Message From The Chair

Talk about a busy fall and winter—and it’s not as if spring is letting up any time soon. Whether the issue relates to clinical, academic or research matters, faculty and staff in the UA Department of Medicine continue to go above and beyond.

Our ability to bring in kudos both individually and as a group was underscored by the "Accolades & Research" portion of our March 20 General Faculty Meeting slide show—you can see at this link. I’m proud we’ve pushed our Blue Ridge NIH Award Rankings that I mention in a post-event article below on the Jan. 24 Annual DOM P.I. Research Poster Night from 56th to 39th in just three years. Congratulations to you all.

Our two latest big awards are a 5-year, NHLBI/NIH grant for $11.6 million to Dr. Steve Black for the study, “Genetics, Epigenetics, and Post-translational Modifications and the Development of Ventilator-Induced Lung Injury (VILI)” and a 5-year, NIDDK/NIH grant for $3.4 million to Dr. Larry Mandarino for the study, “Molecular Regulation of Muscle Glucose Metabolism.” Look for more to come.

We also enjoyed an excellent fellows match in January and great results from the residency Match Day earlier this month for graduating med students, both of which you can read about in this newsletter.

Dr. Amy Sussman, our vice chair for education and clerkship director, said: “Internal Medicine had an awesome match with our students this year. They matched at Yale, UCSF, Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt, University of Colorado, and OHSU to name a few! Plus, we were able to hang on to some of the talent here in our own residency.

“From a clerkship perspective, this is a class I will remember forever. They were brilliant, compassionate, and a lot of fun to mentor!” she added.
We started the year with the Banner – University Medicine North opening and the move of most departmental outpatient clinic operations there by mid-January—an incredible effort by virtually everyone on staff. Now, in March and April, Banner – University Medical Center is hosting guided public tours of the new nine-story hospital tower that will open on main campus next spring. And you can expect move-ins for those taking over renovated office space on former clinic space on 6OPC and 7OPC in May.

Beyond that, the two biggest clinical kudos of the quarter are Banner – UMC South's being named among the IBM Watson Health 100 Top Hospitals® and winner of an Everest Award and the “Institutes of Excellence™” designation by Aetna of Banner – UMC Tucson for lung transplants.

Again, look for more to come.

Before I let you go, though, here are a few spring cleaning items for you to remember:

- **Get a CatCard or Your CatCard Checked for 6OPC/7OPC Office Space Entry**— if you missed UAHS campus events (March 19-22) for this, you'll have to go to the UA Student Union Memorial Center to get a CatCard or make sure yours works to ensure access to office space after hours, on weekends or during holiday closures. Look for info on securing a PIN to link to your CatCard—which you also must have to get in—here, too.

- **UITS to Require 2-Step Authentication on WebAuth Apps by April for All UA Faculty, Staff and DCCs** — the how and why of this measure, which pushes a secondary authorization to a mobile device, are explained. Don’t miss the “remember this device for 30 days” tip at the bottom to save yourself time.

- **UA/Banner Physicians First to Navigate New Cerner Mobile App** — this tells you how to sign up for the app (if you haven’t already) and gives an overview of beneficial sub-apps and an introduction to the Academic Technical Advisory Group (ATAG) and DOM members.

- **Extra Step Required to Push Your ‘Find-a-Provider’ Profile to Public View** — these BannerHealth.com tips actually came out in mid-October with a link at the bottom to more on how to optimize your profile to generate patient inquiries.

- **See Updated Contact Info for Department of Medicine Support Staff** — ‘nough said.

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**Monica Kraft, MD**  
Robert & Irene Flinn Professor of Medicine  
Chair, Department of Medicine, University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson  
Deputy Director, Asthma & Airway Disease Research Center, UA Health Sciences
Banner – UMC South Earns Spot on National ‘100 Top Hospitals’ List
Banner – University Medical Center South in Tucson and Banner – UMC Phoenix have been named to the nation’s 100 Top Hospitals list—formerly known as the Truven Health Analytics® 100 Top Hospitals—by IBM Watson Health. Banner – UMC South also was named one of 13 “Everest Award” winners by IBM Watson for improvements in care, etc., over the past five years...

