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April 2017

Message From The Chair

Last week proved very productive for one of our largest divisions—Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine—with two key meetings to set the stage for future strategic plans that would broaden our academic and clinical impact across Southern Arizona, the state and region.

UA pulmonary faculty and community physicians with the Pulmonary Institute of Arizona gathered April 19 at the UA BIO5 Institute. Throughout a reception and presentations on our programs, we discussed how we might assist them on care of their patients. This includes potential participation in DOM research and clinical trials with access to innovative therapies being developed here. We agreed to meet quarterly to share our experiences and pursue future collaboration.



A big thanks to the Pulmonary Institute's **Drs. Rob Aaronson, Francisco Pacheco, Khaled Hadel** and nurse practitioner **Wren Winston** for their candid feedback. I look forward to a fruitful relationship where we all learn from each other. For a photo gallery from the event, [click here](#).

On April 21, Banner – University Medicine hosted our Tucson/Phoenix Lung Transplantation Team for a retreat in Banner – UMC Tucson's Marshall Conference Room to discuss how best to grow our Lung Transplant Program, which was “**recertified**” by CMS last fall after completing 10 successful lung transplants. That was accomplished based largely on referrals from Banner – UMC Phoenix. The previous program was inactivated in 2014.

To date, 22 lung transplants have been completed at Banner – UMC Tucson—including three last week, reported **Deb Maurer**, administrator, Transplant & Artificial Heart Services, Banner – University Medicine Division. Much of the talk was on attracting another lung transplant surgeon as backup and relief for **Dr. Scott Lick**. For all our organ transplant statistics, see UNetSM center data at the [U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network website](#).

We all appreciate that UA College of Medicine – Phoenix Medicine Chair **Dr. Mike Fallon**, Banner – UMC Phoenix executive director for advanced lung disease care **Dr. Rajeev Saggarr**, and transplant pulmonologist **Dr. Tony Hodges**, also with Banner – UMC Phoenix, made the trip here. Their frank, honest input—as well as that of all participants, including Banner – UMC Tucson transplant pulmonologists **Drs. Steve Knoper** and **Josh Malo**—was invaluable. Thanks also to Banner – UMC Tucson CEO **Tom Dickson** for being so open and encouraging.

A working group was formed to flesh out the program's vision and develop an action plan to “become not only the No. 1 program in Arizona, but also for Banner Health Network and beyond.” That includes recruitment of additional surgeons, transplant pulmonologists and other staff (including to feeder programs such as for COPD, ILD/IPF and cystic fibrosis) to strengthen our infrastructure and enable us to offer a “concierge” service to patients coming from near and far.



To that end, process improvements also can be shared across all transplant programs offered by Banner—in Tucson or Phoenix—including heart, kidney, liver and lung programs. For a photo gallery from the transplant retreat, [click here](#).

As the end of the academic year approaches, I offer congratulations to our many graduating fellows, residents and medical students. We are proud that you chose us to learn and train with and I wish you good fortune in your ongoing health-care career. See you at convocation, awards and other ceremonies in the coming weeks.

Monica Kraft, MD

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 29	Tucson Heart & Stroke Walk	APR 30	2017 March for Babies & BUMCT Donor Registration Event	MAY 1	Skin Cancer Prevention Friends' 2017 Spring Luncheon
MAY 1-3	AzCIM Nutrition and Health Conference 2017	MAY 2	Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds: Dr. Lenn Ditmanson & Opioid Abuse	MAY 4	Bear Down, Beat Cancer Lecture: Drs. Pavani Chalasni & Joyce Schroeder
MAY 8	Advances in Aging Lecture: Staying Fit & Older American Men	MAY 11	DOM Research Seminar with Drs. Archita Desai and Bhaskar Banerjee	MAY 17	UA Sarver Heart Center 30th Anniversary Community Lecture: Drs. Carol Gregorio & Nancy Sweitzer

