Message From The Chair

First, a nice pat on the back to all those who helped prepare for surveys this month by the AAMC Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson and The Joint Commission of Banner – University Medical Center South. We learned in an email from Dr. Irving L. Kron, interim dean of the college and UA Health Sciences senior associate vice president, and Dr. Kevin Moynahan, the college’s deputy dean for education and a professor of medicine, that preliminary LCME findings were very positive. Likewise, Banner – UMC Tucson and South CEO Sarah Frost reported the TJC triennial survey was full of “nothing but praise” in what was called “the best report I’ve seen” and “great team work!” Congratulations everyone.

In addition, cheers to our residency programs on board passage rates. The newsletter reported last month about a 5-year, 100-percent streak for our Dermatology residents. We just learned the University Campus' Internal Medicine Residency Program enjoyed a 97 percent passage rate with all residents participating this year. The South Campus program also enjoys a 93 percent 3-year rolling board passage rate (2016-18), not including this year’s graduates, which is the third highest of all IM residency programs in the state. Hats off to directors Drs. James Sligh, Laura Meinke and Gene Trowers and teams in preparing residents for the exams and faculty for training them!

That said, look for more kudos for our faculty (and come applaud them) at the first-ever Clinical Excellence Awards at the COM-T General Faculty Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Nov. 7, in Kiewit Auditorium; the COM-T Faculty Teaching Awards ceremony, noon, Nov. 8, in DuVal Auditorium; and the DOM General Faculty Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Nov. 8, in UAHS Room 5403. Dr. Kron (pictured left) will attend our faculty meeting.

A reminder to all that due to medical student curriculum changes that shorten pre-clinical studies to 16 months, we will experience “The Overlap” from Feb. 25 to July 5, 2019—a period when we’ll have additional medical students in clinical training, i.e., clerkships, due to a transition between the two curricula. For the Class of 2021, students...
will now move into their clinical experience in the second year rather than the traditional third year of med school. But we'll still have Class of 2020 students finishing their clerkships. For a few months, that means all hands on deck in accepting students into clinics. As the student load will involve 143 clinics a week, all faculty will need to help. No one can say no. I encourage you all to project a positive attitude to fellow faculty and students. Let's all remember to smile and show patience as we share this learning experience.

For another look ahead, the college's Founders Day Lecture with Dr. Todd Vanderah will be Nov. 16 in DuVal. Also mark your calendars for Wednesday, Jan. 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for the next DOM Principal Investigator (PI) Poster Night in Kiewit Auditorium. We're looking for as many junior faculty presenters as possible to showcase their research. A Fellows Research Day is being planned for next spring, too—more to come regarding that event later.

Lastly, at a recent department leadership meeting, Dr. Tammy Ojo, DOM associate chair for clinical affairs, noted that a planned Cerner outage from 11 p.m., Nov. 29, to noon, Nov. 30, may affect Friday clinics. Be aware and plan accordingly, please.

Monica Kraft, MD  
Robert & Irene Flinn Professor of Medicine  
Chair, Department of Medicine  
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson

UPCOMING EVENTS

| NOV 1 | UAHS LGBTQ Health Disparities Patient Panel at UA Cancer Center |
| NOV 2 | Sarver Heart Center Grand Rounds with Emory University’s Dr. Gautam Kumar |
| NOV 3 | Melanoma Walk 2018 |
| NOV 5 | Ventana Research Lecture on Pim protein kinase with Dr. Andrew S. Kraft |
| NOV 6 | Medicine Grand Rounds with Dr. Jorge Gomez on ‘Clinical Translational Sciences Graduate Programs’ |
| NOV 6 | Regulatory Science Series – CDER Update with the FDA’s Rob Berlin |
| NOV 7 | UA College of Medicine General Faculty Meeting & Clinical Excellence Awards |
| NOV 8 | 39th Annual Faculty Teaching Awards & Vernon and Virginia Furrow Awards |
| NOV 8 | Department of Medicine General Faculty Meeting |
| NOV 8 | Living Healthy With Arthritis — Meet the Researchers Conquering Arthritis |
| NOV 13 | Regulatory Science Series: Nanotechnology & Drug Regulation with Dr. Heidi Mansour |
| NOV 14 | Genetics and Genomics Grand Rounds with Leslie Lange, PhD: ‘Cardiovascular Disease & Diabetes Phenotypes’ |
Lung Transplant Program Earns 'Distinction' from Blue Cross Blue Shield

