in every sense, quietly extraordinary.

On more than one occasion, Alanah has stepped in and acted as the functional Transfusion Medicine fellow on service. I can clearly recall numerous days when she handled a high-stress, high-stakes situation with calm, clarity, and compassion—exactly the kind of physician you want at the bedside, and exactly the kind of colleague you want on your team.

When I asked her to write a short blurb about herself for Grand Rounds, she described herself as an avid birder, sourdough baker, board-game enthusiast, and sports fan. And while all of that is true, it still undersells her. Alanah brings curiosity, discipline, and her dry wit to everything she does—whether she’s identifying a warbler, perfecting a loaf, or explaining the nuances of transfusion medicine.

Most importantly, Alanah has chosen wisely—very wisely—to pursue transfusion medicine. We are thrilled that she will be rejoining the department as our next Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine Fellow. It’s always a gift when a resident you admire chooses to stay, and in Alanah’s case, it feels like we’re not just gaining a fellow—we’re keeping a colleague, a leader, and a friend.

Alanah, thank you for your hard work, your humility, your humor, and your Beyoncé-level excellence. We are so proud of you, and we cannot wait to see the impact you will make in transfusion medicine and beyond.

NATHAN LICKTEIG, D.O.

BY DR. ANDRES MINDIOLA ROMERO, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

We are proud to celebrate the graduation of Dr. Nathan Lickteig from our AP/CP program. Nathan joined us from the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. For those who don’t know, Dr. Lickteig was a Medical Laboratory Scientist before becoming a physician. This real-world laboratory experience has helped him flourish in a way unique to a pathology and lab medicine resident. He is also a member of the CAP and serves as a Junior Member on the CAP Hemostasis and Thrombosis Committee.



I met Dr. Lickteig when he was a first-year resident, and I was a hematopathology fellow. His intense curiosity and his ability to connect ideas, especially in such a complex and interconnected specialty as hematopathology, really caught my attention. During his rotation, as we reviewed slides together and discussed challenging cases, I saw Nathan’s skill and knowledge grow day by day, foreshadowing the pathologist he will/has become. During my Transfusion Medicine fellowship, I again had the opportunity to work with Dr. Lickteig, this time on the blood bank/transfusion service, where I observed his understanding of the specialty’s logistics and his dedication to quality improvement.

Then, during my first year as a Faculty, Dr. Lickteig became a chief resident, and we worked together on projects to improve the residency program. I saw him navigate the difficulties that come with making changes and shifting paradigms, especially when people and situational factors are accustomed to a settled way of doing things.

On the personal side, as I was a blood bank fellow and first-year attending, I lived apart from my family while my wife was training elsewhere. Guess who also worked apart from his wife while training here...Dr. Lickteig did! I understood the struggle of maintaining a long-distance relationship while taking on enormous responsibilities as a physician and always staying focused. I understand the grit and commitment to training that Dr. Lickteig possesses.

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That brings us to where we are today.

Dr. Lickteig's goal wherever he goes is to leave a place better than he found it. And that's what he is doing today. He is smart, ambitious, and determined. It has been a privilege and an absolute pleasure to work alongside Dr. Lickteig and contribute to his training. I cannot be prouder of Dr. Lickteig, and we are excited to see all his future accomplishments in the next chapter of his career, with his upcoming blood banking fellowship at the prestigious University of Washington/Bloodworks Northwest program, followed by a Hematopathology fellowship at Oregon Health and Science University. Congratulations, Dr. Lickteig.

FAYE OAKES, MD

BY DR. JULIE HARRINGTON, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

When I learned that Dr. Faye Oakes started out in Boston in a family full of lawyers, suddenly a lot made sense. She grew up surrounded by debate, argument, and the careful art of building a case. As I have come to know Faye, I see the impact this has had. When residents come to us as first-years, you watch them struggle, learn, ask questions and simply accept most of everything you tell them. As they grow in their knowledge and experience, they still ponder and ask questions, but occasionally they downright challenge you, which I always welcome. Faye is one of those residents. Throughout residency, she has distinguished herself not only through academic achievement, but through her thoughtfulness and quiet confidence. We all know Faye as someone who is incredibly intelligent, meticulous, and deeply reliable. She approaches cases with the kind of careful attention that inspires trust. Working with Faye over the last few months has been like working with a junior attending, and it is a sight to behold. Faye, we are so glad you chose the study of disease over that of debate.

