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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Department  
of Medicine



# INTERNAL DIGEST

May 2024

## Chair's Message

Colleagues,

As the largest department in the College of Medicine – Tucson, COM-T, the Department of Medicine, DOM, is proud to be the center of education and training, patient care, and research. Our faculty engages in impactful research and clinical programs as well as in the training of future leaders of medicine. To this end, I hope that this monthly newsletter will serve to increase awareness and appreciation of the many incredible things that are occurring in our wonderful department.



### **James K. Liao, MD**

The Robert S. and Irene Flinn Endowed Professor in Medicine  
Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine  
Member, Sarver Heart Center  
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson

## Top Headlines



### **DOM welcomes new Cardiology division chief, Sarver Heart Center director**

**Hesham Sadek, MD, PhD**, brings wealth of experience and impressive research portfolio from UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where he was associate director of the Center for Regenerative Science and Medicine and professor of internal medicine/cardiology, with joint appointments in biophysics and molecular biology. His first day as UArizona faculty was May 1.



### **DOM Blog: Wellness offerings at new Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine Complex**

Resources at the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine's new building complex—hosting a public open house on Saturday, May 4—offer a variety of ways to promote wellness, reduce stress and improve workplace positivity for faculty and staff across campus and beyond, according to center research director **Esther M. Sternberg, MD**. See where recharge spaces are at Banner sites, too.



### **DOM physicians make up third of Banner's 'Top Doctors' in Tucson**

Twenty-four UArizona Department of Medicine faculty or affiliated physicians were counted among best physicians in the Old Pueblo, aka Tucson, according to Castle Connolly's annual list for 2024. See who they are as well as a three-page ad from Banner also included in the April issue of Tucson Lifestyle magazine and how to vote your colleagues into next year's Top Doctors list.

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## Upcoming Events

MAY  
4

[Living Healthy With Arthritis Annual Symposium: Climate change & health](#)

9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Virtual

MAY  
4

[Public Open House: Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine Building Complex](#)

Noon-1 p.m. | 1502 E. Drachman St., Tucson

MAY  
4

[Docs in the Kitchen – Fiber-Rich Foods for a Healthy Lifestyle](#)

4-6 p.m. | Hacienda at the River, 2720 E. River Road, Tucson

MAY  
8

[Medicine Grand Rounds with UA-Harvard’s Dr. Stuart Quan](#)

Noon-1 p.m. | COM-T Room 5403 & Virtual

CME

MAY  
11

[Department of Urology fight against prostate cancer golf benefit](#)

7 a.m. | Omni Tucson National Resort, 2727 W. Club Dr., Tucson

MAY  
15

[Medicine Grand Rounds with UMich’s Dr. Roger Cone](#)

Noon-1 p.m. | COM-T Room 5403 & Virtual

CME

MAY  
16

[College of Medicine – Tucson General Faculty Meeting](#)

5-6 p.m. | COM-T Social Hall, Room 2500

[MORE EVENTS ►►►](#)

## Honors & Awards



**Mathew Hutchinson, MD**, will be president-elect and **Talal Mouckabary, MD**, will be secretary-treasurer of the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Cardiology in 2024-25.

Two councilor posts for the Greater Tucson Area remain open as well as another councilor-at-large post, according to AZ-ACC chapter CEO Lianna Collinge. Contact [her](#) or [Dr. Hutchinson](#) if interested in either of the roles.



Dr. Hutchinson's full term as AZ-ACC president starts in April 2025 and runs until April 2028, during which time he'll also serve as Arizona governor to the national ACC leadership team. [Learn more.](#)

- [Dr. Amy Sussman wins Outstanding Teacher in Clinical Sciences, Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards](#) | Honors presented by graduating COM-T students.
- [Dr. Kent Kwoh named American College of Rheumatology Master](#) | Designation highest college can bestow.
- [Dr. Marvin Slepian among 16 appointed to new University Advisory Council](#) | He's among six faculty on council and two DOM members in UArizona Faculty Senate.