Physicians at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson—among them DOM transplant pulmonologists **Drs. Steve Knoper** and **Josh Malo**—can take much of the credit for recent news Banner – UMC Tucson has been recognized by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association as a Blue Distinction Center® for lung transplants. It’s the second such feat in a year, as the lung transplant program earned Aetna Institutes of Excellence™ status last fall. Both should broaden the geographic base of the program’s clientele…

DOM Faculty to Take Quarter 2018 College Faculty Teaching Awards

Several faculty members and houseofficers from the UA Department of Medicine will split recognition for nine honors Nov. 8, at noon, in DuVal Auditorium, for the 39th Annual UA College of Medicine – Tucson Faculty Teaching Awards and Vernon and Virginia Furrow Awards Ceremonies. Come help us celebrate **Drs. John Bloom, Erika Bracamonte, J.P. Ferreira, Elizabeth Juneman, Robert Segal, Amy Sussman, (resident) Bonnie Barbee** and (chief resident) **Kris Kumar**…
UA/Banner Tucson Structural Heart Team Reaches Another Milestone

The UA Structural Heart Disease Program team, including Drs. Kapil Lotun and Ranjith Shetty in the Division of Cardiology, at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson reached another milestone this week in completing the first ever transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedure on a patient with a bicuspid aortic valve utilizing only transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) to guide them and no contrast dye. The procedure also was unique in that only a minimum of dye was employed in final diagnoses preparations for the procedure and no CT scan was used at all. The reason for no dye was to protect the patient who suffered from kidney disease...

RESEARCH

Drs. Breathett, Merchant Put Spotlight on DOM Research at 2nd Innovations & Inventions Fair

Medical researchers, faculty and staff from the UA College of Medicine – Tucson gathered on a rainy, chilly evening Oct. 16, for the 2018 Innovations and Inventions research fair. The second annual event spotlighted new and up-and-coming basic scientists and clinicians, their research endeavors and success stories. Drs. Khadijah Breathett (Cardiology) and Juanita Merchant (Gastroenterology) represented the UA Department of Medicine. See the photos, watch the video...
EDUCATION

Four from Department of Medicine Honored with First-Ever COM-T Clinical Excellence Awards

Hospitalist Dr. Bujji Ainapurapu, geriatrician Dr. Monica Vandivort, infectious disease specialist Dr. Tirdad Zangeneh and pathologist Dr. Erika Bracamonte, who heads the Renal Biopsy Service with a dual appointment in the Division of Nephrology, were among 10 UA College of Medicine – Tucson faculty to be presented Nov. 7 with the inaugural Clinical Excellence Awards at the college’s general faculty meeting...

V Foundation Grant Allows Dr. Chalasani and Team to Work on Expanding Clinical Trials Across Arizona

Dr. Pavani Chalasani, who heads the UA Hematology & Medical Oncology Fellowship and leads the UA Cancer Center’s breast cancer clinical research team, is working to improve awareness of clinical trials for breast cancer patients. A nearly $60,000, one-year grant is funding a campaign to increase access to clinical trials in the state...

Sharing of New UA/Banner Health Valley Fever Clinical Guidance Designed to Avert Diagnoses Delays

Banner Health has launched new clinical practice protocols developed with input from the UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence to help primary care physicians more quickly diagnose and treat patients with Valley fever infections. To that same end, it is making those protocols available to all community physicians in hopes of heading off diagnoses delays that can severely impact patient health, compromise antimicrobial stewardship goals and the cost of treatment...