Faye's path eventually took her from the Northeast to North Carolina for medical school at Duke University, where the throughline of volunteerism and teaching began. She was a student leader in Duke's Clinical Skills course for first-year medical students and a volunteer for the drive-through testing for the Durham County Department of Health during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. At UNM she was resident instructor guiding medical students through anatomy and histology, and mentoring students exploring pathology as a career. It seems only natural that Faye would choose to stay in academic medicine. Faye's academic interests are broad and impressive, ranging from autoimmune encephalitis and molecular pathology to infectious disease and head



and neck pathology. Her presentations during residency covered topics as varied as congenital syphilis, cholestatic liver injury, formaldehyde exposure, mosquito-borne illnesses in New Mexico, and acute promyelocytic leukemia. Her scholarship reflects the same blend of curiosity and diversity and includes work on PD-1/PD-L1 expression in cardiac transplantation, to a pediatric myoepithelial carcinoma case report, and pathology education online for Takotsubo cardiomyopathy.

Outside of medicine, Faye has a wonderfully eclectic collection of interests. You can imagine my surprise when I discovered Faye's roller-derby alter ego, which caught me a little off guard. Within the confines of residency, she is an introvert, and so quiet and soft spoken that I genuinely thought she was messing with me when she mentioned roller-derby as one of her hobbies.

I giggled inside, picturing her 5-foot-10-inch frame body checking people. I learned she is also an art enthusiast, a gamer, prefers the company of her fiancée and three cats, and the comfort of being a proud homebody — though by her own admission, cooking is not among her passions. That's okay, Faye. I too am a proud homebody, and way too lazy to cook.

This fall, Faye will begin fellowship training in Head and Neck Pathology at the University of Michigan, where her keen diagnostic skills and intellectual curiosity will undoubtedly continue to flourish. May your fellowship be full of fascinating salivary gland tumors and rare sinonasal neoplasms. We are incredibly proud of everything you have accomplished, and we are excited to see all that lies ahead for you. Congratulations on completing residency, and best of luck in fellowship.



OUR NEW RESIDENTS

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR INCOMING PGY-1 RESIDENTS!



Pavitra Attanayake, MD

Dr. Attanayake graduated from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, and previously earned her bachelor’s in biomedical engineering from Michigan Technological University. She is the founder and president of the medical humanities interest group at MSU. Dr. Attanayake is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha and the Gold Humanism Honor Society, and was awarded the Peter F. Secchia scholarship for her exemplary community service and research accomplishments. She is the principal investigator on an AI-assisted mobile app for polypharmacy management. She is a published poet, enjoys knitting and crocheting, and is a 3rd dan black belt in taekwondo.



Brandon Ledford, DO

Dr. Ledford joined us from the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his bachelor’s in biomedical science at Missouri State University. He previously worked as a medical laboratory scientist at Mercy Hospital Joplin in Joplin, MO and the University of Kansas Health System. Dr. Ledford was a lecturer for the School of Medical Laboratory Science in Joplin, MO. He was twice awarded the OMS Dean’s List at KCoM, given to the top 10% of the class. His hobbies include running, trivia, baking, and reading sci-fi and fantasy books.



Hayley Sanchez, MD

Dr. Sanchez graduated from Saint Louis University School of Medicine and received her bachelor’s in psychology from Washington University in St. Louis. Additionally, she did a post-sophomore fellowship in pathology at St. Louis University. Dr. Sanchez is the recipient of the College of American Pathologists’ Distinguished Medical Student Award and is a student member of the CAP resident forum. Her service work has included being a community educator for Alzheimer’s disease and doing knitting projects for patients undergoing chemotherapy. Her hobbies include sculpting clay miniatures, and she is a fan of horror novels and movies.



Natalija Stern, DO

Dr. Stern joined us from the Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific. Previously, she received her bachelor’s in science from Oregon State University. She is a member of Sigma Sigma Phi and the Gold Humanism Honor Society, and was awarded the Arthur O. Rott scholarship for her academic performance, community participation, and professional involvement in medical school. Dr. Stern served as the lead for a medical student mentorship program for high school students as well as an anatomy teaching assistant. Dr. Stern has family roots in Albuquerque, where she often visits during summer. She is a passionate snowboarder and enjoys crafting and board games.

