Letter from the Department Chairman

Since the last newsletter a number of events have taken place that are moving the alignment of UMC and UPH forward. Jodi Mansfield has become the interim CEO of the University of Arizona Health Network (our new name). Jodi spent many years at Shands Hospital in Florida and has extensive experience in the management of an academic health care system. The recruitment for a permanent CEO will continue and hopefully will be completed within a year. Karen Mlawsky has been appointed CEO for both hospitals. We also have completed the naming process and all locations will have the following format: University of Arizona Medical Center- University Campus or -South Campus (UPHH) or -Alvernon Clinic etc. For the physicians it will be: University of Arizona Physicians-Medicine or Surgery etc. The purpose of the new names is to identify both hospitals and physicians with the University first followed by where we practice.

You will see a change in the names on the buildings over the next several months. In addition, all advertising is now managed by UAHN and you will begin to see that advertising as we go forward. We are now truly beginning to act as a single institution. For example, during the negotiations with one of the insurers UAHN was willing to walk away rather than take a poor contract. Because they were negotiating for both physician and hospital services the insurer agreed to a contract that adds millions of dollars to our bottom line over the next several years compared to what was offered originally. Clearly we have become major players in the Southern Arizona healthcare market and as we negotiate with other insurers similar outcomes are expected.

We all expect a downturn in our activities during the summer and early fall. That has not happened on the UAMC University campus. Admissions to adult medicine continue to run at an all time high with all 11 teams at capacity. As we expect even more volume in the winter we will be hiring additional hospitalists to help cover these patients. 3E will be opened by January 1 as a step-down and medical-surgical floor to accommodate the expected increase in-patient load. I have been impressed how both the teaching and non-teaching teams have responded to this heavy work load.

CONTINUED ON P. 3
Dr. Szerlip
Honored:
Dr. Harold Szerlip was nominated to be among the first group of nephrologists to be inducted into fellowship for the National Kidney Foundation. They cited his leadership, service, and mentoring. Congratulations Dr. Szerlip!

Dr. Raz Recognized:
In recognition of his outstanding efforts in the ICU Dr. Yuval Raz was recognized by David & Elaine Bevans through their donation in honor of his service. Congratulations, and great job Dr. Raz!

From the Desk of the DoM’s Vice Chair at UPHH, Dr. Harold Szerlip:
The Internal Medicine Department at UPHH continues to grow and improve. Our residents are doing quite well in the fellowship match. We are proud that we have residents who have been accepted into fellowships at the U of A, Oschner Clinic and The University of Michigan. We graduated our first complete class in June. At the graduation Dr. Wasl Al-Adsani received the award for best resident, Dr. Akshay Shay received the award for best intern, Dr. Pallavi Munagala received the Residency Director’s award and Dr. Harold Szerlip received the Residents’ award for excellence in teaching.

Our residency has expanded and we welcomed 10 excellent new residents to our program. The increase in residency complement has allowed us to increase the size of the medical service, improve patient flow from the Emergency Department meet the new RRC requirements, and allow more time for resident scholarly activity.

I am happy to announce that construction has begun on our new Diabetes Center and we expect to be fully operational by January 2013. A search is presently under way to recruit a Medical Director. In addition preliminary work has begun on our new GI endoscopy suite. We are anticipating that this will be completed no later than June 2012.

Finally, I would like to welcome Dr. Panczyck who has joined our General Medicine Faculty at UPHH and Dr. Gordon Carr who has assumed the Directorship of the MICU. Having these enthusiastic new members of our faculty will increase our ability to provide excellent care to our patients and teaching to our residents.

Congratulations to the following people for their awards at UPHH!

Dr. Akshay Shah - Best Intern, voted on by faculty and Housestaff
Dr. Wasl Al-Adsani - Best Resident, voted on by faculty and Housestaff
Dr. Pallavi Munagala - Program Director’s Award for Contributions to the IM Training Program
Dr. Harold Szerlip - Faculty Teaching Award, voted on by all Housestaff
Sherri Raskin - Residents’ Appreciation Award
Dr. Boyer’s Letter  Continued from P. 1

