Message From The Chair

Yesterday was winter solstice and the start of winter break for the University of Arizona.

In light of the season, I share with you photos from our end-of-the-year staff luncheon as well as the faculty party and more from the holiday luncheons at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and South hospitals. Visit this link to see them...

In addition, here are a few more photo ops you'll find on Facebook and Twitter (click through to view):

- A photo album for the UA Sarver Heart Center/Division of Cardiology holiday party
- Dr. Rachna Shroff shares holiday party photos from UA Cancer Center GI Oncology team
- Dr. Erika Bracamonte, renal biopsy service director, shares Department of Pathology holiday photos
- UA Structural Heart Program team celebrates its holiday 50/50 raffle winner
- And, lastly, the UA College of Pharmacy holiday photo spread.

Thank you all very much for making this past year so special. I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Monica Kraft, MD
Robert & Irene Flinn Professor of Medicine
Chair, Department of Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson
UA GI Chief Elected to National Academy of Medicine Governing Council

Dr. Juanita L. Merchant, professor of medicine and UA Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology chief, has been chosen by her colleagues at the National Academy of Medicine, to which she was elected in 2008, for a three-year term on the governing NAM Council. Separately, she’ll serve as chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, a unit of the NIH, starting in June. Learn more too about research behind her two recent NIH R01 awards worth nearly $3 million...

Peanut Allergy Study Shows Oral Immunotherapy Reduces Reactions

A member of the PALISADE Group of Clinical Investigators, Dr. Tara Carr is co-author of a paper recently appearing in the New England Journal of Medicine that found in a national clinical trial that oral immunotherapy in children and adolescents could be effective in reducing allergic reactions to peanuts by desensitizing them...
Banner – UMC Tucson, Phoenix Participate in Expansion of Early Access Program for Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Genomic Classifier

Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and Banner – UMC Phoenix are among 20 U.S. medical centers now offering a new test from Veracyte Inc. to improve diagnosis of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis via RNA sequencing of a transbronchial lung biopsy to determine if a genomic pattern is present that indicates the respiratory disease. Hear from Dr. Sachin Chaudhary on how patients benefit…

UPCOMING EVENTS

| JAN 7 | Free Wellness Program for People at Higher Risk for Diabetes |
| JAN 9 | 3rd Annual Department of Medicine P.I. Research Poster Night |
| JAN 11 | Collaborative Cancer Grand Rounds: Cornell's Dr. Lewis Cantley |
| JAN 14 | Advances in Aging Lecture: Dr. Lisa O'Neill on 'Hoarding Disorder' |
| JAN 18 | Career Development Workshop: Building Your Teaching Portfolio |
| JAN 22 | Leadership in Medicine: How to Address Challenges of Healthcare Disparities |
| JAN 25 | A2DRC Special Guest Speaker: University of British Columbia’s Dr. James Hogg on IPF |
| JAN 30 | Medicine Grand Rounds: Dr. Francesca Polverino on COPD’s Many Faces |
| FEB 2 | THE TUCSON CONFERENCE – A CME Event for the Tucson Community |

RESEARCH

College of Medicine to Host Research Retreat, Feb. 13

The UA College of Medicine – Tucson will host a day-long event in the new Health Sciences Innovation Building for basic scientists and clinicians. The event's intent is to spur interdisciplinary collaboration between departments, divisions, centers and institutes. Register now to attend and participate in data blitzes, a shark tank-style competition and more…
RESEARCH

UA Announces Spring 2019 Workshop Schedule for Responsible Conduct of Research Program

The UA Office of Research, Discovery, and Innovation (RDI) unveiled its Spring 2019 schedule of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Workshops. The workshops—14 in all—begin on Jan. 17 with “Building Productive and Ethical Mentoring Relationships” and end on April 18 with “Ethical Issues in Biomedical Research.” See the full schedule here...

EDUCATION

Dalmendray among Two Added as GME Administrator Liaisons for College of Medicine – Tucson

The Tucson campus internal medicine residency’s Michele Dalmendray and orthopedic’s Barbra Solares have been picked by their peers to serve as Graduate Medical Education (GME) Administrators Group liaisons the GME Committee (GMEC), which is made up of residency and fellowship program directors at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson...