## Media Mentions

- Associate professor, Division of Cardiology, and member, Sarver Heart Center, **Elizabeth Juneman, MD**, "**The Rising Star Women of Medicine for 2024**" ([The Women We Admire](#), May 2)
- Professor and chief, Division of Cardiology, and director, Sarver Heart Center, **Hesham Sadek, MD, PhD**, "**Dr. Hesham Sadek named UArizona cardiology chief**" ([Becker's ASC](#), May 1)
- Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, and director, Valley Fever Center for Excellence, **John Galgiani, MD**, "**Valley fever hitting minority populations**" ([Times of San Diego](#) & [Daily Independent](#), April 28; [MSN](#) & [Tucson Sentinel](#), April 26; [Cronkite News](#), April 25)
- Professor, Division of Endocrinology, and vice chair for research, Department of Medicine, **Janet Funk, MD**, "**Second annual breast cancer symposium held at the University of Arizona**" ([KOLD-TV Tucson](#), April 26; [KVOA-TV Tucson](#), April 24)
- Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, and director, Valley Fever Center for Excellence, **John Galgiani, MD**, "**Banner Health using new technology to detect Valley fever earlier**" ([KTAR-Radio Phoenix](#), April 24 – [Related content](#))
- Professor of medicine and founding director, Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine, **Andrew Weil, MD**, "**Chopra, Kabat-Zinn, Weil headline integrative medicine panel**" ([KMSB-TV Tucson](#), April 21)

- Professor of medicine, AWCIM research director and director, Institute on Place, Wellbeing & Performance, **Esther Sternberg, MD**, “**New study tackles the noise level in the office**” ([Dagens PS Sweden](#) | [PDF](#) – English)
- Assistant professor, Division of Hematology & Oncology, member, UArizona Cancer Center, **Junaid Arshad, MD**, “**Metformin linked to a lower risk of certain GI cancers, study finds**” ([Very Well Health](#), April 15)

[MORE MEDIA MENTIONS ►►►](#)

## Wellness



**Banner Wellness Center memberships now open to all Banner, COM-T faculty:** Did you know all Banner and University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson faculty, including resident and fellow physicians, can now join the Banner Wellness Center, the gymnasium in the basement of Banner – University Medical Center Tucson?

All it costs is \$180 a year.

[Learn how to join here.](#)

■ **CHIM funding available from Banner to support wellness activities:** Q2 2024 funds available April 10 through June 19. [Current application form here.](#) [Learn all about the Cultivating Happiness in Medicine, or CHIM, initiative here.](#)

## Vice Chair Reports

### Faculty Affairs



■ **COM-T, Eller unveil Advanced Healthcare Leadership Academy:** The program developed collaboratively by the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson and Eller College of Management’s Eller Executive Education program re-visions and replaces COM-T’s Learning to Lead program. Applications are due Friday, May 17. [Learn more and see who DOM’s Learning to Lead grads are.](#)

■ **DOM faculty present at TMC Internal Medicine Grand Rounds – you can, too:** UArizona gastroenterologist and director of the UArizona Cancer



Center's High-Risk Clinic for Gastrointestinal Cancers, **Joshua Melson, MD**, drew a lively audience for his April 5 talk on colorectal cancer screening at Tucson Medical Center. The partnership allows DOM faculty another venue to present on their specialties. Infectious Diseases' **Fariba Donovan, MD, PhD**, gave the first talk Dec. 15. Next up are GGP's **Julia Cremer, MD**, and ID's **Danielle Avila, MD**. [See a mini-photo gallery](#) of Dr. Melson's talk and contact faculty affairs vice chair [Serena Scott, MD](#), to join the lineup.

