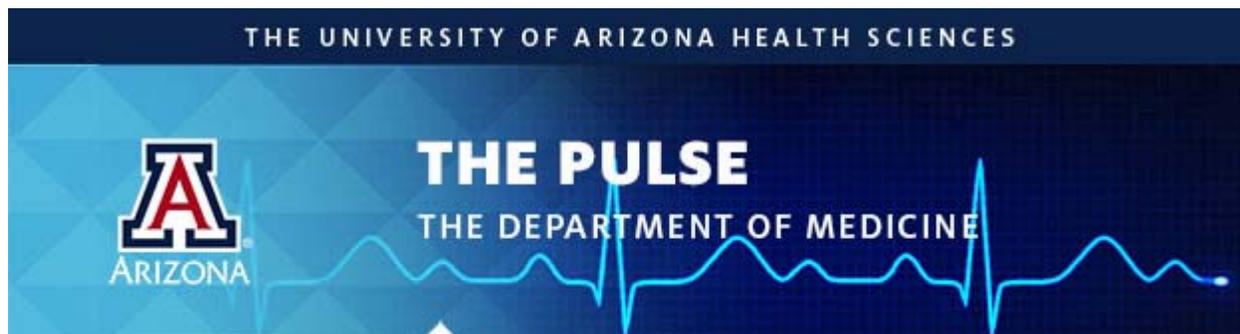


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August 2016

## Message From the Chair

Students already are arriving back on campus for the fall term, roads and hallways are a little more crowded, and the pace of life is picking up among our faculty, fellows and residents as we ready for another academic year.

We've got a lot of positive news in this month's issue of *The Pulse*, including an announcement about a special Pulmonary Research Conference this Monday, Aug. 22; our new DOM Research Seminar Series that starts Sept. 8; a Career Development Retreat for fellows last week and faculty promotions. Ongoing work to streamline the way in which our faculty physicians work with our primary clinical partner, Banner –



University Medicine, continues, including a new committee that will review faculty policies and practices with Banner and the College of Medicine – Tucson to make sure they align well with each other. In June, the department held a second Ambulatory Strategy Task Force meeting, led by our Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs and new Banner – UMC CMO **Dr. Gordon Carr**.

Previously, we shared photos of the event but you can see video of the presentations on how our different divisions are moving forward [here](#).

It's been a busy summer since then so, if you want to catch up, feel free to visit our [news archive](#) at the DOM website. You can see previous issues of this newsletter there or subscribe using a different email address. Be aware, we're planning a series of stories soon on what faculty, trainees and students did over the summer. Contact our communications coordinator [David Mogollon](#) if you want to share.

### **Monica Kraft, MD**

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

## SPOTLIGHTS

### \$7M NIH Grant to Help Asthma Sufferers Control Attacks, Breath Easier

Led by **Dr. Monica Kraft** at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson, researchers will use the National Institutes of Health grant to conduct a five-year study, “Dysfunction of Innate Immunity in Asthma,” to investigate the interrelationship of genetic mediators to reduce lung inflammation and attacks in asthma patients...



### Fellows Pack House at DOM Career Development Retreat

Several dozen members of the UA Department of Medicine’s 15 ACGME-accredited fellowships packed the house for a Fellowship Career Development Retreat hosted Aug. 11 at the BIO5 Institute. They heard stories of junior faculty navigating their career paths, a research funding overview, advice from UAHS and COM senior leadership, and humorous anecdotes from **Dr. Sai Parthasarathy**...



### Department of Medicine Leads Way on 'Best Hospital' National Rankings

National rankings for the *U.S. News & World Report* Best Hospital 2016-17 list recognize two of our specialties — nephrology (39th) and geriatrics (46th) — and cite three more specialties — cancer care, gastroenterology and GI surgery, and pulmonology—along with four common adult procedures and conditions in our department as “high performing”...



## UPCOMING EVENTS

|                  |                                   |                  |                               |                  |  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>AUG</b><br>19 | Living with Diabetes in College   | <b>AUG</b><br>22 | Pulmonary Research Conference | <b>AUG</b><br>31 | Cardiothoracic Surgery: "1954: Dr. Lillehei Closes a Hole" |
| <b>AUG</b><br>31 | 2016 State of the College Address | <b>SEPT</b><br>8 | DOM Research Seminar Series   | <b>SEPT</b><br>9 | UACC North Open House - Lymphoma & Leukemia                |

## RESEARCH



### DOM to launch 'Research Seminar Series,' Sept. 8

Starting Sept. 8, the Department of Medicine will launch a new monthly Research Seminar Series to highlight its academic accomplishments. "We expect this to be an interactive forum," said Vice Chair for Research **Dr. Jil Tardiff**. Each seminar will pair a junior and senior investigator from different disciplines or subspecialties...