STAFF PROFILE

JAMES CHAVEZ, SYSTEMS/NETWORK ANALYST 2

ARE YOU ORIGINALLY FROM THE ALBUQUERQUE METRO AREA OR DID YOU RELOCATE HERE? IF YOU RELOCATED, WHAT PROMPTED YOUR MOVE?

I am from Albuquerque originally, but I’ve lived in a few different places. I always seem to come back to Albuquerque, though. Can’t beat those Sandias!



HOW DID YOU CHOOSE TO JOIN THE UNM PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT?

It was a natural progression in my career here at the UNM HSC, starting in OB/GYN, then moving to Undergraduate Medical Education, and finally finding myself here. It was a great opportunity, and I’m glad I took it.

WHAT IS SOMETHING INTERESTING YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE FIELD OF PATHOLOGY?

Just how extensive it is. Even on the hospital side, the differences between anatomical and clinical pathology, the work we do over at TriCore, all the very important research. Coming from mostly clinical and education, the breadth of the research completed here is quite impressive.

WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE MOMENTS AT WORK?

I can’t really say any one particular moment, but there are several. Completing big projects to see them flourish, our events and get-togethers, working with all these lovely people. There are no stand-out moments, but plenty of personal ups.

WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF PROFESSIONAL ADVICE SOMEONE HAS GIVEN YOU?

Compartmentalization is key.

WHAT IS SOMETHING WE DON’T ALREADY KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Nothing I would be comfortable sharing!



CLINICAL TRAINEES 2026 GRADUATION EVENT



Congratulations to our graduating residents and clinical fellows! Group photo from celebration event held June 12, 2026. (Courtesy of Adam Ray Photography)

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES PROGRAM SPRING/SUMMER 2026 GRADUATION



Congratulations to the Spring/Summer 2026 Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) graduates! Pictured above are graduates attending the MLS Convocation Ceremony held on May 15, 2026. From left to right: Emily (Tai) Berman, Eliza Lopez, Nicholas Campbell-Logia, Ruya Nelson, Destiny Repichowski, Shaye Ruzicka. Not pictured: Brian Irigoyen and Cayden Van Lierop.

FACULTY NEWS

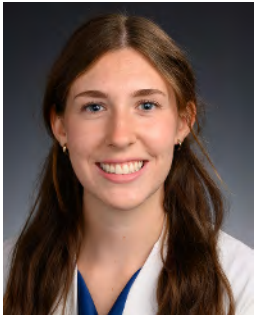
NEW FACULTY

Amelia Baxter-Stoltzfus, MD, MA, Assistant Professor
Office of the Medical Investigator – April 24, 2026
- photo not available -

Alexandra Helms, PA, MHS, Lecturer III
Pathologists' Assistant, Anatomic Pathology –
August 3, 2026

David Winston, MD, PhD, Professor
Office of the Medical Investigator – May 11, 2026

Navdeep Kaur, MD, Assistant Professor
Anatomic Pathology – July 30, 2026



FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Nancy Joste, MD, Professor Emerita – July 31, 2026

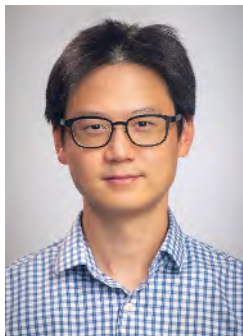
Richard Marlar, PhD, Professor – June 30, 2026



FACULTY NEWS - *Continued*

FACULTY PROMOTIONS - JULY 1, 2026

- Marlena Chavez, PA, from Senior Lecturer III to Principal Lecturer III
- Heather Jarrell, MD, from Associate Professor to Professor CE Track
- Tae-Hyung Kim, PhD, from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor Tenure Track
- Katherine Zychowski, PhD, from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor Tenure Track
- Nykkole McCary, MLS, from Lecturer II to Senior Lecturer II



FACULTY NEWS - *Continued*

EDWARD MALLINCKRODT JR. FOUNDATION GRANT
PROGRAM NOMINEE: DR. JOSEPH ENDICOTT

Joseph Endicott, PhD, has been selected as UNM’s 2026 nominee for the Edward Mallinckrodt, Jr. Foundation Grant Program—an honor granted to only one candidate per institution each year. This recognition highlights both **Dr. Endicott’s** work and the strong representation of Pathology at the national level.