FACULTY

October Tricks and Treats Can Be Found Aplenty in DOM Facebook Photo Galleries

Haven’t followed the UA Department of Medicine on Facebook of late? You’ve missed a lot of activities highlighted there via video and photo posts as well as kudos for faculty members. Click through to learn more about the CUP Program’s 40th Anniversary, 2nd Annual Innovations & Inventions Research Fair, 3rd Annual South Campus “Pathways” High School Health Career Fair and the DOM Faculty Meet-n-Greet on Oct. 4…
8.0-CME 'Tucson Conference' Date Changed to Feb. 2

An 8.0 CME event, “THE TUCSON CONFERENCE — A CME Event for the Tucson Community,” hosted by Banner – University Medicine and Tucson Medical Center will now occur Saturday, Feb. 2, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Tucson Marriott University Park, 880 E. Second St. (instead of Oct. 20). Lead organizer for the event is DOM Chair Dr. Monica Kraft and DOM faculty instructors and panelists include Drs. Edwin Aquino, Tara Carr, Steve Knoper, Merri Pendergrass and Nancy Sweitzer. See agenda and register today…

Banner – University Medicine Welcomes Primary Care Physicians, Specialists to Green Valley Clinical Office

Several primary care providers and subspecialists are now available to see patients at the Banner – University Medicine physician offices at 1141 S. La Canada Drive in Green Valley: Drs. Jeffrey Maudlin, Kapil Lotun, Ranjith Shetty, Craig Weinkauf, David Tzou, Allison Rottman and Vlad Sauciuc. They join several other physicians already seeing patients at the clinic, including Drs. Hannah Tiu and Gerald Wolff…

Join Doximity by Nov. 15 to Have Your Say on Next U.S. News & World Report’s Best Hospitals Survey

Are you a physician interested in weighing in on the annual U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals Survey? Sign up for Doximity and join the voices of over 70 percent of U.S. doctors and 45 percent of nurse practitioners and physician assistants! See key dates for the 2019 Physician Survey. At 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 15, eligible specialists will be sorted into two groups. Both will be surveyed in early 2019….

IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology

A simulation model of an artificial artery in the lab of UA cardiologist Dr. Marvin Slepian at the UA Sarver Heart Center demonstrates “pulse wave velocity” is a feasible measurement for monitoring blood pressure. Wearable patches show promise for measuring PWV, making them a potentially inexpensive blood-pressure monitoring option…
UA cardiologist Dr. Kwan Lee again authored a daily “Off Script” blog and participated in panel discussions and a poster presentation at TCT2018 in San Diego, a global conference on transcatheter cardiovascular therapeutics, this fall. As an invited speaker in an SCAI delegation, he also spoke at a Vietnam National Heart Association meeting and the Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology…

Three new cardiologists began working recently at the UA Division of Cardiology, UA Sarver Heart Center and Banner – University Medicine in Tucson, Drs. Nader Makki, Tushar Acharya and Olivia Hung. "With these three cardiologists, we continue the rapid growth in cardiovascular medicine at the UA and Banner – UMC Tucson and enhance our ability to provide highly personalized care to patients," said Dr. Nancy K. Sweitzer, cardiology chief and center director…

Dermatology

An article that UA Dermatology’s Dr. Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski co-authored was published Oct. 10 by JAMA Dermatology. Written by members of the Melanoma Prevention Working Group’s Pigmented Lesion Subcommittee, which is affiliated with the U.S. Cooperative Oncology Groups and National Cancer Institute, it notes people with more than one atypical mole that requires excising are at higher risk of melanoma at a separate site…

Hematology and Oncology

Two Healthy Dose Blog posts from the UA Health Sciences focus our attention on cancer this month, one appropriately—as October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month—targeting BRACA1 and BRACA2 mutations. The other addresses HPV, which is causes cervical cancer and head-and-neck cancer. The first is written by the Center for Applied Genetics and Genomic Medicine’s Drs. Ken Ramos and Valerie Schaibley, the second by Brittany Forte…
Infectious Diseases

The Arizona Department of Health Services has partnered with the UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence and Tucson’s Pueblo Magnet High School to run an awareness poster contest regarding this fungal disease. The contest started Oct. 1 and will end during Valley Fever Awareness Week, which runs from Nov. 10 to Nov. 18. Winners will be announced and prizes sent out soon after the competition ends on Nov. 14...

