



University of Nevada, Reno

School of Medicine

Annual Report

2023-2024

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From left: First-year medical students Kgosi Tavares, Malia Pfeffer and Adrian Samberg (far right) with Dean Paul J. Hauptman, M.D., at Medical Student Research Day.

Message from Dean Hauptman

Let me start out by stating that it has been and remains an honor for me to lead the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine (UNR Med). We are a research-intensive, community-based medical school with an incredible 55-year history of medical education, clinical care, biomedical research and service to the region.

A medical school thrives when it not only has a human face but develops a sense of community built around a common vision and demonstrates a willingness to innovate and change. Standing together, we are working to achieve a shared vision of A Healthy Nevada. We are enhancing the health of our community, region and state through expanded clinical care, innovative biomedical research and unparalleled medical education.

Recently, we engaged in a “reset” by developing a new strategic plan, intentionally focused on specific and attainable goals under each of our four pillars:

- Develop a connected community
- Promote excellence in education
- Advance medicine through research and innovation
- Build an integrated academic health system with Renown Health

Establishing Nevada’s first integrated academic health system not only advances our mission to support the health and health care of all Nevadans, but also advances innovation, expands clinical trials, and improves affordability and access to quality, evidence-based care.

We are committed to improving the health of Nevadans through relationships that are built on trust and respect and by serving the diverse populations throughout our community and state.

I continue to be inspired by the excellence demonstrated by faculty, students, and staff at UNR Med, and couldn’t be more excited to engage with you as we forge a bright future in fulfillment of our mission.

Go Pack!

Paul J. Hauptman, M.D.
Dean, University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine



Keynote speaker, Gary H. Gibbons, M.D., Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health, addresses graduating M.D. students, May 2024.

Education

Education at UNR Med offers outstanding training for the next generation of health care providers. With programs in undergraduate medical education, physician assistant studies, speech pathology and audiology, and graduate medical education, as well as combined M.D./Ph.D. programs, our learners experience integrated academic medicine with real world application.



OUR STUDENTS

22%

FIRST-GENERATION

11%

RURAL
BACKGROUND

169

GRADUATES



"I believe that I am a better human because of medical school. My class here at UNR Med exhibited camaraderie, strength and resilience that I had never seen before. I owe my success in medical school to the people around me, and I hope that some of them can say the same."

Spencer Joseph Horsley Trivitt, M.D.
Class of 2024



M.D. PROGRAM

30%

FIRST-GENERATION

19%

RURAL
BACKGROUND

69

GRADUATES



Match Day Results

In 2024, 69 M.D. graduates matched into residency programs across the country, including prestigious institutions such as the Mayo Clinic, Stanford University, Duke University, the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. The most popular match specialties were pediatrics at 16% and emergency medicine at 13%. Three students matched with military residency programs, and 10% of graduates remain in Nevada for their residencies.

Pediatrics 16%

Emergency Medicine 13%

Specialty Surgery 12%

Orthopedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Otolaryngology, and Urology

