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January-February 2017

## Message From The Chair

Welcome to this first UA Department of Medicine newsletter for 2017. It's only fitting we include both a look back at notable achievements and forward to our exciting plans for growth.

First, photos from our end-of-the-year faculty and staff gatherings can be seen [here](#). We also add to my 2016 recap from the last issue of *The Pulse* with even more awards, recognitions and accomplishments in the "In with a Bang" spotlight article below.



We set the stage for a successful 2017 with the creation of the new Division of Genetics, Genomics and Precision Medicine, as well as the positive response to our DOM Research Seminar Series and PI Research Poster Night (on Jan. 17). Look for similar successes in the coming months.

Construction continues on the new Banner – University Medical Center Tucson tower (topped off Jan. 18), the Banner – UMC North Campus outpatient center, as well as the UAHS BioSciences Research Lab and Health Sciences Innovation Building, encompassing more than \$750 million in capital investment in the future of academic medicine in Southern Arizona. For the latest construction updates, [click here](#).



At the College of Medicine – Tucson [General Faculty Meeting](#) (Feb. 8), BUMCTS CEO **Tom Dickson** gave a summary of progress on clinical improvements in the UA-Banner partnership and Dean **Charles Cairns** kicked off the college's 50th anniversary celebrations with a summary of five decades of innovation and a reception. As one of the original departments, DOM faculty were well represented. See photos from the meeting [here](#).

The Cerner electronic health record conversion in Tucson is another area that promises to reinvigorate our processes as we seek to realign how health care is delivered to a more efficient, patient-centered model. Running on a parallel path toward this model, **Dr. Tammy Ojo**, vice chair of clinical affairs, has commenced a series of divisional meetings to create an action plan to accomplish this. While change can seem a challenge at times, the creative problem-solving it inspires promotes innovation.

And, as with Cerner, the ability to better leverage our information across the Banner

Health enterprise will unleash a number of possibilities for even greater improvement. Thank you to our Cerner physician champions for stepping up to assist as subject matter experts to help guide others in the department on this.

