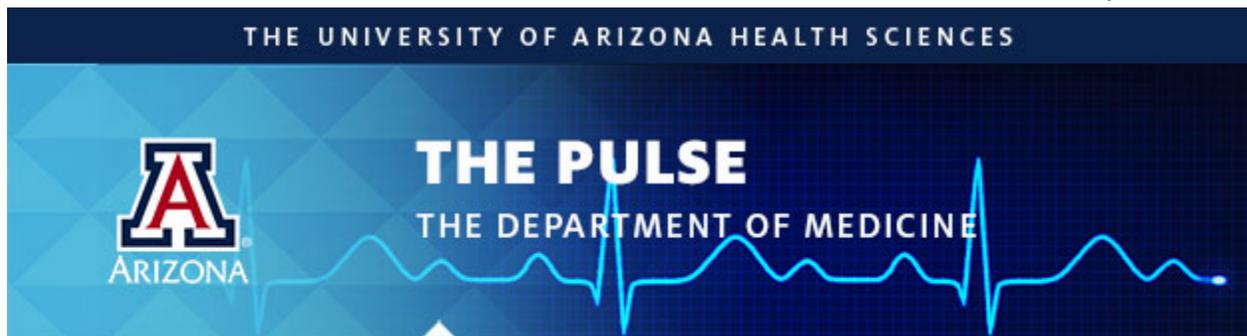


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October 2019

Message From The Chair

As Halloween and All Saints Day (better known here as *Dia de los Muertos*) have approached, Tucson temperatures have finally fallen to a comfortably crisp autumn weather, i.e., with highs of 87°F to 68°F and lows of 40°F to 57°F for the past two weeks.

It's also that time of year when a number of research awards are released. The two most recent reports from the University of Arizona Health Sciences show faculty in our department can be credited with 14 awards in September valued at \$15.96 million and 23 awards in August valued at \$17.88 million. You may have read about larger ones such as **Drs. Hsiao-Hui "Sherry" Chow** and **Julie Bauman's** \$8.63 million NCI award for the UA Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Network and **Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy's** \$1.4 million PCORI grant for a program to support sleep apnea patients.



A few other significant awards include:

- A \$366,659 Boehringer Ingelheim contract won by **Dr. Sachin Chaudhary** to test effects of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) devices on abnormal gastroesophageal reflux and lung inflammation in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients
- A \$270,756 ABIOMED Inc. contract for **Dr. Marvin Slepian** for hemolysis and platelet activation studies to test compatibility of mechanical circulatory support devices
- A \$150,000 Arthritis Foundation award to **Dr. C. Kent Kwoh** for the UArizona Rheumatology Fellowship training program.

Leading in clinical trial awards for these two months were: **Dr. Sasha Taleban** | \$2,336,467 (3); **Dr. Hani Babiker** | \$1,151,028 (3) and **Dr. Julie Bauman** | \$781,315 (3). Look for more articles on research our faculty are doing both below and coming soon to the [DOM News Archive](#).

I join **Dr. Michael Dake**, Arizona Health Sciences senior vice president, in complimenting **Dr. Louise Hecker** for winning the **Benchmark Academia Award** at the Governor's Celebration of Innovation Awards this past month. Her work on Nox4 small molecule inhibitors as a therapy for fibrotic diseases is truly



SPOTLIGHTS



UA Researcher Takes Top Honor at Governor's Annual Innovation Awards

At the Governor's Celebration of Innovation Awards, Oct. 24, entrepreneurial researchers and friends of the University of Arizona received several awards. Up against three others from the UAArizona, pulmonary researcher **Dr. Louise Hecker** took the top award in academia, the Benchmark Academia Award, for her work on Nox4 small molecule inhibitors to treat fibrotic diseases like idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Learn more about the event and other honorees...



