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November 2018

Message From The Chair

At a recent departmental leadership meeting, we heard from **Scott Hofferber**, chief operating officer for Banner – University Medical Group in Tucson, about the Banner “Fast Pass” proposal, which also was mentioned by **Dr. Irv Kron**, interim dean of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson, at our [General Faculty Meeting on Nov. 8](#).



The Fast Pass idea is that our best customers ought to be ourselves, so let’s make it easier for folks who work at Banner and the UA Health Sciences to get appointments at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and South hospitals and clinics.

Therefore, starting Jan. 1, all Banner employees (including physicians, nurses, administrators and staff) will be able to schedule a new visit within three days of a request at Banner clinical facilities in Tucson—and no referrals are required for in-system specialist care per a standing practice with Banner Aetna insurance.

Details still are being weighed and incorporated into departmental plans under way to improve and expand access-to-care that each of our clinical divisions have been developing. Much of it may hinge on broader clinical support via advanced practice providers (APPs), i.e., nurse practitioners, and medical assistants (MAs), division chiefs noted.



Scott (*at left*) said that efficiency is another crucial element to be incorporated into the above plans and an optimization pilot also will be rolled out that may include some future reconfiguration of clinical space at Banner – University Medicine North.

“We want this to be as unobtrusive as possible and completing as much preplanning as we can will benefit that,” he said. “It really fits in with our overall strategy (to grow our market base). For many of the general specialties, we’d be looking to see if APPs would help achieve this goal.”

Afterward, a similar three-day access plan would be rolled out for UA employees. Everyone recognizes these are “low-hanging fruit” that will benefit the overall financial bottom line for clinical operations.



That bottom line along with an anticipated bump in market share with the new nine-story hospital tower at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson are expected to help turn financials from red to black after the facility opens next spring, said Dr. Kron and **Dr. Michael Dake**, UA senior vice president for health sciences, at our General Faculty Meeting.

UAHS will get back 180,000 square feet of space, Dr. Dake said, once Banner moves clinical operations into the new hospital tower over the next few months. Look for private and public tours and opening ceremonies coming in April. About 200 beds will be maintained in the old hospital wing as part of a transition to allow for capacity adjustments.

How to absorb that extra space as well as take advantage of new academic and research facilities coming online in that same timeframe and advances they'll offer in teaching and investigative methods for the future of health care, is part of the **UAHS Strategic Plan**, expected to be released in final form in early 2019.



Other topics at the faculty meeting included a request for projects by **Dr. Rick Schnellmann**, dean of the UA College of Pharmacy, to take advantage of rising interest from pharmaceutical companies—four in particular—for fundable research and a presentation by Tech Launch Arizona on how it helps investigators capitalize on innovations developed at the UA.

Also in December, look for more detail on the national Fellowship Match—held Nov. 27—regarding how the department's 17 ACGME-accredited training programs fared and where our graduating residents seeking fellowships will head next year. At this point, we know most internal medicine residents did very well with all seven seeking fellowships from South Campus matching into their top choices and similar results coming at Tucson Campus.