The Mallinckrodt Foundation supports early-stage investigators conducting innovative basic and translational research with the potential to advance biomedical science.

Dr. Endicott’s proposal, “An inexpensive anti-myostatin immunotherapy for treating obesity and preserving lean muscle mass,” has advanced through UNM’s joint HSC and Main Campus limited competition and will move forward for national review.

As the national competition continues, we extend our congratulations and best wishes to **Dr. Endicott** and his team.



DR. RAMA GULLAPALLI ON GOOD MORNING AMERICA &
CAP 2026 PODCAST



Rama Gullapalli, MD, PhD, FCAP, appeared on ABC’s Good Morning America May 19, 2026, during a segment discussing microplastics. He touches on the research being done at UNM to develop imaging technology to identify if microplastics may be contributors to liver and brain disease.

Thank you, **Dr. Gullapalli**, for representing the University of New Mexico and the Pathology Department regarding this fascinating research.

In addition, **Dr. Rama Gullapalli** was interviewed July 14 on the CAP 26 Podcast! He spoke about the growing role of AI in pathology and how the CAP is helping laboratories implement these tools safely and effectively. [Click here to access the podcast.](#)

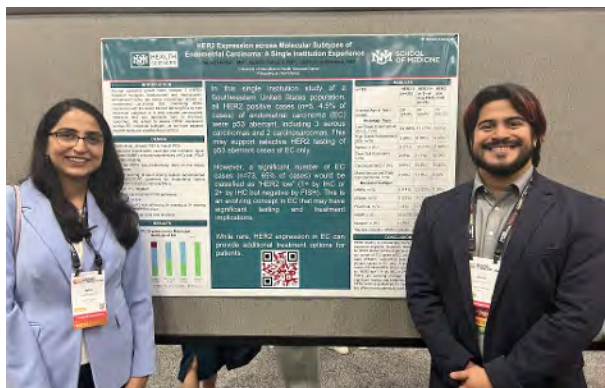
DEPARTMENT NEWS

PATHOLOGY RESIDENT PRESENTATIONS AT USCAP

Two of our own Pathology Residents, **Aurelio Falconi, MD** and **Darrell Horton, MD**, presented at the USCAP Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, March 21-26, 2026.

Dr. Aurelio Falconi (PGY-2), mentored by **Dr. Aysha Mubeen**, presented their poster titled “Clinicopathologic, Immunohistochemical and Molecular Features of Tubo-ovarian Carcinosarcoma: A Single Institution Experience.”

Dr. Darrell Horton (PGY-4), mentored by **Dr. Aysha Mubeen**, had a poster titled “HER2 Expression across Molecular Subtypes of Endometrial Carcinoma: A Single Institution Experience” in the Stowell-Orbison award category (*presented by Dr. Falconi on Dr. Horton’s behalf*).



UNDERGRAD STUDENT RECOGNITION: ASHWIN CHINALA

Ashwin Chinala, a fourth year UNM Chemical Engineering undergraduate researcher in the lab of **Dr. Rama Gullapalli**, was awarded a second prize at the Rocky Mountain Regional American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) conference held at University of Utah on April 10 - 11, 2026. Ashwin presented a poster titled “Development of an HPLC Assay to Measure Anti-Oxidant GSH and Lipid Peroxidation MDA to Understand Oxidative Stress in a Hepatocellular Model.”

Ashwin Chinala, an undergraduate research assistant in the **Gullapalli lab**, was selected as the “Outstanding Senior Undergraduate CBE Student” by the faculty of the UNM Chemical and Biological Engineering Department. This is the highest undergraduate honor in the graduating class of UNM Chemical Engineering in 2026. He was presented with an award on Thursday, May 7th at the UNM Centennial Engineering Building.



DEPARTMENT NEWS - Continued

AMP CPC JUNIOR MEMBER SELECTION: MUKUL DIVATIA

We are proud to share that **Mukul Divatia, MD** has been selected to serve a two-year term (2027-2028) as a Junior Member of the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) Clinical Practice Committee (CPC). In this role, **Dr. Divatia** will work alongside committee members to identify and prioritize scientific projects that advance clinical practice, innovation, and patient care. He will provide valuable feedback and insights from the perspective of trainees and early-career professionals, participate in Clinical Practice Project Groups and task forces, and collaborate with fellow Junior Members to organize the Trainee Luncheon program at AMP’s annual meeting in support of the committee.