S. Campus Internal Medicine Residents Reign in Doctors' Dilemma Contest

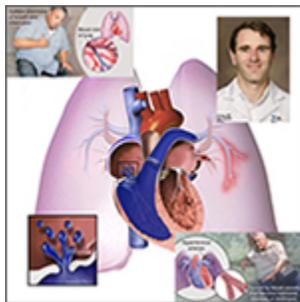
The South Campus team of **Drs. Alex Alsadi, Sooraj Kumar and Juan Siordia** came out on top in the coveted Doctors' Dilemma® contest at the 2019 Arizona Chapter

Scientific Meeting of the American College of Physicians held Oct. 18-19 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tucson – Reid Park. The second time was the charm as the same team placed second in the 2018 competition. The UA medical student team also won. A dozen DOM faculty members served as meeting presenters and committee chairs. See who they are and new features in this year’s program...



Indoors Is More Than Fine for 3rd Innovations & Inventions Research Fair After last year’s first chill of fall and drizzling rain during the Innovations & Inventions Research Fair, the indoors of the Forum at the Health Sciences Innovation Building was a welcome venue as University of Arizona Health Sciences researchers, faculty and staff gathered Oct. 17 for the third annual event. **Drs. Edward Gellmann, Salma Patel** and **Jennifer Stern** represented the DOM. See video and a mini-photo album from the event to see who else attended...

RESEARCH



DOM Physician Wins \$100K Bayer Grant to Study Shortness of Breath after Pulmonary Embolism

Dr. Michael Insel, an assistant professor in the UA Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, has won an inaugural Pulmonary Hypertension Accelerated Bayer (PHAB) Award valued at \$100,000 to investigate breathlessness in patients after a pulmonary embolism. It’s part of \$1 million in grants that Bayer is investing to help propel clinical advancements in treatment for conditions that can lead to pulmonary hypertension...

[more](#)

EDUCATION



Community to Get Glimpse into Future of Health Care at New HSIB Public Forum and Open House, Nov. 4-5

The nine-story Health Sciences Innovation Building (HSIB) on the University of Arizona Health Sciences campus opened its doors to students, faculty and staff over the summer. Now, the Tucson community is invited to participate in a forum on cancer prevention with several UArizona Health Sciences researchers and physicians (including **Drs. Clara Curiel** and **Juanita Merchant**), and to explore the new building through guided tours during an Open House Nov. 4–5. [Learn more here...](#)

[more](#)



An Update from Medical Education: New Faculty Instructional Development Resources and More...

In **Dr. Kevin Moynahan's** October update in his role as the College of Medicine – Tucson's deputy dean for education, the general internist notes several new Faculty Instructional Development tools have been introduced courtesy of FID director, **Dr. Karen Spear Ellinwood**. These include online courses (Residents as Educators, Clinical Educator Series, and Community-Based Preceptors). See the CES video and [sign up for the FID newsletter](#). In addition, for the Pathways in Health and Medicine program, two sessions were held focusing on "Care of the Athlete" (with UA Track star Georgeanne Moline) and a panel discussion on "Limb Loss and Amputation" moderated by **Dr. Colleen Cagno**...

[more](#)



UA Experts Take Center Stage at TENWEST Festival

More than 50 speakers from the University of Arizona and 250 overall took part in the TENWEST Impact Festival, including DOM's Drs. Esther Sternberg and Floyd Chilton. It was expected to draw about 15,000 local, regional and national attendees to downtown Tucson, Oct. 11-20, to discuss innovative solutions to the world's social, environmental and economic issues. Through 10 days of exhibitions, talks, and interactive experiences, national experts and local heroes sought to inspire ideas and facilitate connections to empower solutions. Everyone has a role. Discover yours. [See related headlines here](#). For health topics, click image above left...

[more](#)

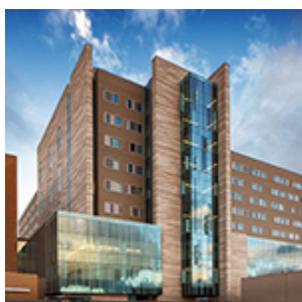
CLINICAL



Banner – UMC Tucson and South CEO Honored with Women Achievers of Arizona Award

Sarah Frost, chief executive officer of Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and South hospitals, was recognized Oct. 29, as one of five female health care leaders and 35 women overall honored with Women Achievers in Arizona awards by the Arizona Capitol Times. The awards' inaugural ceremony was at the Phoenix Museum of Art...