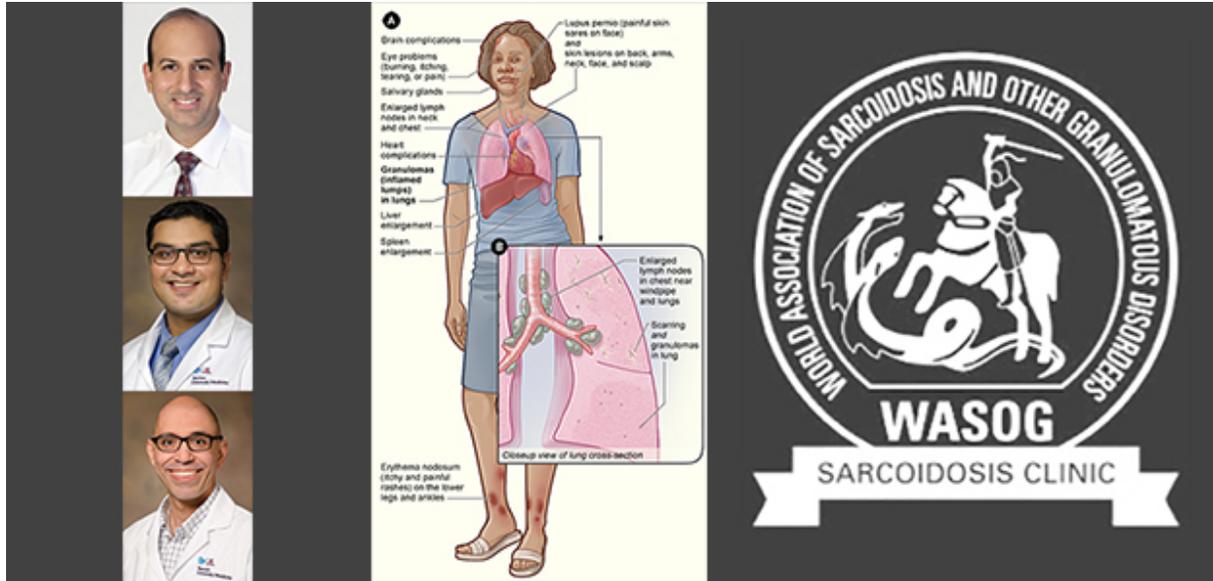
Monica Kraft, MD

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>DEC 3 Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Lecture: 'Empowering the IPF Patient'</p>	<p>DEC 4 Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds: Dr. Tom Doetschman on 'Microbiome and Mouse Colon Cancer'</p>	<p>DEC 4 Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network</p>
<p>DEC 5 Medicine Grand Rounds: Dr. Rachna Shroff on 'Novel Targets in Biliary Tract Cancers'</p>	<p>DEC 7 2018 Eric Gall, MD, Endowed Lecture: The University of Colorado's Dr. Sterling West</p>	<p>DEC 10 Advances in Aging Lecture: Dr. Kim Shea – 'Technology and Elder Independence at Home'</p>
<p>DEC 12 Medicine Grand Rounds: Dr. Craig Weinkauff on 'Non-Cardiac Vascular Surgery Emergencies'</p>	<p>DEC 13 A2DRC Research Update Seminar with Dr. Francesca Polverino on 'Deconvoluting COPD Endotypes'</p>	<p>DEC 14 Faculty Development Seminar Series - Session No. 4: 'Giving and Receiving Feedback'</p>

SPOTLIGHTS



Interstitial Lung Disease Program Designated 'WASOG Sarcoidosis Clinic'

The UA Interstitial Lung Disease Program at Banner – UMC Tucson and South is now a WASOG Sarcoidosis Clinic with its recent recognition by the World Association of Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous Disorders. Such disorders are characterized by progressive scarring from inflammatory cell clumps, largely in the lungs, but not limited to that organ. **Drs. Sachin Chaudhary** and **Bhupinder Natt** applauded the pulmonary and critical care teams on this achievement, noting it opens the program to additional patient support and clinical trials...



Pulmonary Chief to Help NIH Prioritize Research on Science of Sleep

Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy, interim chief of the UA Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, has been hired by the National Institutes of Health as an expert adviser to help coalesce a collaborative effort on a five-year, strategic plan to lay out research goals for sleep medicine and circadian science. Look for more on Dr. Parthasarathy in an upcoming *Tucson Lifestyle* magazine profile in January...



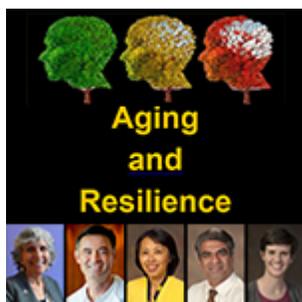
Scientific Meeting



Tucson Internal Medicine Residents Take 1st and 2nd Prizes in Four of Six Contests at ACP Arizona Chapter Scientific Meeting

Physicians in training in the UA Internal Medicine Residency Program – South Campus took first or second place in four out of a possible six categories for academic contests at the 2018 Scientific Meeting of the American College of Physician’s Arizona Chapter. Congratulations to **Drs. Alex Asadi, Nicholas Blackstone, Soraj Kumar, Sidra Raof, Juan Siordia, Sarah Tariq and Wina Yousman**. Dr. Tariq will represent state at ACP Nationals in spring. UA Phoenix internal medicine residents did well, too...

RESEARCH



CHiiLi/Aging and Resilience Career Development Awards, Pilot Funding Deadline Extended to Dec. 10

Applicants for a UA Health Sciences and College of Medicine – Tucson internal pilot competitive submission of projects in aging research now have 'til 5 p.m., Dec. 10, to enter applications. Two levels of funding (\$75,000 and \$35,000) are available. This research activity is the core of the CHiiLi (Consortium to Hasten recovery from Injury and Infection in older adults Leading to Independence) Program with CHiiLi Scholars also participating in Aging and Resilience Seminars...

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B Cell Follicles Shield HIV, Report UA Researchers

A review article published by the journal *Frontiers in Immunology* and written by the UA Division of Infectious Diseases’ **Drs. Matthew Bronniman and Elizabeth Connick** highlights recent research findings regarding the barriers to a cure for HIV that are posed by the B cell follicle...