In desert soils of the U.S. Southwest a disease lives right under foot, and researchers at UA Health Sciences are trying to find ways to fight it! A Healthy Dose blogpost by Drs. Valerie Schaibley and Ken Ramos, of the UAHS Center for Applied Genetics & Genomic Medicine, focuses on Valley fever—a fungal respiratory illness whose effects can be mild in some and crippling, even deadly, in others. Why? That’s what researchers like Dr. John Galgiani and others want to know...

Integrative Medicine

In this UA-@-Work article, Dr. Esther Sternberg, UA Center for Integrative Medicine research director and the UA’s resident expert on workplace well-being, offers advice for staying healthy at the office – like standing, stretching and getting outside. "Add up every day of your working life and these small, incremental improvements truly add up to a much happier, healthier life," she says. "You can think of your office as your new gym..."

Nephrology

Joining the national research effort, 15,000 Arizonans have enrolled as All of Us Research Program participants, supported by local partners Banner Health and the UA Health Sciences. Twelve Banner Health facilities in Pima and Maricopa counties serve as implementation centers for the UA-Banner Health All of Us Research Program. Principal investigator Dr. Akinlolu Ojo, a nephrologist and UAHS associate vice president for clinical research and global health initiatives, thanked enrollees. “We’ve reached this preliminary goal with their trust and continued support. We also are grateful for the tangible and unflinching support of (UA/Banner) leadership”...
UA pulmonologist Dr. Sachin Chaudhary will co-chair a complimentary 1.0-CME event, “Empowering the IPF Patient,” Dec. 3, at Aloft Tucson University with National Jewish Health’s Dr. Gregory Cosgrove, who also is CMO for the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation—a co-sponsor of the event. The event is free and open to the public. Patients and caregivers are welcome to attend. See the agenda and register today...

A renowned UA pulmonary physician-scientist whose research and clinical interests focus on severe asthma, Dr. Monica Kraft is featured in four articles with videos in MD Magazine and its online presence at mdmag.com related to her participation at the 2018 CHEST Annual Meeting, the yearly conference of the American College of Chest Physicians, in San Antonio, Oct. 6-10. View them all at this link...

Led by Dr. Kent Kwoh, UA Arthritis Center director and Division of Rheumatology chief, researchers had 15 abstracts accepted for the 2018 American College of Rheumatology-American Rheumatology Health Professionals Annual Meeting, Oct. 19-24, in Chicago. PGY2 rheumatology fellow Dr. Manjinder Kaur won first place in the 2018 Image Competition. In addition, division faculty and researchers presented a series of lectures for “Spotlight on Arthritis Week” at world-renowned Canyon Ranch Health Resort in Tucson, Oct. 9-12. All this and more...

This Just In...

"UA College of Medicine – Tucson Singles Out 10 to Be Recognized for Clinical Excellence at General Faculty Meeting, Nov. 7"

"Thanks to $1.72M Grant: UA Researchers Using Green Light for HIV-Related Pain as Astonishing Therapy Moves to Next Phase of Study"

"UA Skin Cancer Institute Presents 9th Annual Melanoma Walk, Family Fun & Screening Event, Nov. 3, at UA Mall"
"UA Student-Run Medical Clinic Open House Celebrates 40th Anniversary of Commitment to Underserved People (CUP) Program"

"New UA Researchers Showcase Medical Research at 2nd Annual Innovations and Inventions Fair, Oct. 16"

"Facebook Status: Sick. How People Use Internet to Cope with Illness"

"John Ehiri, PhD, to Lead Data Tracking and Evaluation Core for NIH All of Us Research Program at UA-Banner"

"UA Study: Naps Hinder Learning in Children With Down Syndrome"

"UA Establishes New Arizona Center for Drug Discovery: Taking Drug Discoveries from Research to Reality"

"UA Targeting Rhabdomyosarcoma, a Rare Pediatric Cancer with Few Treatment Options"

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