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June 2016

Message From The Chair

It was a busy spring. Now, it's a busy summer—as this newsletter attests. We continue to make progress in the UA Department of Medicine. We've added a number of faculty—including three and soon-to-be four new division chiefs—and more are on the way. A few of them are our former fellows.

We continue to make progress on our Ambulatory Strategy Task Force, led by **Dr. Gordon Carr**, now CMO in Tucson for our primary clinical partner Banner – UMC. Our latest meeting was held June 2 (see photos). I appreciate all the work on presentations and your feedback, particularly from new faculty such as **Drs. Tammy Ojo, Larry Mandarino** (new Endocrinology chief) and **Liz Connick** (new Infectious Diseases chief).



With the transition of many of our physicians from UA to Banner Health employment, we've created a new "Clinical Series Track" for them to maintain a faculty connection with us. We're also in talks to create a "Primary Care Track" for our Internal Medicine Residency Programs at Tucson and South Campus to encourage more residents to pick and stick with our programs. And we've been exploring an idea to combine the IM Residency Programs as another measure to help them compete better for candidates nationally—though a merger, if any, wouldn't occur for at least three years.

Bear in mind, we'll continue to grow not only because of physical investments on our campuses. About three-quarters of a billion dollars in new construction is now under way between new research and innovation buildings by UAHS and a new hospital tower and multi-specialty outpatient center by Banner. As for personal investments, look for more funding opportunities and faculty development tools this fall to support your research and academic careers, too. One continues to be Career Development Awards, for which an inaugural research symposium was held June 8 (see below). These are all ways we're encouraging you to come, stay and grow with us.

Lastly, I hope you're enjoying our newly redesigned, mobile-ready website that went live in April. Among new items are [Feature Spotlights](#), [Researcher Spotlights](#) and [Research Projects](#). Check out webpages for "[Accolades & Awards](#)," "[Top Doctors](#)" and "[DoM Blog](#)" posts. You'll continue to see updates and more features added as needed. Direct requests to communications coordinator [David Mogollón](#), 626-1137.

Monica Kraft, MD

Robert & Irene Flinn Professor of Medicine
Chair, Department of Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson

SPOTLIGHTS



Cancer Center to Host Summit for White House Cancer Moonshot, June 29

The UA Cancer Center will participate as a regional host site for a nationwide "Cancer Moonshot" Summit being convened June 29 at the White House by **U.S. Vice President Joe Biden** that includes “conversations” in communities across the country. Those with a professional or personal interest in a cure for cancer should RSVP to attend the local “conversation” — connected via live feed to the White House event...



UA Nephrology Chief Participates in White House Organ Summit, June 13

As co-chair of the national Kidney Health Initiative, **Dr. Prabir Roy-Chaudhury** was a "virtual participant" in the Organ Summit, which resulted in a nearly \$200 million investment

commitment from federal agencies, companies, foundations, universities, hospitals and patient groups to reduce organ wait lists, the vast majority for kidneys. Meanwhile, kidney transplants here are way up, as are most transplant procedures...



Graduating Internal Medicine Residents Celebrate with Banquet, Awards

The UA Department of Medicine hosted its 2016 Graduation Dinner for the UA Internal Medicine Residency Programs on June 3 (Tucson Campus) and 4 (South Campus) at the Skyline Country Club, with more than 50 residents and their families attending. Several awards were presented during the ceremonies, including Resident of the Year for **Dr. Ram Baalachandran** (Tucson Campus) and **Dr. Jessica August** (South Campus). See links for the [South Campus dinner](#) and photos...

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUL 20	Diabetes & Wellness Fair @ South Campus	JUL 28	UA Cancer Center North Open House - 'Clinical Trials'	AUG 11	Department of Medicine Fellows Retreat @ BIO5
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RESEARCH



DoM Puts Its Mark on First CDA Research Symposium

About half the presenters and session chairs at the inaugural UA Health Sciences Career Development Award Research Symposium were from the Department of Medicine, giving the event a good grounding in research initiatives from internal medicine junior faculty recognized for their contributions in advancing medical science. See a photo collage [here](#)...

[more](#)



Four Residents Tops in Research AHD Poster Contest

Twenty-five residents participated in the 2016 Research Academic Half-Day poster competition for the Internal Medicine Residency Program – Tucson Campus, with viewing and judging April 28 in DuVal Auditorium. Top honors went to **Drs. Roberto Bernardo, Justin Lee, Jawad Bilal and Manjinder Kaur**. See a photo collage [here](#)...