SPOTLIGHTS



Sickle Cell, Congenital Heart Disease Studies Earn Researchers NIH Grants

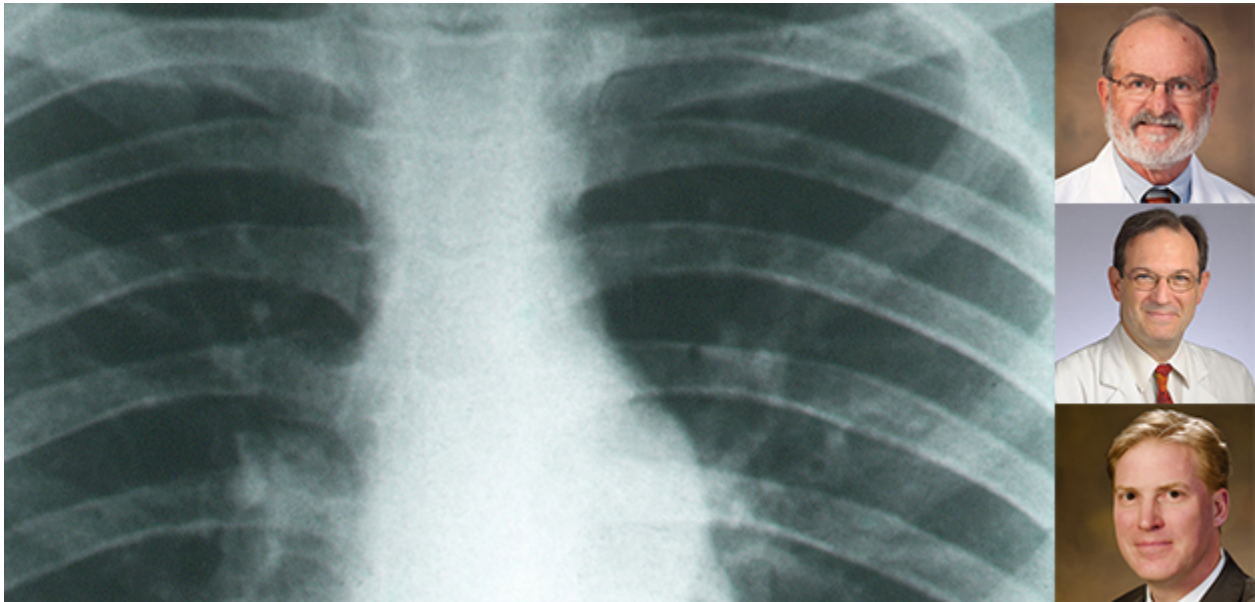
Two UA Division of Translational and Regenerative Medicine faculty, **Drs. Ankit A. Desai** and **Stephen M. Black**, were awarded R01 research grants valued at more than \$5 million combined from the NIH's National Heart Lung and Blood Institute to study different aspects of cardiovascular disease. Both involve genetic studies, one with respect to sickle cell anemia and sudden cardiac arrest, the other congenital heart defects and pulmonary problems related to an inability to produce nitric oxide...



Resident-Inspired S. Campus Health Career Fair Packs in High Schoolers

More than 130 high school students, many with parents in tow, came to Banner – University Medical Center South's La Galería auditorium to hear and learn about the variety of health-care jobs offered and how best to prepare for them. The brainchild of South Campus internal medicine residents **Drs. Norm Beatty** and **Roberto Swazo**, the April 11 event won broad support and included two south side natives and UA grads as

speakers, ER nurse **Norma Mercado** and Pima County health director **Dr. Francisco García**. See the photo gallery...



NIAID, UA Collaboration to Answer Why Valley Fever Deadly for Some

Why are some barely affected by Valley fever while others admitted to intensive care? **Drs. John Galgiani**, director of the UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence, and **Yves Lussier**, director of the UA Center for Biomedical Informatics and Biostatistics, have won a \$2.27 million grant from the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, to study the immuno-genetic underpinnings of this complex respiratory disease endemic to the U.S. Southwest. They'll collaborate with NIAID immunopathogenesis lab chief **Dr. Steve Holland**...

RESEARCH



Tech Launch Arizona's I² Awards Honor DOM Faculty

Tech Launch Arizona—the UA office that brings inventions stemming from faculty research from the lab to the world—held its fourth annual awards event at the Jim Click Hall of Champions at McKale Center. The I-Squared Expo & Awards honors those whose work directly affects the quality of life for people in Tucson, across Arizona and worldwide through research, collaboration and technology commercialization. **Drs. Steve Goldman** and **Bhaskar Banerjee** were among those recognized...

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RESEARCH



UA Fellow, Two Residents to Present at ATS 2017

Two physicians in training in the UA Department of Medicine—Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine fellow **Dr. Joshua Dill** and Internal Medicine Residency Program Tucson Campus member **Dr. See-Wei Low**—received Bressler-Alpert Travel Awards to help them present their research at ATS 2017, the annual conference of the American Thoracic Society. A third physician, main campus resident **Dr. Khushboo Goel**, won an ATS Abstract Scholarship to present at the conference, too....

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Three from DOM Serve on Translational Science Panel

Three DOM faculty and a UA Sarver Heart Center member were among six physician-scientists on the "Translational Research Career Panel and Reception" at the April 26 Southern Arizona Biomedical Research Symposium: **Drs. Julie Bauman**, Hematology-Oncology chief; **Monica Kraft**, DOM chair; and **Prabir Roy-Chaudhury**, Nephrology chief, and **Martha Gulati**, Cardiology chief, College of Medicine – Phoenix. See photos and watch the video...

[more](#)

EDUCATION



See Who's Coming in July as New Interns, Residents

The largest group of incoming residents at the UA, nearly 50 graduating medical students matched into physician training programs March 17 at the Department of Medicine. This includes six from the College of Medicine – Tucson, four from COM – Phoenix and seven interns looking to complete their medical training in internal medicine before heading off to other specialties—four at the UA. Dermatology also matched into its largest class ever. Find out where they're all from here...

[more](#)



Clerkship Coordinator Among UAHS Award Nominees

Congratulations to **Lucia "Lucy" Contreras**, who was the UA Department of Medicine's representative among nominees for the UA Health Sciences 2017 Awards for Excellence presented April 12 in DuVal Auditorium. She was among eight honored with nominations from the UA College of Medicine and nearly 25 nominees overall. Separately, DOM Executive Assistant **Angie Hessel** was a nominee for a university-wide Classified Staff Council Special Award as part of the UA Awards for Excellence...

[more](#)

FACULTY



MDs Recognized on 'Doctor's Day' Across Campus

March 30 was National Doctors' Day. As is the custom nationwide since 1991, when then U.S. President George H.W. Bush officially named the day as a national day of celebration for physicians, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson recognized the physicians with a luncheon held at the UA College of Nursing. Today, March 31, a similar luncheon occurs at Banner – UMC South. See photo galleries for both here...

[more](#)



BioCom Enables 'Add-to-Calendar' Tool to DOM Events

Do you occasionally miss a lecture or seminar because you weren't able to easily add it to your smartphone or computer calendar? Never again. If you haven't been to the Events webpage for the UA Department of Medicine lately, a new tool has been added that allows you to add an event to your personal itinerary via iCal, Outlook, Google or Yahoo calendar. Check it out...

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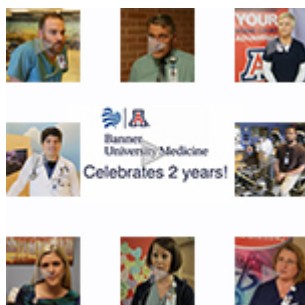
CLINICAL



Audience Limited, Topics Weighty at AMC Town Hall

If you missed the town hall for the Academic Management Council, the UA-Banner entity formed as part of the academic affiliation agreement between the University of Arizona and Banner Health to oversee the Banner – University Medicine Division, no worries. You can view archived video of the April 24 event. Among the 65 attendees were DOM's **Drs. Gordon Carr, Pradeep Kadambi, Frank Marcus and Art Sanders...**

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Video Celebrates Banner – UMC's 2nd Anniversary

Banner – University Medicine marked its second anniversary in March with a video of physicians and staff on what they're proud of since the merger of Banner Health and University of Arizona Health Network created the new Banner academic medicine division in February 2015. See who made the cut...

[more](#)

CLINICAL



New Faces, Updates to Admin Staff in DOM Announced

Four divisions in the Department of Medicine will experience changes in their administrative staff with the addition of two new admins and transfer of a third, announced **Irene Robles, Banner** – UMG administrative support supervisor for the department. Affected divisions include cardiology, gastroenterology, hematology and oncology, and nephrology. The South Campus residency program also has a new admin. Get an updated contact list for all divisions here...

[more](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology



With backing of Tech Launch Arizona, Tucson startup Avery Therapeutics Inc. has licensed a beating heart graft technology invented at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. Pre-clinical studies already have shown the technology, called MyCardia™—invented by cardiologist **Dr. Steve Goldman** and **Dr. Jordan Lancaster**—improves heart function. The [latest UA Health Sciences awards list](#) reports Dr. Goldman received notice of two grants in March to fund his research team's work with the patch—one for nearly \$100,000 and another for \$750,000...

[more](#)



Free stroke screenings will be offered in DuVal Auditorium at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson, 1501 N. Campbell Ave., on Saturday, May 6, from 8 to 11:30 a.m., as part of Stroke Check 2017. Stop by and get that ticker evaluated to ensure your optimal heart health...

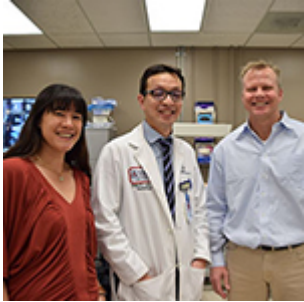
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April is a great time to talk with family, friends and colleagues about organ donation and registering/reregistering to give the gift of life. Only 2,000 hearts are donated a year, and with far more heart-failure patients, not enough donor hearts are available to go around. In this UA Sarver Heart Center newsletter article, **Dr. Jennifer Cook**, director, Advanced Heart Failure, Mechanical Circulatory Support and Cardiac Transplant Program, Banner – UMC Tucson, tells how we improve survival and quality of life for heart failure patients...

[more](#)

Cardiology



To advance and improve patient care and alleviate challenges of training new cardiology-specialized physicians to master cardiac procedures, the UA Health Sciences and Mayo Clinic in Phoenix have begun sharing simulated training. The effort is an outgrowth of UA Division of Cardiology Professor **Dr. Kwan Lee**'s interactions with Mayo's **Dr. David Fortuin** through SCAI, a national society for cardiovascular physicians...

[more](#)

Gastroenterology



Efforts by UA gastroenterologist **Dr. Bhaskar Banerjee** and the UA College of Optical Sciences **Dr. Ron Liang** to develop a “dual-view” endoscope that sees forward and backward to better detect potentially cancerous polyps during colonoscopies was recognized on NPR 89.1 FM. The enterprise also was recognized recently by Tech Launch Arizona, which has supported Dr. Banerjee's work. Hear and read about it here...

[more](#)



Two UA Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology faculty—**Drs. Archita Desai**, a Liver Research Institute research associate, and **Bhaskar Banerjee**, also a professor of optical sciences and biomedical engineering—will present at the next DOM Research Seminar Series lecture. Join us May 11, noon-1 p.m., in Room 5403 of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. Please save the date and post the flyer...

[more](#)

Geriatrics



The National Council on Aging says a quarter of Americans age 65 or over fall each year, translating to an older adult seeking ER treatment every 11 seconds at a financial toll of nearly \$70 billion by 2020. A \$10,000 grant from the Arizona Area Health Education Centers to **Dr. Ruth Taylor-Piliae** will evaluate integration of a low-cost balance exercise program into geriatric services through the UA Center on Aging in partnership with El Rio Health Center to help remedy that...

[more](#)

Geriatrics



Mariam Mostamandy and **Kathryn Huber**, first-year students at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson are thick as thieves as co-leads for the college's Aging Interest Group, a student club for those interested in geriatrics. They share a lot of life experiences and are both headed this summer to UC San Francisco to do geriatrics-related research courtesy of Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) scholarships from the American Federation for Aging Research. See the full list of MSTAR scholars from the UA since 2007...

[more](#)

Hematology & Oncology



The Cancer Prevention and Control Health Disparities Training T32 Program at the UA Cancer Center has three post-doctoral research positions available. The program offers a multi-disciplinary mentored environment integrating behavioral to biological science research focused on cancer disparities and understanding and preventing cancer. Apply today...

[more](#)

Infectious Diseases



The Pima County Fair (April 20-30) will host a joint public outreach effort by Pima County Health, COPE Community Services and the University of Arizona Petersen Clinics—the latter's focus being on raising awareness about HIV and AIDS prevention. The clinics are hoping to diversify membership in their Consumer Advocacy Board, which meets quarterly, to expand their urban/rural reach. Look for Petersen Clinic staff also at the Bisbee Pride festival (June 16-18)...

[more](#)

Inpatient Medicine



Dr. Anil Potharaju, a hospitalist, associate chief for the Division of Inpatient Medicine and medical director for inpatient medicine at Banner – UMC South, was chosen to represent the UA Department of Medicine in Banner Health's 2017 Advanced Leadership Program for Physicians. He's among 14 Banner – University Medical Group physicians selected for the program—10 from Tucson and four from Phoenix...

[more](#)

PACCS



Pulmonary Division Chief **Dr. Sai Parthasarathy** will speak May 3, 6-7:15 p.m., in DuVal Auditorium for the May 3 Living Healthy With Arthritis lecture. His topic: “The Healing Power of Sleep ... Chief Nourisher of the Body, Mind and Heart.” He’ll discuss sleep and its role in disease prevention and population health as well as sleep disorders’ global economic burden on health-care systems globally...

