

# DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE NEWS



ISSUE XXII

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2009

College of Medicine

## Congratulations to our Department of Medicine 2009-2010 Best Docs!

Frederick R. Ahmann  
David S. Alberts  
Joseph S. Alpert  
John W. Bloom  
Thomas D. Boyer  
Eric A. Brody  
Thomas D. Brown  
John Thomas Cunningham  
Clara Curiel  
Gordon A. Ewy

Paul E. Fenster  
Mark J. Friedman  
John N. Galgiani  
Steve Goldschmid  
Julia H. Indik  
David G. Johnson  
Karl B. Kern  
Steven R. Knoper  
M. Peter Lance  
Robert B. Livingston

Jeffrey R. Lisse  
Ana Maria Lopez  
Victoria H. Maizes  
Beth R. Malasky  
Thomas P. Miller  
Kevin Moynahan  
Peter Ott  
Vincent L. Sorrell  
Alison T. Stopeck



Fernando  
Martinez,  
MD  
Receives  
UA's Highest  
Academic  
Honor

The University of Arizona inducted **Fernando Martinez, MD** in its newest class of Regents' Professors on December 3, 2009. The Regents' Professor award is the highest honor accorded by the University only to full professors for academic achievements that have earned them national and international acclaim.

Dr. Martinez is a Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Arizona Respiratory Center. He is among the most highly regarded researchers in the world in the area of childhood lung diseases.

As noted by one colleague from Harvard University, "With regard to his relationship with others worldwide, he is without peer. He ranks as the elite practitioner in his field, and he is highly regarded as being a national treasure."



Gordon Ewy, MD joined the University of Arizona faculty in 1969 and became Chief of the Section of Cardiology in 1982. Subsequently he opened the Sarver Heart Center in 1991 and the building for the center in 2000. Under Dr Ewy's leadership the Section of Cardiology has become one of the best in the country. Dr. Ewy has decided to step down from the position of Chief of the section of Cardiology on July 1 of this year. He feels this is a good time for a leadership change with the recent rapid growth of the section. Gordon feels it is time for others to have added responsibility within the section and this will allow him more time to pursue his research interests. Gordon will remain as Director of the Sarver Heart Center. The Department and College of Medicine are grateful for all Gordon has done for the University of Arizona. We know that he will continue to play an active role in the section as well as lead the Center. I am appointing Karl Kern, MD as the Interim Section Chief of Cardiology. Karl is well qualified to fulfill this role as he is both an outstanding physician and clinical investigator. I know that you all will be supportive of Karl in his new role.

The attempt to align UMC and UPH continues with the formation of a committee with representatives from both boards working to knit the two organizations into one. Needless to say this is a complicated process but I remain hopeful that it will come to fruition. Dean Goldschmid is leading this effort and we should all be supportive as in the long run all will benefit.

These are difficult financial times for all including the State of Arizona. The legislature and governor have yet to agree on how to balance the budget. The governor is suggesting significant cuts to AHCCCS and to funds for graduate medical education. Representatives of the COM, UMC and UPH have met with the governor and tried to get her to understand the impact these cuts will have on the citizens of Arizona and our training programs. I am uncertain how this will play out but we will continue to fulfill our mission of education of medical students and residents and delivering care for all of the citizens of Arizona who seek our help. Some physicians in private practice and private institutions are no longer seeing patients with AHCCCS or Medicare because of low rates of reimbursement. On a personnel level I find this reprehensible behavior as these individuals deserve care and the burden is only transferred to institutions such as ours.

On a more positive note the quality of the applicants for our residency positions at both programs are excellent. The quality keeps improving each year and I feel that is a testimony to our faculty and your dedication to the education of new physicians. Please know that your efforts do not go unnoticed and please keep up the good work.

We continue in our efforts to grow the size of our faculty. The Section of Gastroenterology continues to grow with three new physicians being added in 2010, one of whom is already here. We are actively recruiting for the position of Pulmonary Section Chief and have interviewed three excellent candidates. I am hopeful that we will have a new Section Chief in the next few months. Dr. Knox has added two new faculty at the VA, one in ID and another in arthritis. We are adding general medicine physicians at UMC and UPHH in July as well and will have two nurse practitioners at UPHH in the near future. Other sections continue to recruit so the DOM is continuing on a path of growth.

