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December 2016

Message From The Chair

'Tis the season for reflection and resolutions for the future. Upon reflection, I'm happy many of our resolutions of the past year came to fruition with positive changes, new faces and programs and accomplishments recognized for faculty, trainees, students and staff. In the UA Department of Medicine, 2016 was an exciting year in which we can take pride and enjoyment on a job well done.

Clinically, our transplant nephrologists and others in the Kidney Transplant Program helped the number of kidney transplants this year break all records and our Pulmonary and Critical Care team helped recertify the Lung Transplant Program. Now, that's teamwork!

New Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program Director **Dr. Tammy Clark Ojo** accepted the Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs post with the promotion earlier in the year of **Dr. Gordon Carrto** CMO for Banner – UMC Tucson and South. **Dr. Phil Factor** accepted additional responsibilities as Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs in addition to his role as Vice Chair for Quality & Safety. And **Dr. Laura Meinke** agreed to head the Vice Chair of Education Office on an interim basis as we start a search to replace **Dr. Ken Knox** who took **Lu Martinez**, DOM education director, with him this month to run the Faculty Affairs Office at the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix. Congratulations.

With respect to our Education mission, we added a Physician Scientist Track for our residency programs and worked toward a Primary Care Track in Internal Medicine as well as explored a merger of the Internal Medicine Residency Programs at the Tucson and South Campuses. South Campus resident **Dr. Jessica August** was named American College of Physicians – Arizona Chapter Resident of the Year and three Pulmonary and Critical Care fellows—**Drs. Huthayfa Ateeli, Naser Mahmoud** and **Muna Omar**—won the National CHEST Competition at the American College of Chest Physicians annual meeting. Kudos to you all.

Our Vice Chair for Research, **Dr. Jil Tardiff** helped launch several new initiatives and events, including a [Fellows Retreat](#), the monthly [DOM Research Seminar Series](#), the upcoming inaugural [PI Poster Sessions](#) (Jan. 17, 2017, in Kiewit Auditorium) and grant review and incentive programs for junior faculty. She also oversaw development of a new [Research section](#) for our website, which was completely redesigned this year, too, with numerous new features to spotlight innovative work being done in our Department.



As I mentioned in the last newsletter, research awards and publication for our faculty were through the roof in 2016. UANews notes in an article below that the “UA ranked in the Top 25 for Research Funding” this year by the National Science Foundation. Also below, you can see links to more than 225 published papers by our faculty, fellows and residents on advanced research achieved in our Department.

And recruitment success meant many new faces — including new division chiefs **Drs. Liz Connick** (Infectious Diseases), **Larry Mandarino** (Endocrinology), and **Julie Bauman** (Hematology-Oncology) as well as interim chiefs **Steve Goldschmid**



(Gastroenterology) and **Sai Parthasarathy** (Pulmonary) — and expanded programs across our 13 divisions. I'm so pleased to be able to say you can add a 14th in 2017. My good friends, Wake Forest's **Drs. Gene Bleecker** and **Deb Meyers** (*pictured on left*) agreed last week to lead as co-chiefs our new Division of Genetics, Genomics and Precision Medicine as well as be co-directors of a new section in the UA Center for Applied Genetics and Genomic Medicine.

I'm happy to provide you more past and future recruits (and other achievements) in my full "**2016 Year-in-Review**" ([click here](#)). For the present, let's resolve to continue the excellent pace we set in 2016 in moving the ball forward for the benefit of our colleagues, our fellows, our residents, our students and our patients. Give yourselves a pat on the back. Happy Holidays!

Monica Kraft, MD

Robert & Irene Flinn Professor of Medicine

Chair, Department of Medicine

Associate Director, UA Health Sciences Asthma & Airway Disease Research Center

University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 13	Endocrinology Grand Rounds with Dr. Melanie Hingle	DEC 13	Banner - University Medical Group Town Hall	DEC 14	DOM Grand Rounds with Dr. Julie Bauman: Head & Neck Cancer
DEC 16	Sarver Heart Grand Rounds Guest Speaker: Dr. Bimal Padaliya	JAN 9	Advances in Aging - Delirium & Beyond with Dr. Serena Scott	JAN 12	DOM Research Seminar Series (UAHS 5403)
JAN 17	DOM PI Poster Session (Kiewit Auditorium)	JAN 28	16th Annual Living Healthy With Arthritis Conference	FEB 22-24	Feeding Your Genome - Precision Nutrition and Health Conference

SPOTLIGHTS



Surgery's Leigh Neumayer Named Interim Senior VP for Health Sciences
UA President **Ann Weaver Hart** named UA Surgery Department Chair **Dr. Leigh A. Neumayer** as interim senior vice president for health sciences. Her appointment is effective Jan. 1, 2017, following **Dr. Joe G.N. "Skip" Garcia's** decision to resign his administrative role and step back to faculty. A world-renowned pulmonologist and physician-scientist on the genomics of lung disease and prevention and treatment of inflammatory lung injury, Dr. Garcia recruited her from the University of Utah in 2014...