FACULTY

Ex-Gastroenterology Chief, Medicine Chair and College of Medicine Dean, Dr. Steve Goldschmid Retires

Congratulations to Dr. Steve Goldschmid, professor of medicine in the UA Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and director of the Endoscopy Lab at Banner – University Medicine Tucson, on his retirement after more than 30 years practicing medicine—the last 18 in Tucson. He previously served as chair, UA Department of Medicine (2006-08), dean of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson (2008-14), and chief of the division (2015-18). See party photos...

Voting for 2019-20 ‘Best Doctors’ Poll Ends on Christmas Eve – Get Your Picks in Now!

A reminder was sent Dec. 18 via email to current physicians voted as “Best Doctors in America” with instructions for them to access their online ballots. Get your vote in before 5 a.m. EST (3 a.m. AZ), Monday, Dec. 24. More than 140 Banner – University Medical Group physicians made the “Best Doctors” list last year, about 40 with the UA Department of Medicine in Tucson and its 12 clinical subspecialties in internal medicine...
FACULTY

College of Medicine to Require Encryption for University-owned Laptops, Service Starts Dec. 11

Faculty and staff assigned laptops at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson should bring them in to the UAHS ITS Helpdesk for encryption. It is being required to preserve the confidentiality and integrity of university data and follow UA security standards for all university-owned laptops. Service for this 30-minute process began Dec. 11. It's available 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please bring in your laptop during those times at your convenience...

IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology

A cardiovascular research team at the UA Sarver Heart Center led by Drs. Henk Granzier and Nancy Sweitzer, center director and chief of the UA Division of Cardiology, investigated in a lab model whether metformin, a common diabetes drug, could be an effective treatment for heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF). They found the drug reduced left ventricular stiffness, improving capacity for exercise by making a heart muscle protein called titin more compliant...

Gastroenterology

A TV news broadcast aired the week of Dec. 1-7 week of Dr. Sasha Taleban, director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program at the UA Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, talking with KOLD News 13/FOX11’s Craig Thomas on the ins and outs of stomach disorders during the holidays. The interview, which highlights Crohn’s & Colitis Awareness Week, was recorded at Banner – University Medicine North...

Geriatrics

The UA Center on Aging’s Dr. Lisa O’Neill launches the spring lineup for the Advances in Aging Lecture Series, Monday, Jan. 14, 12-1 p.m., with a talk on “A Community Response to Hoarding Disorder.” The lectures occur at noon on the second Tuesday of the month, usually in Kiewit Auditorium, but Dr. O’Neill’s will be in UACC Conference Room 2920. Other presenters this spring include the UA’s Drs. Roberta Diaz Brinton, Shu-Fen Wung, Mohab Ibrahim and Amy Klein...

more
Hematology and Oncology

The UA Cancer Center has issued a request for proposals for its Clinical Research Oversight Council (CROC) funding. The council has oversight of clinical research activities at the center. Investigator-initiated trial (IIT) concepts that request UACC funding support must be presented to the CROC for determination of funding. The deadline for new proposals is Jan. 10, 2019, with review to begin Jan. 18...

Infectious Diseases

Dr. Norm Beatty, Infectious Diseases fellow and the most recent recipient of a Bressler-Alpert Society Travel Award, gave two presentations at IDSA and ASTMH conferences this fall in coordination with his research mentor from the Division of Infectious Diseases, Dr. Steve Klotz, that focus on kissing bugs and Chagas disease. Donate to the society before Dec. 31 to support DOM fellow and resident trainee conference attendance and get a tax break, too...

PACCS

Sleep medicine researcher and pulmonary division chief Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy was among three Strategic Research Award recipients for the AASM Foundation, the foundation of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, featured in a recent FOCUS Newsletter article the foundation posted to its website. In another area of the AASM website, Dr. Daniel Combs was recognized as a past Junior Faculty Research Award winner...

The UA Health Sciences Center for Sleep & Circadian Sciences’ new website is a real snoozer. In this case, that’s a good thing. Ensuring patients sleep well, after all, is the focus of the center’s research. It is led by Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy and includes an interdisciplinary team of investigators from across the UAHS campus and beyond, including new sleep medicine specialists Drs. Salma and Imran Patel...
**In Other News...**

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![College of Medicine Tucson](image)