Psychiatry & Neurology 9%

Obstetrics-Gynecology 9%

Other Specialty 9%

Med-Peds, Radiology, Pathology, Child Neurology, Phys Medicine, and Rehab

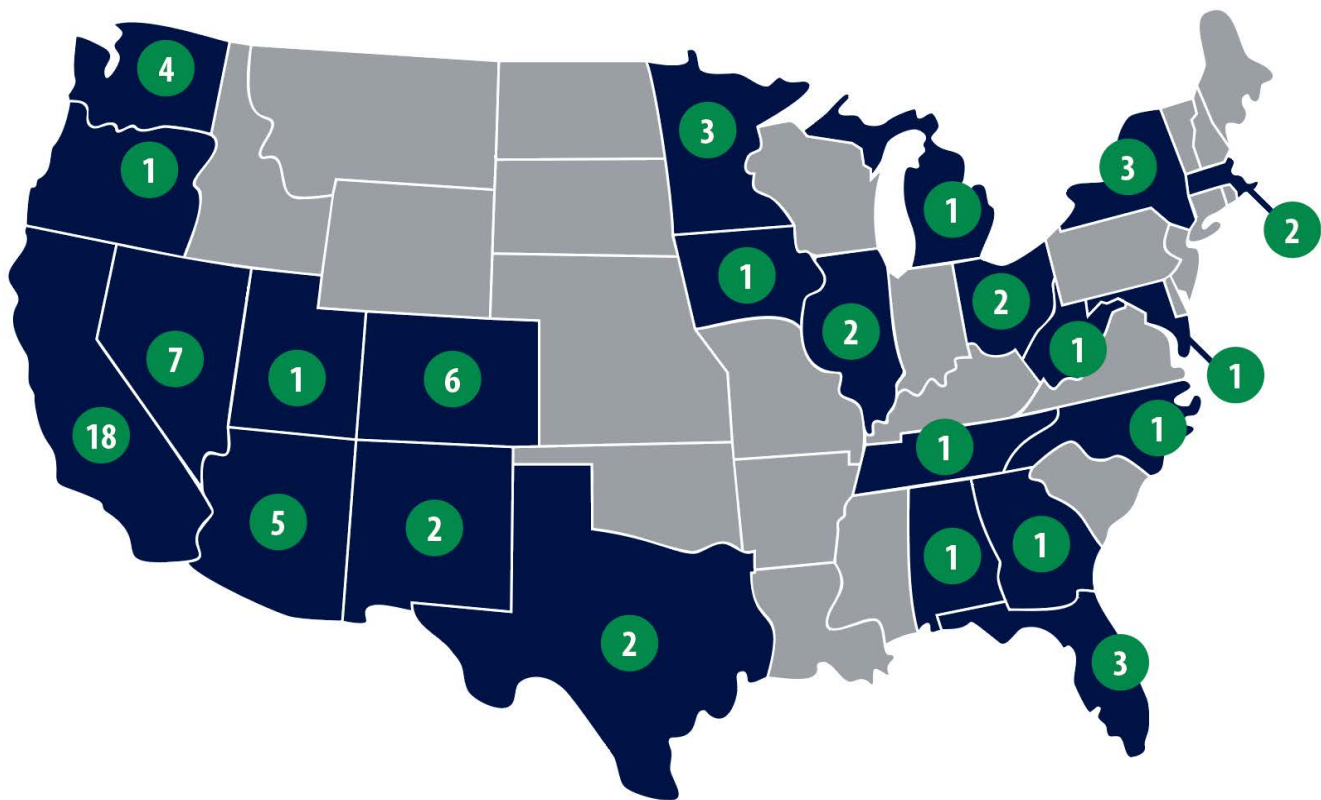
Family Medicine 7%

Anesthesiology 7%

General Surgery 7%

Preliminary & Transitional 7%

Internal Medicine 4%



MATCHES IN **22** STATES

Matched with the **4%** **ARMED FORCES MEDICAL CORPS**

SPEECH PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY

The Speech Pathology & Audiology program celebrated 50 years of educating students in undergraduate and graduate education at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine.

69
GRADUATES

42 UNDERGRADUATES

27 M.S. GRADUATES

12% FIRST-GENERATION

5% RURAL
BACKGROUND



Above: Participants journeyed from Reno to Grizzly Creek Ranch for the first annual Aphasia Camp.

First Nevada Aphasia Camp

The first annual Nevada Aphasia Camp was hosted in September 2023 at Sierra Nevada Journeys' Grizzly Creek Ranch. Aphasia, a disorder that interferes with a person's ability to understand and produce language, affects approximately two million people in the United States. It can impact speech, reading, writing and the ability to complete simple math problems. Aphasia is usually, but not always, associated with stroke or traumatic head injury and can have varying degrees of severity. The camp brought together people with aphasia, partners, university students, and volunteers for intergenerational community building, communication and outdoor adventures.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Now in its sixth year, the Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program became a fully accredited 25-month program in 2023. Five cohorts of students have graduated since the inaugural class of 2020, and 70% of PA Studies graduates currently practice in Nevada. The PA Studies program receives over 1,500 applicants each year, and selects a small cohort of students who support our mission to train committed primary care clinicians. Currently, 33% of PA Studies graduates practice in a rural or underserved setting.

23

GRADUATES

35%

FIRST-GENERATION

35%

RURAL
BACKGROUND



"The UNR Med PA Studies program cares greatly about their students. The student-to-faculty ratio is second to none and faculty are always accessible. The program excels at highlighting the underserved populations of Nevada and ensures graduates know how impactful they can be as providers."

