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June 2019

Message From The Chair

It's graduation season here in the Old Pueblo, aka, Tucson, and convocations for the UA College of Medicine – Tucson were very rewarding to be a part of for the more than 100 medical students graduating.

Thank you to **Drs. Indu Partha** and **Kevin Reilly** for sharing their fun photos with us in the article below.



We've also got a host of dates for you on upcoming celebrations for our residents and fellows in advanced training in internal medicine and all its subspecialties from cardiology to rheumatology.

Skyline Country Club on June 7 will be the venue for the UA Internal Medicine Residency Program – University Campus residents, whereas South Campus internal medicine residents will host theirs at the Omni Tucson National Resort. Dermatology Division Chief and Program Director **Dr. James Sligh** hosted the Advanced Dermatology residents' graduation event on May 4.

In addition, fellows will celebrate their grad night ceremonies at multiple sites, including some faculty members' and program directors' homes on the following schedule (Questions? Contact program coordinators, in parentheses.):

- **Infectious Diseases** (*Carolyn Bothwell*) – May 19 (hosted at Program Director/Division Chief **Dr. Elizabeth Connick's** home)
- **Cardiology** (*Renae Juska, Christeana Castro*) – Saturday, June 1
- **Gastroenterology & Hepatology** (*Linda Gonzalez*) – Saturday, June 1
- **Endocrinology** (*Regina Warren*) – Sunday, June 2
- **Hematology & Oncology** (*Imelda Galvan*) – Saturday, June 8
- **Allergy & Immunology** (*Carol Debris-Harrell*) – Friday, June 14
- **Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep** (*Brenda Lambert*) – Friday, June 14
- **Nephrology** (*Daniel Veres*) – Thursday, June 20
- **Rheumatology** (*Perlana Howard*) – Saturday, June 22
- **Geriatric Medicine** (*Jordan Elias*) – Monday, June 24
- **Hospice & Palliative Medicine** (*Jordan Elias*) – Friday, July 9

In addition, with the “lull” at the end of the academic year, Tech Launch Arizona—the commercialization arm of the UA—is hosting 1-on-1 Inventor Check-Ins to allow investigators to explore any business opportunities that may exist with their research. [Learn more here.](#)



Lastly, the Arizona Technology Council hosts related mixers, “Lunch & Learn” and “Women in the Workforce” events in Tucson this summer, too. For more, see [this link.](#)

Monica Kraft, MD

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

SPOTLIGHTS



Two Awards Show Dr. Marvin Slepian to be ‘Man for All Seasons’

UA cardiologist, inventor and biomedical engineer **Dr. Marvin Slepian** has been rolling in kudos of late, with his most recent recognitions coming from the UA College of Engineering where he was named a da Vinci Fellow and his alma mater for his medical degree, the University of Cincinnati, which presented him May 20 with one of four Drake Medals in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of innovative medical solutions...



11 Department of Medicine Faculty Approved for Promotion and Tenure

Cheers to the 11 UA Department of Medicine faculty members whose promotions and tenure advancements were approved by the UA College of Medicine – Tucson and UA Office of the Provost. Four are the Pulmonary Division, two from Dermatology, and one each from Geriatrics; Genetics, Genomics & Precision Medicine; Hematology & Oncology; Integrative Medicine, and Nephrology. They include: **Drs. Pavani Chalasani, Ann Marie Chiasson, James Knepler, Lavanya Kodali, Xingnan Li, Joshua Malo, Laura Meinke, Afshin Sam, Robert Segal, James Sligh and Monica Vandivort...**



South Campus Scholarly Day Displays Student, Resident, Fellow Research

Three South Campus internal medicine residents were among those recognized at the Jeanne Deinert GME Scholarly Day at Banner – University Medical Center South on May 14. Two were poster contest winners, **Drs. Wina Yousman** and **Gianna O’Hara**, and **Dr. Sarah Tariq** was picked to be an oral presenter. Division of Infectious Diseases associate professor **Dr. Lori Fantry** also was a co-author on the winning Medical Student Poster on PrEP and needle exchange programs in HIV prevention. See all the winners and fellows, faculty who assisted them...