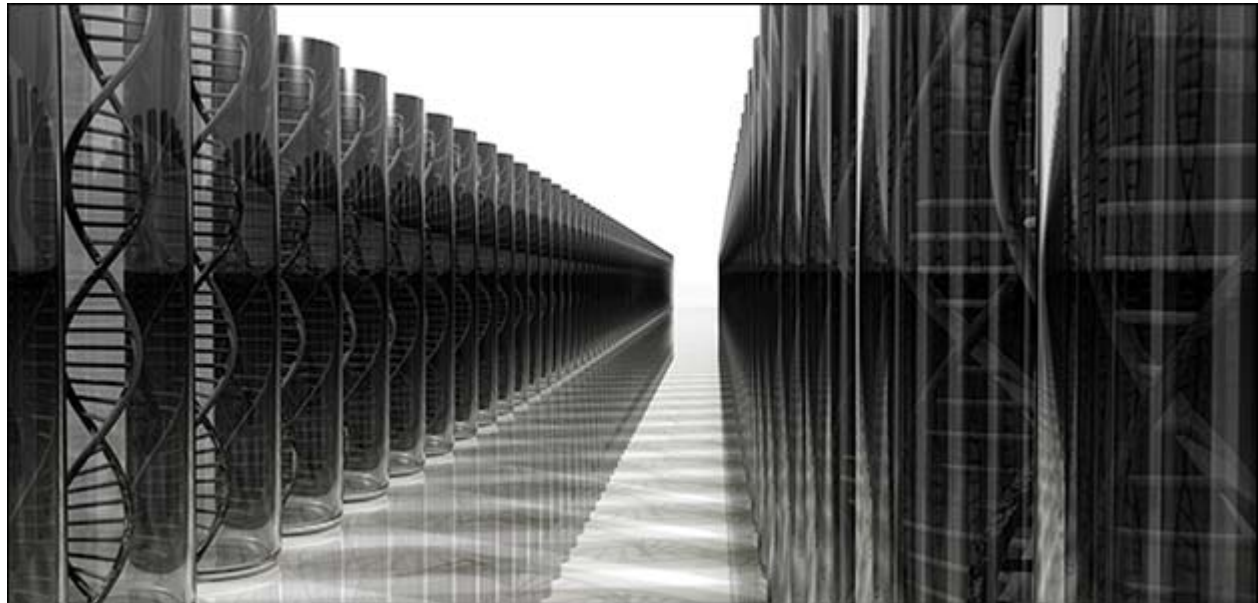
**Monica Kraft, MD**

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>FEB</b> 15	Dr. Frank Marcus Visiting Speaker: Dr. Doug Zipes on Cardiac Electrophysiology	<b>FEB</b> 16	Winter Lung Series Conference with Utah's Dr. Robert Paine	<b>FEB</b> 16	Inaugural UA Core Facilities Fair
<b>FEB</b> 17	Rheumatology Grand Rounds with Tufts' Dr. Cliff Rosen: Bone, Fat & Energy Metabolism	<b>FEB</b> 21	Doc Talks with Dr. Fayez Ghishan on 'The Good, Bad & Ugly of Gut Microbes'	<b>FEB</b> 22	Feeding Your Genome: Precision Nutrition & Health
<b>FEB</b> 24	Cardiology Grand Rounds Guest Speaker: Mayo's Dr. Allan Jaffe	<b>FEB</b> 28	Doc Talks - Dr. Monica Kraft: 'Take a Deep Breath: Is Cure for Asthma on Horizon?'	<b>MAR</b> 9	DOM Resarch Seminar/Winter Lung Series Conference - Dr. Serpil Erzurum

**SPOTLIGHTS**



**Wake Forest Recruits to Head New Divisions on Genetics, Genomics**

**Drs. Gene Bleecker and Deb Meyers**—pioneers in research and application of personalized medicine in respiratory disease based on advances in translational genetic studies—have been recruited from Wake Forest University to head related pharmacogenomics and precision medicine divisions in the UA Department of Medicine and the UA Center for Applied Genetics and Genomic Medicine...



### DOM Docs in Banner Health Videos that Promote Diversity and Inclusion

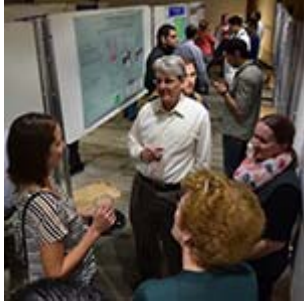
Six physicians from the UA Department of Medicine are among those clinicians and staff featured in videos developed by Banner Health to celebrate diversity and inclusion. They include **Drs. Elizabeth Connick, Karen Herbst, Tammy Ojo, Merri Pendergrass, John Po** and **Sai Parthasarathy**. See more Banner videos profiling several of our physicians in a *Wildcat Connection* item posted below... Take a look!



### In with a Bang, DOM Faculty Gear Up for Bigger, Better Things in New Year

Faculty and trainee activities, achievements and awards in 2016's final quarter reflected well on the UA Department of Medicine. Many are in DOM **Chair Monica Kraft's "2016 Year-in-Review"** article from December. Most are new. These include an \$800,000 grant to **Dr. Christine Laukaitis** to study joint hypermobility, a \$1.34 million NCI grant to **Dr. David Alberts** to train cancer postdocs, and **Dr. Marvin Slepian's** White House visit to talk about medical collaboration in Cuba, and lots more...

## RESEARCH



### First PI Research Poster Night Pulls in 100 Attendees

The inaugural PI Research Poster Session to showcase research opportunities with principal investigators in the UA Department of Medicine on Jan. 17 in Kiewit Auditorium was a smashing success with nearly 100 people attending. Nearly 40 posters representing the work of our PIs offered plenty of fodder for conversation, collaboration. See the photo gallery...

[more](#)



### Global Impact of UA Research in '16 Includes Health

In 2016, the University of Arizona changed the way people view the world, as reflected by news generated here. Among stories are UA research into a better understanding asthma, our inclusion in the White House Precision Medicine Initiative, apps for concussions and tracking Zika virus, AIDS spread across North America, birth-years and odds you'll get the flu, BMI's effect on your brain and more...

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### Website Links Collaborators to UA Researchers, More

UA Health Sciences has developed a "Research Marketplace" website to let potential collaborators, faculty, students and others identify campus expertise for research, projects, consulting and other services. UAHS Biomedical Corporate Alliances Director **Rick Silva** said it makes it "easier to do business with" the UA and streamlines processes for industry partnerships in biomedical sciences into one web portal...

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## EDUCATION



### Solidarity Week 2017 Finale Friday with Ring-of-Hands

The UA College of Medicine -Tucson student chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society will stage several events to recognize kind, compassionate patient care for Solidarity Week—culminated by a ring-of-hands on Friday, Feb. 17, at noon, in the UAHS Plaza. Join Doc-a-pella, **Drs. Randy Friese, Andy Theodorou** and COM-T **Dean Charles Cairns**, as well as Banner UMC Tucson CEO **Tom Dickson**...

