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May-June 2017

Message From The Chair

Summer is upon us, unleashing a heatwave unlike any seen in a couple of decades in Southern Arizona.

On June 19, the temperature hit 115°F—tying a record. The next day at 3:56 p.m., it hit 116°F—breaking the record. The National Weather Service issued an excessive heat warning that's in effect until the end of the week. A dip is predicted, but we can expect highs to fluctuate in and out of the teens as we wait for the monsoon season to start.



With a myriad of health issues affected by the heat (see **Dr. John Galgiani** on Valley fever in a recent KGUN9 broadcast and me on asthma and COPD on KVOA News4 in the [“COM-T in the News”](#) section of the new Workplace by Facebook app—more on that below), it's a good time to visit Summerhaven on Mount Lemmon (*left*), go north to Flagstaff/Sedona, Prescott or the White Mountains, or west to beaches in San Diego or Rocky Point. If you stay home, keep indoors or confine your outdoor activities to early morning or evenings. Always take water with you and stay hydrated.



That said—as you can see by the plethora of notices in this newsletter—things are not cooling off any time soon in the UA Department of Medicine. Faculty and staff have been going gangbusters, as have fellows and residents. We welcome a new crew of trainees over the next few weeks. Congratulations to those who recently graduated from our nearly 20 ACGME-accredited training programs.

I'm also very excited about the news that the UA-Banner Academic Management Council approved lifting the post-employment non-compete clause from Tucson provider contracts with Banner – University Medical Group. It's a huge positive for our recruitment and retention efforts. Read more about it below.

Monica Kraft, MD

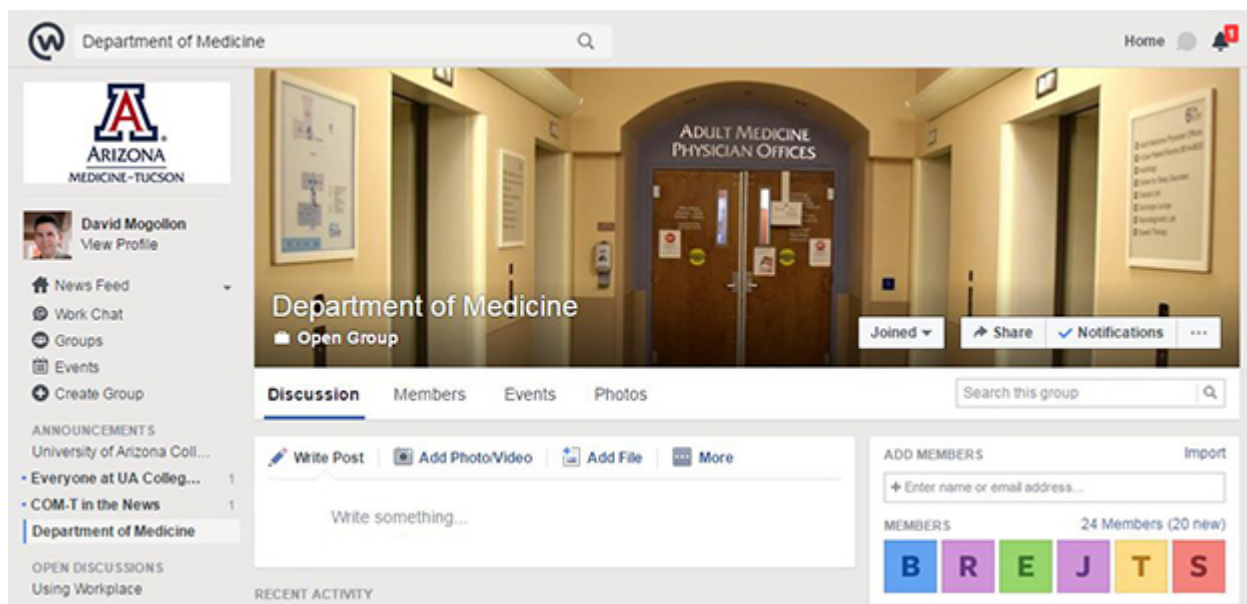
The Robert & Irene Flinn Professor of Medicine
Chair, Department of Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson

SPOTLIGHTS



Class of 2017 Internal Medicine Residents Celebrate Graduation with Honors

At the graduation dinner for the Class of 2017 members of the University of Arizona Internal Medicine Residency Program – Tucson Campus, a number of awards were presented—some in recognition of the hard work of three year's training, others in jest—reflecting the camaraderie developed in that time. View the photo gallery and see who won awards. [Click here](#) for coverage of the South Campus internal medicine residents' grad night event at the Omni Tucson National Resort...