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 29	Medicine Grand Rounds: 'Integrative Oncology' with Dr. Kristina Gowan	MAY 31	Sleep Medicine Lecture – Poster/Oral Presentations Preview for SLEEP 2019	MAY 31	Rheumatology/Radiology Grand Rounds: Drs. Sabina Mian and Jawad Bilal
MAY 31	Sarver Heart Center Grand Rounds: Dr. Nancy Sweitzer and Angelica Lentner	JUN 3	Free EVENING Program to Prevent Diabetes for UA/Banner Staff & Family	JUN 4	Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds with Dr. David Nix
JUN 10	Advances in Aging Lecture Series: Cognitive Aging and Alzheimer's	JUN 20-27	UA Sarver Heart Center: 'Introduction to Pluripotent Stem Cells'	JUL 26	White Coat Ceremony at Centennial Hall

RESEARCH

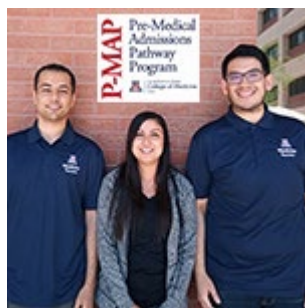


Two University Campus Internal Medicine Residents Win for Recent Medicine Grand Rounds Presentations

Cheers to UA residents **Drs. Kevin Breen** and **John Dicken**, named winners of the Medicine Grand Rounds presentations for those recognized at Research Academic Half Day and ACP Clinical Vignettes competitions. They presented on May 15 and May 8, respectively, Dr. Breen on regulation of a protein in brain cancer (i.e., astrocytoma to glioblastoma) and Dr. Dicken on heart arrhythmias (i.e., differences between wide complex tachycardia and V-tach). Separately, see what dermatology residents presented on May 1 at Medicine Grand Rounds...

[more](#)

EDUCATION



UA College of Medicine – Tucson Relaunches Pre-Medical Admissions Pathway Program

Established in 2014, the yearlong Pre-Medical Admissions Pathway (P-MAP) program has been revised and relaunched to better suit incoming UA College of Medicine – Tucson student needs. It allows highly qualified underrepresented students to automatically be accepted. Among the incoming students, **Monique Crawford**, a nurse on the UA Sarver Heart Center staff who has managed the Structural Heart Disease Program and worked with physicians for the past eight years...

[more](#)

EDUCATION



'Class of 2019' Video, Photos Provide Up Close, Personal View on COM-T Convocation

Congratulations to the more than 100 UA College of Medicine – Tucson students in the Class of 2019 that celebrated their graduation at the convocation ceremony May 9 at Centennial Hall. See a video and mini-photo gallery (courtesy of **Drs. Indu Partha** and **Kevin Reilly**) of the event that showcases participating DOM faculty, who also include: **Drs. Erika Bracamonte, Janet Campeon, Monica Kraft, Laura Meinke, Kevin Moynahan, Amy Sussman** and **Andrew Yeager...**

[more](#)

FACULTY



Dozen DOM Docs Recognized at UA College of Medicine – Tucson General Faculty Meeting

At the recent College of Medicine – Tucson General Faculty Meeting, hosted May 8 in the UA Cancer Center's Kiewit Auditorium, 10 new faculty members and two more, **Drs. Emad Elquza** and **Sairam Parthasarathy**, who've excelled as mentors, were recognized from the Department of Medicine. New faculty recognized include: **Drs. John Carmichael, Ann Marie Canelas, Julia Jernberg, Babu Mohan, Soheila Nuri, Chad Whelan, Oleh Haluszka, Ritika Ohri, Sara Centouri** and **Kosuke Kato...**

[more](#)



Botanical Garden Excels as Site for Blooming of COM-T 'Faculty Appreciation' Event

Several UA Department of Medicine faculty participated in a Faculty Appreciation event at the Tucson Botanical Garden hosted Saturday, April 28, by the UA College of Medicine – Tucson and Banner – University Medicine. They included: **Drs. Laura Meinke, Kevin Moynahan, Peter Ott, Salma and Imran Patel, William Roeske, Esther Sternberg** and **Ernest Vina**. Nearly 180 attended. See the photo gallery...

[more](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology



Dr. Frank Marcus, a professor emeritus of medicine, past chief in the Division of Cardiology, UA College of Medicine – Tucson, and a research scientist with the UA Sarver Heart Center, was honored as an invited speaker at the recent Heart Rhythm Society 2019 meeting in San Francisco. The 40th Annual Scientific Sessions held a special session May 10 to recognize Dr. Marcus’ research on arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia (ARVC/D), a rare type of cardiomyopathy that can lead to sudden cardiac arrest or heart failure...

[more](#)



Let’s hear it for the UA’s **Dr. Nancy Sweitzer**, one of five women lauded as “Remarkable Moms,” May 11, the day before Mother’s Day at the “Remarkable Celebration Prom Night” to benefit Tu Nidito, a local non-profit agency that supports children and families impacted by serious medical conditions and death. In Dr. Sweitzer’s case it was her husband’s death before she joined the UA faculty as cardiology division chief and UA Sarver Heart Center director...

