



**Mark Unruh, MD, MS**  
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*Professor & Chair of Medicine*  
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Dr. Mark Unruh is a Professor and Chair of the Internal Medicine Department at the University of New Mexico (UNM). Dr. Unruh received his undergraduate and medical school training at the University of Chicago. In 1999, he completed internal medicine training at the University of Pennsylvania under Dr. Peter Traber and received board certification in Internal Medicine then started a fellowship in Nephrology at the University of Pennsylvania. He then trained in kidney disease clinical outcomes research and obtained a Master of Science in Clinical Care Research from Tufts in May 2002. He was recruited to The University of New Mexico to serve as Division Chief of Nephrology in 2012 and was subsequently appointed Chair of Medicine in 2016.

In his role as Chief of Nephrology and Chair of Medicine, he partnered with executive leadership to recruit and retain outstanding faculty to meet the clinical mission. As Chief of the Nephrology Division and as Section Chief of Nephrology at the New Mexico Veterans Hospital, he worked to enhance access to kidney care for all New Mexicans. The number of patients seen for nephrology outpatient consults doubled, with increased activity at UNM, SRMC, and outlying nephrology clinics across New Mexico. He also worked to provide access to care by adding nephrology clinics at Albuquerque IHS, Cuba, and Kewa Medical Clinic.

As Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine (DOIM), he supported the growth of both basic science and clinical research. In the DOIM, PI-led NIH grants have doubled. In addition to PI-led grants, medicine faculty are involved in many other team-based projects and receive funding from the Department of Defense, PCORI, AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality), and foundations. In addition to these fiscal measures, there are many non-fiscal impacts of this science, including influencing policy, creating start-up businesses, supporting the scholarship of our trainees, and engaging marginalized groups such as prisoners in innovative programs to help them support one another and take ownership of their health-related choices while in prison.

His experiences, both personal and professional, underscore the importance of building supportive, inclusive communities where everyone can thrive. He aims to contribute to a broader understanding of diversity that encompasses not only the recognition of different backgrounds but also to actively combat against systemic injustices. The vision that he holds celebrates differences in humanity, provides representation, and generates a sense of belonging while striving for social justice.