Everyone is working together and the beneficiaries of these efforts are our patients. One of the concerns is that when the volume of patients increases quality will decline. That has not happened. The mortality rate for the medicine service at UAMC University Campus is the fifth best in the nation (see the graph). Thanks to all. The transition to the night float team has gone well. The patients are being admitted and transferred to the other services in a smooth manner. Credit for the success of this effort goes to Drs. Johnson, Meinke and Vemulapalli for organizing this effort and seeing that it was brought to a successful beginning. Night time cross-cover remains an issue, especially for the non-teaching services. Plans are being developed to provide more in-patient attendings to be certain our patients are well cared for. We expect that two nocturnists may be required to provide the appropriate level of patient care. As you are aware new house staff positions were created at UAMC University Campus and South Campus with the expectation we would get more funding from CMS based on reallocation of resident positions. Unfortunately we received no new positions at either campus. We are in active discussions with both hospitals about what we are going to do next year. My hope is that we can increase the number of medicine residents as we planned, but we will have to wait for a decision which will be reached before the end of the year. UAMC South Campus continues to grow. A new larger ER has been opened which should increase admissions to the medicine service. Also, the new psychiatric building has opened which increases the number of medical/surgical beds. An ACE unit is being planned for the South Campus as well as an increased in elective surgical cases. All of this will make that campus more successful. Once the new clinics are built our outpatient activities will also increase.

The office renovations for the DOM offices are complete and are now occupied by the sections. I find it a very positive step that many of our faculty are now in a common area and my hope is that collaborations will come out of hallway interactions. Also the new conference room is being used extensively and the audiovisual equipment is viewed very positively as a teaching aid. Having the education offices in the same space is also good for both our trainees and medical students. Lastly, I am enjoying the informal hallway interactions with the faculty.

A mentoring plan has been developed by Drs. Knox, Szerlip and Fain and Lupita. The plan that they have developed is very exciting and they will be rolling it out soon. I hope that all of the senior faculty will embrace the plan and volunteer to become mentors. The time commitment is not great but the rewards will be significant. The mentors will not be assigned to junior faculty in their own section. Rather we will try to match the mentor and junior faculty member based on their interests. Look for the request to be a mentor in upcoming emails from Lupita. A dinner is planned for the mentors to kick off the effort.

We are now in our first year of the RVU model and each physician should have their expected RVUs completed in a timely manner so that the bills can be generated. The physicians are also doing better at getting their documentation completed and RVUs generated. In the month of August our gross billings will exceed $6,500,000 which is a million dollars ahead of budget. For the last 4 months we have been ahead of budget in gross billings suggesting this is not catchup but reflects a true increase in productivity and billing. Thank you all for your patience and your willingness to work with the DOM administration in improving our ability to get paid for what you do.

**Congrats!**

40 Under 40

Congratulations to Dr. Christina Laukaitis for being named to the Arizona Daily Star’s list of 40 Under 40.

She was one of the people selected from over 250 nominations. The award is given to recognize young leaders in Tucson based on professional accomplishments, leadership qualities and community impact.

The Arizona Daily Star sponsors the 40 Under 40 awards along with the law office of Snell & Wilmer. The nominees are judged by a community panel.
Welcome New Fellows!

Education at the Department of Medicine

Welcome

- The Medical Education Office is pleased to welcome Lucy Contreras to her newly dedicated role as the Clerkship Coordinator for 3rd and 4th year medical students. Lucy is a Tucson native and began her career with the College of Medicine 16 years ago serving in a variety of educational and administrative capacities within the GI section. She looks forward to collaborating with Directors, Laura Meinke, MD and Eugene Trowers, MD to support and ensure that our students experience a positive and high quality educational experience.

- Melanie Tornquist joins the Department’s Education Office from the Arizona Health Sciences Contracts Office where she spent three years. Her interests include bowling, going to the races, the lake, and reading. Her husband is employed by UMC. Recently they sent their first born to pre-school and just welcomed their second bundle of joy. Mrs. Tornquist assists various fellowships and is responsible for the centralized functions of the Pulmonary/Critical Care, Endocrinology, Infectious Disease and Rheumatology fellowships.

- The Medical Education Office is also pleased to welcome the following faculty members to their recent administrative appointments:

  - Eugene Trowers, MD
    4th Year Clerkship Director
  - James Knepler, MD
    Fellowship Director for the Pulmonary & Critical Care Program
  - Ravi Krishnadasan, MD
    Fellowship Director for the Hematology/Oncology Program

Updates:

- The Faculty Mentoring Committee is hard at work moving through the final stages of the program’s implementation and official kick off, which will be held October 19th. The program’s goals are to enhance career satisfaction and foster a sense of support and belonging through the sharing of experiences, expertise, and advice.