Henry (Hank) Bingham, PA C
Class of 2024

330,000+

**HOURS OF PATIENT
CARE PROVIDED**

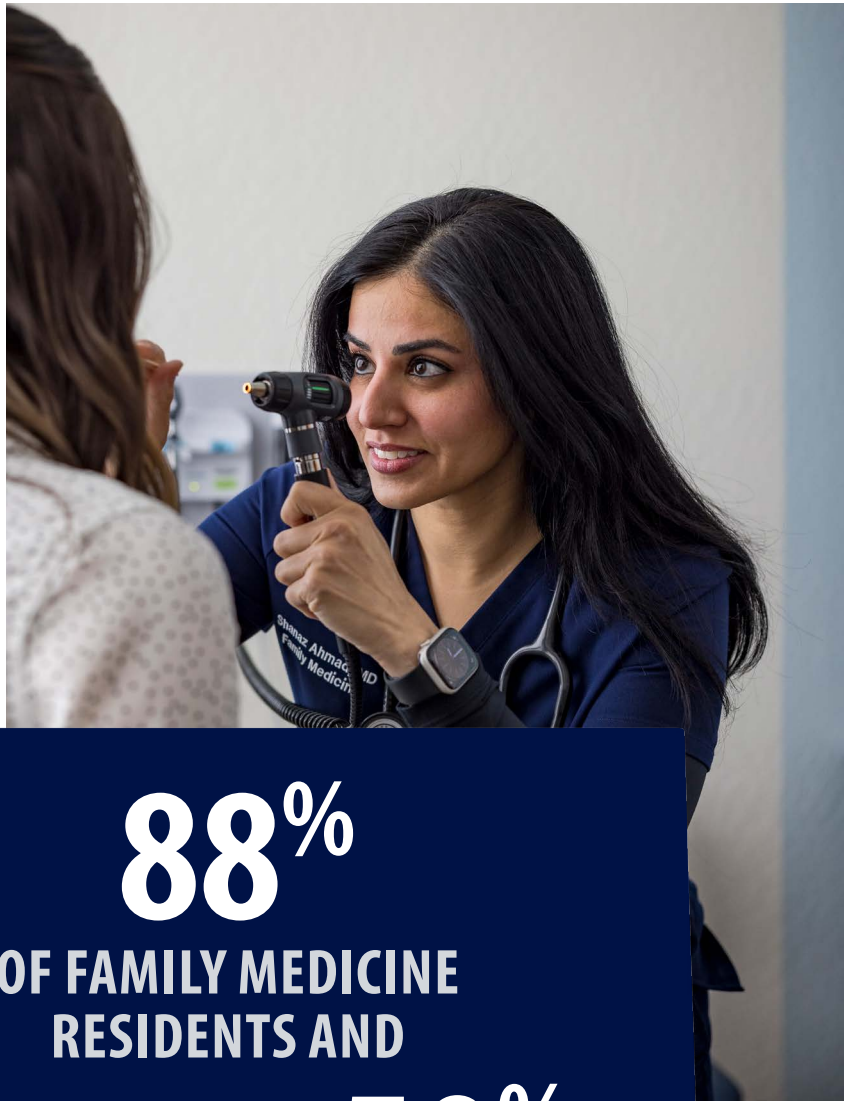
to the Northern Nevada community

37

**RESIDENTS
GRADUATED**

6

**FELLOWS
GRADUATED**



88%

**OF FAMILY MEDICINE
RESIDENTS AND**

50%

**OF PSYCHIATRY
RESIDENTS REMAIN
IN NEVADA TO
PRACTICE**

77%

M.D. & GME GRADUATES

currently practice in Nevada

4,022

PHYSICIANS TRAINED

in undergraduate and graduate medical education programs over the past 50 years

39%

M.D. GRADUATES

currently practice in Nevada

55%

GME RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

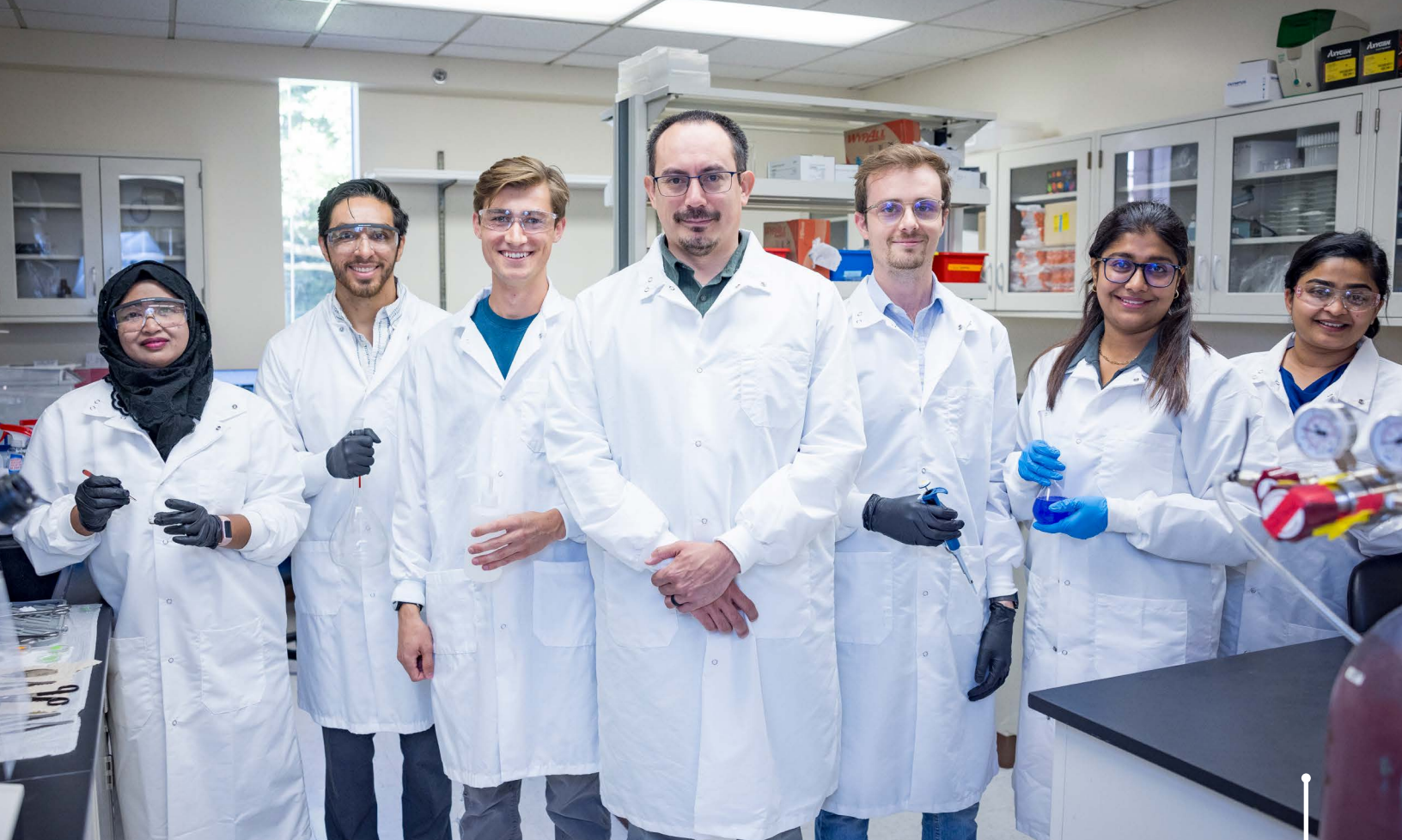
currently practice in Nevada



Above: Brian Erling, M.D., CEO of Renown Health (far left), Kristina Deeter, M.D., Chair, Pediatrics (center), and Dean Paul J. Hauptman, M.D. (far right) pose with students and faculty at the inaugural Wolf Pack Pediatric Symposium, May 2024.

Inaugural year of Pediatrics Residency Program

The first class of a three-year residency program at UNR Med and Renown Health began in July 2023. The new residency program is part of numerous joint initiatives at UNR Med to address the shortage of physicians in Nevada. Data from the Office of Statewide Initiatives confirms that 55% of graduates who completed residency training in Nevada remain in Nevada to practice, while 77% of graduates who completed both their undergraduate and graduate medical education in Nevada currently practice in Nevada.



Left to Right: Most Murshida Begum (Graduate Student), Cristian Franco (Graduate Student), Patrick Voss (Laboratory Technician), Albert Gonzales, Ph.D. (Principal Investigator), Alex Aupetit, Ph.D. (Postdoctoral Fellow), Shipra Goswami (Graduate Student), Vidya Murthy, Ph.D. (Postdoctoral Fellow).

Research

