

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES

2026
UNM College of Nursing
Research &
Scholarship Day



Sept. 17, 2026 | 10-2 p.m.
CON-PHE & Domenici Center Auditorium

RESEARCH INNOVATION SCHOLARSHIP & EXCELLENCE (RISE) OFFICE

OUR RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP MISSION

To generate rigorous, impactful, and inclusive nursing scholarship that advances discovery, strengthens practice and policy, and improves the health and well-being of people and communities — locally in New Mexico and globally.

OUR RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP VISION

We envision the UNM College of Nursing as a national model of excellence in Research and Scholarship — a thought leader shaping a resilient, innovative, and impactful future for nursing in a rapidly changing social, environmental, and technological world.

FEATURED KEYNOTE



Daniel E. Dawes, J.D.

Senior Vice President, Global Health

Founding Dean, School of Global Health

Meharry Medical College

Daniel E. Dawes, J.D., is a widely respected healthcare and public health leader, health equity & policy expert, educator, and researcher who currently serves as Senior Vice President, Global Health and is founding Dean of the School of Global Health at Meharry Medical College, which is the first school of its kind in the United States. He is also a Presidential Visiting Fellow at Yale University. Prior to that he served as executive director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine and is a professor of health law, policy and management.

Dawes is the author and editor of several groundbreaking books including *150 Years of ObamaCare*, *The Political Determinants of Health*, and *Health Equity*. Among his many achievements, he was an instrumental figure in developing and negotiating the Mental Health Parity Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, and the Affordable Care Act, among other landmark federal policies, as well as the principal investigator for the nation's first health equity tracker, co-founder of the Health Equity Leadership and Exchange Network (HELEN), and co-principal investigator of the HHS National COVID-19 Resiliency Network.

Dawes is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and the New York Academy of Medicine. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the largest foundation in the country devoted solely to improving the nation's health.

Dawes has served as an advisor to the White House COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, an appointed member of the CDC's Advisory Committee to the Director, and an appointed member of the National Institutes of Health National Advisory Council for Nursing Research. He is passionate about harnessing the power of collaboration to actualize and operationalize health equity for all communities.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

CON-PHE 1601

10-10:10 AM

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Héctor A. Olvera Álvarez, PhD

Associate Dean for Research & Scholarship, College of Nursing

10:10-10:55 AM

FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHTS

Tim Sowicz, PhD, APRN-CNP, FIAAN

Aligning Clinical Practice & Research in Addiction Nursing

Melissa Lehan Mackin, PhD, RN

Enhancing Relational Health & Safety Education for Adults with Developmental Disability

Eric Riebsomer, DNP, RN, FANAI

Advancing the Future of Nursing Socioecological Determinants of Health & Interprofessional Education

10:55-11:05 AM

BREAK

Transition between faculty spotlights and student presentations.

11:05-11:25 AM

STUDENT LIGHTNING TALKS

Renata Do Couto Pereira, PhD Student

Nurses in Emergency Preparedness in Marginalized Communities:
A Conceptual Framework

Kimberly Spray, PhD Student

Uniting Theory: Psychological Safety & The Intention to Leave

Michael Baker, PhD Candidate

Spatial Analysis of Salmonella Cases in Bernalillo County, New Mexico: Identifying Areas for Targeted Public Health Nursing Intervention

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

DOMENICI CENTER AUDITORIUM

11:25 AM-12 PM

LUNCH AND TRANSITION TO KEYNOTE

Lunch pickup followed by transition to the keynote location.

12-1 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND Q&A

DANIEL E. DAWES, J.D.

Preparing the Next Generation of Health Equity Leaders

OUTSIDE THE DOMENICI CENTER AUDITORIUM

1-1:15 PM

TRANSITION TO POSTER SESSION

Attendees transition directly to the poster session, where light refreshments will be available.

1:15-2 PM

POSTER SESSION AND NETWORKING

PhD presentations on research & scholarly work.

