



Dr. Jil Tardif Links Gene Mutations With Heart Disease Precursors

It may be easier in the future to test and potentially provide early treatment for the one in 500 people affected by hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. World-class scientist and cardiologist Dr. Jil Tardiff, is working to understand HCM and develop preventative treatment.

Dr. Tardiff holds the Steven M. Gootter Endowed Chair for the Prevention and Treatment of Sudden Cardiac Death at the UA Sarver Heart Center.

At present, very little is known about the development of the disease which is

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Letter from the Department Chairman

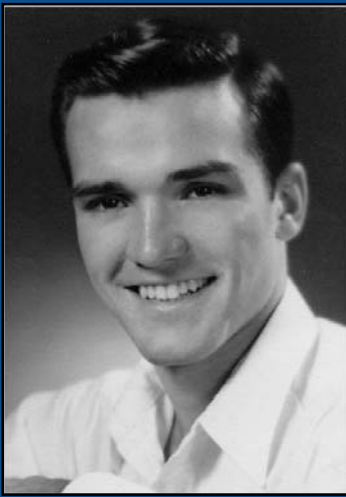


This has been an interesting quarter for UAHN and the DOM. A number of major decisions have been made that will have a significant impact on all of us. We have been using Allscripts for a number of years. As you are aware the government has decided that we all need an EMR and we are going to ICD-10 as well. The government has requirements for both and we were led to believe by Allscripts that they were going to meet those requirements with new versions of the EMR. However, several deadlines were missed and despite meetings with their management no improvements were seen. Therefore, it was decided to move to Epic which already meets federal guidelines. In addition, Epic is felt to be the best EMR available and about 50% of academic centers use Epic. The Epic team has been created and is housed at Wilmot. The goal is to have Epic up and running in about 18 months. This is an aggressive but achievable goal.

As you are all aware the Arizona State legislature eliminated certain groups, such as adults without children or depen-

dents, from AHCCCS coverage. They also said no new children could be added to the program. The outcome of this was a significant increase in the number of uninsured or underinsured patients being cared for at both hospitals resulting in a significant loss of money. UAHN partnered with Phoenix Children's and Maricopa Integrated Health System to create a Safety Net Care Pool using public and private funds. This program was approved by CMS and \$229 million over the next two years is being committed to this project. UAHN's share of this is \$32 million for this year and a similar amount next year. Needless to say this has dramatically improved the financial outlook for UAHN and has filled a large hole. These monies will help provide care to more children and adults who lack or have limited insurance. Attempts are being made to seek similar reimbursement for the physician part of the care of this uninsured group as well. We remain in difficult financial times but clearly these funds will help us develop new strategies to deliver high quality care and fulfill our academic mission.

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Can you guess who this handsome young actor is?

He had his big break in the classic movie *On the Beach* starring Gregory Peck, Fred Astair, Ava Gardner and Antony Perkins. He went on to become a successful physician, a leader in his field, and a student, staff, and faculty favorite in the Department of Medicine. If you guessed it was our own Dr. Jack Boyer you were right!



Changes on the DOM Promotion & Tenure Committee

Dr. John (Jack) Boyer, Professor Emeritus, steps down on June 30th as the Chairman of the Department of Medicine's Promotion & Tenure Committee. Dr. Jack Boyer has served as the DoM P&T Chairman for over 15 years.

During Dr. Boyer's distinguished 45 year career of exceptional service in the College of Medicine he served as a faculty member in the DoM Rheumatology Section and as Chief of the Geriatrics Section. He was instrumental in developing, and was the first Co-Director of the Arizona Center of Aging. Dr. Boyer is nationally and internationally known for his work in geriatric and

immunology/rheumatology medicine, and contributed many hours to the Continuing Medical Education Program.

Dr. John T. Boyer is the epitome of a gentleman and scholar. We will miss him dearly, and wish him the best in his retirement.

There have been other recent additions to the committee as well. **Dr. Julia Indik**, and **Dr. David Johnson** have joined **Dr. Neil Ampel**, and **Dr. Jeffrey Lisse** as committee members. **Dr. Bruce Kaplan** will take over as Chairman of the Promotion and Tenure Committee beginning July 1st.