[more](#)



Dr. Michael Grandner offered an update on research showing links between optimal sleep duration, quality and timing on heart health, heart-healthy behaviors and physical performance in the last UA Sarver Heart Center 30th Anniversary lecture April 12. Other recent speakers for the Cardiology Grand Rounds include: **Dr. Larry Mandarino**, Endocrinology chief, “[Proteomics Analysis of Skeletal Muscle in Insulin Resistance – Lessons for the Heart?](#)” (April 7), and COM – Phoenix Cardiology Chief **Dr. Martha Gulati**, “[Women and Cardiovascular Disease: A Sex Difference?](#)” (March 31)...

[more](#)

Rheumatology



Eight-time NCAA champion and Olympic-medal-winning UA softball coach **Mike Candrea** was the featured speaker at the UA Arthritis Center’s April 26 Bear Down Luncheon at Fleming’s Steakhouse in Tucson. The event benefits research to identify the causes, improve the diagnosis and treatment, and find cures for the more than 100 forms of arthritis. In addition, UA cardiologist **Dr. Charles Katzenberg** spoke April 6 at the Living Healthy With Arthritis lecture on “[Listen to Your Heart... A Cardiologist’s Inside Look at Cardiovascular Health, Inflammation and Arthritis](#)”...

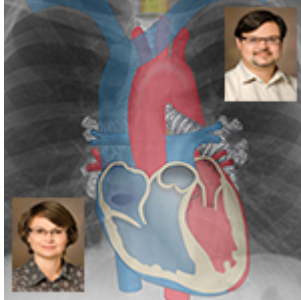
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Dr. Mohab Ibrahim, UA assistant professor and director of the Comprehensive Pain Management Clinic at Banner – UMC South, wanted to learn more about pain after witnessing a woman succumb to it on a bus filled with people escaping from Kuwait. UA *Lo Que Pasa* newsletter staff talked with the anesthesiologist who spoke at the March 1 Living Healthy With Arthritis lecture about his career path, what brought him to the UA, and why alternatives to traditional pain management are more important than ever. Read the Q&A...

[more](#)

Translational Medicine



Two UA Division of Translational and Regenerative Medicine assistant professors are tackling personalized remedies to treat pulmonary hypertension—a form of high-blood pressure affecting arteries in the heart and lungs that ultimately leads to heart failure. **Drs. Olga Rafikova** and **Ruslan Rafikov** each received \$1.92 million grants from NIH's National Heart Lung and Blood Institute for differing research approaches—his metabolic, hers oxidative-reductive and gender-specific...

[more](#)



Dr. Yves Lussier, director, UA Center for Biomedical Informatics and Biostatistics, and associate vice president for data science and chief knowledge officer at the UA Health Sciences, gave the keynote address at Precision Medicine Day, April 13, at the University of Texas Health Science's Center for Precision Health in Houston. His talk, "Delivering Better Treatments Through Data-Driven Science: Post-Genomics Advances in Precision Medicine," was tweeted and retweeted on a number of Twitter accounts, including DOM's...

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This Just In...

UAHS Collaborative Research on How Dust in Amish Homes Protects Children Against Asthma Wins Awards

Distinguished Cardiologist and Physician-Scientist Dr. Guy Reed Named New Dean of UA College of Medicine – Phoenix

With UCLA/UC Irvine Roots, Dr. Scott Goodwin to Start July 5 as New BUMG CEO, President of Banner Academics

Chicanos Por La Causa Gives \$500,000 to UA Health Sciences Colleges

UA Students Win 2017 National CLARION Case Competition, Scholarships

Sickle Cell Anemia, HIV/B Cell Follicles Aim of April DOM Research Seminar

UA Cancer Center Hosts Dr. David Alberts' Retirement Celebration, May 8

From Lab to Marketplace: World IP Day Lunch and Discussion, May 4

UA Telemedicine Webinar: 'Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease,' May 2

Improve Your Cultural Competency with Skills-based ASCN Model, May 3

MS Inflammation, Autoimmunity Focus of Immunobiology Seminar, May 5

Dr. Donato Romagnolo on 'Breast Cancer, Risk Factors and BRCA-1,' May 1

May 2 Symposium Aims at 'Building Community – Engaged Health Research Partnerships'

Genetics and Genomics Grand Rounds: 'Integrative Genomic Analysis of African-American Colorectal Cancer,' May 12



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

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