Message From The Chair

Summer is upon us or, at least, it already feels like it outside with Tucson’s triple-digit temperatures. But for those who’ve lived here a few years, that time between college graduations and the July 1 start for new faculty, residents and fellows offers a brief respite before the training begins again with new faces and new roles.

Look for news in the next few weeks of new physicians joining us, including Dr. Juanita Merchant, incoming chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and a renowned physician-scientist. She starts July 2. A big thanks goes to Dr. Steve Goldschmid who has done an incredible job as interim division chief.

We also recently welcomed the new Banner – University Medicine President Larry Goldberg at a reception May 22 (pictured at left with Drs. Kent Kwoh and Frank Marcus—click image to enlarge) and will welcome our new UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences Dr. Michael Dake with another reception June 6 (see the event listing below to RSVP).

In between, the College of Medicine – Tucson hosted the Strategic Plan Team (May 29) of new UA President Robert Robbins for his effort to reenvision the future of the university for the “Fourth Industrial Revolution.” Several DOM staff and physicians were present, including Drs. Khadijah Breathett, Steve Goldman, Steve Goldschmid, Yves Lussier, Kevin Moynahan, John Po, and Esther Sternberg. At the meeting, we learned Dr. Dake will oversee that strategic planning process for UA Health Sciences colleges and centers. Also underscored was the importance of the health sciences—a large part of recent research ranking gains and with about a billion dollars in UA/Banner health-related construction coming to a close north of Speedway over the next year—to future initiatives. The bottom line is more change is coming and, more often than not, that’s a good thing. I believe our department is well positioned for that change and, in many ways, helping to lead the effort.

Please mark your calendars for the next Department of Medicine General Faculty Meeting. It will be Monday, June 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in Room 5403. Send your latest awards and accolades to our communications coordinator David Mogollon for inclusion in the slide show. I look forward to seeing many of you there.
SPOTLIGHTS

UA Nephrology, Urology to Launch Kidney Stone Clinic in July
The UA Division of Nephrology, Division of Urology and Department of Nutritional Sciences team up to launch a comprehensive Kidney Stone Clinic—a first for Arizona—that will start to see patients in July, announced division chiefs Drs. Prabir Roy-Chaudhury and Benjamin Lee. It will be in new space opening at Banner – University Medicine North for Urology outpatient clinics. Among care providers are nephrologists Drs. Sireesha Koppula and Sangeetha Murugapandian and new urologist Dr. David Tzou…

American Thoracic Society Presents Dr. Monica Kraft with Top Award
A physician-scientist world renowned for her research on asthma, Monica Kraft, MD, professor and chair of the UA Department of Medicine and the College of Medicine – Tucson's Robert and Irene Flinn Endowed Chair in Medicine, was presented May 20 with the American Thoracic Society’s Distinguished Achievement Award at the ATS 2018 International Conference in San Diego. The award—one of ATS' most important—is one of several honors received in the past year by Dr. Kraft, who was ATS president in 2012-13...

Infectious Diseases Seeks Citizen Help in Kissing Bug, Chagas Study

For Dr. Norm Beatty, a UA Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program member and principal investigator on a study, “Prevalence of Chagas disease among high-risk individuals in Arizona,” it’s all about kissing bugs. May through July is their most active period of the year and he’s working to enlist citizen input to collect bugs and screen people potentially infected by bites. In addition, he’ll present on his preliminary results June 8 at the IDSA/NIAID Infectious Diseases 2018 Research Careers Meeting in Bethesda, Md. See the video and a photo gallery from recent KVOA4 TV interview...

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<td>Health Care Disparities Forum - 'LGBTQ+HCD ...Come Test Your Knowledge!</td>
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<td>JUN 6</td>
<td>Welcome Reception for UAHS Senior Vice President Dr. Michael Dake</td>
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RESEARCH

UA, Banner Health 'All of Us' Alliance Expands on Largest NIH Award in Arizona History

The University of Arizona Health Sciences and Banner Health have received a $9 million award from the National Institutes of Health for the All of Us℠ Research Program, for which UA nephrologist Akinlolu Ojo, MD, MPH, PhD, serves as lead principal investigator. The program, that now will total $60 million over five years, represents the largest NIH award in Arizona history and is tied to an effort to enroll 1 million or more participants across the country into a genetic database aimed at creating precision medicine solutions...

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Winners Announced for Research Academic Half Day

Congratulations to the DOM 2018 Research Academic Half Day poster winners. Among fellows, top posters were from Drs. “Keng” Pineda (Cardiovascular Disease), Michael Insel and Tiffany Ynosencio (Pulmonary & Critical Care). Tucson Campus internal medicine residents Drs. Darien Reed, Phan Saligrama and Ryan Buckley also won. More than 50 posters were on display for the April 26 event. See the photo gallery...

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EDUCATION

South Campus GME Scholarly Day Spreads Awards

Hosted by the Graduate Medical Education Office of the University of Arizona College of Medicine – South Campus, the first Jeanne Deinert GME Scholarly Day had enough awards to keep just about everybody happy. Winners included internal medicine residents Drs. Balaji Natraj, Mahesh Balakrishnan and Roberto Swazo. See the full winners list and a photo gallery...