Dr. Boyer's Letter *continued from p.1*

I am very pleased to announce the following promotions:

- Dr. Daruka Mahadevan** – promoted to Professor (non tenure track)
- Dr. Marvin Slepian** – awarded tenure at his current rank of Professor
- Dr. Harold Szerlip** – awarded tenure at his current rank of Professor
- Dr. Aiden Abidov** - awarded tenure at his current rank of Associate Professor
- Dr. Soheila Nouri** - promoted to Assistant Professor

Also, congratulations to **Esklid Petersen, MD** and **David Van Wyck, MD** who have both been approved for the rank of Professor Emeritus. Thanks to all of you for your contributions to the Department of Medicine.

We also fielded a team for the American College of Physicians Arizona Chapter Doctor's Dilemma 2012. Members of the Arizona team were: Moh'd Jibreel, Naser Mahmoud, and Ahmad Al-Khashman. The team represented the state Chapter at the national competition in New Orleans and placed second overall. Congratulations for a job well done.

A word about progress on the merging of UMC and UPH into UAHN. I am happy to say that there has been significant progress. A new board for UAHN has been selected and once approved by ABOR, will meet and begin the important process of selecting a new CEO for the corporation. That process is likely to take 9 months but it is critical that the right person be selected for this job. The new U of A president will be part of the selection process and we all have high expectations that a highly qualified individual will be selected. An interim administrator for the practice plan, Lynn Schneider-Grennan, has been selected. Lynn has extensive experience in the management of a practice plan such as ours and is working hard to make changes to the practice plan which I believe will be of significant benefit to us all.

Lastly, the DOM has done well financially. We were positive to our budget (still lost money) and revenues have never been higher. This success reflects both the hard work of the physicians and extenders and the efforts by our coders and other administrators to capture our charges. We will continue to work hard to capture the work that all of you do. You all can help the process by the timely completion and signing of your notes.

Section Spotlight

Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy & Sleep Medicine



Dr. Sairam
Parthasarathy



Dr. James
Knepler



Dr. Tara
Carr

The section of Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy, and Sleep Medicine has been growing rapidly. There are several new programs, procedures, and faculty all contributing to the continued success of this section.

One recent addition to the section is the Center for Sleep Disorders. Under the leadership of **Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy**, the center was opened at UAMC University Campus on January 31, 2012. The center includes an inter-disciplinary team that have a broad range of expertise in sleep medicine ranging from Pulmonary, Pediatrics, to Psychology and Psychiatry. It is a comprehensive center, and includes a sleep lab so that they can fully serve their patient's needs.

Recently, the Center has recruited a new sleep technician and will be expanding to provide service more nights per week. The new technician is **Tanya Court**, and she is board certified as a sleep technologist. Also, **Ashleigh Deighan, RN** joined the sleep program to help provide better patient-centered care.

Another new addition is the introduction of bronchial thermoplasty procedures for the management of asthma. **Dr. James Knepler** was the first in the state to offer this procedure to patients with asthma that wheeze despite the benefits of other more familiar asthma treatments. Bronchial thermoplasty is a novel, non-drug procedure that can help control severe asthma.

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Dr. Tardiff

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why following young patients who have a genetic mutation for HCM but have not developed it is vital to understand how the disease can develop.

Strongly genetically correlated, HCM is caused by one of at least 800 known mutations in the genetic code of a cellular structure called a sarcomere. The sarcomere is made up of several proteins, and the mutations could tell the body to produce malformed proteins that in turn cause abnormal formation of the heart. One of Dr. Tardiff's ambitions is to establish an HCM clinic in Tucson in the future. "Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is a known problem, and there is no HCM clinic or facility in the Southwest," she said. "So why not build one in Tucson?"

To read the full article go to:

www.uanews.org/node/47274

DOM ONLINE

www.deptmedicine.arizona.edu

What's New on the Web?

Pulmonary and critical care fellowship resources have just gotten easier to find. Thanks to the work of incoming pulmonary fellow **Dr. Mohammed Alzoubaidi** this section of our website is being developed into something that will be very useful for



current, incoming, and potential fellows. Dr. Alzoubaidi will be expanding the resources to include research information, news and events, and of course information on the fellowship programs offered by the section. Check out the changes at www.deptmedicine.arizona.edu/pulmonary-fellowship/home

Congrats!