2nd P.I. Research Poster Night Shines, with NIH Funding for DOM Up Again
The 2nd Annual UA Department of Medicine P.I. Research Poster Session, held Jan. 24 in Kiewit Auditorium, came with the announcement that National Institutes of Health annual funding was up more than $20 million to $31.8 million since 2015 and that the department’s Blue Ridge internal medicine research ranking jumped from 56th to 39th nationally. With over 40 posters entered, see the program for titles and presenters—and a photo gallery from the evening as well...
UA Lung Transplant Docs Help Banner – UMC Tucson
Gain ‘Institutes of Excellence™’ Status with Aetna

Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and the UA pulmonary division can add another kudo to their list of accreditations and accolades with Aetna Inc.’s designation of the hospital as an “Institutes of Excellence™ Transplant Facility” for lung transplantation. The achievement is all the more impressive because of the short window of time since the lung transplant program was recertified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the fall of 2016. Congratulations, Drs. Steve Knoper and Josh Malo...

New Liver Institute Signage Recognizes Renaming in Dr. Boyer’s Honor

New signage was put in place Jan. 31 to recognize the renaming of the University of Arizona Liver Research Institute last year in recognition of its founding director as
the **UA Thomas D. Boyer Liver Institute**. Dr. Boyer (right), a former UA Department of Medicine chair who passed away three weeks earlier, was notified of the honor at his retirement party last summer. Read about his life and career, and see a photo gallery from that celebration. The Division of Gastroenterology signage also was changed to match the institute’s…

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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### RESEARCH

**Two DOM Faculty Again Headline Free, Public ‘Doc Talks’ Hosted in March by Banner, UA**

Topics for 2018 lecture series, hosted by Banner – University Medicine and the UA College of Medicine – Tucson, include heart attacks, skin cancer, concussion and precision medicine. Talks took place on Tuesdays in March at the Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch Resort. Speakers included Cardiology Chief **Dr. Nancy Sweitzer**, March 6, and Dermatology’s **Dr. Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski**, March 13. See photo galleries…

**Stopping Asthma in Childhood Goal of $3.6 Million UA-Led International Consortium Funded by NIH**

**Dr. Stefano Guerra**, a respiratory scientist at the UA Health Sciences Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center, will lead an international effort—in partnership with investigative cohorts in Sweden and the UK—to target deficits of the protein CC16 as an indicator of likely persistence of asthma into adulthood. Results could lead to personalized therapies for chronic asthma and COPD patients. **Drs. Tara Carr, Julie Ledford, Monica Kraft** among co-investigators. See Q&A…
RESEARCH

Four DOM Docs among 14 Enlisted for All of Us℠ Arizona Research Program Video Interviews

UA Department of Medicine’s Drs. Monica Kraft (chair), Tammy Clark Ojo, Andrew Kraft and Lolu Ojo are among 14 UA Health Sciences faculty who’ve filmed interviews on personalized medicine for a film clip being put together to promote the All of Us℠/Precision Medicine Initiative Research Program in Arizona. Look for the video release in late spring...

EDUCATION

New Venue for 'The Match' Wows Graduates, Families

Congratulations to 114 UA medical students matching into residency programs on Match Day 2018—March 16. The graduates become doctors-in-training when residency programs start July 1. Forty-seven nationwide matched into UA internal medicine residency programs—eight from the UA—and three into the advanced dermatology program. See which DOM docs took part and who matched where...

Docs Match into Internal Med Fellowships Here, Away

Thirty-four physicians matched into fellowships in advanced training for internal medicine subspecialties at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson—10 from UA internal medicine residency programs. Another 17 UA internal medicine residents and two dermatology residents matched to fellowships elsewhere (from Mayo Scottsdale to Mass General). New fellows start July 1. See who’s coming, who’s going...

UA Internal Med Trainees Win Bressler-Alpert Awards

Two trainees in internal medicine at the University of Arizona Department of Medicine were presented with Bressler-Alpert Society Travel Awards this week to present their research at academic conferences. Dr. Luke Gabe, a Pulmonary and Critical Care fellow, and Dr. Shilpa Junna, an Internal Medicine Residency Program (University Campus) resident, are the first in 2018 to receive awards...
'Pathway to Success' Health Career Fair a Repeat Hit

Last year, they drew 80 high school students—more than half bringing parents—to the “A Pathway to Success” High School Health Career Fair at Banner – University Medical Center South. This year, at least 100 came with five south side high schools participating. Thought up by two South Campus internal med residents, the Feb. 27 event was led by Drs. Roberto Swazo, Danny Orta and Norm Beatty...

National Health Journalist Event Empanels UA Docs

Five DOM faculty are among 18 from UA/Banner asked to participate on panels at the Health Journalism 2018 expo hosted, April 12-15, in Phoenix by the Association of Health Care Journalists and Center for Excellence in Health Care Journalism—Drs. John Galgiani, Steve Goldman, Sai Parthasarathy, Ken Ramos and Esther Sternberg. Topics range from precision medicine to valley fever...

Dr. Alpert Interviewed in Valentine's Day 'Lo Que Pasa'

Dr. Joseph Alpert, with the UA Division of Cardiology and UA Sarver Heart Center, surrendered to the glare of kleig lights for his Q&A in the Feb. 14 UA-@-Work Lo Que Pasa newsletter. His topic Doctorpedia videos in which he helped recruit local physicians—including Drs. Janet Campion, Steve Klotz, Merri Pendergrass and Gene Trowers—to participate to help educate patients about their medical conditions...

Dozens of DOM Faculty Earn 'Best Doctor' Recognition

Congratulations to the more than 140 Banner – University Medical Group and community physicians practicing at Banner Health Tucson hospitals and clinics named to the Best Doctors in America® List for 2017-18—not to be confused with Castle Connolly's "Top Doctors." Forty-six also are on faculty at the UA Department of Medicine. See who made the list...
FACULTY

Faculty Provider Videos Sought by Banner Health

It’s basketball season and Banner Health has an all-out, full-court press on for filming video profiles of physicians practicing at its two hospitals and multiple outpatient care facilities in Tucson, including Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and Banner – UMC South. See who has done them, how to schedule yours and photos of filming with Drs. Monica Kraft, Hemanth Gavini and Khadijah Breathett…

CLINICAL

New Banner Signage Touts Tucson US News Rankings

Several dozen UA College of Medicine – Tucson and Banner – University Medicine faculty, clinicians and staff gathered on the front lawn of the Banner – UMC Tucson front lawn in recognition of new hospital signage honoring its best U.S. News & World Report “Best Hospitals” rankings in a decade. See a mini-photo gallery…

Banner – University Medicine Names New Leadership

Larry M. Goldberg, of Trinity Health in Illinois, becomes president of Banner Health’s academic medicine division effective April 30. Kathy Bollinger, who has led the division since its creation with the merger of Banner with the University of Arizona Health Network in February 2015, will delay her retirement until after his arrival…

Banner Checks Off New Year's Resolution with Outpatient Clinic Moves to UMC North

UA Health Sciences sent a “Construction Notice” memo Jan. 5 that Banner – UMC completed vacating outpatient clinics (OPCs) in UAHS Building 201, which also houses the UA College of Medicine – Tucson—specifically on floors 2 and 4 through 8. Work is well under way to renovate those former clinics for faculty offices and administrative space displaced by the new 9-story, hospital tower being built now…
Cardiology

Echocardiography and non-invasive cardiac imaging director Dr. Raj Janardhanan won the Outstanding Service Award from the UA Native American Cardiology and Medicine Program. And, in other honors, he was part of the American Society of Echocardiography team that just released new clinical guidelines for contrast echocardiography techniques and will chair the multimodality imaging session at the ASE 2018 national conference in Nashville this summer...

The Flinn Foundation will provide $30,000 each to six Arizona firms through its Bioscience Entrepreneurship Program, including Avery Therapeutics. The Tucson startup company—led by Drs. Steve Goldman, Jordan Lancaster and Jen Watson Koevary—conducted its basic science research in a UA Sarver Heart Center lab. It also got help from Tech Launch Arizona, the commercialization arm of the UA tasked with bringing innovations developed at the university to market...

Washington University and Barnes Jewish Hospital Cardiology Chief Dr. Douglas Mann presented the Medicine Grand Rounds, Feb. 7, on the topic, “Recovery of the Failing Heart: Is It Time to Rethink the Classification of Heart Failure?” His address was ahead of his by-invitation-only lecture as the Samuel and Edith Marcus Visiting Professor in Cardiology later that evening at the Doubletree Reid Park Hotel...

Dr. Raj Janardhanan, of the University of Arizona Division of Cardiology and UA Sarver Heart Center, has accepted positions with the American Society of Echocardiography, as a continuing member-at-large on the Industry Relations Committee, and the United Kingdom-based Faculty of 1000 (F1000), as co-head of peer review for the Valvular Disease Section with Dr. Joe Alpert...
Cardiology

Nationally recognized cardiologist, Dr. Joel Holland, joins the UA College of Medicine – Tucson faculty in March after a long career at the Cleveland Clinic. His clinical interests include echocardiography, valvular heart disease and adult congenital heart disease...

Dermatology

UA Division of Dermatology's Dr. Vivian Shi leads off the next DOM Research Seminar, April 12, noon-1 p.m., COM-T Room 5403, with her lecture on "The ‘Gaps’ in Eczematous Dermatoses." She won a Dermatology Foundation grant earlier this year to study mechanisms of eczema. The other seminar speaker is Dr. John Galgiani, director, UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence, who'll talk about "Updating Valley Fever Serology: It's Not World War II Anymore.” See link to video, photo galleries from prior lectures...

Geriatrics

Dr. Serena Scott, an assistant professor in the Division of Geriatrics, General Internal Medicine and Palliative Medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson, has been named a member of the 2018 LEAD Certificate Program for the Association of Chief and Leaders of General Internal Medicine (ACLGIM). As a LEAD Scholar, she'll attend the 2018 ACLGIM Leon Hess Management Training and Leadership Institute on April 11 in Denver...

The UA College of Medicine – Tucson, UA Center on Aging and Banner Health—were highlighted in a recent Commonwealth Fund report on “Transforming Care – In Focus: Spreading Innovative Approaches to Dementia Care.” It focuses on novel approaches to care, quoting Dr. Mindy Fain on the center’s work with rural and indigenous communities. Among other programs noted are those from Johns Hopkins, Indiana University, NYU, UCLA and UC San Francisco...
**Hematology and Oncology**

April is Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month and the UA Cancer Center is enlisting dental professionals to incorporate screenings into routine checkups. They and the public are invited to an outreach event Saturday, April 28, at Banner – University Medicine North Building 2, 3838 N. Campbell Ave. The hour-long educational session starts at 9 a.m. with free public cancer screenings from 10 a.m. to noon. The event includes a raffle, gift bags and healthful snacks. No appointment needed to be screened…

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Early phase clinical research is changing the landscape in cancer care and that charge is picking up steam at the UA Cancer Center, under the leadership of Dr. Daruka Mahadevan. In a year and a half since his return, the Phase I Program here has opened enrollment to 12 trials, doubled the size of its team and enrolled 35 patients. Whereas 1-in-15 trials might pan out in Phase I in the past, said associate program director Dr. Hani Babiker, “Now, we’re seeing more than 30 percent over the last 2-3 years. It’s really exciting”…

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It’s not too late to see Dr. Doug Lowy, National Cancer Institute deputy director (and acting director 2015-2017), speak on “Precision Medicine for the Prevention of HPV-associated Cancer,” which emphasized vaccination and screening to reduce incidence of cervical cancer. His lecture, part of the UA Cancer Center Collaborative Grand Rounds, Feb. 27, is available via archived video. See a photo gallery here, too…

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The UA Cancer Center's multidisciplinary breast team has received accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), an American College of Surgeons' program that holds breast centers to the highest standards of care. See comments of Dr. Pavani Chalasani, breast cancer clinical research team leader, center director Dr. Andrew Kraft and others on the achievement…
**Infectious Diseases**

UA researchers reported an uptick in cases of Valley fever that indicates a likely sharp increase in infections in 2018. At the same time, federal clearance for a rapid assay test developed with assistance from the UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence and BIO5 Institute should help reduce delays in diagnosing the respiratory fungal disease caused by spores found naturally in area soils. See comments of Drs. John Galgiani, Anne Wertheimer and Lisa Shubitz...

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**Inpatient Medicine**

The 1,068 physicians who practice at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and 708 physicians who practice at Banner – UMC South elected a new chief of staff at each hospital, effective Jan. 1 — Drs. Chan Lowe (BUMCT) and Lisa Stoneking (BUMCS). Among other appointments, hospitalist Dr. Bujji Ainapurapu will be a South campus member-at-large for the BUMCS Medical Executive Committee...

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**Integrative Medicine**

Congratulations to the University of Arizona flexible hybrid electronics research team led by the UA Center for Integrative Medicine (AzCIM), which was part of the winning group for a R&D Achievement Award at the FLEXI Awards in Monterey, Calif., in February. Their award is for a development of a stretchable microfluidic sweat sensor. The multidisciplinary team includes Drs. Esther Sternberg and Perry Skeath...

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**Drs. Esther Sternberg and Casey Lindberg**, of the UA Center for Place and Wellbeing—a unit of the UA Center for Integrative Medicine—were among six presenters at a live webcast, “Physical Work Environments & Individual Health Outcomes,” Feb. 28 that was part of the CDC’s Design For Health series which explores mechanisms to optimize the built environment for health. The public event was free to all...
**Infectious Diseases**

Dr. Randy J. Horwitz, a UA associate professor and medical director for integrative medicine at Banner – UMC Tucson, gave the address at the March 7 Living Healthy With Arthritis Lecture. He discussed the latest complementary and alternative therapies for managing pain and reducing inflammation that may alter the way we understand and ultimately treat medical conditions. See the video...

Amid the national opioid crisis, “Integrative Approaches to Pain Management”—a new pain management online course offered by the UA Center for Integrative Medicine—teaches health-care professionals non-pharmaceutical options. “Today, we know the unintended consequences and we’re committed to teaching health professionals a much broader set of strategies for managing pain,” said Dr. Victoria Maizes, center director...

The UA Center for Integrative Medicine and founding director Dr. Andrew Weil welcomed the 2018 Spring Class of Integrative Health & Lifestyle Program (IHeLp) members to Tucson for a retreat held Jan. 7-10 at Westward Look Resort. The students—nurses, therapists, dietitians and other allied health professionals whose coursework is largely online—travel to Tucson for hands-on experience. Launched in 2013, the program trains about 60 students per year...

**Nephrology**

Drs. Christian Bime (Pulmonary), Elizabeth Juneman (Cardiology), and Sireesha Koppula (Nephrology) are the three University of Arizona Department of Medicine representatives among 72 clinicians—14 from Tucson—included in the “Class of 2018” of the Banner Health Advanced Leadership for Physicians Program. It’s the largest leadership class ever for Banner. See who else got picked...
Nephrology

The Division of Nephrology hosted Dr. Pablo Loarte-Campos, a visiting fellow with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine transplant nephrology program who provided a guest lecture on "The Possible Role of SGLT-2 Inhibitors in the Treatment of New Onset Diabetes Mellitus after Transplant (NODAT)." Learn more here...

Dr. Frank “Chip” Brosius delivered the first lecture in the DOM Research Seminar Series for 2018. A video and photo gallery of his talk on “Abnormal JAK-STAT Signaling in Acute and Chronic Kidney Diseases” are available to view here. He was followed by Drs. Jarrod Mosier and Steve Black (Feb. 8), and Stefano Guerra (March 8). Next in the series are Drs. John Galgiani and Vivian Shi (Apr. 12). Learn more here...

PACCS

Dr. Christian Bime, an assistant professor of medicine in the UA Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, and medical director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Banner – University Medical Center – Tucson, has been appointed to the American Thoracic Society’s Health Equality and Diversity Committee and International Health Committee...

For those gearing up with wariness for the pollen and dust of spring, UA allergist Dr. Tara Carr has a few good words for you. She was featured in a Banner Health healthy living newsletter Feb. 28 on “Asthma: Frequently Asked Questions.” It’s the first inclusion of a Tucson physician in the Banner Health "Ask the Expert" online feature. Read about it here...
UA Department of Medicine Chair Monica Kraft, MD, will receive the American Thoracic Society’s Distinguished Achievement Award at the ATS 2018 International Conference held in San Diego, May 18-23. The recognition is among multiple honors Dr. Kraft, a former ATS president, has received in the past 12 months...

A Weekly Spring Colloquium on Problems in the Biology of Complex Diseases led by Dr. Donata Vercelli features several speakers and topics of interest to UA Department of Medicine physicians and investigators. These include DOM faculty, Drs. Xignan Li, Deb Meyers, Gene Bleecker and Stefano Guerra, who are among the speakers. The series runs 'til April 27...

Disability Assessment Research Clinic (DARC) director at the University of Arizona Arthritis Center, David Wayne Smith, DEd, DABPS, DACFE—who’s been with the UA for 50 years and UA College of Medicine – Tucson for 32 years—has been named as one of two recipients of Purdue University's Health and Kinesiology Distinctive Service Award to be awarded in April. See other center news here, too...

Rheumatology Chief and Arthritis Center Director Dr. Kent Kwoh was among several faculty physicians from the Department of Medicine—including Drs. Monica Kraft, Randy Horwitz and Victoria Maizes—listed as authorities consulted for an “In Health” article in the January 2018 issue of Tucson Lifestyle magazine that focuses “Chronic Inflammation: The Road to Relief.” Read on...

more
A study by scientists at the UA Cancer Center and Cancer Research UK has found that loss of a specific tumor suppressor in “triple-negative” breast cancer provides clues about potential new approaches to treatment. The work was led by Drs. Agnieszka Witkiewicz, UA professor of pathology, and Erik Knudsen, UA professor of medicine. Results were published on Jan. 30 in the journal Cell Reports…