GULLAPALLI LAB GRADUATES: KUMAR & CHINALA

Dr. Rama Gullapalli would like to acknowledge and congratulate two graduating members of his lab:

Dr. Rahul Kumar, who completed his final PhD thesis defense on May 5, 2026, has been in the lab of **Dr. Rama Gullapalli** since the fall of 2021. He is a graduate of the UNM Biomedical Engineering program. His PhD thesis focused on understanding the role of chronic cadmium environmental exposures on human hepatocellular function. **Dr. Kumar** was awarded both the outstanding graduate student award in the UNM BME Graduate program as well as a PhD with distinction (unanimously by his committee), along with multiple other awards as well. **Rahul** graduates with eleven publications at the end of his PhD! Congratulations, **Rahul**!



Ashwin Chinala, an undergraduate in the lab of **Dr. Rama Gullapalli** since Fall 2024, was nominated (and awarded) by the UNM Chem Engineering faculty the best graduating undergraduate senior for the class of 2026. **Ashwin** has developed multiple assays to measure anti-oxidative states in liver cells using HPLC. Congratulations, **Ashwin**!

DISSERTATION DEFENSE: ERIC A. BURNS

Congratulations to **Eric A. Burns**, in the research lab of **Dr. Diane Lidke**, for successfully defending his PhD dissertation entitled, “Resolving ErbB Receptor Organization: Single Molecule Imaging of Receptor Oligomerization and Therapeutic Modulation,” on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. **Dr. Burns** will be starting a postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.



DEPARTMENT NEWS - *Continued*

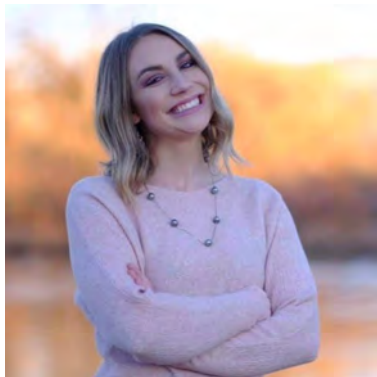
DISSERTATION DEFENSE: TAYLOR USELMAN



Taylor Uselman, in the research lab of **Dr. Elaine Bearer**, successfully defended his dissertation titled, “Mapping and Modeling Threat-Evoked Brain States after Early Life Adversity,” on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. While working with **Dr. Bearer**, **Taylor** received a 6-year pre-to-postdoctoral transition award (NIH F99/K00) as well as multiple research merit and travel awards, delivered platform presentations at national and international conferences, and published multiple research manuscripts, including in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Congratulations, **Dr. Uselman**!

F31 SCHOLAR HIGHLIGHT: HANNAH KAYE

Hannah Kaye, a PhD Candidate in Pathology, has been recognized as both an F31 Scholar through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and a Pathology T32 Scholar supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Her research focuses on understanding the mechanisms that regulate mast cell activation and allergic responses. Specifically, **Hannah** investigates how allergen structure shapes FcεRI receptor aggregates and alters downstream signaling, how the mast cell environment and integrin crosstalk influence FcεRI-mediated signaling, and how receptor packing and mechanical tension can serve as activation cues even in the absence of receptor crosslinking. Hannah conducts her research under the mentorship of **Diane Lidke, PhD**.



DIGITAL PATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION: JOSEPH STENBERG



Resident **Joseph Stenberg, DO, MBA**, was awarded a highly competitive travel grant award to attend the Digital Pathology Visions conference to be held in San Diego, CA from October 16 - 18, 2026. The “Visions” meeting is focused on the latest developments in digital pathology and is organized by the Digital Pathology Association (DPA).

Dr. Stenberg is one of the six travel grants awardees out of 40+ pathology resident submissions competing for this award, and is the first UNM pathology resident to receive it! **Dr. Stenberg** was mentored by **Dr. Rama Gullapalli** in this project, and will present a poster titled “A Low-cost Digital Pathology Pipeline for Translational Research using Open-source Technologies.”

DEPARTMENT NEWS - *Continued*

THE ANNUAL GEORGE D. MONTOYA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The Montoya family along with our 2026 Montoya scholarship award recipients, Richard Justice and Somayeh Dadras.