Dr. Peter Lance and **Dr. Patricia Carino** were awarded 4.9 million by NCI for Selenium Colorectal Cancer Chemoprevention Trials. A positive outcome in The Selenium Trial would contribute evidence in favor of a role for Selenium supplements in colorectal cancer prevention.

Dr. Aiden Abidov and **Dr. Kapildeo Lotun** were selected as part of a group of 15 physicians for the next Learning to Lead Program. This program is designed to foster the development of the next generation of faculty leaders for UAMC.

Dr. Laura Meinke received a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of her sustained and invaluable educational contributions to the Arizona Simulation Technology and Education Center (ASTEC).

Section Spotlight *continued from p. 3*

This new procedure uses radiofrequency waves to heat up and shrink the muscle layer around the lungs preventing airways from restricting as much during an attack.

Bronchial thermoplasty is an outpatient procedure and was approved by the FDA in 2010 for adults with severe asthma that is not well controlled on current medications.

Finally **Dr. Tara Carr** is heading up a new adult allergy clinic. The Adult Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology program offers comprehensive evaluation and care of

adult allergic, asthmatic and immunologic diseases, provides medical education, and participates in national asthma research programs with the University of Arizona's Arizona Respiratory Center and American Lung Association-Asthma Clinical Research Center network. Dr Carr is Board-Certified in Internal Medicine and Allergy & Immunology.

We are pleased to be the only Southern Arizona facility to offer a coordinated approach to nasal and sinus problems in the combined ENT/Allergy clinic, with Dr Alexander Chiu, Chief of Otolaryngology, and Dr Steven Goldstein, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology.

Dr. Tejo Vemulapalli Named Section Chief



Dr. Tejo Vemulapalli

The Department of Medicine is pleased to announce that **Dr. Tejo Vemulapalli** has been selected as Section Chief of Inpatient Medicine. Dr. Vemulapalli has served as Interim Section Chief since July of 2011. He has been an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Arizona since 2007. Dr. Vemulapalli is Board Certified in Internal Medicine.

During his tenure as Interim Section Chief, Dr. Vemulapalli has helped to create successful and valuable inpatient teams at UAMC University and South Campuses. Since his appointment the section has grown from 15 hospitalists to 22, and is projected to reach 27 faculty members by FY13. Dr. Vemulapalli has been recognized by the hospital administration for his willingness to partner on key initiatives related to patient progression. He has fostered collaboration and improvement to the quality of care that we are able to provide to our patients. In addition to patient care, he is committed to the education of our trainees, and is working toward the creation of an inpatient medicine fellowship program in the future.

Dr. Vemulapalli has already shown himself to be a capable and reliable leader for this important part of the department. We are pleased to have him as the Section Chief for Inpatient Medicine, and look forward to continued growth and improvements under his leadership.

Another Great Match Day

This job could not have been done if it were not for the time that you all donated to the recruitment process, thank you.

It is our pleasure to announce the 2012-2013 interns for the Department of Medicine Residency Training Program at UAMC University Campus.

Laila Abu Zaid	University of Jordan
Kefah Al-Ramahi	University of Jordan
Nathan Copeland	University of Arizona
Jeffrey Costas	Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine
Melissa Crawley	Rosalind Franklin University
Soumo De	University of Arizona
Cristian Dominguez	University of Texas at Houston
Hyon-he Garza	University of Illinois
Silvija Gottesman	University of Arizona
Khaled Hamed	University of Jordan
Emad Hammode	Jordan University of Science & Tech
Seth Hanley	Saint Louis University
Shubha Kollampara	Kasturba Medical College
Andrew Kovoov	Texas A & M
Hao Li	Texas A & M
Sherif Makar	Saint Louis University
Elisa McDaniel	St. George's University
Rachelle Miles	University of South Dakota
Christine Moussa	A.T. Still University
Kamilia Nozile	University of Florida
Eric Ong	St. George's University

Gustavo Ortega	University of Texas/Galveston
Toral Parikh	University of Texas at San Antonio
Soyoung Park	Tulane University
Snehal Patel	Western University of Health Sciences
Preethi Reddy	Ross University
Irbaz Riaz	Nishtar Medical College
Brentin Roller	Touro University
Scott Rosen	University of Tennessee
Neha Soares	Topiwala National Medical College
Tiffany Thornton	State University of New York Downstate
Amanda Valles	University of Arizona
Courtney Walker	Kansas City University
Jessica Yan	St. George's University