[more](#)



Banner – University Medical Center Tucson Earns Comprehensive Stroke Center Status

Banner – University Medical Center Tucson is the first and only certified comprehensive stroke center in Tucson and Southern Arizona. It joins Banner – UMC Phoenix as the second such facility to earn this recognition in the state. Accreditation and certification by [The Joint Commission](#) is recognized nationwide as the gold standard in the treatment of the most complex stroke cases...

[more](#)

FACULTY



Two UArizona Health Sciences Profs Win AZBio Awards

The College of Medicine – Tucson's **Dr. Monica Kraft** was recognized as the 2019 Arizona Bioscience Researcher of the Year, and College of Pharmacy's **Marti Lindsey** was honored as the 2019 Michael A. Cusanovich Arizona Bioscience Educator of the Year at the AZBio Awards & Life Science Fiesta held at the Phoenix Convention Center, Oct. 2. See their videos and photos from the event as well as the “**Discovering New Medicines in Arizona Summit**,” held earlier in the day as part of Arizona Bioscience Week festivities...

[more](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology



Among stories in the Sarver Heart Center's latest newsletter: 1) Patient stem cell studies point to causes and treatments of congenital heart disease; 2) Minimally invasive TAVR procedures are now approved for most patients; 3) UA/Banner echocardiography labs are now reaccredited; 4) More than 140 people attended Diabetes/Heart Disease Connection Lunch & Learn Program—see the highlights; and 5) Learn how you can join the Cardiology Research Registry. Sign up today!...

[more](#)



Two new cardiologists have joined the faculty at the University of Arizona Division of Cardiology, one of 14 divisions within the UA Department of Medicine, the largest department at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson—**Drs. Amitoj Singh** and **Aaron Wolfson**. Learn more about them here...

[more](#)

Gastroenterology



Nogales father and son, **Atanasio** and **Thano Gatzionis**, who run a food distributorship, are among patient and caregiver panelists participating Oct. 26 in the Spotlight on Stomach Cancer Symposium at the HSIB Forum. Read their story, [see the video](#) and learn about the speakers: **Dr. Adam Bass** (Harvard/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute); **Dr. Dorothy Long Parma** (UTHealth San Antonio); **Dr. Gregory Jarrin** (Winslow Indian Health Care Center); and **Drs. Juanita Merchant, Rachna Shroff, Aaron Scott, and Hemanth Gavini**...

[more](#)

Hematology and Oncology



The National Cancer Institute will fund the UA Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Network, one of three networks in the nation to perform early-phase cancer-prevention clinical trials, to the tune of \$8.6 million. **Dr. Sherry Chow**, co-leader of the Cancer Center Prevention and Control Program, and **Dr. Julie Bauman**, Cancer Center deputy director, are co-principal investigators for the grant, to be funded for five years...

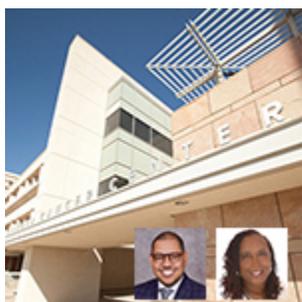
[more](#)

Hematology and Oncology



The chairman emeritus of The Estée Lauder Companies made a \$5 million gift to the University of Arizona Cancer Center. The gift from Leonard A. Lauder supports clinical and translational research of **Dr. David S. Alberts**, an Arizona Health Sciences pioneer and expert in ovarian cancer research and treatment. Dr. Alberts, who was instrumental in founding the Cancer Center in 1976, built its Cancer Prevention and Control Program into one of the nation's most-respected gynecologic cancer and biomarker research efforts...

[more](#)



The University of Arizona Cancer Center has launched a statewide town hall series. The first, the North Central/East Arizona Cancer Policy Town Hall in Flagstaff on Oct. 14 kicked off a series of five town halls throughout Arizona to engage communities in dialogue to improve cancer prevention and control throughout the state...