## Research



■ **[Applicants sought for lung and sleep health scientist training program](#)**: A five-year federal grant renewal to diversify the biomedical research workforce focused on lung health and sleep disorders will expand to address pandemics and disparities in respiratory infections. PI and Pulmonary division chief, **Sairam Parthasarathy, MD**, said the **Arizona Approaches to Equity: Pandemics, Lungs, and Sleep** or **AAPLS Program** is open to all UAHS early-career faculty & postdoctoral researchers. [Sign up now](#).

■ **Behind the scenes peek at clinical trials landscape**: Come Friday, June 21, for the **[Clinical Trials Development Workshop](#)**, a free professional development event aimed at clinical investigators at all levels looking to increase their clinical trial working knowledge. UArizona and Banner faculty, fellows, residents, and clinical trials support staff encouraged to attend. Hosted by **Rachna Shroff, MD, MS**, Hematology & Oncology division chief, College of Medicine – Tucson associate dean of clinical and translational research, and UArizona Cancer Center interim clinical affairs director, this event brings together physicians and basic scientists across the UArizona Health Sciences. [Learn more & register here](#).

### In other research news:

- Be sure to set aside time to support our residents and fellows at **[Internal Medicine Research Academic Half Day](#)** on **Thursday, May 23, 2-4 p.m.** The poster competition is in the **COM-T Social Hall**. However, oral presentations—new this year—will be in Room 5403 where Medicine Grand Rounds are held. A big thanks to faculty who've agreed to serve as judges. More are needed. Contact chief resident **[Brendan Andres, MD](#)**, to be a judge.
- The NIH Center for Scientific Review announced **Revisions to the NIH Fellowship Review and Application Process**. You can [read about that here](#) and [offer feedback on the changes here](#).
- NIH has put out the **new Ruth L. Kirschstein Stipend levels** for undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral trainees and fellows. See the full announcement at: **[NOT-OD-24-104](#)**.
- Applications for COM-T's fully paid **Medical Student Summer Research Program** are due soon. If you're interested in hosting a

rising MS-2 researcher in your research group this summer, this could be your chance. [See this link for details.](#)

## Education



- Save the date for **Faculty Instructional Development (FID) Sessions** in **May** and **June** with **Breanna Sherrow-Serrano, PhD**. With six in all, four are via Zoom and two in person. Vice Chair for Education **Amy Sussman, MD**, co-presents for the in-person sessions. The first FID is Friday, May 3, 3-4 p.m. on “Using the Boss Framework to Provide Written Feedback.” [Download flyer for details.](#)
- **Twenty-three share honors at 2024 DOM Awards Ceremony:** In a return to the Arizona Inn for the event, two Class of 2024 students won dual honors: **Lupita Molina** for top student in nephrology and endocrinology; and **Michael Haekwang Kim** for infectious diseases and rheumatology. Other key honors included **Daniel Brown, MD** – Residency Director's Award; Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine chief fellow **Sarah Upson, MD** – Outstanding Medicine Fellow, and **Lauren Murphy** – the J.W. Smith Outstanding Medical Student of the Year. [Learn more and see mini-photo gallery.](#)
- **Ten picked as MSTAR Scholars:** **Mindy Fain, MD**, congratulated the 10 College of Medicine – Tucson first-year medical students recently chosen to travel this summer to institutions across the country for a 2-to-3-month structured research, clinical and didactic program in aging under top experts in geriatrics as part of the Medical Student Training in Aging Research Program. MSTAR is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging. Here's where they're headed: **Nora Griffith** (Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard, Boston); **Taylor Veschio** (Mount Sinai/Icahn, New York); **Nhat Ahn Nguyen** (UCLA); **Jayne Reines** (NYU Langone, New York); **Quan Duong Vo** (UC San Diego); **My Duyen Tran** (NYU Langone); **Samrawit De La Cruz** (Johns Hopkins, Baltimore); **Lakshmi Laasya** (Johns Hopkins); and **Jonathan Sayegh** (Johns Hopkins). Dr. Fain, co-director of the UArizona Center on Aging and Division of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine chief, serves as their mentor and home institution faculty sponsor.
- **Sharing memories, experiences all part of IM Specialty Speed Dating benefits:** With a dozen DOM faculty members and twice as many students participating, the April 10 event, hosted by the UArizona chapter of the Internal Medicine Student Association, offered a chance to share different pathways physicians took to their internal medicine specialties. [See a mini-photo gallery & learn more.](#)
- DOM enjoyed another successful **Match Day for Internal Medicine and Dermatology**, March 15. We matched 31 COM-T students to IM (this is above the national mean for IM), reports Vice Chair for Education **Amy**