The biomedical sciences departments at UNR Med have a long history of excellence and are led by faculty who have made impactful discoveries in their respective fields. With an emphasis on translational and clinical research, investigators at UNR Med contribute to global scientific advancement and innovative novel therapeutics in many fields of study including infectious disease diagnostics, muscular dystrophy, smooth muscle physiology, and cardiac arrhythmias.

Our local research partners include Renown Health and VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, as well as Orvis School of Nursing, School of Public Health, College of Science, College of Engineering, and College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources at the University of Nevada, Reno.

By creating opportunities for entrepreneurial growth, we are transforming the future of health care in Nevada and beyond.

\$14,429,639

AWARD CONTRACTS
RECEIVED*

\$5,530,031

Pharmacology 38.3%

\$286,992

Internal Medicine 1.9%

\$4,130,427

Physiology and Cell Biology 28.6%

\$53,606

Office of Medical Research 0.4%

\$1,341,823

Microbiology 9.3%

***including \$3,086,760 from Renown Health
to UNR to support the Healthy Nevada**

UNR Med renewed Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Phase 2 program grant from the National Institutes of Health

The proposal, "Nevada Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Molecular and Cellular Signal Transduction in the Cardiovascular System," aims to sustain and enhance a research center focused on molecular and cellular signal transduction in the cardiovascular system. The research mission of this Center is significant as cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death and disability in the U.S. and much of the world. The Center's research is expected to reveal novel concepts that lead to a greater understanding of cardiac function and arrhythmias.

The COBRE Phase 2 award is designed to strengthen successful centers established in Phase 1 through further improvements in research infrastructure and the continued development of investigators. The project is led by Robert Harvey, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Pharmacology, with current UNR Med research project leaders Andrea Nunes, Ph.D., and Nathan Grainger, Ph.D., and Mitchell Omar, Ph.D. from the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources. The program core directors are Normand Leblanc, Ph.D., and Brad Ferguson, Ph.D., from the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources.

\$27,818,722

Biomedical sciences expenditures

\$2,174,016

Awarded from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for "Dynamin-related Protein 1 and Mitochondrial Fission Adapters Regulate Presynaptic Functions"

\$11,013,995

COBRE Phase 2 awarded over five years from National Institutes of Health

\$1,441,049

Awarded from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, with a subaward from Stanford University for "Pathology and Pathogenesis of Coronavirus Infections in Animal Models"

\$2,403,026

Awarded from National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for "Role of Interstitial Cells of Cajal in Patterned Colonic Motor Activity"

\$2,059,615

Awarded from National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for "Laminin protein therapy for the treatment of Laminin-alpha2 deficient congenital muscular dystrophy"

\$2,321,330

National Institutes of Health Katz Award for "Molecular Mechanisms of Sympatho-Excitation in Cardiovascular Disease"



Above: Jose Regalado Lopez, undergraduate student researcher in the Mutafova Lab, Physiology and Cell Biology.



Above: Jacob Loughry, B.S., Research Associate in the Burtneck Lab, Microbiology and Immunology.



View from the medical school campus at sunrise.

Community

UNR Med is committed to serving our community by fostering programs that ensure care for all Nevadans. We engage with elderly populations through the work of the Sanford Center for Aging, providing support and connection to older adults. Project ECHO educates providers in Nevada and beyond, offering valuable resources to enhance their medical knowledge. Our commitment includes the provision of health care services to students across campus in our Student Health Center. These initiatives create invaluable opportunities for our learners, faculty and partners to participate in compassionate care.

PROJECT ECHO

Project ECHO Nevada (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) was implemented at UNR Med in 2012 to address the challenges of limited access to specialists in rural areas and support the application of best practices in health care.

Project ECHO Nevada increases the capacity of health care and education professionals to support the health and well-being of all Nevadans. This innovative platform virtually connects providers in rural and underserved areas to experts in multiple disciplines, thus improving access to specialty care without the costs and delays associated with traditional methods. Employing a hub-and-spoke model, subject matter experts facilitate virtual collaborative learning sessions. This method encourages cross-site learning amongst community professionals to enhance quality and enable professionals to bring specialized care to patients in their communities.

264

SESSIONS

provided to health care and public health professionals

20

TOPIC AREAS

including cardiology, diabetes, infectious diseases, first episode psychosis, pain management, HPV and rheumatology

3,421

PROVIDERS

of all types (M.D., APRN, PA, PharmD, LCSW, MFT, etc.) attended

1,873

CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

149

CASES REVIEWED





Above: Peter Reed, Ph.D., MPH, Director, Sanford Center for Aging speaks at the 30th Anniversary celebration.

30 Years of Service

Founded with the mission to enhance the quality of life and well-being among elders through education, translational research and community outreach, the Sanford Center for Aging has been a steadfast advocate for older adults in the community for over 30 years. Through a diverse array of programs, the center addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by elders, ensuring they receive the support and resources necessary to thrive.

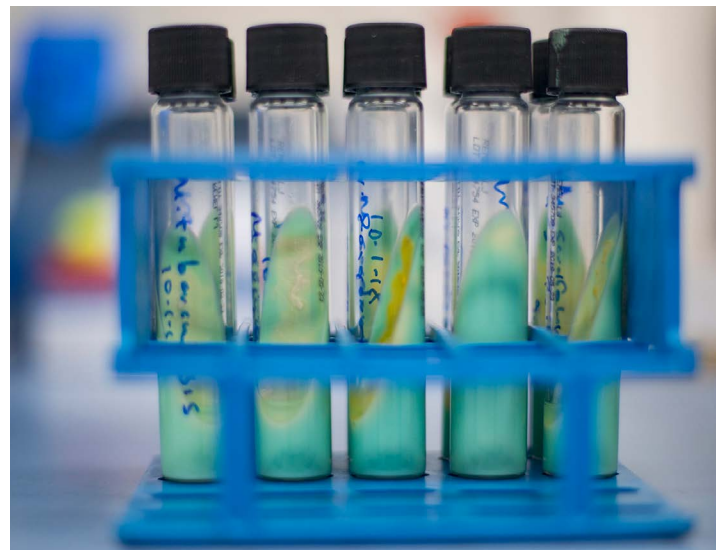
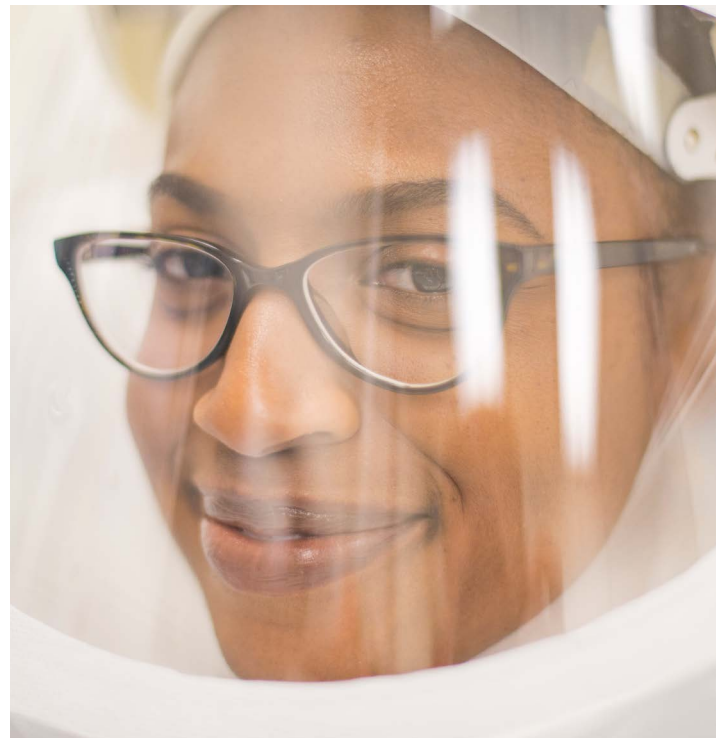
The Sanford Center for Aging served nearly 3,500 people in 2023-2024, including OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) members, students in our academic and education programs, and participants in our many health and wellness services.



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSPHL) is a national leader in pathogen sequencing, recognized by the CDC for its innovative technology development and training programs for public health laboratories. NSPHL has sequenced over 4,000 cases of *Candida auris*—more than any other jurisdiction in the U.S.—and plays a crucial role in monitoring this urgent public health threat while training other states on genomic surveillance.

In 2024, the NSPHL began groundbreaking for a new facility. The laboratory has also expanded its Newborn Screening Panel to include Smooth Muscle Atrophy (SMA) and X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy (X-ALD), enhancing early detection and intervention for life-altering conditions. Additionally, the NSPHL completed Phase I of a statewide electronic lab messaging project to streamline real-time reporting of infectious diseases, complemented by a new courier system for rapid sample transport across the state.



STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

Under the guidance of Cheryl Hug-English, M.D., MPH, the Student Health Center (SHC) received its ninth accreditation renewal from the Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care and continues to serve the University of Nevada, Reno campus in multiple ways. From clinical care for illness and injuries, to telemedicine appointments for mental health and nutritional services, to sports medicine, health education and outreach, the SHC provides critical services and is now a distribution site for naloxone on campus. The SHC also collaborates with numerous departments and organizations across the University's campus, including the Counseling Center, Disability Resource Center, Residential Life, Student Services, and the Office of the Dean of Students.

CLINICAL CARE AT THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

23,449

PATIENT VISITS

1,900+

**MENTAL HEALTH
VISITS**

2,700+

FREE STREP TESTS

900+

**NUTRITIONAL
CONSULTS**

1,100+

**SPORTS MEDICINE
CONSULTS**

3,000+

COLD/FLU VISITS



VA SIERRA NEVADA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

The VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System provides learners at UNR Med with important hands-on training experiences. Students in the M.D. Program and Physician Assistant Studies program, and residents in psychiatry, family medicine, and internal medicine complete clerkships and rotations at Ioannis A. Lougaris Veterans' Administration Medical Center and associated clinic locations, learning and working alongside peers and mentors in the veteran health care community.

3

RESIDENCIES

Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine

2

FELLOWSHIPS

Geriatric Medicine, Hospice & Palliative Care

14

PA STUDENTS

participated in rotations

93

M.D. STUDENTS

participated in rotations

COMMUNITY FACULTY

1,222 COMMUNITY FACULTY

As a research-intensive, community-based medical school, UNR Med is actively engaged with practicing physicians and community partners throughout Northern Nevada. Our teaching sites span hospitals, clinics and health centers statewide, immersing students in diverse clinical experiences and unique learning opportunities. Mentorship from community faculty provides essential hands-on learning and real-world patient care and helps to nurture professional relationships. Together, we are preparing future physicians to serve Nevada's communities with skill and compassion.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

411

ACTIVITIES

12,298

CME CREDITS ISSUED

18,615

LEARNER INTERACTIONS



Nevada's First Integrated Academic Health System

Renown[®]
HEALTH

Since its inception in 2021, our affiliation has enhanced the health of our community through:

- Increased access to care
- Innovative health care delivery
- Expansion of clinical research
- Training for the next generation of physicians and health care professionals

Our affiliation facilitates the creation of new clinical services for the community including oncology, cardiology, neurosciences and pediatrics. The affiliation also offers new training opportunities for medical students, physician assistant students, and resident physicians, and provides new avenues for scientific discovery through collaborative clinical research.