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EDUCATION

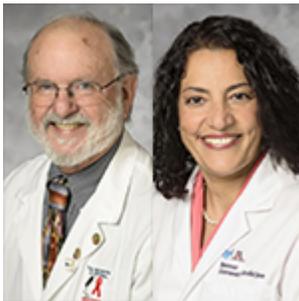


A Dozen UA College of Medicine – Tucson Teaching Awards Go to Internal Medicine Candidates

More than 20 outstanding medical educators shared 37 awards presented Thursday, Nov. 8, during the UA College of Medicine – Tucson’s 39th Annual Faculty Teaching Awards and the Vernon and Virginia Furrow Awards. Twelve were for internal medicine, including Educator of the Year and a Lifetime Award for **Dr. Amy Sussman**. See photos of all the winners as well as video from the ceremony...

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CLINICAL



New UA-Banner Health Valley Fever Clinical Protocols Made Public to Help Avoid Delays in Diagnosis

Banner Health has launched new clinical practice protocols developed with input from **Dr. John Galgiani** and the UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence to help physicians more quickly diagnose and treat patients with Valley fever infections. He and **Dr. Fariba Donovan** are giving seminars at hospitals across the state and a toolbox now is available via the center’s website for all clinicians that includes a video and tutorial ...

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Inaugural Clinical Excellence Award Winners Feted at COM – Tucson General Faculty Meeting, Nov. 7

Congratulations to **Drs. Bujji Ainapurapu, Erika Bracamonte, Monica Vandivort and Tirdad Zangeneh**, four Department of Medicine faculty members who were among 10 physicians recognized Nov. 7 at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson General Faculty Meeting with inaugural Clinical Excellence Awards by Interim Dean **Dr. Irving Kron**. See the photos, watch the video!...

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FACULTY



UAHS Career Development Award Program Seeks Class of 2019 Scholars; Apply by Dec. 10

The UA Health Sciences is seeking applicants for its UAHS Career Development Award training program. Launched in 2014 by the UA Office of the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, the program involves salary support up to \$75,000 a year for two years, plus fringe benefits, and starts Jan. 1. The submission deadline is Monday, Dec. 10. Several DOM faculty members, including **Drs. Christian Bime, Pavani Chalasani, Jarrod Mosier** and **Olga Rafikova**, are prior winners...

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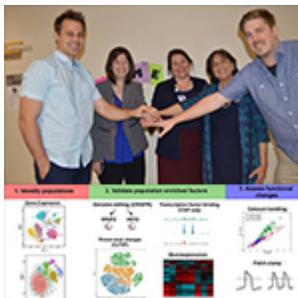
Packed House, Full Lineup and Agenda Make for Eventful Fall 2018 DOM General Faculty Meeting

Seats filled quickly at the fall UA Department of Medicine General Faculty Meeting to hear **Drs. Michael Dake** (UAHS senior vice president), **Irving Kron** (dean, UA College of Medicine – Tucson) and **Rick Schnellman** (dean, UA College of Pharmacy). Other reports came from Tech Launch Arizona, and **Drs. Tammy Ojo** (clinical affairs) and **Amy Sussman**(education). See photos and video...

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IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology



A research team led by **Dr. Jared Churko**, director of the UA iPSC Core in the UA Sarver Heart Center, used a transcriptomic approach – studying what genes are expressed – to identify gene signatures of cell subpopulations identified as atrial-like or ventricular-like. This understanding could lead to regenerative therapy discoveries for the millions of people living with damaged heart muscle caused by heart attacks or other chronic heart conditions...

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Individuals with a particular genetic factor may be more resistant to atherosclerosis, or plaque build-up in arteries that narrows the blood vessels, and thus have a reduced risk for coronary artery disease or ischemic stroke, finds a recently published paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that includes the UA's **Dr. Casey Romanoski** among its authors...



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Dermatology



A Melanoma Work Group for the American Academy of Dermatology released in early November new “Guidelines of Care for the Management of Primary Cutaneous Melanoma,” which includes among its co-authors work group member **Dr. Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski**, from the UA Division of Dermatology, UA Skin Cancer Institute and UA Cancer Center...

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Genetics & Genomics



Dr. Deborah A. Meyers, a UA professor of medicine, co-chief of the UA Division of Genetics, Genomics and Precision Medicine, and co-director of the Division of Pharmacogenomics at the UA Health Sciences Center for Applied Genetics and Genomic Medicine, was chosen to be a council member for the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum...