[more](#)

EDUCATION



Fellows Come, Go for Advanced Medical Training

It's that time of year for farewells and hellos. Several UA fellows in our department are graduating and more are coming to Tucson to train and do research under our national and globally renowned faculty. Others have accepted faculty positions here. Learn more about who's coming and going and where they're headed next...

[more](#)



Pulmonary Fellows Top-3 Seed in CHEST Challenge

Three UA Pulmonary & Critical Care fellows—**Drs. Naser Mahmoud, Muna Omar and Huthayfa Ateeli**—learned this week they earned the university designation as a “Top 3 Institution” for their fellowship program and the right to compete in the American College of Chest Physicians’ CHEST Challenge Championship in Los Angeles this fall...

[more](#)



DOM Education Awards Honor Forty at Arizona Inn

Forty-two awards from the UA Department of Medicine and its divisions were presented to 40 medical students, residents, fellows and faculty physicians during the annual Medicine Education Awards Reception, April 18, highlighted by the presence of **Dr. Jack Boyer**, who founded the divisions of Geriatrics, Hematology and Rheumatology...

[more](#)

FACULTY



Host of New Faculty Hires Named, More to Come

New faculty and staff are being added in just about every division over the summer, augmenting a Department of Medicine team that's seen a number of new faces join us over the past year—including two division chiefs. More are changing roles as physicians continue to transition between the UA and Banner, our main clinical partner...

[more](#)

CLINICAL



New ICU Leadership Announced at Tucson Campus

Dr. Christian Bime was named director of the Medical ICU and **Dr. Esther Kim** is the new Cardiovascular ICU director at Banner - UMC Tucson, replacing **Dr. Gordon Carr**, who succeeded **Dr. Andy Theodorou** as chief medical officer for Banner - UMC Tucson and South. Dr. Theodorou is now CMO for the Banner - University Medicine Division...

[more](#)

BLOG



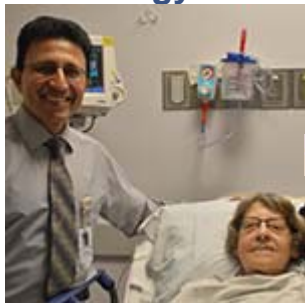
Quality & Safety: Do We Provide High-Value Care?

Rounding in the South Campus ICU, **Dr. Phil Factor** came across a patient with ACEI-induced angioedema. His face began swelling just after starting an ACE inhibitor prescribed for hypertension. It was his first-ever episode. He had no family history and was improving with conservative management...

[more](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology



A patient of UA cardiologist and director and co-director of non-invasive cardiac imaging at our South and Tucson campus hospitals, **Raj Janardhanan, MD**, and her daughter sing his praises and those of the medical assistants and nurses who work with him. Way to go Dr. J...

[more](#)

Gastroenterology



After winning honors at the American College of Physicians Nationals, recognition as UA Gastroenterology Resident of the Year and a GME Resident Excellence and Leadership Scholarship for her Banner – UMC South Campus quality improvement project, **Dr. Kai Rou Tey** will head to Boston for The Liver Conference courtesy of an Emerging Liver Scholar Resident Travel Award from the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease...

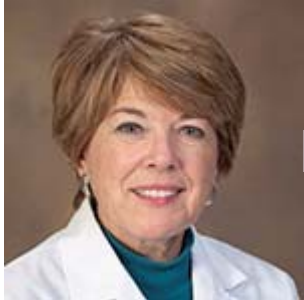
[more](#)

Geriatrics



The latest entry for the UA Health Sciences blog, *The Healthy Dose*—“Five Common Misconceptions about Hospice Care”—comes from **Dr. Kimberly Shea**, assistant director of telenursing for the Arizona Telemedicine Program. A 25-year nursing veteran, she spent 15 as a hospice nurse. In her post, she goes over common misassumptions about hospice care and palliative care, and offers a site to learn more...

[more](#)



Two additional mornings per week (plus Tuesday afternoons) are available now for Banner and community physicians to make patient referrals to new Geriatric Consultation Clinics, courtesy of **Drs. Paul Gee, Ana Sanguineti** and new geriatrician **Corinne Self**, who joined our faculty in April after completing her fellowship at Stanford. From 2007-14, she earned her medical degree and did her residency here...

[more](#)

Hematology and Oncology



The American Cancer Society awarded \$360,000 to the UA Cancer Center for Institutional Research Grants—highly competitive block grants intended as "seed money" for initiation of pilot projects by promising junior investigators. Letters of intent were due by mid-June with proposal deadlines in August and October. For more funding opportunities and other news, see the latest UACC newsletter...