[more](#)

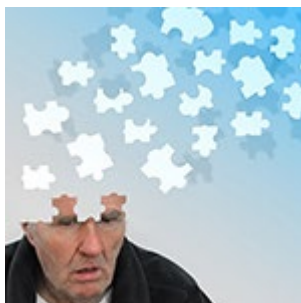
Dermatology



Drs. James Sligh and **Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski**, chief and vice chief of the UA Division of Dermatology and key members of the UA Skin Cancer Institute, made the cover of the latest edition of the *Act Against Cancer* newsletter from the UA Cancer Center, out in mid-May with the theme for this issue being chemoprevention. The article takes a hard look at skin cancer, sun safety and the research of Drs. Curiel and **Sally Dickinson**, an assistant professor of pharmacology...

[more](#)

Geriatrics



By studying a rare form of dementia, primary progressive aphasia, or PPA, researchers—led by assistant professor in the UA Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, **Dr. Aneta Kielar**—might have found a way to detect neurodegeneration before brain cells are lost for good. Earlier detection could provide therapeutic drug treatments in a host of related conditions, from Alzheimer’s to Parkinson’s disease and beyond, a chance to work...

[more](#)

Hematology and Oncology



Kudos to **Dr. Rachna Shroff**, section chief of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology at the UA Cancer Center and an associate professor of the UA Division of Hematology and Oncology in the UA Department of Medicine, for her first author position on a paper posted to *JAMA Oncology* on April 18. The Phase II clinical trial reported on in the study tested a triplet chemotherapy regimen for the first time in biliary cancer patients...

[more](#)

PACCS



The American Thoracic Society honored **Dr. Monica Kraft**, chair of the UA Department of Medicine, with its Elizabeth A. Rich Award at the Women's Forum during the ATS 2019 International Conference in Dallas on May 20. The award recognizes Dr. Kraft as a female role model and mentor and for her many contributions to lung disease research as a world-renowned authority on severe asthma in adults...

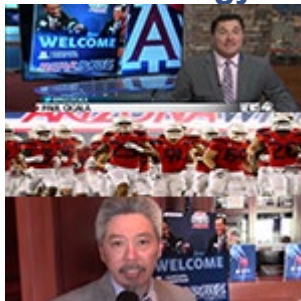
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Congratulations to **Dr. Salma Patel**, an assistant professor in the UA Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine. She's one of three winners of Career Development Awards of \$100,000 each from the AASM Foundation, an affiliate of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. She'll look at the relationship between obstructive sleep apnea and mortality, using EKG data in the Sleep Heart Health Study and Banner Health databases...

[more](#)

Rheumatology



The Bear Down Luncheon, an annual fundraiser hosted by the UA Arthritis Center in partnership with UA Athletics, is so popular it was sold out weeks before this year's event May 8 at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar in Tucson. Football coach **Kevin Sumlin** and AD **Dave Heeke** were keynote speakers. Center Director and UA Rheumatology Chief **Dr. Kent Kwoh** said the partnership has raised nearly \$2 million for arthritis research since 1983. See the video...

[more](#)

More Headlines...

“Nearly 300 UA Retirees Honored for Career Commitment to University”
Celebrates 6,300 years of service; Drs. David Johnson, Steve Goldschmid...

“Global Collaboration Aims to Predict Reaction to Heparin Treatment”
Can result in life-threatening complications in cardiovascular patients...

“What Your Fitbit Is and Isn’t Telling You about Your Sleep Habits”
UA sleep researcher, consultant Dr. Michael Grandner discusses device...

“UA’s Mobile Health Program Expands Primary Care Services”
Mobile clinic in partnership with Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Youth on Their Own and Primavera Foundation’s Casa Paloma...

“New EMS Bachelor’s Degree Program This Fall at COM – Tucson”
One of a few programs in nation administered through a clinical department...

“UA, Banner Health to Use Big Data to Prevent Cardiac Arrhythmias”
Thanks to \$766,000 grant from Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality...

“Banner Health to Build Memory & Research Center in Tucson”
Banner Alzheimer’s Institute to collaborate with UA clinicians, researchers...

“Women’s Health: Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines Updated”
KGUN9 Interviews UA Surgery’s Breast Program Director Dr. Nova Foster...

“Dr. Donata Vercelli Awarded University of Arizona Koffler Prize”
Distinction marks a first for College of Medicine – Tucson faculty member...

“COM – Tucson CME Office Reaccredited ‘with Commendation’”
UA Continuing Medical Education Office wins highest status from ACCME...

“State Budget Makes Major Investments in UA, UA Medical Schools”
\$8M for College of Medicine – Phoenix expansion, medical student support...



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Department of Medicine

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