This year’s award ceremony was held on May 6, 2026. The Department of Pathology continues to be grateful for the ongoing support of the Montoya family for this endowed fund. Each year, this award enhances the department’s research and training mission by providing scholarship opportunities to graduates and undergraduates pursuing careers in biomedical research at The University of New Mexico.

Congratulations to this year’s George D. Montoya scholarship award recipients Richard Justice and Somayeh Dadras! Both are outstanding students who continue to excel in their fields of study. Richard is an undergraduate student in Dr. Amy Gardiner’s lab in Cell Biology and Physiology; his thesis is “Prenatal Alcohol Exposure Impairs Cerebrovascular Development Through Reduction of Focal Adhesion Molecules Tensin 1 and Tensin 2.” Somayeh is a PhD candidate in Dr. Kiran Bhaskar’s lab in Molecular Genetics & Microbiology/Neurology; her dissertation is “Determining the Role of the Alzheimer’s Disease Risk Gene Interleukin-1 Receptor Accessory Protein in Regulating Tau Pathology.”

In the Gardiner Lab, Richard Justice is investigating how microRNA-150-5p negatively regulates Tensin 1 and Tensin 2 during prenatal alcohol exposure, contributing to cerebrovascular dysfunction. This work will uncover novel targets to alleviate the pathogenic effects of alcohol on the developing brain.

PhD Candidate Somayeh Dadras, who is working in Dr. Kiran Bhaskar’s laboratory, investigates whether dampening neuroinflammation could be a possible therapeutic strategy for Alzheimer’s Disease.



FEATURE

THE THOMAS M. WILLIAMS & MARGARET G. WILLIAMS ENDOWMENT FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

BY DR. NANCY JOSTE, DEPARTMENT CHAIR, AND BETSY SMITH, UNM FOUNDATION

Thomas McKee Williams, physician scientist and innovator, was an impassioned educator, an inspiring mentor, and a beloved colleague in the Department of Pathology at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine for more than 23 years. Dr. Williams is also noted for his significant contributions to the growing biotechnology industry in New Mexico. Dr. Williams’ successful medical career started with his medical degree from UNM and continued with a pathology residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the faculty at the UNM Department of Pathology in 1991 and rose through the ranks to professor.

Dr. Williams’ research and clinical work centered on immunogenetics, the study of genes and proteins that controlled the immune response in the immune reaction to transplanted organs, such as kidneys and bone marrow. Doctor Williams was a pioneer in the field of molecular pathology, and he was one of the first board certified molecular pathologists in the state of New Mexico. As a molecular pathologist, Dr. Williams founded the first clinical molecular diagnostics laboratory at UNM Hospital, he co-directed then directed the UNM Hospital HLA laboratory. At that time, HLA typing at a molecular level was in its early stages and, with his pioneering efforts, he was instrumental in the development of creative DNA sequencing strategies to detect individual human HLA Class I and Class II alleles. This led to high resolution HLA typing, now the standard of care for bone marrow transplants involving an unrelated donor. With NIH funding, Dr. Williams’ research focused on major histocompatibility complex (MHC) typing techniques for non-human primates which identified over 700 new non-human primate MHC alleles. This work had potential impact in understanding how other closely related primate species fight infections, improved methods of donors for bone marrow transplants and potential development of more effective vaccines. Dr. Williams published more than 100 research papers during his career, including highly cited papers in translation and molecular genetics.

During his scientific career in New Mexico, Dr. Williams served as the first chief scientific officer for the biotechnology startup Exagen Diagnostics, joining the company at its founding in 2006. Two decades later, the company is now called Exagen, Inc. and is an important patient-focused and discovery-driven life sciences company. In the area of autoimmune diseases, Exagen provides testing guidance to healthcare providers and patients in the diagnosis, prognosis, and management of these diseases. Over the years, Exagen has developed the next-generation autoimmune testing to improve outcomes for patients with autoimmune diseases.



Dr. Williams subsequently returned to UNM and served as Chair of Pathology from 2008 to 2012. In addition to his clinical work at UNM Hospital and TriCore Reference Laboratories in Albuquerque, Dr. Williams was very dedicated to educating and mentoring trainees at all levels. He recognized that in many ways our students and trainees are our greatest opportunity to make an impact, they are our legacy for the future. One of Dr. Williams’ career highlights was teaching a very large number of medical students, graduate students, residents, clinical fellows, practicing physicians and medical technologists. He taught them about medical genetics, immunogenetics, molecular pathology. He led our efforts to start a molecular pathology fellowship training program which has evolved into incredible success story within our department and TriCore Reference Laboratories. This fellowship is now one of the most sought-after fellowships for pathology residents with a waiting list for its highly competitive positions. The fellowship has had a tremendous impact both locally and nationally with its many graduates practicing molecular genetics pathology through the United States.

