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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/15/2007

SPONSOR Arnold-Jones LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 803

SHORT TITLE UNM Clinical Toxicology Fellowship SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST McOlash

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 803 appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the UNM Regents for expenditure in FY 2008 for a post-doctoral fellowship program in clinical toxicology.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the General Fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The New Mexico Poison & Drug Information Center (NMPDIC) is a twenty-four hour emergency telephone service accessible to all citizens of New Mexico. The Center assesses and makes treatment recommendations during possible poisonings, responds to drug information inquiries, and assists emergency personnel during hazardous material incidents. It also serves as a major teaching site for the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy and UNM

Department of Emergency Medicine. The NMPDIC coordinates poison prevention throughout the state, and operates New Mexico's only computerized toxic surveillance system and is certified as a Regional Poison Center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

During the early and mid-70s, the Bernalillo County Medical Center (now UNM Hospital) operated a poison control center. Although state funds supported this center, approximately 85% of its services were delivered to Bernalillo County. In July 1977, the center and its budget were transferred to UNM and the program was administratively attached to the College of Pharmacy. Since then, the program has been committed to providing the same level of service to all New Mexico citizens 24 hours a day with a full-time staff. The number of calls received by the Center has grown steadily over the years from 12,000 in 1977 to over 40,000 in 2005.

There were two important program changes that occurred in FY 2005-06. First, the New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center established a separate "All-Hazards Emergency Information Service" for the State of New Mexico. This service is designed to assist the public and healthcare providers by providing consistent up-to-date information in a timely manner during a large disaster. The new service was created by installing separate all-hazards 800 lines, increasing the number of telephone workstations, and by incorporating sophisticated automatic call handling technologies (call tree, automatic call distribution, call queuing, and call tracking) into the poison center's current infrastructure. The all-hazards system increases call handling capacity of the NMPDIC from 24 calls per hour to 100 - 350 calls per hour during public health emergencies.

The second important program change was the establishment of a postdoctoral clinical toxicology fellowship program for pharmacists. The goal of the fellowship is to increase new knowledge in clinical toxicology by providing motivated, pharmacy scholars with personalized postdoctoral research, administrative, and clinical training. Fellows participate in a two-year training program that strengthens skills needed to design, implement and conduct research in clinical toxicology by working with faculty in the College of Pharmacy and the UNM Department of Emergency Medicine. The program is flexible enough so fellows can add additional concentration areas (administrative, bench research) to their fellowship experience. The program can accommodate two fellows per year.

The minimum requirement for fellows is a Pharmacy Doctorate from an accredited college of pharmacy. Fellows receive annual base stipends: \$37,500 for their first year and \$39,500 for the second year. The goal of the fellowship program is to increase new knowledge in clinical toxicology by providing motivated pharmacy scholars with personalized post-doctoral research, administrative, and clinical training. The program is designed to provide candidates with the skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary to function as a clinical toxicologist within a poison center or emergency department. The first fellow accepted to the program is Dr. Isela Martinez. She will complete her training in July of 2007. Dr. Susan Kunkel began her training in July 2006 and will complete her training in July of 2008.

This proposal was not submitted to the HED by UNM, and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08.