[more](#)

## EDUCATION



### 'Class of 2020' setting milestones before ceremony

With a record student body of 135 and the most applications ever for a class, the incoming Class of 2020 medical students already are breaking new ground. See photos and video of the White Coat Ceremony welcoming them to the UA College of Medicine – Tucson and DOM faculty who assisted...

[more](#)

## CLINICAL



### Banner buys 32 Urgent Care Extra clinics, 4 in Tucson

Banner Health—the UA College of Medicine's primary clinical partner—announced it has acquired 32 Urgent Care Extra sites in the Tucson and Phoenix metro areas. The ambulatory clinics include four in Tucson. Banner plans to open additional clinics in retail settings, expanding to 50 by 2017...

[more](#)



### Crane highlights construction pace on UAHS campus

A huge crane arrived onsite at the end of July for the big push to erect steelworks for Banner – UMC Tucson's new nine-story hospital tower. But it's just one of a few cranes soon to loom over all three construction sites on the UA Health Sciences campus, including for the BSRL and HSIB projects...

[more](#)

## FACULTY



### Nine Dept. of Medicine Faculty Receive Promotions

Congratulations to the nine faculty-physicians in the UA Department of Medicine who recently received promotions, including four—**Drs. Bhaskar Banerjee, Pradeep Kadambi, Kent Kwoh and Kwan Lee**—who became full professors, two with tenure...

[more](#)

## IN OTHER NEWS

### Endocrinology



KOLD-TV Channel 13 in Tucson is the latest to give publicity to a clinical trial involving UA endocrinologist **Dr. Janet Funk** and her research team's study of the remediating effects of turmeric on rheumatoid arthritis patients. Any benefits for reduced pain help patients cut down on on pricey medications with serious side effects...

[more](#)

### Geriatrics



The Arizona Public Media original documentary “Passing On”—with participation from the Pima County Council on Aging, UA Center on Aging and UA Division of Geriatrics, General Internal and Palliative Medicine—on Oct. 8 will receive the top Emmy® award from the Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences...

[more](#)

### Hematology and Oncology



The UA Cancer Center retains its prestigious National Cancer Institute status with a \$17.6 million award. Comprehensive designation gives Arizonans access to research-driven, highly personalized cancer care and treatments. The center is the only NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center based in Arizona and is just one of 45 in the nation...

[more](#)

## Hematology and Oncology



About three dozen people learned more about the Phase I New Therapeutics Program at the UA Cancer Center on July 28 during an open house at the center's North Campus outpatient clinic, 3838 N. Campbell Ave. The event featured **Dr. Daruka Mahadevan**, director of the UACC Phase I Clinical Trials Program...

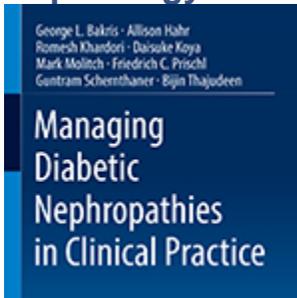
[more](#)



The UA Cancer Center participated in the Eighth Annual Feria de la Lectura—a bilingual literacy fair—at the El Pueblo Activity Center at 101 W. Irvington Ave. on Tucson's south side July 30. In addition to health screenings, the 3,000 attendees got free backpacks, books, school supplies, bike helmets and other gear for the beginning of the new school year...

[more](#)

## Nephrology



Just released by Adis, a publishing unit of Springer Nature, *Managing Diabetic Nephropathies in Clinical Practice* includes a chapter written by **Bijin Thajudeen, MD**, an assistant professor in the UA Division of Nephrology who joined the faculty in 2013 after completing his residency and fellowship here. He noted the international scope of the book with authors from Austria, Japan and the United States...

[more](#)

## PACCS



A special Pulmonary Research Conference will be held Monday, Aug. 22, with speakers **Drs. Eugene Bleecker** and **Deborah Meyers**, co-directors of the Center for Genomics and Personalized Medicine Research and professors of Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy, and Immunologic Medicine at Wake Forest University...

[more](#)

## Translational Medicine



Two UA Department of Medicine investigators and members of the UA Cancer Center, **Drs. Erik Knudsen and Agnieszka Witkiewicz** had a paper published in the journal *Cell Reports*' latest issue that notes pancreatic cancer resists effective drug targets for other cancers based on conventional cell lines and discusses what researchers are doing instead — highly personalized patient-directed medicine...

[more](#)



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Department  
of Medicine

GIVE TODAY

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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](mailto:dmogollon@deptofmed.arizona.edu).  
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