In addition to serving as Chair of Pathology, Dr. Williams also served as the Executive Vice Dean of the School of Medicine where he provided leadership to the School of Medicine departmental chairs, the School of Medicine undergraduate and graduate educational missions, Student Affairs, Admissions, and Academic Affairs Deans. While at UNM, Dr. Williams also served on the boards of UNM Medical Group, TriCore Reference Laboratories and the National Center for Genome Resources. Dr. Williams’ impact and legacy are long-lasting, both at UNM, the many institutions where his trainees now practice, and in the field of biotechnology. Dr. Williams passed away on January 7, 2015. Dr. Williams is deeply missed and will long be remembered for his scientific innovations, uncompromising academic leadership, devotion to patient care, and his dry sense of humor.

The Williams Family and UNM Department of Pathology jointly initiated the “Dr. Thomas M. Williams & Margaret G. Williams Fund for Education and Training” in honor of his dedication to education and research at UNM. Thanks to the generosity of Maggie Gordon Williams and family along with all supporters, the fund has now become an endowment. The “Dr. Thomas M. Williams & Margaret G. Williams Endowment for Education and Training” supports the greatest educational training needs within the Department of Pathology. The Williams fund has supported clinical education and leadership in education. Initially, a video camera and microphone were purchased to record short educational topics for our web-based learning modules in Brightspace. Additionally, one of our chief residents was able to attend a national leadership development course. As the fund grows, the department will be able to broaden the support of educational initiatives for trainees.

To donate and continue honoring Dr. Thomas McKee Williams and to help continue to grow the fund, please go to the following website: <https://unmfund.co/williams-education> or scan this QR Code:



MAKE A GIFT

Your gift today impacts health care and research for tomorrow. Please consider making a recurring, one time, or legacy donation to one or more of the following funds:

THE PATHOLOGY EDUCATION FUND

Advance the education and research missions of the department.
VISIT: [The Pathology Education Fund](#)

THE CHEN HEMATOPATHOLOGY LECTURE SERIES

Support the Department of Pathology annual Hematopathology Lectureship and the education and training of future pathologists.
VISIT: [The Chen Hematopathology Lecture Series](#)

THE FOUCAR ENDOWMENT

Invest in future Pathologists. Recruiting and training highly proficient Pathology residents and fellows is a top priority.
VISIT: [The Foucar Endowment](#)

THE GEORGE D. MONTOYA RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Encourage UNM students to pursue a career in biomedical research.
VISIT: [The George D. Montoya Research Scholarship Fund](#)

THE HARVEY FAMILY ENDOWED CHAIR AND PROFESSORSHIP

Invest in Pathology research faculty. Endowed professorships attract and retain expert faculty who teach passionately and lead innovative translational research.
VISIT: [The Harvey Endowed Chair and Professorship](#)

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Enhance the education and professional development of OMI Forensic Pathology Fellows.
VISIT: [OMI Forensic Pathology Fellowship Professional Development Fund](#)

THE THOMAS M. WILLIAMS & MARGARET G. WILLIAMS ENDOWMENT FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Support the greatest educational and training needs within the Department of Pathology.
VISIT: [The Dr. Thomas M. Williams & Margaret G. Williams Endowment for Education and Training](#)

If you need assistance with your gift please contact:

Maggie Schold, MFA, Director of Development, UNM School of Medicine
Mobile: (505) 259-9164 or Email: maggie.schold@unmfund.org

Donate by check, estate planning, bequest, charitable annuity, insurance gift, charitable trust and more. Thank you for thinking of the Department of Pathology’s funds as you generously give!

Acknowledgements

The Department of Pathology at The University of New Mexico School of Medicine gratefully acknowledges Emilia Avila and Nancy Risenhoover for the layout of this newsletter.

For more information on our department, please visit our website:
hsc.unm.edu/medicine/departments/pathology/

Do you have news? Please share!
Contact: HSC_PathAdmin@salud.unm.edu

SUMMER 2026