[more](#)

Infectious Diseases



The 2016 Fellows Newsletter is now available. See what current and former fellows are up to and which PGY2 UA internal medicine residents accepted early bids as 2017 fellows. Highlights include photos of costume party “tomfoolery” at Bisbee’s Copper Queen Hotel, a Cave Creek Ranch reception in Portal, Ariz., with former division chief **Eskild Petersen, MD**, and the Desert Museum meeting...

[more](#)

PACCS



Dr. Sai Parthasarathy, head of the Sleep Medicine program in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, was one of six faculty physicians who received a 2016 College of Medicine Faculty Mentoring Award at the May 25 General Faculty Meeting with a reception afterward for them and 11 others who received honorable mentions...

[more](#)



Efforts to improve the health of children at increased risk for asthma got a major boost with the launch of a new UAHS-led national clinical study that recently won a \$27 million grant from the NIH’s National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. For **Dr. Fernando Martinez** and his colleagues at the UA Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center, this study follows 30 years of research to prevent and cure this chronic disease...

[more](#)

Rheumatology



An article on patient-centered interventions and African American access to knee replacement, written by UA rheumatologist **Dr. Ernest Vina**, not only was published by *CORR* but chosen as the journal’s spotlight article of the month and for its “Take 5” author Q&A interview. It was among more than a dozen articles by UA Rheumatology faculty published in the past year...

[more](#)

More headlines...

UA immunologists find infection-fighting T cells to boost immunity in elderly
Immune-system frailty in adults 65 and older is a widespread public health issue. Center on Aging co-director is study's principal investigator...

[more](#)

Class of 2016-17 interns to arriving in late June

Incoming first-year residents include 36 in Internal Medicine at Tucson Campus, 10 at South Campus, and two Dermatology residents...

[more](#)

UA Health Sciences employee excellence recognized with awards

Among nominees for the Lura Hanekamp Awards of Excellence was **Angie G. Hessel**, executive assistant in the Department of Medicine...

[more](#)

AZPM film 'Passing On' spotlights UA Geriatrics, end-of-life planning

Featured are **Drs. Mindy Fain** and **Monica Vandivort**, as well as medical student perspectives on our final days and how best to plan for them...

[more](#)

Coming soon: New website for Banner – UMC

Get a preview of the new digital home for the UA Health Sciences' chief clinical partner, redesigned to be more customer- and mobile-friendly...

[more](#)

Valley Fever clinic opens in April at Tucson Campus

Banner – UMC's newest clinic is staffed by **Dr. John Galgiani**, director of the UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence—and is participating in clinical trials...

[more](#)

Cancer Center researchers advocate new way to treat rare tissue disorder

Study by **Drs. Tijana Skrepnik**, **Silvija Gottesman** and **Dino Stea** on form of scleredema published in the journal *Advances in Radiation Oncology*...

[more](#)

Dr. Joe 'Skip' Garcia picked for American Thoracic Society's Trudeau Medal

UA senior vice president for health sciences recognized for contributions to pulmonary and critical care medicine—research, teaching and mentoring...

[more](#)

Dr. Scott Klewer receives March of Dimes congenital heart surveillance grant

The Peggy M. Barrett Endowed Chair for Congenital Heart Disease in Adults is awarded a \$260,000 grant to fund the "Arizona CHSTRONG Project"...

[more](#)

[Drs. Armstrong, Slepian collaborate with Cuba on diabetic wound therapy](#)
They are pursuing a groundbreaking partnership with Cuban researchers to steward FDA approval of a diabetic foot ulcer healing drug for U.S. use...

[more](#)

[Genomics researchers discover road map to disease origin](#)
Findings of **Dr. Yves Lussier** and Penn, Vanderbilt colleagues support White House Precision Medicine Initiative that UAHS committed to in February...

[more](#)

[Dr. Jorge Jaramillo Gomez, global leader in cancer research, joins UAHS](#)
Ex-NCI leader to be UAHS Center for Elimination of Border Health Disparities associate director and UA Cancer Center assistant outreach director...

[more](#)

[UA endocrinologist wins American Diabetes Association's top state award](#)
Dr. Merri Pendergrass honored for advances in care and first inclusion of UA Adult Diabetes in ADA's Education Recognition Program last year...

[more](#)



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Department
of Medicine

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To submit a news item or story idea for this newsletter, please contact David Mogollón, Communications Coordinator, at (520) 626-1137 or dmogollon@deptofmed.arizona.edu.

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