UA, Banner – UMC Celebrate Record-Breaking Year for Kidney Transplants
With a year-to-date total of 108 kidney transplants, the multidisciplinary team of surgeons and transplants specialists with the UA Departments of Surgery and Nephrology—as well as numerous others who support the ongoing collaborative effort including nurses, social workers, pharmacists, nutritionists and lab staff—celebrated the record achievement Nov. 29 at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson...



Dr. Knox Named Faculty Affairs Associate Dean at COM – Phoenix

A faculty member at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson since 2008 and chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine since 2010, **Dr. Ken Knox** takes his talents to the expanding UA College of Medicine – Phoenix campus. **Dr. Sai Parthasarathy** was named interim pulmonary chief, while **Dr. Laura Meinke** manages the Vice Chair for Education Office. **Lu Martinez**, DOM education director, accepted a post as assistant dean, faculty affairs and development, COM – Phoenix...

RESEARCH



See Photos, Video on DOM Research Seminars, PMI Town Hall, New Sleep Center Open House

Excellent turnout for recent DOM academic events includes the last two Research Seminar Series lectures with **Drs. Cristine Berry, Larry Mandarino** (Dec. 8), **Louise Hecker** and **Sai Parthasarathy** (Nov. 10); the DOM Precision Medicine Town Hall, Dec. 7; and an open house for the new UA Health Sciences Center for Sleep and Circadian Sciences, Dec. 2. See photo galleries and video links to archived webcasts...

[more](#)



DOM Physicians, Investigators Prolific in 2016

With topics ranging from progesterone receptor blocking in breast cancer to epidural corticosteroid injections for radiculopathy and spinal stenosis, authors from the UA Department of Medicine—whether faculty-physicians, fellows, residents, post-docs or students interested in internal medicine—were very busy in the latter half of 2016. Articles, case studies and more made it into publication in the *New England Journal of Medicine* to the *British Medical Journal*...

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RESEARCH



Farness, Founders Lectures Focus on Fungi, Imaging
Mayo Clinic's **Dr. Janis Blair** gives Farness keynote on Valley Fever and transplant complications, while Founders Day headliner **Dr. Art Gmitro** talks about advances and innovation in medical imaging spearheaded at the UA Health Sciences. See a photo gallery and archived video for each lecture...

[more](#)

FACULTY



DOM Leadership Keep 2016 Academic Presses Rolling
Adding to published work of junior faculty, fellows and resident physicians posted recently, investigators in leadership spots in the UA Department of Medicine take credit for 100-plus additional articles this year. Topics range from asthma to HIV to kissing bugs to osteoarthritis to lung cancer. Read about advances in our understanding of complex diseases and therapies to address them...

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Top Docs Grab Ink Throughout 2016 in *Tucson Lifestyle*
Dr. John Cunningham isn't the only UA faculty-physician to garner ink in *Tucson Lifestyle* (see Gastroenterology item below). Read about others who appeared in the magazine this year, including integrative medicine pioneer **Dr. Andrew Weil**, endocrinologist and nutritionist **Dr. Craig Stump**, genomics and pulmonology specialist **Dr. Ken Ramos** and cardiologist and CPR pioneer **Dr. Gordon Ewy**...

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EDUCATION



Students, Mentors Sought for CLARION Case Contest
The UA Health Sciences will host its second annual Local CLARION Interprofessional Case Competition on Feb. 28, 2017. Event organizers are not only looking for teams to compete, but also mentors to assist in their preparations. The deadline for student competitors and faculty mentors is Jan. 18, 2017. See results and photos from last year's competition...

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IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology



On Dec. 14, **Dr. Lee Ryan**, professor and department chair, UA College of Science, Department of Psychology, and **Dr. Nancy Sweitzer**, professor, chief of cardiology and director of the UA Sarver Heart Center, will present a community lecture as part of Sarver Heart Center's 30th Anniversary Lecture Series. The talk, "Thinking from the Heart," will focus on heart disease, memory and cognition...

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At the 2015 El Tour de Tucson endurance cycling event, faculty and students from the UA helped develop a first-of-its-kind wearable sweat sensor. The UA Sarver Heart Center's **Dr. Marvin Slepian** was one of more than a dozen volunteers who participated in and conducted the real-world scientific study involving the diminutive microfluidic sweat sensor, seen here on his arm (*with UANews video*)...

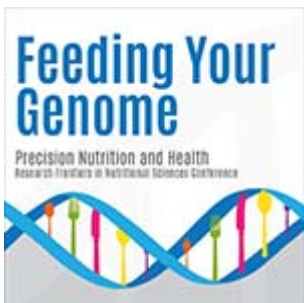
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Endocrinology



Battling childhood obesity and early onset Type 2 diabetes one bite at a time is the theme of the next Endocrinology Grand Rounds lecture Tuesday, Dec. 13, 3-4 p.m., UAHS Room 5403, with speaker **Dr. Melanie Hingle**, a registered dietitian and assistant professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences...

