

# DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE NEWS

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College of Medicine

## CLINIC CHANGES

Happy New Year to everyone in the Department of Medicine. We have started off 2009 with many exciting changes in the Clinics of the department. We have recently moved our scheduling into the clinic, so that we can improve our ability to provide access for your patients. The new number to call is 694-4000 and your patients will be connected directly to 6OPC. Please give Judy Grant or Brooke Hourscht feedback from your patients regarding this service so that we can improve it when needed or expand processes that work.

Also, the Department of Medicine Clinics have FINALLY implemented the Allscripts Electronic Health Record. We have been rolling this out on a section by section basis. To date, General Internal Medicine, including our residents, Geriatrics, Infectious Diseases, Gastroenterology, Endocrine and Rheumatology have "gone live" in the clinics. While there is definitely a learning curve to the system, the benefit of being able to view consultant and primary care notes, electronic prescribing, and electronic referrals/consults have been noted by all. The Allscripts Rollout Team, led by Michele Pollitt, have been exceptional in training the physicians, nurses and staff, as well as providing continuous real-time support on the clinic floor as we care for our patients. We have been working to get access for the Emergency Department as well to view the Allscript Charts when our patients are seen in the UMC or UPH-Kino ED. Christian Botsford and his scanning team have been working extremely hard to get all of our patients' information uploaded into the Allscripts system and they have been doing an excellent job. Lab and radiology results electronically populating the chart are the next steps for the system.

Thanks to everyone in the Department for your hard work and patience in making these changes as we continue to work to provide quality care for our patients.

Gratefully,  
Jason Krupp, MD  
Chief, General Internal Medicine  
Director, Adult Medicine Clinics

## Arizona Cancer Center receives \$11.5 million SPORE grant to fight Lymphoma

The Arizona Cancer Center Lymphoma Program in partnership with the University of Rochester James P. Wilmot Cancer Center, has received an \$11.5 million Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

The five-year Lymphoma SPORE award has been granted to only a very small group of similar research collaborations nationwide. The highly competitive grant will fund translational research projects designed to quickly advance findings from the laboratory to clinical settings and improve care and find cures.

"The internationally renowned lymphoma research groups in this SPORE complement each other's abilities and this will advance productivity. This SPORE award reflects the belief that this partnership will be synergistic," said Thomas P. Miller, MD, co-principal investigator for the SPORE and director of the Arizona Cancer Center Lymphoma Program.

Dr. Miller and Dr. Richard I. Fisher, director of the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center and principal investigator for the SPORE have worked collaboratively for over 25 years with shared leadership in the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG), the largest NCI-funded adult cancer research group in the nation. This established collaboration will help to quickly move new therapies to nationwide patient studies. "We have worked together designing clinical trials to improve treatment for patients with lymphoma, and together we have established many of the standard therapies used in the treatment of lymphoma," said Dr. Miller.

"This grant will accelerate research at home and bring new therapies to patients at a faster rate. With this SPORE, the Arizona Cancer Center will now be viewed as one of the few world-class institutions in which to receive treatment for lymphomas," said Dr. Miller.

## LEVIN FAMILY ENDOWED CHAIR ESTABLISHED AT ARIZONA CANCER CENTER

A \$1 million gift from the Alan and Janice Levin family to The University of Arizona Foundation will fund the Alan and Janice Levin Family Endowed Chair for Excellence in Cancer Research at the Arizona Cancer Center.

Clara Curiel, MD, director of the Pigmented Lesion Clinic and the Multidisciplinary Cutaneous Oncology Program at the Arizona Cancer Center's Skin Cancer Institute, and assistant professor of dermatology at The University of Arizona College of Medicine, has been appointed to fill the Levin Family Endowed Chair.

"Dr. Clara Curiel is an immensely talented cutaneous oncology specialist with a tireless work ethic and a strong desire to conquer skin cancer. Generous support like this from Alan and Janice Levin and their family are critical to our research activities," said Arizona Cancer Center Director David S. Alberts, MD. "Endowed chairs support basic and translational research that we can apply to our patients and help in our goal to prevent and cure cancer. Our Skin Cancer Institute will benefit immensely from this gift."

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SECTION NEWS

Abdul Nadir, MD

“Problems cannot be solved at the same level of consciousness that created them.”

Albert Einstein

Ravitharan  
Krishnadasan, MDCARDIOLOGY

- Each of the university hospitals in the University Healthsystems Consortium receive a report that lists the observed/expected mortality ranking of each “product line” of their university hospital. The ratio of expected (based on severity of disease) to observed mortality in each specialty or product line is listed. The top ten university hospitals for each subspecialty are listed by name. The most recent report indicated that for the most recent year, from July 2007 to June 2008, Cardiology at University Medical Center was number one out of 98 – the best in the nation!

GASTROENTEROLOGY

- **Thomas Boyer, MD** was rated one of four *America’s Top Doctors For Women in the West* for the Specialty of Gastroenterology by *Women’s Health Magazine*.
- The Department of Medicine welcomes **Abdul Nadir, MD** - Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Section of Gastroenterology

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

- The Department of Medicine welcomes **Ravitharan Krishnadasan, MD** - Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Section of Hematology/Oncology

INPATIENT MEDICIUNE

- Congratulations to **Piyush Tiwari, MD** who was recently named to the honor roll from the *American College of Physicians Magazine’s* list of 2008 Top Hospitalists.

MEDICINE EDUCATION

- Congratulations to **Ben Levy**, MEO Intern whose abstract entitled "Music Inspires Health: Multimedia and HIV/STI Prevention" was accepted at the Western Resident Medical Research Forum in Carmel, CA.

NEPHROLOGY

- **Murray A. Katz, MD** passed away on November 17, 2008. Dr. Katz was a physician of Nephrology in the Medicine Care Line at SAVAHCS for 35 years. He was a man of great accomplishments and will be missed by many.

GRANTS & AWARDS

- Primary Investigator Dr. John Cunningham is being sponsored by TGEN for a an investigation titled, *Tumor Glycomics Laboratory for Pancreatic Carcinoma*.
- Primary Investigator Dr. Janet Funk is being sponsored by NCCAM for an investigation titled, *Anti-arthritis effects of ginger dietary supplements*.
- Primary Investigator Dr. Carol Schneiderman is being sponsored by AZ DHS for an investigation titled, *Pharmacist-based treatment adherence*.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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