**Sussman, MD.** See incoming Internal Medicine Residency Program interns and a mini-photo gallery from Match Day, including the **Parthasarathy/Partha** family celebrating their daughter's match to the hospital where she was born. [See mini-photo gallery.](#)

■ **[DOM wins 11 awards at 2024 College of Medicine – Tucson Faculty Awards:](#)** Eight faculty split 10 awards for the department, which also won Outstanding Achievement in Teaching for the Internal Medicine Clerkship Program at Feb. 28 event in HSIB. See a mini-photo gallery, too.

## Clinical



■ **Productivity, hiring, MAS and Banner Door Openers:** Based on the blended benchmark, the Department of Medicine's overall clinical productivity increased from the 55th percentile to the 63rd percentile since the start of the academic year, reports **Mathew Hutchinson, MD**, DOM vice chair for clinical operations. As of now, we have 83 recruiting positions, 55 of which are still open and 28 already filled. We would like to remind all clinical faculty to complete the DOM Minimum Academic Standards and Banner Door Openers to be eligible for their full incentive.

### **Minimum Academic Standard from January-June 2024**

- UA Vitae, 1 DEI and 75% attendance of Department's or Division's meeting

### **Banner Door Openers:**

- Completion of required vaccination(s) or exemptions prior to all applicable deadlines
- Completion of the most recently assigned "required" BLC learning assignments prior to all applicable deadlines
- Timely completion (within an average of five business days, as measured on a quarterly basis) 95% of all clinical documentation, and you must ensure that 95% of all charges are entered into the practice management system in a timely manner (within an average of five business days, as measured on a quarterly basis)

## DEI



■ **[Medicine Grand Rounds & SPARK DEI Lecture with UArizona's Dr. Celia Valenzuela:](#)** The topic of her talk is "Enhancing Culturally Sensitive Care for Sexual and Gender Minority Patients." May 29, Noon-1 p.m., AHSC Room 5403 & Virtual. Earn your DEI credit here.



## More News

- **“DOM faculty, staff spotlighted in UArizona Cancer Center newsletter”** (April 18) The latest UA Cancer Center newsletter highlights **Aaron Scott, MD**, in a “Cancer Bytes” video, **Juanita Merchant, MD, PhD**, as NCI equity leadership team member, and Lisa Quale as Skin Cancer Institute sun safety ambassador advocate.
- **“Translational Medicine Symposium refocuses research on practical remedies”** (March 22) Led by host **Jennifer Carew, PhD**, the inaugural conference, March 22 in the HSIB Forum with a number of DOM faculty presenting or attending. See mini-photo gallery.
- **“Cancer Center recognizes members making history now for Women's History Month”** (March 8) A collage of women's faces spotlights the many female faculty advancing research and patient care today to prevent and treat cancer — 14 of 78 are from the Department of Medicine. See who they are.
- **“Banner begins offering groundbreaking atrial fibrillation device in Tucson”** (March 4) The first procedure with the new treatment option for patients with potentially life-threatening arrhythmias was completed March 4 by cardiac electrophysiologist **Dr. Mathew Hutchinson** in Tucson.

**MORE NEWS** ►►►

Submit items to be considered for publication in the newsletter to **David Mogollon**.



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### **Land Acknowledgment**

*We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O’odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.*