Staying Informed:

- Please visit our webpage to remain informed about development, initiative progress, events, and to access a variety of helpful resources for faculty, trainees, students, and staff.

  http://www.deptmedicine.arizona.edu/education/education
Welcome New Fellows!

Hospice:
Dr. Jeff Richmond
Dr. Macy Whitely

Infectious Disease:
Dr. Ramvinay Sebbattula

Rheumatology:
Dr. Daniel Dreutz
Dr. Heather Hansen

Pulmonary/Critical Care:
Dr. Sachin Chadhary
Dr. Thein Vo
Dr. Abdulmagid Eddib
Dr. Wendy Hsu
Dr. Tauseef Afaq
Dr. Eric Chase

Nephrology:
Dr. Evamaria Nourbakhsh
Dr. Shadi Nijim
Dr. Nima Rabbani

American College of Physicians Arizona Chapter Awards

Congratulations to the University of Arizona winners at the American College of Physicians Arizona Chapter Scientific Meeting 2011: Transformations in Medicine: Clinical, Scientific, and Economic.

Medical Student Poster: Second Place, Alan Beneze, UA COM -T, MSIV
Third Place, Rebecca Smith, UA-COM-P, MSIV

PGY-1 Poster:
First Place, Varun Takyar, MD, UPHH

Case Report Poster:
First Place, Lisa Graham, MD, UPHH

Research Poster:
First Place, Nduka-Obi Ossai, MD, UPHH
Second Place, Susan Knowles, MD, UAMC

Oral Clinical Vignette:
Second Place, Justin Roesch, MD, UAMC
Third Place, Billy T. Hour, MD, UPHH

Also, congratulations to our doctor’s dilemma team (medical jeopardy) for the fantastic job they did, and for qualifying to the national contest in New Orleans, LA in the spring. They did a great job, so well done Drs. Moh’d Jibreel, Nasser Mahmoud, and Ahmed Al-Khashman.

What’s New on the Web?

You can go online to learn more about our new Faculty Mentoring Program. From the Department of Medicine homepage just click on the link on the top menu to find out about the goals of the program, who is eligible to participate, and more. As the program rolls out this will be the place for you to stay up-to-date on all of the exciting opportunities available to you as a mentor, or as someone looking for a mentor. Formal mentoring programs have been found to give rise to career satisfaction, improve morale, and facilitate the development of future faculty leaders. Use the new mentoring webpage to find out how to get involved, and stay tuned for more updates to come!
**Infectious Disease’s Ryan White Program Receives Funding Increase**

The UofA’s Ryan White program is a special project of the Section of Infectious Disease and has historically provided primary medical care to people living with HIV who are uninsured and clinical Treatment Adherence Counseling to all HIV+ patients of UofA ID physicians (also known as Petersen Clinic patients in honor of Dr. Eskild Petersen). The majority of the program’s funding for HIV medical care has come directly through a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) with the smaller Treatment Adherence Counseling grant funded by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). The program has experienced several significant changes in the past year and, as a result, expanded services and almost doubled in size.

To start, Shannon Smith was hired as the Program Director for Ryan White in November 2010 and assisted the program obtain additional Ryan White Part B funding through an open RFP opportunity with ADHS. The University was awarded on April 1, 2011 and received an annual funding increase of $250,000 – bringing the total, annual Ryan White budget to just over half a million dollars. Shannon has worked in the field of HIV program management since 2006 and is very happy to have joined the Infectious Disease team at a time of such growth for the Ryan White program.

The 2011 funding increases have allowed the program to hire two new staff members and also extend support services to individuals who are under insured instead of simply to those who are 100% without health insurance coverage. Patients with costly health insurance copays can now receive financial support through the Ryan White program for their medical visits and all Petersen Clinic patients are offered to meet with a Medical Case Manager for assistance with enrollment processes, health management and linkage to community resources. In mid-June, the program was ready to implement the new service delivery model and hired Robert Gadsden for the provision of Medical Case Management services and Andrew O. McKinn as an Office Specialist to assist the program with overall operations and data management.

The increased program could not have come at a better time. The recent changes to Arizona’s AHCCCS program restricting medical coverage for childless adults has resulted in increased enrollment in the Ryan White program and we are certainly happy to be able to provide ongoing and comprehensive support to southern Arizona’s HIV community. For more information, please check out the new Petersen Clinic website at http://hiv.medicine.arizona.edu/.
Promotions

Congratulations to these physicians for their recent promotions in the DOM!