UA College of Medicine First in Higher Ed to Adopt Workplace by Facebook

By now, you've likely seen the emails from Dean **Charles Cairns, MD**—et al.—announcing the roll-out in June at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson of the Workplace by Facebook app, a collaborative platform to serve as the college's intranet communications tool. Staggered invitations are being delivered via email to faculty and staff, with a goal of having fellows, residents and Banner folk on by summer's end...



Medicine Chair's Senate Testimony at Odds with ADEQ Chief on Air Quality

Testimony to a U.S. Senate subcommittee by DOM Chair **Dr. Monica Kraft** on legislation to relax air quality standards stirred a bit of controversy as reported in an article from Cronkite News. Citing their potential health impact related to asthma, Dr. Kraft spoke against two Senate bills (S. 263 and S. 452) that co-panelist Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director **Misael Cabrera** supported...

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUN 21	Meet Your Pharmacist: HIV and Inflammation	JUN 23	Rheumatology Grand Rounds: Dr. Eric Gall on Hemophilic Arthritis – A Bloody Affair	JUN 28	Medicine Grand Rounds: Dr. Alan Kliger on Hemodialysis – What Would I Choose?
JUL 17	Telemedicine Training Conference	JUL 18	DOM General Faculty Meeting	JUL 21	Class of 2021 White Coat Ceremony

CLINICAL



AMC Okays Drop of Non-Compete Clause from Banner University Medical Group Provider Contracts in Tucson

Banner Health dropped the non-compete clause for physicians working for Banner – University Medical Group in Tucson, which had negatively impacted physician recruitment and retention for both the health care company and UA College of Medicine – Tucson. The move was announced June 7 in an email from co-chairs of the Academic Management Council...

[more](#)

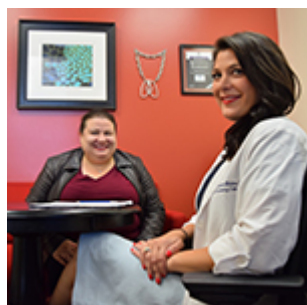
RESEARCH



Final DOM Research Seminar Delivers on PM Solutions

Drs. Elizabeth Juneman and **Andrew Kraft** closed out the DOM Research Seminar Series for the 2016-17 academic year, June 8, speaking about electrophysiology in heart failure and targeted therapy of cancer. See the photo gallery and archived video for this and all the lectures in the inaugural year for this series, for which much of the focus was on translational and precision medicine solutions to medical challenges...

[more](#)



UA Researchers Evaluate New Therapeutic Platform in Targeted Treatment of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

Drs. Louise Hecker and **Heidi Mansour** won a \$415,491 NIH grant to determine effectiveness of the active ingredient in an FDA-approved oral drug that inhibits relapse and progression in multiple sclerosis in treatment of IPF, an advanced lung disease that affects the elderly. They'll test oral delivery as well as via inhaler. Their findings could lead to clinical trials...

[more](#)



All of Us Research Program Seeks Diversity, Enrollees

The UA-Banner All of UsSM/Precision Medicine Initiative team is seeking staff for photos to advertise the diversity of our unique Southwest population AND volunteers – or friendlies – to enroll during this “soft launch” before the national research program goes into full swing later this summer. Good news, you don’t have to be a Banner-bonded patient! Ask your family, friends and colleagues to join. Also see the latest All of UsSM newsletter for June, out now...