[more](#)



Learn how to "feed your genome" at this UA Nutritional Sciences Department annual conference, Feb. 22-24, 2017, with international speakers focused on nutrition and precision health. The opening night dinner recognizes Tucson's UNESCO City of Gastronomy designation and features *Gene Smart Diet* and *The Rewired Brain* author **Dr. Ski Chilton** and an international lineup of speakers...

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Gastroenterology



Tucson TV anchor **Craig Thomas** shared his personal experience with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in an interview with UA Division of Gastroenterology's **Dr. Sasha Taleban**, director of our IBD Program, in recognition of Crohn's & Colitis Awareness Week, Dec. 1-7. See the broadcast and learn more about how patients can find therapies and support to reduce the embarrassing affliction's burden...

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Kudos to **Dr. John Cunningham**, a UA professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and the Samuel and Winnifred "Quiggy" Witt Endowed Chair in Medicine, who is featured in *Tucson Lifestyle's* November issue. Representing Banner – UMC, he's one of three local gastroenterologists and a nutritionist interviewed for an "In Health" article, titled "Gut Check," on digestive ailments and available treatments...

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Geriatrics



The UA Center on Aging's **Lisa M. O'Neill**, **Dr. Janko Nikolich-Žugich**, and **Rachel Peterson** made the news recently on three separate topics. O'Neill is part of a WalletHub survey of state-by-state rankings elder abuse protections, Dr. Nikolich-Žugich was named an officer of the Gerontological Society of America, and Petersen trained community health workers on mental health and hearing loss in the elderly...

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Infectious Diseases



UA Assistant Professor **Dr. Maggie Pitts** analyzes how gender affects how people perceive their sexual health responsibilities in an article that appears in the *Health Communications* journal on what college males thought of the HPV vaccine. Nine focus groups with 84 college-age males were surveyed in the study four years after the vaccine's approval...

[more](#)

Infectious Diseases



We are not blank slates with regard to how susceptible we are to emerging strains of flu virus, researchers from the University of Arizona and UCLA have discovered. Turns out, your birth year can predict your odds in a flu pandemic. These findings could provide information relevant for the development of a universal flu vaccine...

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Just in time for its 20th anniversary, the UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence unveiled its redesigned website, replete with new features designed for the public and health-care professionals. The launch coincided with Valley Fever Awareness Week, Nov. 12-20, the 21st Annual Farness Lecture by Mayo Clinic infectious diseases specialist **Dr. Janis E. Blair**, and a new media resources webpage from UANews...

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Integrative Medicine



Banner – UMC's \$400 million hospital tower and \$100 million outpatient center, evolution of UA Center for Integrative Medicine's **Dr. Andrew Weil** from health guru to brand showman, and the confluence of big data and health care with Cyverse's second \$50 million NSF grant are among top stories of the year in *BizTucson* magazine. Others spotlight Tech Launch, COM – Phoenix Biomedical Sciences Partnership Building, diabetes, cancer and precision medicine research funding, and a Sarver Family legacy...

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PACCS



A team led by **Dr. Michelle Perfect**, associate professor in the UA College of Education's Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies and a collaborator with the UA Health Sciences Center for Sleep and Circadian Sciences, has been awarded a \$2 million grant to study the impact of sleep and daily routines on care for youths with Type 1 diabetes...

[more](#)

PACCS



The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation will offer a free webinar, at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 14, on “Anti-Inflammatory Medications” as part of its PFF Disease Education Webinar Series. **Dr. David J. Lederer**, co-director of the New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Interstitial Lung Disease Program—a PFF Care Center Network site like Banner – UMC Tucson. Prior webinars also are available for viewing...

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More Headlines...

[“UA Psychologist Earns Humboldt Research Award for Work on Depression”](#)

[“Arizona Telemedicine Program to Host Third National Telehealth Service Provider Showcase Conference, Oct. 2-3, 2017, in Phoenix”](#)

[“UA Ranked in Top 25 for Research Funding by NSF”](#)

[“No Ifs, Ands, or ‘Butts:’ UA’s Dr. Judith Gordon Developing New Program to Boost Smokers’ Efforts to Quit Tobacco”](#)

[“UA to Launch First-of-Its-Kind Online Science Academy”](#)

[“‘60 Minutes’ Airs Spotlight on Banner Alzheimer’s Research, Clinical Trial”](#)

[“Modern Hunter-Gatherers Show Value of Exercise for Heart Healthy Lifestyle”](#)

[“UA Receives \\$1.5 Million to Study Cancer in Firefighters”](#)

[“UA Steele Children’s Research Center Receives \\$1.73M Grant to Explore Triggers of Autoimmune Disease”](#)

[“UA Drug Licensed to Firm to Treat Canine Cancer”](#)

[“UA Public Health Professor Awarded Fulbright Scholarship to Nigeria for HIV Prevention Research”](#)



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