Dr. Clara Curiel,
Associate Professor of Medicine

Dr. Kenneth Knox,
Associate Professor of Medicine w/Tenure

Dr. Robert Aaronson,
Associate Professor of Medicine

Dr. Terry Landowski,
Associate Professor of Medicine

Dr. Linda Snyder,
Professor of Medicine

Our own University of Arizona Medical Center was the top-ranked local hospital in the 22nd annual U.S. News & World Report magazine’s rankings. Two of the Department of Medicine’s specialties were ranked nationally. Cardiology and heart surgery were ranked 46th, while our geriatrics program was ranked 40th. These rankings showcase 720 hospitals out of about 5,000 nationwide. Each is ranked among the country’s top hospitals in at least one medical specialty and/or ranked among the best hospitals in its metro area.

In addition to this recognition for our institution, several of our doctors were also recognized as Top Docs.

Congratulations to:
Dr. Frederick R. Ahmann - HemOnc
Dr. David S. Alberts - HemOnc
Dr. Thomas D. Boyer - Gastroenterology
Dr. John Cunningham - Gastroenterology
Dr. Clara Curiel - Dermatology
Dr. Robert Livingston - HemOnc
Dr. Ana Maria Lopez - HemOnc
Dr. Thomas Miller - HemOnc
Dr. Alison Stopeck - HemOnc
Dr. Andrew Yeager - HemOnc
Dr. Leonard Ditmanson - Geriatrics
Dr. Mark Friedman - Cardiologist
Dr. Eric Gall - Rheumatology
Dr. Vicki Greiff - Geriatrics
Dr. Joanne Jeter - HemOnc
Dr. David Johnson - Endocrinology
Dr. Norman Levine - Dermatology
Dr. Jeffrey Lisse - Rheumatology
Dr. Linda Snyder - Pulmonary
Dr. Harold Szerlip - Nephrology
The 2011 UA Cares Campaign kicked off on October 11, and this is a time when University employees have the opportunity to donate to any programs of their choice here at the University, and to non-profit initiatives locally, nationally and globally. Each year, hundreds of UA employees support our students, research, athletics, the arts, and other worthwhile programs. Every gift is important and appreciated. Your gifts can go to support any program that you choose including our own Department of Medicine!

This year there are two new UA Cares giving options:

The University of Arizona Employee Emergency Fund (EEF) provides employees with the opportunity to support colleagues who face an unexpected, temporary financial hardship as a result of sudden illness, a family crisis or a natural disaster. This new program is a fantastic avenue for helping colleagues in need.

Another great program that is receiving an upgrade for this year’s campaign is Arizona Assurance, which allows low-income students to attend UA without incurring debt. An anonymous donor has pledged $50,000 to match, dollar-for-dollar, gifts through UA Cares to the Arizona Assurance Endowment.

As always gifts can be made to scholarship programs in colleges and department across campus. As a UA Department of Medicine faculty member, you know firsthand what it takes to make our University one of the best in the nation. Your gift to the department of your choice keeps our University strong.

Tanya Gonzales is serving as this year’s UA Cares coordinator. She will be emailing you with campaign information and can be reached at 626-6349. Tanya will be happy to answer any questions or address any concerns you have about the UA Cares employee giving campaign.

Payroll deduction gifts can be made online through UAccess - Self Service - Payroll & Compensation - UA Cares. Or you can complete the pledge form that Tanya will send to you through email and return it to Tanya by 11/28/2011.
Spotlight on Cardiology
Cardiology Program Honored

Becker’s Hospital Review recently announced its list of 65 Hospitals with Great Cardiology Programs, and I am pleased to inform you that University of Arizona Medical Center is one of them. The editorial staff of Becker’s Hospital Review recognizes these hospitals as leaders in heart care and clinical quality.

These hospitals offer outstanding heart care, and the Becker’s Hospital Review editorial team selected them based on clinical accolades, quality care and contributions to the field of cardiology. These hospitals have been recognized for excellence in this specialty by reputable healthcare rating resources, including U.S. News & World Report, HealthGrades, Thomson Reuters, the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association and the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Based on the variety and breadth of recognition these hospitals have earned in the industry, Becker’s Hospital Review feels these are some of the greatest cardiology programs in the country and worthy of acknowledgement.

