

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE NEWS

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College of Medicine

CATS RESEARCH CENTER

New Facility Available for Researchers & Physicians

In January 2008, the cutting-edge Clinical and Translational Science (CATS) research center opened its doors to University of Arizona researchers and physicians. Located on the first floor of the Leon Levy Building thanks to the generous support of the Arizona Cancer Center, CATS is part of a movement by the National Institutes of Health to streamline clinical and translational research by providing space, materials, and qualified experts in one accessible location. The goal is to take research in all of its aspects and make it more efficient and easier for investigators. The CATS Research Center aims to remain accessible and flexible, shaping the available resources to meet the demands and concerns of the researchers utilizing the Center.



Peter Lance, Director of the CATS Research Center, Gene Sander, Provost-in-the-Interim, Leslie Tolbert, VPR, Susanne Olkkola, Assistant Director of the CATS Research Center

Promoting Research Through Resources

The research center offers both general and specialized exam rooms, including an infusion suite and a cheerful pediatric exam room complete with dinosaur bed and one way mirror for observation. Groups will be able to bypass the hassle of hiring and training a clinical trial coordinator by using one of the CATS research coordinators. For studies in the preliminary stages, CATS has the resources to aid with study design, putting together survey questions and source documents and blueprinting a research protocol. An Advisory Committee made up of experienced senior researchers oversees the process to ensure that protocols are efficient, practical and that the Center has appropriate resources for the specific study. The CATS research center hopes to promote research by offering a variety of mentors and support services. The CATS team has worked with all three state universities to overcome the compounded obstacle for multi-site studies by getting IRB reciprocity, ensuring that a verdict at one institution will be accepted at the others.

Contact 520-626-8000 for more information or to schedule a tour.

The Arizona Clinical and Translational Science Award Proposal

The Arizona Clinical and Translational Science Award will forge a uniquely transformative and integrative state-wide virtual home for clinical and translational science and education, the Health Research Alliance Arizona (HRAA). The creation of HRAA will synergize and focus the myriad of clinical and translational research and educational opportunities already taking place in Arizona and will build on the Arizona Biomedical Roadmap which was implemented in 2001.

HRAA involves all 3 state universities, community colleges, research institutes (Translational Genomics Research Institute, Barrow Neurological Institute, and Sun Health Research Institute), and hospitals throughout the state, all of which will help create as well as benefit from the infrastructure of HRAA. A panoply of core resources to implement personalized medicine, including genomics, proteomics, imaging metrics, pharmacokinetics and tissue repositories, as well as biostatistics, ethics training, study design and regulatory support, are available to all HRAA investigators, and coordinated through a single portal, HRAA_SPACE, managed through a comprehensive biomedical informatics network.

A focus of HRAA is community engagement, with reach to the dispersed and special populations, including most notably the Native American and Hispanic populations, and organized through community networks. Partnered with the Arizona Medicaid provider, Arizona HealthCare Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), which is developing an electronic health record for the more than 1M recipients, and will provide unprecedented linkage between community providers and the HRAA clinical research and education network.

One-of-a-kind distance communication technologies will deliver an educational curriculum oriented around multi-disciplinary, interprofessional clinical and translational research teams, spanning the gamut from clinical research trial coordinators, to community providers, to university faculty.

Implementation and governance, carefully designed to balance the interests and needs of a wide range of participants, will be guided through continuous evaluation and the assessment of collaboration, using quantitative methodologies to measure the success of network formation. This combination of state-wide resources and approaches will fundamentally transform clinical and translational research and education in Arizona. The proposal was submitted in October 2007 and received a priority score of 218. It will be re-submitted on October 21, 2008.

EVENTS

Donald K. Buffmire Lecture, *Narratives in Medical Education*
Presented by Rita Charon, MD, Ph.D
June 10th
5pm Reception, 5:30 Lecture
DuVal Auditorium

Latest Advances in Osteoarthritis Treatment
Presented by Jeffrey Lisse, MD
June 4th
www.arthritis.arizona.edu

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PHOENIX PHILANTHROPISTS ENDOW \$1 MILLION CHAIR FOR PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH

University of Arizona alumni John R. and Doris S. Norton established the John Norton Endowed Chair for Prostate Cancer Research at the Arizona Cancer Center with a \$1 million gift recently made to the University of Arizona Foundation.

Arizona Cancer Center Director David S. Alberts, MD, has appointed oncologist Frederick "Rick" Ahmann, MD, professor of medicine and surgery, to fill the chair. "Virtually no other oncologist in the U.S. has devoted his or her career to preventing and treating prostate cancer more than Dr. Rick Ahmann," says Dr. Alberts. "There is no more deserving physician scientist to receive a named prostate cancer chair."



"We are on the threshold of new and better ways to treat prostate cancer," says Mr. Norton, a prostate cancer survivor since 1991. "We must financially support people with the qualities and abilities of Dr. Ahmann so that they are able to concentrate on research that will further our knowledge and provide better treatment of this disease."

At the University of Arizona, the Norton's created the John R. and Doris S. Norton Endowed Chair for Fathers, Parenting, and Families in the College of Agriculture's School of Family and Consumer Sciences in 2000. Four years later, they gave \$4 million to the College of Agriculture, and the John and Doris Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences was named in their honor. Mr. Norton also served as campaign chair and successfully led an effort to raise \$1.5 million for the Bartley P. Cardon Endowed Chair in the College of Agriculture.

After Mr. Norton's prostate cancer returned several years ago, his physician in Phoenix told him, "If you want to go to the best oncologist in the Southwestern United States, you need to go to the University of Arizona and see Dr. Ahmann."

"I would like to make sure there is a wider and more in-depth recognition of the Arizona Cancer Center so that more people in Maricopa County will not only take advantage of it and use it, but support it financially," says Mr. Norton.

SECTION NEWS

Fredrick R. Ahmann, M.D.
Professor of Medicine & Surgery
Department of Hematology/
Oncology & Urology

"What lies behind us,
and what lies before
us are small matters
compared to what lies
within us."

**Ralph Waldo
Emerson**

ARIZONA RESPIRATORY CENTER

Congratulations to Fernando D. Martinez, MD, director of the Arizona Respiratory Center, who presented the J. Burns Amberson Lecture at the American Thoracic Society International conference in Toronto on May 18th. The Amberson lecturer is an individual with a career of major lifetime contributions to clinical or basic pulmonary research and/or clinical practice.

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

Dr. Ana Maria Lopez was interviewed by Pam White for "Arizona illustrated" on the VIDA! Breast Cancer Educational Series. The story aired May 14 at 6:30 p.m. on KUAT (Channel 6). To see the interview please go to the following link: <http://tv.azpm.org/kuat/segments/2008/5/14/kuat-breast-cancer-education/>.

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

The Arizona Board of Regents has conferred the Center of Excellence Status upon the Program in Integrative Medicine. The programs title is now officially, the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine. As a Center of Excellence at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center, the program joins the distinguished Centers of Excellence including the Sarver Heart Center, the Arizona Cancer Center, and the Arthritis Center. This honor recognizes the depth and breadth of the educational programs and their national and international impact. The Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine is recognized as an international leader in the field of integrative medical education, an innovator and leader in distance learning for health professionals, and a multi-disciplinary program with strong ties to the Colleges of Medicine, Public Health, and Pharmacy.

WELCOME

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

Kenneth Knox, MD— June 2008
Robert Segal, MD— May 12, 2008

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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