



November 28, 2023

Dear Chair Ortiz y Pino, Vice Chair Thomson, and esteemed Members of the Legislative Health & Human Services Committee:

With the recent passing of Dr. Steven Siefert and retirement of Dr. Susan Smolinske, the New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center (NMPDIC) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque is now under new leadership. This letter is an introduction to the leaders of the NMPDIC.

Dr. Joseph Lambson accepted the position of director of the NMPDIC in July after finishing a 2-year clinical toxicology fellowship at the Utah Poison Control Center at the University of Utah. Prior to this, Dr. Lambson completed his Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of Utah. Dr. Lambson has been involved with poison center for over 5 years in various clinical positions and looks forward to providing his prior knowledge and experience to New Mexico.

Dr. David Gummin is a board-certified medical toxicologist and emergency physician who joined the faculty at UNM in September. Dr. Gummin serves as the medical director of the NMPDIC. Dr. Gummin trained in Chicago, IL where he did his emergency medicine residency and medical toxicology fellowship. For the past 17 years, he served as the medical director of the Wisconsin Poison Center in Milwaukee where he was a professor on faculty of the Medical College of Wisconsin.

We are pleased to join the NMPDIC at this time and are impressed with the work that has been done prior to our joining the Center. In fiscal year 2023, the NMPDIC managed 25,248 poisoning emergencies and drug information calls providing services to all 33 NM counties. Given that 83% of callers were managed at home, an estimated \$11.37 million in healthcare costs was saved. All healthcare facilities utilize the poison center with about 34% of calls originating from healthcare facilities. The NMPDIC has also been heavily involved in a variety of public health services that target education and management of exposures to cannabis, opioids, environmental toxins, and occupational exposures.

We look forward to continuing such a high-quality center. We greatly appreciate your willingness to continue supporting the NMPDIC in the work that we do. We additionally appreciate your consideration in our recent RPSP request.

Cordially,

Joseph Lambson, Pharm D

David Gummin, MD