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## FACULTY



**UA Docs on Telehealth Event's National Advisory Board**  
The Telemedicine and Telehealth SPS conference picks three UA physicians among 25 national telemedicine thought leaders and health-care innovators to lead its third event in Phoenix in October. They include: **Dr. Joe Alpert**, editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Medicine*, **Dr. Dan Derksen**, Arizona Center for Rural Health director, and **Dr. Joe G.N. “Skip” Garcia**, former senior VP for health sciences. UA professor **Dr. Ron Weinstein** also is the event’s honorary co-chair...

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## CLINICAL



**UA Faculty, Staff Cheer New Hospital Tower Milestone**  
Hundreds gathered for a red carpet event to sign the final beams and witness iron workers lift them into place at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson, which hosted a “topping off” ceremony for the new hospital patient tower Jan. 18. The \$400 million project is on pace for an April 2019 completion...

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## IN OTHER NEWS Cardiology



“Keeping Your Heart in Sync: What You Need to Know About Atrial Fibrillation,” a presentation Feb. 16, is part of the UA Sarver Heart Center’s Green Valley Lecture Series. The presenter, **Dr. Mathew Hutchinson**, professor of medicine in Cardiology and director, Cardiac Electrophysiology Program at Banner – UMC Tucson, is board certified in cardiovascular disease and clinical cardiac electrophysiology...

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## Cardiology



February challenges us with a combination of national heart month health advice and decadent Valentine's Day temptations. How do you strike the balance? In his second UAHS Healthy Dose blog—"Have Your Wine and Chocolate, Too?"—for the UA Health Sciences, **Dr. Charles Katzenberg**, a UA cardiologist with the Sarver Heart Center, offers advice for indulging in treats while caring for your heart...

[more](#)



**Dr. Nancy K. Sweitzer**, chief, UA Division of Cardiology, and director, UA Sarver Heart Center, was one of eight new members inducted into the Association of University Cardiologists at the group's 56th annual meeting Jan. 18-20 at the Royal Palms Resort & Spa in Phoenix. She joins four other Sarver Heart Center members who also are AUC inductees...

[more](#)



In a heartfelt first public appearance since suffering sudden cardiac arrest during a November hockey game, Tucson Roadrunners captain **Craig Cunningham** and his mother thanked caregivers from Banner – UMC and St. Mary's Hospital on Dec. 21. Like his initial collapse on the ice versus the Manitoba Moose, news of his "miraculous" recovery spread globally with articles posted from England to Malaysia...

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## Dermatology



**Dr. Jason DuPont**, a Division of Dermatology clinical assistant professor and mohs surgeon, is among seven DOM docs you can see video profiles of at the Banner Health YouTube Channel. It features videos on 42 BUMG physicians (with more to come – call to volunteer). If you missed this, you may want to check your email for the *Wildcat Connection* newsletter. Among other stories highlighted here, see who stepped up as physician champions for the Cerner transition in June...

[more](#)

## Geriatrics



Banner announced it is buying Tucson-based SunLife's Medicare-certified home health business, which provides skilled nursing and physical, occupational and speech therapy to mostly elderly people recovering at home from a medical episode that required a hospital stay. The deal was anticipated to close Jan. 31, providing Banner Home Care its first opportunity to begin serving residents of Southern Arizona...

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## Hematology and Oncology



**Dr. Daruka Mahadevan**, professor of hematology/oncology and director, Phase I Program, UA Cancer Center, receives a \$700,000 Harrington Scholar-Innovator Award for a novel class of cancer drugs and radiation sensitizers targeting NHEJ DNA repair. He is one of 11 physician-scientists nationwide honored with a 2017 award to support breakthrough discoveries...

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The UA Cancer Center cancer program at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson was granted three-year accreditation with commendation by the Commission on Cancer (CoC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons. The recognition was the first in 20 years in Arizona, making the program the only one in the state to be both an NCI Comprehensive Cancer Care Center and CoC accredited, noted clinical oncology medical director **Dr. Emad Elquza**...

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Held at the Jewish Community Center on the first Thursday monthly through May, the “**Bear Down. Beat Cancer**” lectures spotlight UA Cancer Center investigators and clinicians on topics from precision medicine, to novel drug development and cancer-fighting treatments, to new frontiers of immunology. UACC Director **Dr. Andrew Kraft** was first up on Feb. 2. Next, Hem-Onc Division Chief **Dr. Julie Bauman** on “Head & Neck Cancer: The Emerging Epidemic,” 6:30 p.m., March 2...

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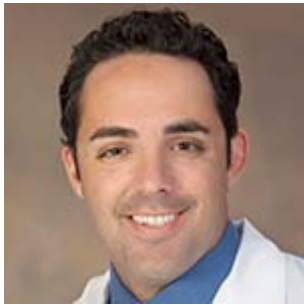
## Infectious Diseases



**Dr. Tirdad Zangeneh** (at left), a UA associate professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and **Neil Ampel, MD**, a UA professor of medicine and Southern Arizona VA Health Care System staff physician, were the only UA-affiliated physicians to speak at a Mayo Clinic conference in January, “Update on Infectious Diseases for Primary Care.” Dr. Zangeneh spoke about community-acquired pneumonia. Dr. Ampel talked about Valley fever. Both also participated in panel discussions...