Fast Facts about Match Day at UAMC University Campus:

- **3350 Applications Received**
- **472 Invitations Sent**
- **310 Interviews**
- **34 New Residents**

Match Day at UAMC - South Campus

The Internal Medicine Residency Program at University of Arizona Medical Center – South Campus is pleased to announce our new interns for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Fast Facts about Match Day at UAMC South Campus:

- **2395 Applications**
- **220 Invited**
- **112 Interviews**
- **9 New Residents**

Seth Assar	Ross University School of Medicine
Aaron Fernandes	St. George's University
Prathima Guruguri	Guntur Medical College
Juxiang (Jennifer) Huang	Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Midwestern University
Adil Lokhandwala	Ross University School of Medicine
Krunal Patel	Topiwala National Medical College
Natasha Sharda	St. George's University
Elizabeth Ulliman	St. George's University
Qi Yu	Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Midwestern University

Annual Service Awards

Every year the University of Arizona celebrates the milestone years of service at its Annual Service Awards Lunch. This year the event was held on April 19th, and the Department of Medicine had a few invited participants. Congratulations to all of them for their outstanding contributions to the UA and the DoM!

Karen Stanley - 25 yrs

Dr. Alpert - 20 yrs

Todd Boltz - 20 yrs

Dr. Mackstaller - 15 yrs

Dr. Klotz - 10 yrs

Grants & Awards

Dr. Thomas Boyer:

awarded funding for the Residency Training Program for Internal Medicine by the Tucson Hospitals Medical Education Program, Inc.

Dr. John Cunningham:

sponsored by the Translational Genomic Research Institute for a project titled: *Tumor Glycomics Laboratory for Discovery of Pancreatic Cancer Markers*.

Dr. Mindy Fain:

sponsored by the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center for a project titled: *Comprehensive Programs to Strengthen Physician's Training in Geriatrics*.

Dr. Mindy Fain:

sponsored by the University of California - Irvine for a project titled: *Communication: the Art of Geriatric Medicine*.

Dr. Mindy Fain:

sponsored by the University of Massachusetts for a project titled: *Integrated Geriatrics Education: A Model Curriculum Across the Medical Education Continuum*.

Annual Awards Reception Recognizes Achievement



Dr. Nathaniel Rial and his daughters receive the Program Director's Outstanding Humanism & Professionalism Award from **Dr. William Johnson** at the DoM Awards Reception on April 24th.

This time of year there are many good opportunities to show appreciation for the hard work of our students, houseofficers, and faculty educators. The Department of Medicine hosts an annual awards reception to give all of the sections the opportunity to recognize outstanding accomplishments. This year the reception was held on April 24th at the Arizona Inn. Many of the sections were represented and gave awards to people whose hard work deserved to be recognized. Some of the awards are selected by the faculty, others are voted on by the students. Below are some of the awards that were given out in our department this year.



Faculty, houseofficers and students gather at the AZ Inn for the awards reception.

- JW Smith MD Award for the Best Graduating Senior in Medicine - **Dr. Aldine Chandler**
- Outstanding Intern - **Dr. Jennifer Hill**
- Outstanding Resident - **Dr. Justin Roesch**
- Outstanding Attending - **Dr. JP Ferreira**
- Program Director's Outstanding Humanism & Professionalism Award - **Dr. Nathaniel Rial**
- John T Boyer Award in Geriatrics - Outstanding Graduating Senior Medical Student in Geriatrics - **Dr. Natasha Bhuyan**
- John T Boyer Award in Geriatrics - Outstanding Internal Medicine Resident in Geriatrics - **Dr. Preethi William**
- Outstanding Medical Student in Endocrinology - **Dr. Arianne Baldomero**
- Zenas B Noon, MD Award for Excellence in Cardiology - **Dr. Shanaz Aikder & Dr. Jennifer Kim**
- Charles W Hall Jr Memorial Award for Outstanding Houseofficers on the Coronary Care Unit Rotation - **Dr. Tam Nguyen & Dr. Brandon Snyder**
- Outstanding Medical Student in Infectious Diseases - **Jennifer Pitt**
- Outstanding Resident in Infectious Diseases - **Dr. Stephen Njoroge**
- Pulmonary Novak Award - **Dr. Aldine Chandler**

Department of Medicine in the Community

The staff and appointed personnel in the DoM always play an important role in the success of our department. However, in addition to the hard work that they put in here, many of them also play an important role in the community. Recently, members of our department have generously volunteering as groups in the community, and are helping spread a positive message about who we are in the Department of Medicine.