Together, we are partnering to achieve a shared vision of A Healthy Nevada.



2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Established a new Pediatrics Residency
- Added "Business of Medicine" elective course
- Hosted interdisciplinary grand rounds
- Opened a Savitt Medical Library satellite location at Renown Regional Medical Center
- Integrated the Clinical Research Office
- Engaged in joint strategic planning and collaboration on accreditation
- Appointed joint leadership positions and a full complement of Clinical Chairs and Section Chiefs





Philanthropy

Jerry and Janet Zebrack Family Scholarship for Humanism Endowment award recipients. From L to R: Reuben Nwando, Paul J. Hauptman M.D., Dean; Olawale Akinyemi, Juned Sadiq.

Generous support from our donors fosters educational excellence and advances clinical services and research. Please join us to strengthen UNR Med's scholarships and endowments, or create your own legacy to drive our vision of A Healthy Nevada. Each gift to UNR Med's programs helps to build our health care workforce, enhance innovative research, and improve the health and well-being of all Nevadans and their communities.



GIVING DATA

\$5,139,479

TOTAL GIVING

\$217,845

ALUMNI GIVING

\$1,546,782

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

\$2,308,818

**TOTAL FY24 ENDOWMENT
DISTRIBUTIONS**

Alan J. Arnold, M.D. Charitable Endowment Gifts \$450,000

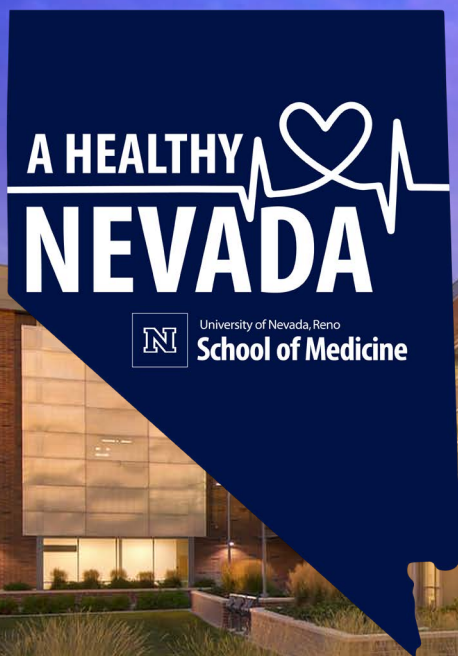
The Alan J. Arnold, M.D. Charitable Endowment, advised by the Nevada Community Foundation, gifted \$450,000 in December 2023 to advance medical research and improve the lives of Nevadans affected by cancer and hearing-related disorders.

With this generous contribution, Dr. Arnold's legacy was honored through investment in UNR Med's pioneering studies in prostate, urinary tract and bladder cancer research. Additionally, funding helped to advance the Early-Career Springboard Research Initiative, which improves the recruitment, retention, and advancement of early-career faculty; provides financial support to junior investigators pursuing novel diagnostic and therapeutic interventions of importance to patients; and helps to mitigate barriers that impact career progression and scientific discovery.

The gift also helps to fund the appointment of a full-time audiologist, expand UNR Med's cohort of learners within the Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology and develop an on-site audiology clinic.

UNR Med is honored to receive financial support from the Alan J. Arnold, M.D. Charitable Endowment and continue Dr. Arnold's legacy of excellence, compassion, research and service.

**For more information about opportunities to give, please email
Gabrielle Brackett, Director, Development at gbrackett@unr.edu**



Strategic Plan

Developed collaboratively with our diverse community of learners, faculty, staff and partners, our Strategic Plan for 2024-2029 reflects a rich history and sets the stage for new and exciting change with a focus on four key pillars: a connected community, educational excellence, research and innovation, and the Renown Health affiliation. The plan demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to address our current needs, establishes a pathway for future transformation and positions UNR Med to make significant strides in support of our vision and mission.

With the launch of the new UNR Med Strategic Plan, we acknowledge that the hard work is just beginning. Success will require everyone in the UNR Med community to be meaningfully engaged. And now, we're ready to get started and continue our collaborative efforts toward achieving A Healthy Nevada.

OUR FOUR PILLARS



DEVELOP A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

The success of UNR Med depends on the community we serve. By strengthening ties within the University, with affiliated partners and with the broader Nevada community, we aim to elevate our education, research and service missions. Recognizing that collaboration amplifies impact, UNR Med acknowledges the significance of interconnectedness and will work to cultivate existing and new opportunities for success.



PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Investing in education serves as a catalyst for attracting and retaining qualified learners in UNR Med's undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. The commitment to educational excellence involves creating an environment in which trainees feel supported, empowered and equipped with the tools they need to excel. Through continuous assessment and development of new programs, UNR Med will continue to produce the next generation of compassionate health care providers and innovative researchers.



ADVANCE MEDICINE THROUGH RESEARCH & INNOVATION

UNR Med's identity as a research-intensive, community-based medical school underscores its commitment to advancing health through inquiry and innovation. To bolster this commitment, we aim to expand research, by providing state-of-the-art facilities with cutting-edge technology and attracting and mentoring accomplished researchers. By elevating its research profile, UNR Med aspires to increase recognition nationally and globally for breakthroughs and contributions to the field of medicine.



BUILD AN INTEGRATED ACADEMIC HEALTH SYSTEM WITH RENOWN

The affiliation between UNR Med and Renown Health created Nevada's first integrated academic health system. The next phase focuses on enriching the educational and research milestones of both organizations. By combining resources and expertise, and developing a shared vision, UNR Med and Renown Health aim to synergize their strengths to elevate education, research and health care delivery in Northern Nevada.

Leadership

Leaders at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine are shaping a unified future. In collaboration with Renown Health, UNR Med filled five joint Clinical Chair/Section Chief positions in Academic Year 2023-24.

ADMINISTRATION



Paul J. Hauptman, M.D.
Dean



Timothy Baker, M.D.
Vice Dean



Philip Clark, MBA
Senior Associate Dean,
Administration and Finance



Alicia Diaz-Thomas, M.D., MPH
Senior Associate Dean,
Institutional and Faculty Affairs



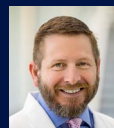
Neda Etezadi-Amoli, M.D.
Senior Associate Dean,
Undergraduate Academic Affairs



Lucia Natterpek, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean,
Research



David Carlson, M.D., M.Div.
Associate Dean,
Graduate Medical Education



David Howard, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Dean,
Curricular Affairs



Nicole Jacobs, Ph.D.
Associate Dean,
Diversity and Inclusion



Barbara Kohlenberg, Ph.D.*
Associate Dean,
Faculty Affairs



John Packham, Ph.D.
Associate Dean,
Statewide Initiatives



William "Bill" Plauth, M.D.
Associate Dean,
Clinical Affairs



Cherie Singer, Ph.D.
Associate Dean,
Student Affairs



Lauren Schwarz, Ph.D.
Associate Dean,
Institutional Wellness



Gerald Ackerman, M.S.
Assistant Dean,
Rural Programs



Shannon Beets, M.A.
Assistant Dean, Institutional
Assessment and Accreditation



Aaron Dieringer, M.D., MPH
Assistant Dean,
Admissions



Farah Madhani-Lovely, M.D.
Assistant Dean,
Clinical Research



John Westhoff, M.D., MPH
Assistant Dean,
Student Research

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS & DIRECTORS



James Alexander, M.D.
Chair, Obstetrics and
Gynecology



David AuCoin, Ph.D.
Chair, Microbiology
and Immunology



Tami Brancamp, Ph.D., CCC-SLP*
Chair, Speech Pathology
and Audiology



Dean Burkin, Ph.D.*
Chair, Physiology
and Cell Biology



Takesha Cooper, M.D., M.S.
Chair, Psychiatry and
Behavioral Sciences



Kristina Deeter, M.D., MBA
Chair,
Pediatrics



Christie Elliott, M.D.*
Chair, Pathology and
Laboratory Medicine



Myron Gomez, M.D.
Co-Chair,
Surgery



Robert Harvey, Ph.D.
Chair,
Pharmacology



Cheryl Hug-English, M.D., MPH
Medical Director,
Student Health Center



Brian Lauf, DMSc, MPAS, PA C
Director, Physician Assistant
Studies Program



Samuel A. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.
Manville Endowed Chair,
Medicine



Amy McGaha, M.D., MPH
Chair, Family and
Community Medicine



Mark Pandori, Ph.D., HCLD (ABB)
Director, Nevada State Public
Health Laboratory



Lori Rawson, M.D.
Co-Chair,
Surgery



Peter Reed, Ph.D., MPH
Director, Sanford Center
for Aging

* Interim