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## Inpatient Medicine



**Drs. Jarrod Mosier**, associate program director, Critical Care Fellowship, **Cameron Hypes**, ICU associate medical director, Banner – UMC Tucson, UA Sarver Heart Center members **Drs. Ben Bobrow** and **Daniel Spaite**, and several others get kudos in the latest newsletter from the UA Department of Emergency Medicine. Topics include CPR training around the world, promotions, awards and free ECG screenings for 310 students at Flowing Wells Junior High...

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## Nephrology



UA nephrologist **Dr. Bijin Thajudeen**, who travels monthly to see chronic kidney disease patients in Douglas, Ariz., was among three physicians invited to provide expert testimony on legislation to expand private insurance coverage for kidney and urology services in Arizona for telemedicine patient medical consultations. Unfortunately, the bill was assigned to committee with only urology included for possible coverage, but he was energized by the process and will try again...

[more](#)

## PACCS



Nearly 50 people attended the first free address in the new Banner – UMC “Doc Talk: The Future of Medicine” lectures, which kicked off Feb. 2 in Phoenix with **Dr. Monica Kraft** speaking about a cure for asthma. Alzheimer’s researcher **Dr. Eric Reiman** led off the Tucson series, Feb. 7. In Tucson, they’re Tuesdays at the Westin La Paloma, 5:30-7:30 p.m., through Feb. 28. Food & drink provided. Register now!...



[more](#)

## PACCS



The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation is promoting two free webinars Feb. 15-16 for specialists in pulmonary and critical care medicine. The first is on “Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis,” by PFF senior medical advisor and NY Presbyterian/Columbia ILD co-director **Dr. David Lederer**. The next is on “Transitions of Care in IPF” by **Dr. Chris Lettieri**, colonel, U.S. Army Medical Corps, and **Cheri Lattimer, RN**. Register today...

[more](#)



College athletes aren't getting enough sleep, but a simple intervention built around education and support could go far in improving sleep quality and, in turn, athletic performance, UA researchers said during the 2017 NCAA Convention in Nashville. The researchers—including **Dr. Michael Grandner**, whose mentor is **Dr. Sai Parthasarathy**, interim pulmonary chief—have developed a program designed to do just that...

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## Rheumatology



The UA Arthritis Center free lecture March 1—“Tame Your Pain...An Inside Look at Conventional & Alternative Therapies for Pain Management”—by **Dr. Mohab Ibrahim** will discuss causes of chronic pain and current treatments for arthritis and related joint pain. Hear about conventional and alternative pain management approaches and facts, fads and fiction associated with this complex medical issue...

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World renowned for her discoveries in the science of mind-body interactions, place and wellbeing, **Dr. Esther Sternberg**, UA Division of Integrative Medicine research director, gave the keynote address, “Healing Spaces: The Science of Place and Wellbeing,” at the 15th Annual Living Healthy With Arthritis Conference, Jan. 28. For more photos, see [the slideshow](#) at the top of the UA Arthritis Center homepage. You can also hear her at the [Rheumatology Grand Rounds](#), Feb. 24...

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## This Just In...

[Merck Funds UA Patient-Centered Cancer Care for Latinos, Underserved](#)

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[UA Named a White House 'Healthy Campus'](#)

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[UA Named for Third Year in Row as a 'College That Pays You Back'](#)

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[Vitamin E, Selenium Don't Prevent Polyps That Lead to Colorectal Cancer](#)

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[MRIs Show Runners' Brains May Have More Connectivity – UA Research](#)

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[Wildcat Hockey Team to Host Third Annual 'Pink the Rink'](#)

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[Pre-Winter Break DOM Faculty, Staff Gatherings Offer Visual Panorama](#)

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[San Diego GI Specialist Talks about Genetics of Inflammatory Bowel Disease](#)

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[Dr. Nicholas Hill Launches 2016-17 Winter Lung Series Conferences](#)

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[Donald Sheer Memorial Research Fund Awardees Selected](#)

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[Visiting Scholar: 'Framing Patient Quality, Safety as Complex Problem,' Feb. 21](#)

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[12th Frontiers in Immunobiology & Immunopathogenesis Symposium, March 3](#)

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University of Arizona Department of Medicine  
1501 N. Campbell Ave., Room 6334, PO Box 245035, Tucson, AZ 85724  
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