Dr. Kern Honored

Dr. Karl Kern was elected as the American Heart Association (AHA) National Council on Cardio-pulmonary, Critical Care, Perioperative and Resuscitation Chairman for 2011-2013.

The Council is dedicated to the mission of the AHA and American Stroke Association. Their bench-to-bedside and community approach ranges from integrated cardio-pulmonary physiology to issues of critical care, emergency cardiovascular care and CPR.

Sarver Heart Center Resuscitation Research Group Receives Public Health Service Award

The University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center Resuscitation Research Group received the Public Health Service Award for 2011 from the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) and Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).

Each year ArMA and ADHS recognize an individual or group of individuals whose contributions to public health have been significant.

This award was presented in recognition of the Resuscitation Research Group’s successful advocacy of the chest-compression-only CPR technique in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. The following physicians received the award on behalf of the group:

Gordon A. Ewy, MD – director of the UA Sarver Heart Center and professor of cardiology in the UA College of Medicine.

Karl B. Kern, MD – chair of the UA Sarver Heart Center Resuscitation Research Group, acting chief, Section of Cardiology in the UA College of Medicine.

Bentley J. Bobrow, MD – medical director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System, member of the UA Sarver Heart Center Resuscitation Research Group.

To learn chest-compression-only CPR, please visit www.heart.arizona.edu and click on the “Be A Lifesaver” link to view a six-minute training video and find other resources.
Endocrinology Update

Congratulations to Hussein Yassine, MD, Assistant Professor and Director, Lipid Clinic, for two recent grant awards. He received one of the competitive UA Faculty Seed Grants for his project entitled, “The HDL Proteome in Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease” to identify inflammatory protein clusters and composition of HDL. He is also the recipient of the Edward and Virginia Madden Award from the Sarver Heart Center for “Understanding HDL structure and function using proteomics,” to study the effects of statins and niacin in relation to HDL protein composition.

Craig S. Stump, MD, PhD, Section Chief, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Hypertension, and Hussein Yassine, MD, Director, Lipid Clinic will serve as co-investigators on a new NIH R24 four-year grant, awarded to principal investigator, Dr. Randall Nelson at Arizona State University. The collaborative project, “Team Approach to Translate Novel Biomarkers for Diabetes” also includes Drs. Serrine Lau and Dean Billheimer from the UA, Dr. Peter Reaven from the Carl T. Hayden VA Diabetes Program in Phoenix, and Dr. James Pearson of Pfizer (Molecular Medicine Clinical Proteomics). The aim of the project is to establish the pathway for discovery, verification, validation and translation of new biomarkers of cardiovascular risk in diabetes, as a key component for the overarching long-term goal of identifying prognostic markers of CVD risk and developing their use in drug development and beyond into diabetes care.

Diabetes Clinic at UAMC South Campus

The Department of Medicine is pleased to support the upcoming Diabetes Clinic at UAMC South Campus, to be located on the first floor of the Abrams Building adjacent to a new Family and Community Medicine Clinic. Pima County is funding the construction of both clinics, and the Department of Medicine is currently recruiting for a Director for the Diabetes Program.

Cardiology Welcomes

Dr. Sasanka Jayasuriya joins us from her fellowship right here in our section of cardiology. Prior to her fellowship she also completed her residency here at the University of Arizona. Dr. Jayasuriya completed her MBBS at the University of Ruhuna in Galle, Sri Lanka. She was awarded the J. Allen Ginn Jr. MD Endowed Fellowship recognizing her commitment to treating all patients with the best care and respect.

Dr. Kapildeo Lotun comes to the UA from Virginia Commonwealth University where he was an Assistant Professor of Medicine, and the Chief of the Section of Vascular Medicine. Dr. Lotun completed medical school at Jipmer, Pondicherry University in India before his residency at Tufts University in Boston, MA. He also received his training in vascular medicine while at Tufts. Dr. Lotun is currently the PI on two industry funded research projects.
INPATIENT MEDICINE WELCOMES:
Dr. Jaspreet Singh joins the Department of Medicine after completing his fellowship in congestive heart failure/cardiac transplant here at the University of Arizona. Dr. Singh is also currently doing a research fellowship in cardiovascular imaging. He completed his residency at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. He received his MBBS from Dayanand Medical College, in Punjab, India. Dr. Singh is board certified in internal medicine, and has experience with the education and training of medical students, interns, and residents.