The financial status of the DOM is poor with continued losses. The Chartis Group has been analyzing our finances and our problems do not appear to be due to low productivity by the physicians or excessive expense. There are some expense issues but the principal reason the DOM struggles is poor reimbursement for our activities. We are actively pursuing this issue to determine how we can improve our contracting and therefore be better paid for what we do. We also continue to move towards all provider based clinics which will be a significant savings for the DOM. Lastly, we continue to work with UMC and UPHH to have contracts that are appropriate for the service provided.

Thomas D. Boyer, M.D.  
Interim Chairman and John Lee Professor of Medicine

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## SECTION NEWS

### Cardiology:

- Congratulations to **Vincent L. Sorrell, MD** who was presented with a Vernon and Virginia Furrow Award for Excellence in Graduate Medical Education.

### Endocrinology:

- Section Chief, **Craig Stump, MD** will serve as a co-investigator on an HIH R24 seed grant at the Bidesign Institute at ASU entitled "*Translational Proteomics in the Diabetes Biomarker Space.*" With other investigators including endocrinology Fellow **Hussein Yassine, MD** this collaborative research team will address the need for improved diabetes diagnostics.
- **Betsy Dokken, PhD** was selected by the American Heart Association, Resuscitation Science Symposium to receive a Young Investigator Award for her abstract, "*Glucagon-like Peptide-1 Attenuates Post-resuscitation Myocardial Microcirculatory Dysfunction in a Swine Model of Prolonged Ventricular Fibrillation.*"
- **Hussein Yassine, MD** received the Ron and Anne Walker Investigator Award from the Sarver Heart Center for his research project, "*The Effect of Dietary Saturated Fat on the HDL Proteome.*"

### Gastroenterology:

- Welcome **Eugene Trowers, MD**. Dr. Trowers' research interests encompass colorectal cancer prevention, endoscopic techniques, and innovations in medical education. Dr. Trowers is currently writing a clinical GI Physiology Review book.

### Infectious Disease:

- Congratulations to **Amber Noon, MD** who passed her Internal Medicine Boards earlier this year and to recent Fellowship graduates, **Shannon Thorn, MD** and **Fares Masannat, MD** who passed the Infectious Diseases Boards this year!
- Welcome new faculty member **Mitchell Goldman, MD** who joins **Neil Ampel, MD** at the SAVAHCS.
- **Susan Hoover, MD** has assumed the directorship of the ID Fellowship Program as of January 1, 2010.

### Pulmonary:

- The Department of Medicine would like to recognize fellows **S. Chowdhary, MD**, and **A. Omer, MD** for their presentations at the American College of Chest Physicians National Meeting in November 2009. Also Congratulations to **P. Nair, MD** who received two awards: the American Association of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology award and the ALFRED SOFFER RESEARCH AWARD for her case presentation.

### Rheumatology:

- Congratulations to **Sujata Sarkar, MD** who's recently published research article has been selected by the Faculty of 1000 Medicine as a "must read article." Faculty of 1000 Medicine identifies and evaluates the most important articles published in medicine based on the recommendations of a faculty of over 200 peer-nominated leading researchers and clinicians.

## *Do You RECOGNIZE THIS FAMILIAR FACE?*



Can't figure it out? See the answer at the bottom of the page.

### Please Welcome These New Physicians to Our Department!



Eugene  
Trowers,  
MD



Mitchell  
Goldman,  
MD

## DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE FACULTY HONORED WITH FIRST AMES GRANTS FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION RESEARCH



**Kevin Moynahan, MD** was presented with one of the first grants for medical education research from The Academy of Medical Education Scholars (AMES) at the UA College of Medicine. Along with Dr. Paul Gordon from the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Dr. Moynahan will use the grant to purchase electronic stethoscopes to improve teaching auscultation of cardiac heart sounds to medical students. The electronic stethoscopes can record heart sounds as mentors examine patients with medical students, allowing the sounds to be played back so students hear exactly what the mentor hears.

The mission of AMES is to recruit, mentor and retain outstanding educators and promote excellence in teaching and educational scholarship at all College of Medicine teaching sites. AMES recognizes outstanding educators and provides a forum for teaching faculty to work together to enhance educational programs.

### GRANTS & AWARDS

Primary Investigator **Thomas Boyer, MD** is being sponsored by Actelion for an investigation titled *Diagnosis and Management of PAH (CME Grant)*

### PHOTO ID ANSWER:

It's our own Dr. Ewy, only a few short years ago!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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