[more](#)

Inpatient Medicine



Hospitalist **Dr. Anil Potharaju**, a University of Arizona assistant professor of medicine and associate chief in the Division of Inpatient Medicine as well as medical director for inpatient medicine at Banner – University Medical Center South, will receive one of 10 Clinical Excellence Awards to be presented at the next **College of Medicine – Tucson general faculty meeting**, Nov. 20, in the HSIB Forum. See who else won and register to attend...

[more](#)

Integrative Medicine



Two feature articles in the current issue of the University of Arizona alumni magazine, *Arizona*, focus on integrative medicine at the university, highlighting the work of **Drs. Andrew Weil, Victoria Maizes** and **Esther Sternberg**, and celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine. Another focuses on the good feelings generated by murals, including the flying whales at Grant and Campbell, painted by 2005 alumnus Joe Pagac...

[more](#)

Integrative Medicine



The Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona announced its annual Alumna of the Year selection from among integrative health practitioners. This year's award winner is **Dr. Roberta Weintraut**, director of the Integrative Medicine Division and leader of the Integrative Medicine in Residency (IMR) program at the Navicent Health/Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Ga...

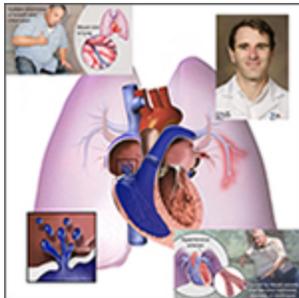
[more](#)



The site is determined for soon-to-begin construction of the new University of Arizona Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine. The building will be northeast of Highland Parking Garage at East Mabel Street and North Vine Avenue, according to documents released ahead of the Arizona Board of Regents meeting Sept. 19 and 20. See an architectural rendering and weigh in, too, on topics you'd like to hear in a [new center](#) podcast, "**Body of Wonder**," coming in 2020...

[more](#)

PACCS



Dr. Michael Insel, a new assistant professor in the UA Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, has won an inaugural Pulmonary Hypertension Accelerated Bayer (PHAB) Award valued at \$100,000 to investigate breathlessness in patients after suffering a pulmonary embolism. It's part of \$1 million in grants that Bayer is investing to help propel clinical advancements in treatment for conditions that can lead to pulmonary hypertension...

[more](#)

Rheumatology



Among recent items of interest to arthritis readers, University of Arizona Rheumatology Fellow **Dr. Jawad Bilal** is lead author on a paper with **Dr. Kent Kwoh**, et al., in *JAMA Network Open* on Interleukin inhibitor risks of infection and cancer in rheumatologic diseases patients published Oct. 18. The UA Arthritis Center's Meet Our Researchers "Conquering Arthritis" annual event is Nov. 6 in the HSIB Forum—register today. And Dr. Kwoh, Rheumatology chief and Arthritis Center director, has joined the *Annals of Internal Medicine* editorial board...

[more](#)



An exclusive chance to visit one-on-one with University of Arizona Arthritis Center faculty, physicians and scientists to learn about leading-edge research being conducted at the center, the annual “Conquering Arthritis” forum is Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m. A panel discussion with center director **Dr. Kent Kwoh**, pain management specialist **Dr. Mohab Ibrahim**, and mind-body medicine pioneer **Dr. Esther Sternberg** follows the researcher open house and poster displays...

[more](#)

More Headlines...

“New class challenges UArizona students to cure Alzheimer’s disease”
Innovative curricula offered to build entrepreneurial skills for human health...

“Study finds inflammatory protein protect against spread of herpes”
UArizona Phoenix researchers discover function to improve therapeutics...

“Pandemic flu exercise held at UA Health Sciences in Tucson, Phoenix”
Hosts simulated emergency to expose students to issues that may arise...

“Facebook Workplace going offline at College of Medicine – Tucson”
Intranet experiment dies 17 months after being first in higher ed to adopt it...

“Take Charge Diabetes Mellitus’ study seeks research volunteers”
Type 2 diabetes patients sought to test innovative blood sugar control tools...

“UArizona Researcher Takes Aim at Health-Care-Associated Infections”
CDC's \$510,000 grant to focus on prevention of this threat to patient safety...

“Could near-infrared light give aging brains a boost?”
National Institute on Aging funds UArizona, Florida cognitive intervention...



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