INPATIENT MEDICINE WELCOMES:
Dr. Santhosh John comes from his residency at SSM St. Mary’s Health Center affiliated with the St. Louis University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. John has worked as a consultant physician for several hospitals in India, and has authored several publications in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Ghafoor also has research experience in clinical cardiology at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, GA.

INPATIENT MEDICINE WELCOMES
Dr. Asad Ghaffor joins us from his residency at the University of Arizona. Dr. Ghafoor completed his medical school at Khyber Teaching Hospital at the University of Peshawar in Pakistan. He has been a contributing author on several publications in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Ghafoor also has research experience in clinical cardiology at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, GA.

INPATIENT MEDICINE WELCOMES
Dr. Syed Asad Ali comes from his residency here at the UA. He completed medical school at Aga Khan University in Pakistan where he was ranked 4th out of 78 students. He received many awards and honors during the course of his studies. Dr. Asad Ali has worked on several different research projects including investigating the circadian pattern of arrhythmias in hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy patients.

INPATIENT MEDICINE WELCOMES
Dr. Sudhir Kumar Tutiki comes to us after completing his residency here at the University of Arizona. Dr. Tutiki completed his medical studies at SCB Medical College in India. He has previous experience in departments of burns and surgery. Dr. Tutiki is a member of ACP and AMA.

INFECTIONOUS DISEASE WELCOMES:
Dr. Tirdad Zangeneh joins us from the University of Miami where he completed his residency and fellowship. Dr. Zangeneh completed his DO at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. He is board certified in internal medicine, and has experience with the education and training of medical students, interns, and residents.

The search committee is chaired by Dr. Craig Stump. Please see UA Human Resources, http://www.hr.arizona.edu, click on “Applicant Resources”, “Apply for jobs”, “Search Postings”. Search for Job# 47711 for detailed information about this new position to share with colleagues around the country. The clinic is scheduled to open in the Fall, 2012.
Dr. John Cunningham: sponsored T-GEN for a project titled: “Tumor Glycomics Laboratory for Pancreatic Carcinoma.”

Dr. Bruce Kaplan: sponsored by U NE for a project titled: “Multi-Center Trial...Safety of Single-Dose vs Traditional Admin...”

Dr. Stephen Klotz: sponsored by the AZDHS for HIV Care Services

Dr. Stephen Klotz: sponsored by SAAFI for the Ryan White Programs.

Dr. Franz Rischard: sponsored by Actelion for a project titled, “A Multi-Center, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase 3 Study to Demonstrate the Efficacy and Safety of ACT-293987 in Patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension.”

Dr. Franz Rischard: sponsored by Gilead for a Phase 4 - Randomized, Multicenter Study.

Dr. Craig Stump: sponsored by JJPRD for a Randomized Double Blind 26 Week Extension.

Dr. Gordon Carr joins us from his fellowship in the Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Chicago Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois where he also completed his residency. He completed his MC at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, Virginia. Dr. Carr serves as a reviewer for the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Tara Carr comes from her fellowship at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois where she also completed her residency. Dr. Carr completed her MD at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, Virginia. Dr. Carr is board certified in internal medicine. She is the recipient of several excellence in teaching awards from Northwestern University, and is a member of the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology.

Lillian Hansen, RN, MS., M.Ed is a Research Nurse Coordinator in the Section of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine. She works as part of a collaborative, multidisciplinary team approach to the care of patients with pulmonary hypertension.

Dr. James Knepler joins the Department of Medicine from the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. Dr. Knepler completed his MD and residency at The Ohio State University before finishing his fellowship at Indiana University. Dr. Knepler is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine.

Dr. Dena L’Heureux completed her MD, residency and fellowship here at the University of Arizona. Dr. L’Heureux’s clinical interests include critical care and sepsis syndromes and septic shock. Her research interests include sepsis and ILD. Dr. L’Heureux is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, and critical care medicine. She is a member of the Valley Fever Alliance of Arizona Clinicians.

Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy joins us from the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System where he was the Chief of Research. Dr. Parthasarathy completed his medical studies at Madras Medical College in Chennai, India and did his residency in internal medicine at Loyola University of Chicago in Maywood Illinois where he also completed his fellowship. Dr. Parthasarathy is the Chair of the Grant Review Committee for the American Sleep Foundation, and is Associate Editor of the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine.