Message From The Chair

Convocations are around the corner for the University of Arizona with UA College of Medicine – Tucson medical students graduation ceremony set for Thursday, May 9, 7-9 p.m., and live streaming online via the College’s Facebook webpage as well as the UAHS Webcast webpage (click to view).

I look forward to seeing many of you there in our caps and gowns alongside them. It’s always a great feeling to see those students who we’ve had a role in helping to shape into the physicians of the future head off to the next level in their medical careers.

A big thank you to everyone for all the hard work that went into managing training schedules for clerkships and sub-internships for this year’s graduates, as well as physicians who stepped up to make this happen. With the overlap with the following class year, there were definite challenges. A doubled student load meant everybody who has a clinic had to take students. Particular thanks to the hospitalists, who usually don’t take students but were willing to serve as preceptors for them. The VA, TMC and other community organizations also upped their game on the number of students accepted for clinical care training.

Several of these students were recognized at our recent Annual Awards Assembly at the Arizona Inn, April 30, which you can read about below as well as enjoy a photo album from the evening’s festivities.

Now for some spring cleaning.

We welcome Angie Korsun, who starts May 6 as the new executive director of transplant services for Banner – University Medicine (BUM) in Tucson and Phoenix. With degrees in nursing, nursing administration and public administration, Korsun has worked in critical care and nursing management and teaching roles, including operational and fiscal management of transplant programs.
She started the first liver transplant program in New York in 1988, serving 17 years at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. Since then, she’s managed several multi-organ and bone marrow transplant programs in different states, chairing the first Transplant Administrators Committee for UNOS and helping develop the Community of Practice of Transplant Administrators at the American Society of Transplantation.

Lastly, you’ll see several stories below on the new tower opening April 22 at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson—it’s the culmination of four and a half years of sustained work and substantial investment to give our patients and ourselves a state-of-the-art clinical facility for inpatient services. The Imaging Team and Cardiac Services are scheduled to move to the tower May 3, Special Intermediate Care (5E) on May 6 and Cardiovascular IMC (4NE) on May 9.

With the Banner – University Medicine North outpatient care center, other new adult ambulatory clinics and the new hospital tower, we definitely have a bigger footprint to be proud of in Tucson and Southern Arizona.

**NOTE:** As this newsletter was about to post, we learned of the death of Dr. Craig Stump, past chief of the UA Division of Endocrinology, after a brief, serious illness. We sent out a message about this to faculty and staff. You’ll also see a tribute to him below, which includes information on where donations may be made in his memory. Services are Wednesday, May 8, 6 p.m., St. Mark Catholic Church, 2727 W. Tangerine Road, Oro Valley.

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY 8</th>
<th>Medicine Grand Rounds: Resident Clinical Vignettes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAY 9</td>
<td>College of Medicine – Tucson Class of 2019 Convocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 14</td>
<td>Jeanne Deinert GME Scholarly Day at South Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 8</td>
<td>COM – Tucson General Faculty Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 11</td>
<td>Living Healthy With Arthritis Active Series – Gentle Stretch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 14</td>
<td>Endocrinology Grand Rounds: IU’s Dr. Theresa Guise on ‘Cancer-Associated Bone Destruction’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 9</td>
<td>Grants for Lunch Series: Heising-Simons Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 13</td>
<td>Advances in Aging Lecture with Dr. Amy Klein: ‘Palliative Care in Older Adults’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 17-18</td>
<td>Statewide Symposium in Regenerative Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thirty-three Recognized at 2019 DOM Annual Awards Assembly

Congratulations to honorees at the 2019 UA Department of Medicine Awards Assembly, hosted at the Arizona Inn on April 30. In all, 36 awards were presented to 33 students, residents, fellows and faculty. Double award winners this year included medical students Zoey Harris and Amir Abidov and Dr. Tirdad Zangeneh. Among repeat winners from last year were: Drs. Nathan Coffman, Elly Varma, Daniel Orta (who won the inaugural Lois Estok, MD, Award for Outstanding Resident in General Internal Medicine), Norman Beatty, Meenakshi Dagar, Eugene Trowers and Joseph Alpert. See all the winners and a photo album here...
Tucson Campus Internal Medicine Residents Shine at Research AHD

UA Internal Medicine Residency Program physicians at Tucson Campus, along with several fellows, put on a tour de force with the 2019 Research Academic Half Day poster contest held April 18 at Kiewit Auditorium. The winners—Drs. Phan Saligrama, Kevin Breen, Darien Reed, Nicole Smith and Hyun Soo “Kevin” Jang—will offer oral vignettes on their projects at Medicine Grand Rounds, May 15, 12-1 p.m., Room 5403. Thanks to all who participated, including faculty: Drs. Khadijah Breathett, Liz Connick, Lori Fantry, J.P. Ferreira, Steve Goldman, Julia Indik, James Knepler, Laura Meinke, Dalia Mikhael, Serena Scott, Amy Sussman and Jil Tardiff. Don’t forget at South Campus, Jeanne Deinert GME Scholarly Day, May 14, noon-3 p.m., La Galería...

Full House Hears UA Great Debate on ‘Prevention vs. Intervention’

A full house turned out April 23 for the #UAGreatDebate at the UA’s Centennial Hall to hear cardiothoracic surgeon and interim dean of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson Dr. Irving Kron face off against Dr. Andrew Weil, founder of the UA Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine—recently renamed in his honor after a gift of $15 million. GI Chief Dr. Juanita Merchant and Cardiology Chief Dr. Nancy Sweitzer weigh in also as panel members during the Q&A portion of the evening. See the video, a mini-photo gallery and a few quotable comments...

CLINICAL

First Surgeries in Banner – UMC’s New ORs in Tower 1

After 46 years and 200,000-plus surgical procedures, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson closed 18 operating rooms in its original building April 28 and, the next morning, opened 20 state-of-the-art surgical suites in the hospital’s new Tower 1. Drs. Robert C. Robbins, UA president, and Irving Kron, interim dean of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson, both cardiothoracic surgeons, presided over a ribbon-cutting of the
operating room where the day’s first surgery was performed by Dr. Benjamin Lee, Division of Urology chief, who performed a robotic partial nephrectomy – the surgical removal of a portion of the kidney using an advanced surgical robot...

New Banner – UMC Tucson Hospital Tower Opens

A welcome video greeted staff to the new hospital tower early April 22 as patients began to be transferred and the cafeteria reopened here. Note new address, 1625 N. Campbell Ave., and main entrance off Elm Street and Campbell. Access to the new tower without exiting the building is available off the Diamond Children’s second and fourth floors. Old vertical badges won’t work in the new tower, so stop by security for a new one. See the video and maps to assist you and refer any questions to team leaders and incident command …

VIP Ribbon-Cutting Signals Final Preparations Under Way for New BUMCT Hospital Tower Opening

Banner – University Medicine hosted a VIP event the evening of April 11 at its new hospital tower that included a fly-in via helicopter from UA mascots Wilbur and Wilma Wildcat, Wilbur rappelling down the side of the hospital and a ribbon-cutting that included UA President Dr. Robert Robbins and Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild. Among DOM faculty attending were Drs. Monica Kraft (chair), Joe Alpert, Kevin Moynahan and Esther Sternberg. See the mini-photo gallery…

New Hospital Tower Galleries Showcase Staff Open House as Prelude to Public Preview at Cyclovia

With two April 4 open houses—one morning and one evening—for physicians, faculty and staff of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson and Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and South, oodles of folks were treated to free T-shirts, a photo booth, snacks and musicians. Next is the public preview, coinciding with Cyclovia’s April 7 event in central Tucson. See a course map, mini-photo gallery and more...
RESEARCH
Dr. Louise Hecker Named ‘Inventor of the Year’ at Tech Launch Arizona’s 2019 I-Squared Awards

At its 6th Annual I-Squared (I²) Expo & Awards, Tech Launch Arizona honored the greatest contributors to the local ecosystem of invention and commercialization from inside and outside the UA. Dr. Louise Hecker, a respiratory researcher with the UA Department of Medicine whose BIO5 lab invented the first highly selective Nox4 small molecule inhibitors for the treatment of fibrotic disorders, including those affecting the lungs, was named the 2019 I-Squared Inventor of the Year...

Latest of Four Bressler-Alpert Travel Award Winners to Present on Research at ASCO Annual Meeting in June

Dr. Bryce Perkins, a member of the UA Internal Medicine Residency Program – University Campus, will present at the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s 2019 Annual Meeting in Chicago in early June. He is one of four winners of Department of Medicine travel awards from the Bressler-Alpert Society this year. Dr. Rhonda Alkatib presented at the AAAI Annual Meeting in February, and Drs. Bryan Borg and Morgan Bailey will present at the ATS 2019 International Conference, later this month. Join or contribute today!...

EDUCATION
UA Excellence Awards Give Sparkle to Shining Stars

Several folks from the UA Department of Medicine were among those recognized with nominations at the 31st Annual Awards for Excellence hosted April 8 at the Student Union Memorial Center. They include YoonJoo Shin and all 16 GME program administrators in the department, as well as Dawn Henderson, Terry Smith and Jason Toone, who received Wildcat Family Spirit Awards. See how to nominate your worthy colleagues and coworkers today!...
'Esteemed Faculty' Invited to UA President Reception

Congratulations to the five physicians from the UA Department of Medicine who were included as honorees at the Esteemed Faculty Reception hosted March 12, 2019, in the Meinel Optical Sciences Building by UA President Robert C. Robbins. They included: **Drs. Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, Karen Herbst, Monica Kraft, Rebecca Vanderpool** and recently departed **Jason Yuan**. They were among 72 faculty members recognized. See who all was honored and why...

IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology

Cardiologist **Dr. Marvin Slepian**, professor of materials science and engineering, medical imaging and medicine, was among **five UA faculty members appointed as Regents' Professors** on April 11 by the Arizona Board of Regents. These prestigious appointments are limited to no more than 3 percent of the University’s tenured and tenure-track faculty members and only four other UA professors received this title for 2019...

Music fans at the Tucson Folk Festival may have enjoyed the fine guitar work of electrophysiologist **Dr. Peter Ott** if they happened by the Dusty Monk Pub at Old Town Artisans, 201 N. Court Ave. Dr. Ott, a member of the UA Sarver Heart Center, is part of the band which performed there on April 6. Ruff Mixx also provided entertainment at this year’s 2019 Women of Influence Awards hosted at the Desert Diamond Center in Sahuarita in early March...

Endocrinology

UA Endocrinologist **Dr. Craig S. Stump** died on May 4 after a brief, but serious illness. Memorial services for the former chief of the UA Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism (from 2006 to 2016) will be at St. Mark Catholic Church, 2727 W. Tangerine Road, Oro Valley, at 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 8. Read about his life, where you can make a donation in his name and see comments from colleagues and people he mentored as fellowship program director...
A crowdfunding campaign for the UA American Indian Youth Wellness Camp far exceeded its $8,250 goal, pulling in $53,110 in two weeks from 23 donors. That’s 543 percent over what was sought! The one-week residential camp integrates American Indian values and culture, while promoting a healthy lifestyle through good nutrition and exercise to children from tribes across Arizona. This includes efforts to reduce diabetes, cardiovascular and other diseases and disorders later…

Gastroenterology

GI Chief Dr. Juanita Merchant, Dr. Bhaskar Banerjee, GI fellow Dr. Veronica Nguyen, DOM Administrator Todd Boltz, GI admin Katherine Sepulveda and Karen Rico, a med student in Dr. Merchant’s lab, star in the inaugural video, demonstrating how to make ratatouille—a gluten-free recipe perfect for celiac disease patients. More “Cookin’ Docs” videos are in the works spotlighting dietary suggestions for other digestive disorders. See the video, get the recipe and volunteer for the next culinary shoot…

Hematology and Oncology

Dr. Andrew Kraft, UA Cancer Center director since 2014, will step down from his leadership role as of June 30, announced UA Health Sciences Senior Vice President Dr. Michael Dake on April 8. An accomplished prostate cancer researcher and developer of novel cancer drugs, Dr. Kraft will continue in a leadership role related to research. Dr. William Cance, deputy director of the UA Cancer Center in Phoenix, will serve as interim director of the UA Cancer Center, effective July 1…

Infectious Diseases

Immunobiology professor Dr. Jeffrey Frelinger has been named a distinguished fellow of the American Association of Immunologists (AAI). The inaugural program recognizes members for distinguished careers and outstanding scientific contributions as well as service to AAI and the immunology community. Dr. Frelinger is a past president of the AAI and joined the UA College of Medicine – Tucson in 2010. He is affiliated with the UA Division of Infectious Diseases through his work with the UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence…
PACCS

Five UA students in the UA BIO5 Institute lab of Dr. Louise Hecker, a researcher with the UA Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, now make up the newest chapter of the Beta Beta Beta (TriBeta) Biological Honor Society. Dr. Hecker, a member in her undergrad years, serves as faculty advisor to the Epsilon Chi Lambda Chapter at the UA. Two of three members at a regional conference in March placed in the oral competition and head next to nationals. Learn about a unique member and how to join!...

Rheumatology

Teaming with the UA Department of Intercollegiate Athletics on May 8, Football Coach Kevin Sumlin and Athletic Director Dave Heeke are guest speakers at the UA Arthritis Center’s 2019 Bear Down Luncheon that benefits research to improve diagnosis and treatment of the more than 100 forms of arthritis. It sold out more than a week ahead of the event. See photos from last year’s luncheon here. In other news, at a Living Healthy With Arthritis lecture the center hosted May 1 at the Health Sciences Innovation Building, Bob Logan, UA College of Science assistant dean, spoke on “Happiness: A Scientific Look at How to Create Balance and Purpose in Life”...

Researchers from the UA, including the College of Pharmacy’s Dr. Daniel Malone and Dr. C. Kent Kwoh, chief of the Division of Rheumatology and director of the Arthritis Center, and others recently published a study in JAMA Network Open evaluating use of machine-learning to predict opioid overdose risk. Results suggest machine-learning algorithms could predict over-use and individuals likely to overuse opioids as well as help health-care organizations to prevent deaths due to opioid abuse...

Translational Medicine and Bioinformatics

Kudos to the 22 female data scientists who spoke during the “Data Blitz” portion of the Women in Data Science regional conference hosted April 5 at the UA’s Environment and Natural Resources 2 Building. The Tucson conference was among 150 satellite events across the globe to the main conference at Stanford University. DOM participants: Drs. Joanne Berghout, Francesca Vitali and Rebecca Vanderpool. Wen Yu “Amy” Wong, from the Cancer GIDP, won the top research award locally. See archived video and topics...
This Just In...

“Banner – UMC Tucson Opens State-of-the-Art Patient Tower”
It features 228 private rooms, 20 operating rooms, new diagnostic imaging and cardiac catheterization labs, a new cafeteria and mountain views...

“UA Genetic Counseling Graduate Program Gains Accreditation”
New UA College of Medicine – Tucson program will begin in fall 2019...

“UA College of Medicine Team Brings National DNA Day to Tucson”
Hundreds of Tucson high school students to learn about genetics research...

“College of Medicine Hosts National Pain and Addiction Symposium”
World-renowned neurobiologists and chemistry leaders discuss brain circuits underlying acute and chronic pain, reward, motivation and novel therapies...

“UA Public Health Grad Students Receive Cancer Research Fellowship”
Will study cervical cancer in Ethiopia and pancreatic cancer in Egypt...

“Pain Clinics Could Cut Down on Opioid Use, UA Team Finds”
Pain specialists target alternative, complementary ways to pain intervention...

“College of Medicine – Tucson Relaunches P-MAP Student Program”
New cohort begins revised Pre-Medical Admissions Pathway curriculum...

“UA Immunobiologist Team Explores Copper's Potential as Antibiotic”
Metals properties might be key to antibiotic resistance and fewer new antibiotics coming from pharmaceutical firms, Dr. Michael Johnson says...

“UA Med Student Awarded $30,000 Scholarship from Hillel Foundation”
The Shirley D. Curson Scholarship goes to Jacquelyn Hoffman, whose interests include prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HPV...