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Main Campus Research AHD Winners Give ‘Oral Vignettes’ at Medicine Grand Rounds

Three resident physicians—Drs. Darien Reed, Phan Saligrama and Ryan Buckley—in the University of Arizona Internal Medicine Residency Program – Tucson Campus capped off its Research Academic Half Day poster contest three weeks earlier (see above) with presentations May 16 during Medicine Grand Rounds. Topics were breast cancer biomarkers, HIV/CMV co-infection and aging, and asthma in the desert. Watch the video, see the photos...

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Medical Education Among Several DOM Units, Divisions Moving in May into New Office Space

Relocation of support staff and some physicians moving to new office space began May 9, for folks in the University of Arizona Department of Medicine. The shifts into former outpatient clinic space (6OPC and 7OPC) were facilitated by the clinics’ move to Banner – University Medicine North in December and a need to make way for the new 9-story hospital tower at Banner – UMC Tucson. See a mini-photo gallery, the DOM Commons and floor layouts…

Banner YouTube Videos Now Linked to DOM Profiles

Lights, camera, action! The wait is over for those UA College of Medicine faculty members who filmed interviews for new Banner Health video profiles at the end of 2017. About 25 videos at BannerHealth.com are now linked to DOM physician profiles, including nine cardiologists, two gastroenterologists, two infectious disease specialists, two pulmonologists, a dermatologist, geriatrician, nephrologist, and rheumatologist. See who’s featured and how to get yours posted…

Awards Aplenty for Drs. Moynahan, Sussman and Graduating College of Medicine – Tucson Students

Dr. Kevin Moynahan wins the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson Alumni of the Year Award, Dr. Amy Sussman is presented with Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, and a graduating medical student receives the UA College of Science’s Undergraduate Research Award for work on T cells and aging with UA Center on Aging co-director Dr. Janko Nikolich-Zugich, while two more graduates, one working with the elderly and the other in sports medicine, share UA’s Pillars of Excellence Award…

Drs. Breathett, Ramos Pen ‘Healthy Dose’ Blogposts on Medical Racial Bias, Precision Medicine

Two articles posted as blogposts to “The Healthy Dose” blog by the University of Arizona Health Sciences tackle tough issues over medical bias with minority patients and the nationwide launch May 6 of the All of Us℠ Research Program—at a moment when the Arizona cohort leads the nation in recruitment and received confirmation that the state’s largest award from the National Institutes of Health just got bigger. Authors include Drs. Khadijah Breathett and Ken Ramos…
IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology

Drs. Nancy Sweitzer and Karl Kern, cardiologists and co-directors of the UA Sarver Heart Center, were among 15 UA College of Medicine – Tucson faculty members recognized for their mentorship during the college’s General Faculty Meeting held May 3 in Kiewit Auditorium. See who else was honored and other agenda items that may affect you…

UA Sarver Heart Center and UA Division of Cardiology spinoff Avery Therapeutics won another recognition—this one global—with a recent announcement it will receive the “Technologies of Tomorrow” award as a BUZZ of BIO winner at the 2018 BIO International Convention in Boston in June. The tissue-engineered heart graft developer is headed by Drs. Steve Goldman, Jordan Lancaster and Jen Watson Koevary…

Dermatology

Drs. Jeffrey Krase and Marilyn Wickenheiser—both currently third-year residents in the University of Arizona Dermatology Residency Program—will share chief resident duties for the coming academic year. Dr. Krase is chief resident for the first six months, starting June 1—just in time for a grand opening at Dermatology’s new outpatient clinic at the intersection of Skyline, Ina and Pima Canyon Drive. Dr. Wickenheiser will serve in the role after that for six months…

Endocrinology

Two researchers with cross-disciplinary roots, Drs. Christina Laukaitis and Paul Langlais, return to the lineup for the next UA Department of Medicine Research Seminar on Thursday, June 16. They’ll offer an in-depth discussion on the genetics and proteomics of solutions under development at the University of Arizona Health Sciences for a joint hypermobility disorder known as Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and microtubule-associated proteins impact on insulin control in diabetics…
Geriatrics

Two University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson students—Anthony Maltagliati and John Lee—have been awarded Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Program scholarships from the American Federation for Aging Research sponsored by the National Institute on Aging. Maltagliati heads to Harvard and Lee to Johns Hopkins for the summer for research projects in geriatric medicine. They bring the number of UA MSTAR Scholars to 25 at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson in little more than a decade...

Hematology and Oncology

Coming from the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Dr. Rachna Shroff will serve as the UA Cancer Center’s new section chief of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology, chair of the Data and Safety Monitoring Board and associate professor at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. Here, she describes her prior roots in Tucson and her vision for GI oncology within the UA Cancer Center and throughout the state...

Head-and-neck cancer specialist Dr. Julie E. Bauman, chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology and director of translational research at the UA Cancer Center, is featured in the May 23 edition of Lo Que Pasa UA employee newsletter in a story headlined as “Home Sweet Home: A Physician's Return to Tucson.” Read about her family’s medical roots in Tucson and at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson...

Infectious Diseases

The UA Petersen HIV Clinics hosted an annual patient “Meet & Greet” event May 17 at the Neopolitan pizzeria Vero Amore. The event was planned by the clinics’ Consumer Advisory Group, made up largely of patients, to give patients in Southern Arizona a chance to learn more about programs and research developments for HIV, and to get acquainted with their care team. It included door prizes, raffles and refreshments...
Integrative Medicine

The UA Center for Integrative Medicine—which also functions as the UA Division of Integrative Medicine in the UA Department of Medicine—recently presented its inaugural Alumni of the Year award to Dr. David Kilgore, health sciences clinical professor of family medicine at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) School of Medicine...

Nephrology

The UA Division of Nephrology hosted a Dialysis Access Education Workshop on Saturday, May 5, in the Arizona Simulation Technology & Education Center (ASTEC) on the UA Health Sciences campus. The free event for area health-care providers—particularly fellows and residents—was cohosted by LSU’s Dr. Bharat Sachdeva and the UA’s Drs. Chyi Chyi Chong and Gabriel El-Kass. The division also held a Kidney Patient Panel Discussion (above right) May 24...

PACCS

The Nogales Cardiometabolic Health and Sleep (NoCHES) Study—with the UA’s Drs. Michael Grandner, Sairam Parthasarathy, Patricia Haynes, John Ruiz and Maia Ingram—won a $3.6 million grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The research seeks to learn more about sleep health and disorders in the U.S.-Mexico border region, how sleep issues are related to social, behavioral and environmental factors and their potential role as to risk factors for cardiovascular disease and diabetes...

Dr. Paul Noble, chair of the Department of Medicine, director of the Women’s Guild Lung Institute, and the Vera and Paul Guerin Family Distinguished Chair in Pulmonary Medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, gave a great presentation as guest speaker May 10 at the DOM Research Seminar Series on the “Fundamentals of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis—Navigating the Patient Journey.” His talk doubled as the last in the 2017-18 UA Winter Series Lung Conference lectures. See the video and a photo gallery here...
Rheumatology

The UA Arthritis Center got extra air time for its 2018 Bear Down Luncheon, held the previous day at Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, from KVOA Channel 4 and sports anchor Paul Cicala. Cicala emceed the event and introduced guest speaker UA athletic director Dave Heeke—and spoke on air about the Arthritis Center’s annual fundraiser twice May 10 and twice more May 11. The event helps the center raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for research each year...

This Just In...

"UA Licenses Melanin-Producing Compound to Prevent Skin Damage"
It's hoped the peptides developed by UA's Drs. Minying Cai and Victor Hruby will help prevent 3 million cases of skin cancer diagnosed a year...

"Cancer Center's Dr. Bowden Recalled as Scientist, Teacher, Mentor"
The professor emeritus and founding member of Cancer Biology Graduate Interdisciplinary Program, died May 15—battled Parkinson’s disease......

"UA Surgeons Developing New Tool to Detect Urine Blockage"
New technique may one day allow patients to use smartphones to record data necessary to diagnose the blockage...

"Enzyme's Movement May Be Key to New Cancer Drugs"
Interfering with the motion of a kinase enzyme might be a new approach for the development of anti-cancer drugs, new UA-led research suggests...

"College of Medicine – Tucson Hosts UA Strategic Plan Team"
May 30 event in DuVal Auditorium part of campus-wide effort to envision the university's future led by new UA President Robert Robbins...

"UA Startup SinfoniaRx Sale Named Deal of the Year"
UA startup SinfoniaRx's sale to Tabula Rasa Healthcare was picked the 2017 Deal of the Year by the Association for Corporate Growth's Arizona chapter...

"UA Researcher in on 'Playbook' for Antibiotics at Skilled Care Sites"
Dr. Katherine Ellingson won an ABRC grant to develop a “playbook” to prescribe antibiotics to treat infectious diseases in skilled nursing facilities...
"Meet Some of Graduates in UA Health Sciences Convocations"
Read about their inspiring accomplishments including incoming Internal Medicine resident Dave Reyes, who started Wish Makers CUP Program…

"UA Research Makes Big Leap in International Ranking"
Influence illustrated in jump to No. 52 of 18,000 universities worldwide and No. 34 among U.S. ones in latest Center for World University Rankings...

"New Medical Spanish Program to Develop Certified Bilingual Doctors"
Goals are to train residents and fellows to be culturally sensitive, linguistically appropriate physicians to enhance the physician-patient relationship…

"South Campus GME Scholarly Day Renamed to Honor Jeanne Deinert"
The late UA College of Medicine – South Campus Graduate Medical Education office administrator died last year after a brief battle with cancer…

"Dr. Sussman to be Honored at College of Medicine Senior Awards"
UA Department of Medicine Associate Chair for Education Dr. Amy Sussman will be awarded the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award…