

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE NEWS

ISSUE XIII



APRIL 2008

College of Medicine

360 DEGREES OF THERAPY

NEW WAY TO DELIVER CANCER TREATMENT NOW AVAILABLE AT UMC

University Medical Center is one of a handful of hospitals in the Southwest to offer the TomoTherapy HiArt® treatment system, a new way to deliver radiation treatment for cancer. TomoTherapy involves the accurate delivery of radiation that conforms to the tumor size and shape.

A TRULY INTEGRATED APPROACH TO RADIATION THERAPY

The system integrates imaging with radiation treatment. This allows physicians to verify the position of a tumor immediately before each treatment session, so adjustments can be made on the spot to make sure radiation is delivered exactly where it should be. This is important because tumors can move and change shape and size quickly.

Traditional radiation therapies project radiation on a tumor from a just few directions. TomoTherapy allows the radiation therapy team to deliver precise and powerful doses of radiation therapy from a full 360-degrees.

The equipment used for TomoTherapy looks much like a computed tomography (CT) system: the patient lies on a couch that moves continuously through a rotating ring gantry. The gantry houses a linear accelerator, which delivers radiation in the shape of a fan beam as the ring is turning. With the couch moving at the same time the gantry is rotating, the radiation beam makes a spiral pattern around the patient, targeting tumors with optimal levels of radiation while minimizing the dose to healthy areas.

THE TOMOTHERAPY ADVANTAGE

Because of the high accuracy of the radiation beams, a significant amount of normal tissue may be spared from radiation while allowing a higher radiobiologic dose to the tumor. Patient quality of life and cure rate may be significantly improved. In other words, you can have your cake and eat it, too. We are excited about this new technology for future clinical trials, as we believe it will make a tremendous impact on cancer treatment outcomes when combined with new biologic anti-cancer agents.

For more information about TomoTherapy services, contact UMC Radiation Oncology at (520) 694-7236.

Nam P. Nguyen, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Radiation Oncology
As featured in Vim & Vigor—Spring 2008



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Radiation Oncology

EVENTS

- **Come Out for a night at Gaslight**
May 6th
<http://fp.arizona.edu/sacl/activities/2008/GASLIGHT/form.pdf>
- **2008 Convocation Ceremony**
May 16th
<http://www.specialevents.medicine.arizona.edu>
Commencement
May 17th
<http://web.arizona.edu/~dos/commencement/index.html>

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SECTION NEWS

GERIATRICS & GERONTOLOGY

Congratulations to Dr. Mindy Fain who has been accepted as a member of the 2008/2009 class of Fellows in the *Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women*. The ELAM program is an intensive one-year leadership training program for senior women leaders in academic medicine, dentistry and public health. This unique in-depth leadership program is focused on preparing senior women faculty to effect positive change in institutional leadership positions. The nominations must be submitted by the Dean, and acceptance is determined by an annual competitive selection process. This is the fifth year in a row that the U of a College of Medicine has had an ELAM Fellow. Congratulation also to the past ELAM Fellows for their successful completion of the program.

CARDIOLOGY

Gordon A. Ewy, MD, Director of the Sarver Heart Center and his team at the UA Sarver Heart Center have developed a method that could save thousands of lives. Tune in to "PodCats" to listen as Dr. Ewy talks about Chest-Compression-Only CPR <http://uanews.org/node/19271>. The American Heart Association as recently endorsed the technique

The article entitled *Improved bystander protocol for cardiac arrest was pioneered at The University of Arizona* can be viewed at <http://uanews.org/node/19078>.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Congratulations to Clifford P. Martin, MD, second year Infectious disease fellow who in early April 2008 received his diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the University of Alabama/Universidad Cayatano Heredia Peruana Gorgas Institute for Tropical Medicine in Peru.

Congratulations to Stephen Klotz, MD who has received the HRSA Ryan White Early Intervention Services grant.

GASTROENTEROLOGY

Article: *UA: Drug Mix Decreases Risk of Colon Cancer* - "Dr. Eugene W. Gerner, director of the Arizona Cancer Center's Gastrointestinal Cancer Program, worked with the University of California-Irvine researchers to create a drug combination that reduces the risk of getting colon cancer. To read the intire article go to <http://media.wildcat.arizona.edu/media/storage/paper997/news/2008/04/15/News/Ua.Drug.Mix.Decreases.Risk.Of.Colon.Cancer-3325611.shtml>

WELCOME

Keep an eye out for these new employees and give them a warm welcome to our department!

Robbie Pearson, Accountant, Sr.—Business Office—March 10, 2008

Anitha Yadav, MD—Inpatient Medicine—April 1, 2008

Guanji Chen, Research Assistant Professor—Endocrinology—Diabetes Center—April 28, 2008

Kristen Roman, Office Assistant Sr.— Dept Chairs Office—May 12, 2008

POINTS OF INTERST

Herminia Rios, Business Manager in the Dept of Medicine business office, was recently awarded the College of Medicine Staff Award of Excellence in the Administrative 32-40+ category. This is one of three awards that the College of Medicine gives out each year, two administrative and one research. Hermie currently provides support for the Dept of Medicine sections of Nephrology, Rheumatology, Pulmonary & Critical Care, Geriatrics & Gerontology, as well as the Arizona Center on Aging. Congratulations Hermie!

Open Wellness Screening Dates—May 15, July 17, August 21 at 1125 Vine, corner of Helen and Vine. To register for an appointment call 621-2493 or email rowana@email.arizona.edu.

Weight Watchers Meetings—Sign up to participate in this 10-week Weight Watchers session starting May 7th—Admission \$100. You can check out a meeting for free on June 13, 20 or 27. —For more information contact Millie La France 621-7332 or lafrance@email.arizona.edu.



"IF ONE ADVANCES
CONFIDENTLY IN
THE DIRECTION OF
HIS DREAMS, AND
ENDEAVORS TO LIVE
THE LIFE HE
HAS IMAGINED, HE WILL
MEET WITH A SUCCESS
UNEXPECTED IN COMMON
HOURS."
- H.D. THOREAU



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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