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Geriatrics



Geriatrician **Dr. Monica R. Vandivort**, an associate professor in the UA Division of Geriatrics, General Internal Medicine and Palliative Medicine and medical director for Home Care at Banner – University Medical Group Tucson, was presented Oct. 26 with the 2018 House Call Physician of the Year Award by the American Academy of Home Care Medicine (AAHCM) at the AAHCM Annual Meeting in Rosemont, Ill...

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Hematology and Oncology



UA scientists hope they have made progress toward a next-generation drug that may slow tumor growth and boost radiation's effectiveness in patients with the deadly brain cancer, glioblastoma, that felled U.S. Sens. John McCain and Ted Kennedy. Credit goes to **Drs. Baldassarre “Dino” Stea, Michael Hammer, Eric Weterings, Christopher Morrison and Daruka Mahadevan**, among others...

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Its ample sun puts residents at risk for melanoma, but Arizona also is home to experimental treatments through early-phase clinical trials at the UA Cancer Center. **Dr. Hani Babiker** highlights novel work done with Spirita Oncology on a clinical trial for patients with brain metastases from BRAF- or MEK-mutated melanoma...

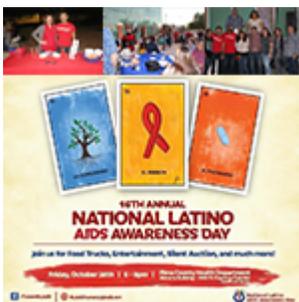
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Infectious Diseases



The UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence, usually busy for Valley Fever Awareness Week (Nov. 10-18), was even busier this year with the Farness Lecture Nov. 28 featuring **Dr. David Archer**, principal investigator on several DARPA, IARPA and DHS research programs, and a deadline extension for an AzDHS statewide youth poster art contest to Dec. 14 for submissions. The center capped the week with unveiling of a “Banner Valley Fever Clinical Practice Toolbox” on its website and multiple TV, radio and newspaper interviews...

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The UA Petersen HIV Clinics, a clinical care and outreach program overseen by the UA Division of Infectious Diseases at Banner – UMC Tucson and South, sponsored a table at local festivities Oct. 26 for the 16th Annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) at the Abrams Public Health Center. Among attendees from the center were **Cesar Egurrola, Brett DeChambre and Krystal Fimbres**...

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Nephrology



The Division of Nephrology in the UA Department of Medicine and Division of Urology in the UA Department of Surgery teamed up to host on Friday, Dec. 14, 5:30-8 p.m., a 2.0 CME Dinner Lecture on “A Multidisciplinary Approach to Managing Kidney Stones” at the Westward Look Resort. NYU Langone Health’s **Dr. David Goldfarb** is the keynote speaker, joined by **Dr. Sireesha Koppula** and the UA’s **Drs. Benjamin Lee** and **David Tzou** and dietitian **Kathryn Taylor**...

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Among Division of Nephrology kudos in recent months are opening of a multidisciplinary stone clinic in mid-September, creation of a Nephrology Fellow Survival App by **Dr. Hannah Tiu**, welcome of new pancreas and kidney transplant medical director **Dr. Angelo de Mattos**, successful conference presentations (**Drs. Chyi Chyi Chong** and **Sangeetha Murugapandian**) and various honors (**Drs. Chip Brosius**, **Diego Celdran-Bonafante**, **Bijin Thajudeen**)...

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PACCS



Dr. Donata Vercelli, UA professor, Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center associate director, Arizona Center for the Biology of Complex Diseases director and UA BIO5 Institute member, was elected the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum's secretary general. The group of distinguished physicians and scientists study the emerging field of allergy and clinical immunology. As secretary general, she is in line to be its first female president...

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Rheumatology



A \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense will support research on 3D-printed scaffolds that support the repair of devastating bone injuries. UA Arthritis Center member **Dr. John Szivek**, a biomedical engineer and professor of orthopedic surgery, is the principal investigator on the project...

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Translational Medicine



Summer internships in the UAHS Center for Biomedical Informatics and Biostatistics lab of **Dr. Yves Lussier** at the UA BIO5 Institute led to realization of a prestigious scientific goal for three high school students. They participated in the KEYS Research Internship program last summer working with both Drs. Lussier and **Haiquan Li** to help validate findings of a study that analyzed "junk DNA," a part of DNA that does not code for proteins, and disease comorbidities...

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This Just In...

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["UA Collaboration Aims at Stopping Cancer with a Smartphone"](#)

["UA Researchers Make Next Move in Fight Against Ovarian Cancer"](#)

["Banner – UMC Hiring Event Pulls in Crowd to UAHS Plaza"](#)

["UA Professor Receives Grant for Research to Prevent Heart Failure"](#)

["10 AzaHEC Research and Project Grants Available Up to \\$5,000 Each"](#)



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