Judy Grant (front) and **Cynthia Campas** prepare enchiladas as part of the “Chef for a Day” program.

Several of the Department of Medicine managers participated in the Ronald McDonald House “Chef for a Day” program. The Ronald McDonald House which is located near the UAMC North Campus provides a “Home Away from Home” for families who must travel to Tucson for medical care. The group had a great time cooking and sharing a delicious meal with the families staying there.

Another large group of volunteers were involved in the “Cats in the Community Day”. This year the volunteers worked to improve *World Care Civilian Emergency Relief Center*. The non-profit focuses efforts on the environment, health, education and emergency relief. While their aid program has a global reach, 87% of their resources are utilized in Southern Arizona with programs in four critical areas: Tools for Schools, Tools for Health, Tools for Emergency Relief, and Tools for Earth. Volunteers cleaned, painted, organized, and planted to help give the non-profit a new look, and to give back to the community as a whole.

The Department of Medicine had more than 30 staff, appointed personnel, and clinic staff participating. As a group we contributed 72 hours.

Volunteers working on a mural during “Cats in the Community Day”.



Grants & Awards

Dr. Janet Funk:
sponsored by the National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine for a project titled: *Identification of Natural Product Inhibitors of Breasts Cancer Bone Metastasis*.

Dr. Bruce Kaplan:
sponsored by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for a project titled: *Kidney Donor Outcomes Cohort (KDOC) Study*.

Dr. Bruce Kaplan:
sponsored by Novartis Pharmaceutical Corp for a project titled: *A Multi-Center, Randomized, Open-Label Study of Efficacy and Safety Comparing Everolimus with Low Dose Tacrolimus to...*

Dr. Stephen Klotz:
sponsored by Health Resources & Services Administration for a project titled: *Ryan White Part C Outpatient EIS Program*.

Dr. Stephen Klotz:
sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services for a project titled: *HIV Care Services*.

Grants & Awards

Dr. Franz Rischard:

sponsored by United Therapeutics Corporation for two projects. One was titled:

An Open-Label Extension Trial of UT-15C SR in Subjects with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension.

The second was titled: *A 12 Week Randomized, Dose Response Study of UT-15C (tresprostinil dethanolamine) SR in patients with exercise-induced pulmonary hypertension.*

Dr. Sujata Sarkar:

awarded the *Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award*. by the National Institute of Arthritis Musculoskeletal Skin Diseases.

Dr. Laura Wright:

sponsored by the National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine for a project titled: *Ginger Extracts in the Prevention of Metabolic Bone Disease.*

Dr. Tirdad Zangeneh:

awarded an IDSA Travel Grant by Infectious Diseases Society of America.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



CARDIOLOGY WELCOMES:

Dr. Jil Tardiff accepted the Steven M Gootter Endowed Chair for the Prevention and Treatment of Sudden Cardiac Death. Dr. Tardiff comes to the University of Arizona from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Dr. Tardiff is a professor in the department of medicine section of cardiology and the department of cellular and molecular medicine in the UA College of Medicine, and the BIO5 Institute.



GERIATRICS, GENERAL & PALLIATIVE MEDICINE WELCOMES:

Dr. Julie Jernberg comes to the University of Arizona from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Jernberg completed her MD at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Rockford, Illinois. She completed her fellowship in geriatrics at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison, Wisconsin.



INPATIENT MEDICINE WELCOMES:

Dr. Catalin Florita comes to the University of Arizona from Mon Valley Hospital in Pennsylvania. Dr. Florita completed his medical studies at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest Romania. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the Metropolitan Hospital Center in New York, New York.



INPATIENT MEDICINE WELCOMES:

Dr. Aneela Majeed completed her internship, and internal medicine residency here at the University of Arizona. She completed her MBBS at Punjab Medical College in Pakistan. Dr. Majeed is a member associate of the American College of Physicians, and a member of the American Medical Association.