[more](#)

EDUCATION

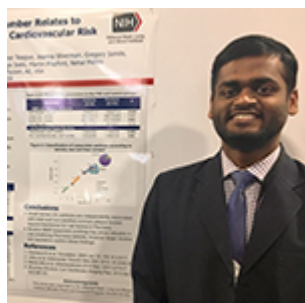


Residents Lauded for Research AHD Posters, Vignettes

Winners of the Academic Half Day (AHD) Research Day poster competition for the University of Arizona Internal Medicine Residency Program – Tucson Campus were **Drs. Jawad Bilal**, **Matt Adams** and **See Wei Low**. The three also had their work chosen for oral presentations as Clinical Vignettes during the Medicine Grand Rounds on May 17...

[more](#)

EDUCATION



South Campus Resident Takes Arizona ACC Prize

UA Internal Medicine Residency Program - South Campus member **Dr. Balaji Natarajan** won a research poster contest May 20 at the 2017 Arizona Annual Meeting of the American College of Cardiology hosted at the Mayo Clinic – Scottsdale Campus. His research looked at NMR spectroscopy imaging in psoriasis patients and lipoproteins associated with cholesterol buildup in arteries to evaluate cardiovascular disease risk...

[more](#)



South Campus Scholarly Day Honors Six Residents

Several UA Internal Medicine Residency Program – South Campus physicians had research projects recognized at the GME Scholarly Day event hosted May 16 at Banner – University Medical Center South’s La Galería auditorium. Winners included **Drs. Norm Beatty, Balaji Natarajan** and **Jessica August**. Three others took second place spots...

[more](#)



2017 DOM Awards Assembly Recognizes Forty

Medical students, residents, fellows and faculty physicians were all recognized at the Arizona Inn during the annual UA Department of Medicine Education Awards Reception, May 4. Graduating med student **John Dicken** was honored by two divisions, and **Drs. Tammer El Aini** and **Tirdad Zangeneh** repeated as winners of teaching awards. See photo gallery...

[more](#)

FACULTY



DOM Chair Named Fellow in Executive Leadership Program for Women in Academic Medicine

Dr. Monica Kraft was picked for the prestigious Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program as a fellow in its Class of 2017-18. The part-time fellowship is hosted by the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership at Philadelphia’s Drexel University. She is the ninth UA faculty member to participate in the program...

[more](#)

FACULTY



Three DOM Docs Honored at COM Mentoring Awards

The UA Department of Medicine's **Drs. Jil Tardiff** and **Jarrold Mosier** received 2017 Faculty Mentoring Awards and **Dr. Kent Kwoh** got an honorable mention May 17 as part of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson General Faculty Meeting. Other items on the agenda included GME Committee, MSRP Committee, SAVAHCS and UAHS New Buildings & Renovation Projects reports. Read on to see who else was recognized...

[more](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology



UA Sarver Heart Center's **Drs. Nancy Sweitzer** and **Carol Gregorio** capped the center's 30th Anniversary community lecture series May 17 on human "disease in a dish" or induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) technology. iPSC could completely change cardiovascular medicine in terms of understanding individual variation, underlying disease mechanisms, transforming and personalizing drug discovery and targeting treatments. See Facebook Live link for video...

[more](#)

Dermatology



UA dermatologist **Dr. Vivian Shi** won the Dermatology Foundation's 2017 Patient Directed Investigation Grant for \$20,000 to study mechanisms involved in regulating anti-oxidative enzymes, skin barrier proteins and inflammatory molecules in patients with atopic dermatitis—or eczema. She's accepting patient volunteers for her research now...

[more](#)



UA senior medical student **Jose “Anthony” Cervantes**, who's headed for a dermatology residency program in Texas, has had a lot of “enablers” in his life. For him, that's a good thing. They've helped this U.S. Air Force Reserve Pararescue jumper born in Laredo, Texas, be the first in his family to graduate from high school, college and, now, medical school. In one generation, he has taken his family from poverty to prosperity—all in service to others...

[more](#)

Gastroenterology



Dr. Archita Desai, a UA assistant professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and research associate with the UA Liver Research Institute, won a two-year, \$150,000 grant from the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease Foundation to fund her project, “The Intersection of Precision Medicine and Population Health to Improve Health Equity in Liver Disease”...

[more](#)

Geriatrics



UA geriatrician and the UA Center on Aging's **Dr. Monica Vandivort** has won a \$50,000 start-up grant from the Arizona Area Health Education Centers for a clinical research initiative entitled, “A Community Paramedicine-Primary Care Partnership in Rural Cochise County Pilot Project to Improve Health Outcomes of Seriously Ill Elders.” It involves a multidisciplinary, collaborative effort between multiple health care organizations in and around Sierra Vista, Ariz...

[more](#)



UA Center on Aging Co-Director and Division of Geriatrics, General Internal and Palliative Medicine Chief **Dr. Mindy Fain** is quoted in a new report from The Commonwealth Fund that supports home-based primary care as a more effective, less expensive and compassionate way to handle health needs of patients who suffer from severe or chronic illness, frailty or functional limitations. Her comments came as current president of the American Academy of Home Care Medicine...

[more](#)

Hematology and Oncology



The UA Division of Hematology and Oncology's **Dr. Pavani Chalasani** and **Dr. Lana Gimber**, of the UA Department of Medical Imaging, are winners of the 2017-18 Better Than Ever Research Grant for \$30,000 from the University of Arizona Cancer Center. Their study focuses on chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy in breast cancer patients. It's the final project funded through the BTE program, which began in 2000 and has distributed nearly \$2 million in the past two decades...

[more](#)

Hematology and Oncology



For his May 8 retirement, UA Cancer Center director emeritus and Regents professor **Dr. David Alberts** was honored with a scientific symposium, a “Celebrating a Stellar Career” tribute and a large reception. A key player in the center’s founding as well as that of the UA Skin Cancer Institute, he has pledged to building a \$5 million endowment to support the institute. See pictures and find how you can support that effort...

[more](#)

Inpatient Medicine



Look for new faces soon in the UA Division of Inpatient Medicine. Along with some recent departures come arrivals as well. Those include **Drs. Srinivasa R. Madhavan, Nathan R. Copeland, Sujatha Doddi, Ryan McGrath, Sudheer Belur Sreenath** and **Nadia Ghallab**. Dr. Madhavan started in April. Most others are set to arrive this summer...

[more](#)

Integrative Medicine



The UA Center for Integrative Medicine recently unveiled a new look for its website. Among other recent news, generous donations have allowed four new scholarships for the Fellowship in Integrative Medicine and **Dr. Victoria Maizes** was recognized with the Leadership in Integrative Medicine Award at the Integrative Healthcare Symposium in New York City. Be sure to check out the site and make sure, if you've linked to anything there, that you update your hyperlinks...

[more](#)

Nephrology



A Phoenix couple touring the nation on behalf of sufferers of chronic kidney disease, **Raymond** and **Analyn Scott**, made a stop in Tucson in May to meet with faculty and investigators in the UA Division of Nephrology and Arizona Kidney and Vascular Research Center. Their organization, 1in9 Kidney Challenge, underscores the fact 1 in 9 U.S. adults suffers from kidney disease. They offered a patient perspective on living with CKD and heard about the latest related UA research...

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PACCS

KIMBERLY ANDREWS ESPY AND LEIGH A. NEUMAYER | BY TURN

UA research helps Arizonans breathe easier



On April 30, Congress reached a bipartisan agreement to boost funding by \$2.7 billion for the National Institutes of Health. The annual decision to make medical research a national priority came at an auspicious time. The end of National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month. As the spring goes, April showers bring May flowers, but for those who suffer from asthma and allergies, May often brings the worst of symptoms. Allergic irritants can cause bouts of coughing, difficulty breathing and respiratory infections. In more severe cases, asthma sufferers must have treatment with this overused steroid prevent or minimize children's food allergies later in life's highest risk for asthma.

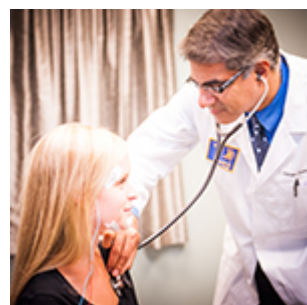
Over 100 million Americans suffer from asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that asthma-related health care costs the nation \$56 billion annually. The ultimate goal of these programs is to produce new or improved treatments that could be widely adopted to help reduce the burden of asthma and allergies.

New and better medicines

The ultimate goal of these programs is to produce new or improved treatments that could be widely adopted to help reduce the burden of asthma and allergies.

A recent *Arizona Republic* op-ed article co-written by the UA senior VPs **Drs. Kimberly Andrews Espy** (research), and **Leigh Neumayer** (health sciences), on federally funded research under way at the UA to ease breathing woes of those suffering from asthma. The May 31 article spotlights the work of **Drs. Fernando Martinez** and **Monica Kraft**, both of whom received large NIH grants in the past year...

[more](#)



With funding from the American Sleep Medicine Foundation, **Dr. Sai Parthasarathy** and his research team at the UAHS Center for Sleep & Circadian Sciences will investigate if delivery of therapy for insomnia is effective and more convenient for patients through telehealth visits rather than conventional in-person consultations. They look to enroll up to 85 patients in a clinical study over next few months...

[more](#)



DOM Chair **Dr. Monica Kraft** has been elected as a Fellow of the European Respiratory Society (ERS). Dr. Kraft is one of 17 people and two Americans to receive the honor this year. She is also a fellow of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, American College of Physicians and American College of Chest Physicians...

[more](#)



A big contingent from the UA Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine and the UAHS Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center brought their impactful scientific findings to the ATS 2017 International Conference in Washington, DC, May 19-24. They include faculty, fellows, residents and students. A number won scholarships to attend. See who all went and a few "postcards" sent back...

[more](#)

Translational Medicine



Dr. Yves Lussier, associate vice president for data science and chief knowledge officer at the University of Arizona Health Sciences, and director of the UAHS Center for Biomedical Informatics and Biostatistics, was presented with the Ambassador Award from his alma mater, the University of Sherbrooke, in Quebec, Canada...

[more](#)

This Just In...

Australian Respiratory, Immunology Researcher Gives Visiting Lecture
Dr. Phil Hansbro discusses 'Pathogenesis to Develop New Treatments'

DOM Shares Growing Social Media Presence — Like Us Today!
Department adds to its twittersphere presence with Facebook webpage

College Athlete Sleep Disturbances Linked to Smoking, Drugs, Alcohol
'Difficulties predict increased use of many substances' - Dr. Michael Grandner

Banner – UMC South, Alvernon Clinic Take Top Banner Health Honors
2017 Best of the Best Awards announced at annual leadership event May 18

Big Hunt for Small Molecule to Treat Neurodegenerative Diseases
Two UA researchers say ideal molecule could lead to drugs to treat ALS

UA Health Students Offer Health Screenings for Construction Workers
With so much work on campus, May 26 screenings a way to say thanks

UA Research Says *Helicobacter pylori* Needs Much Closer Attention
Bacterium in host of digestive maladies antibiotic resistance worries some

Transplant, Vascular and Endocrine Surgeons Added to Tucson Faculty
Drs. David Bull, Wei Zhou, Tze-Woei Tan, Lilah Morris-Wiseman join BUMG

Arizona Telemedicine Wins AZ Business Magazine Health Leader Award
Dr. Ron Weinstein lauded for “Outstanding Achievement in Digital Health”

UA Nurse-Scientist Uses Massage Therapists to Cut Skin Cancer Risk
Dr. Lois Loeschler sees novel approach to sun damage, cancer prevention

UA Researchers Catalog Diseases Linked to Immune Gene Variations
Could help identify those at risk for diseases like diabetes or arthritis

Dr. Lynn Gerald Appointed to NIH Asthma Prevention Program
Honor for UA Asthma & Airway Disease Research Center research director

Dr. Robert Johnson Joins UA Institute for Cellular Transplantation
To accelerate transplant of macroencapsulated cells to treat diabetes



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