Sandra Cardenas, MSN, RN; Esther Ryan, PhD; Sallie Schneider, PhD; Kathleen Arcaro, PhD; Katie Kivlighan, PhD, CNM, FACNM:
The Laboratory Assessment of Secretory Activation in Women with Gestational Diabetes

Eve Wohler, MSN, RN, CHSE, CNEcl; Molly Covington, MSN, RN; Melissa Lehan Mackin, PhD, RN: Addressing Health Equity Through Simulation Education

Renata Do Couto Pereira, PhD Student; Roberta Lavin, PhD, MA, RN, FNP-BC, FAAN: Nurses in Emergency Preparedness in Marginalized Communities: A Conceptual Framework

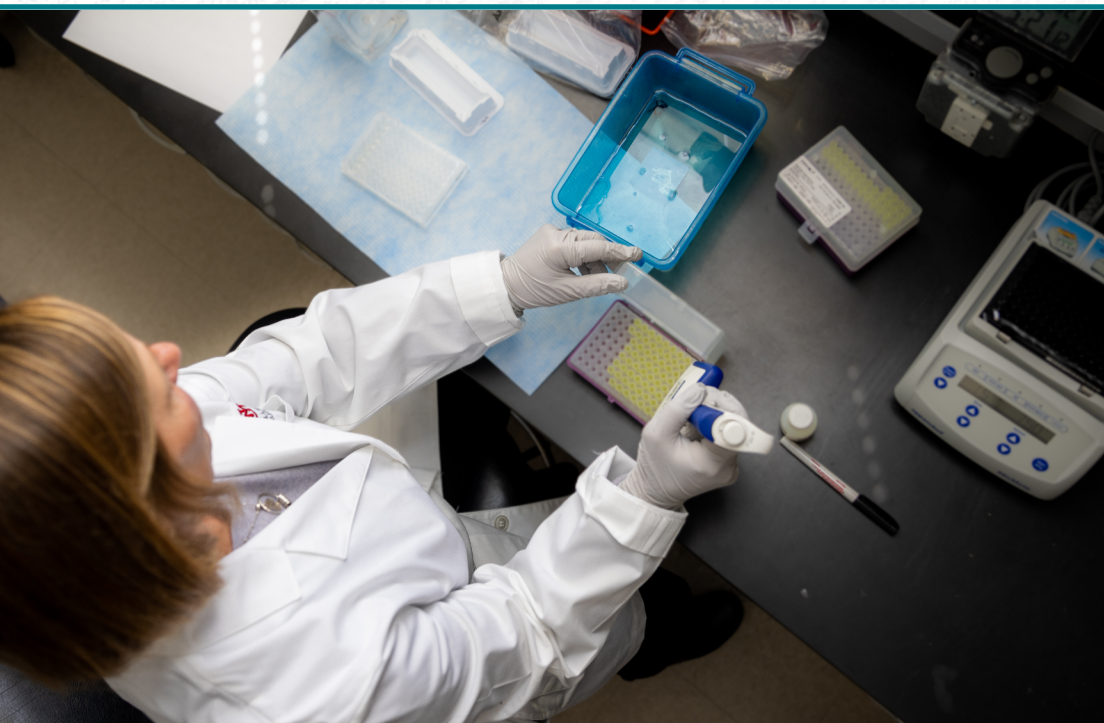
Michael Baker, MPH, RN; Sarah Shrum-Davis, PhD, MPH; Chad Smelser, MD: Spatial Analysis of Salmonella Cases in Bernalillo County, New Mexico: Identifying Areas for Targeted Public Health Nursing Intervention

Kimberly Spray, MAS, MHI, BSN, RN; Melissa Lehan Mackin, PhD, RN: Uniting Theory: Psychological Safety & The Intention to Leave

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**HSC OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND
INCLUSION**

**UNM EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS FOR
BIRTHWORKERS PROGRAM**



COLLEGE
OF NURSING

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

hsc.unm.edu/nursing/research/