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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Department  
of Medicine



INTERNAL  
DIGEST

June 2024

## Chair's Message

Colleagues,

We celebrate in this issue the many graduates of our two residency and 15 fellowship programs, the most in the College of Medicine – Tucson or Phoenix. Some are moving up here to fellowships and faculty posts. Others are moving elsewhere. We put the spotlight on both below and wish you all well. Next month, we'll underscore who is joining us as first-years in their respective programs. And, as always this summer, stay cool, stay hydrated!



### **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 fellows, residents look to their futures in post-grad world**

Fellow and resident graduations began May 5 from the 15 fellowship and two residency programs active in the Department of Medicine. All are headed to bigger and better things whether here or across the country and world. See photos and where they're going. Several faculty were recognized with awards at grad night events.



### **New Tanque Verde Cardiology Clinic expected to open soon**

Division of Cardiology and Sarver Heart Center faculty and staff are excited about a new 11,000-square-foot facility next to the Banner Cardiovascular surgery center in Tucson with easy access for midtown, foothills patients. Staffed with two general and three interventional cardiologists, including medical director **Craig Hoover, MD**, the clinic features 16 exam rooms, a pacemaker/device room, cardiac stress room and two echocardiogram procedure rooms.



### **Seven winners named in Internal Medicine Research AHD contest**

The May 23 poster and oral vignette competition known as Research Academic Half Day was hosted by the Internal Medicine Residency Program and split between the COM-T Social Hall and Lecture Room 5403. It drew multiple DOM faculty as judges and spectators. See who they were, along with the winning residents (*all who participated, really*) and a photo gallery.

## In This Issue

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## Upcoming Events

JUN  
21

[\*\*2024 Clinical Trials Development Workshop\*\*](#)

7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | HSIB Forum & Virtual

JUN  
25

[\*\*FID Session: 'Strategies for Meeting Your Trainees' Learning Needs at Every Level'\*\*](#)

2-3 p.m. | Virtual

JUN  
26

[\*\*Surgery Grand Rounds: 'Amputations from a podiatric viewpoint'\*\*](#)

8-9 a.m. | COM-T 5403 or Virtual

JUN  
26

[\*\*Uranium & the Grand Canyon: A panel conversation with KJZZ News\*\*](#)

6-7:30 p.m. | Rio Salado College, Tempe, AZ

JUL  
5

[\*\*TMC Internal Medicine Grand Rounds with UArizona's Dr. Danielle Avila: 'HIV & PrEP Update'\*\*](#)

12:30-1:30 p.m. | Tucson Medical Center, Marshall Auditorium

JUL  
13

[\*\*BIO5 Inspiring Women in STEM Event\*\*](#)

11:30 a.m. | BIO5/Keating Bioresearch Building

JUL  
19

[\*\*KEYS Research Internship Showcase\*\*](#)

9 a.m.-Noon | HSIB Forum

JUL  
19

[\*\*FID Session: 'Delivering Effective Presentations'\*\*](#)

3-3:30 p.m. | Virtual

JUL  
26

**FID Session: 'Strategies for Meeting Your Trainees' Learning Needs at Every Level'**

1-2 p.m. | Virtual

JUL  
26

**COM-T Class of 2028 White Coat Ceremony**

5:30-7:30 p.m. | UArizona Centennial Hall & Virtual

**MORE EVENTS ►►►**

## Honors & Awards



Two DOM faculty members, **Olivia Hung, MD, PhD** (Cardiology) and **Salma Patel, MD, MPH** (Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, or PACCS), were among inaugural graduates of the Spurring Success for Women in Medicine and Science, or SSWIMS, Fellowship on May 15. Four more are slated to be Class of 2025 SSWIMS fellows: **Danielle Avila, MD** (Infectious Diseases, or ID); **Billie Bixby, MD** (PACCS); **Saher Khalid, MD** (General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine, or GGP); and **Amy Klein, MD** (GGP). [Learn more.](#)

- Four DOM faculty were inducted into the Academy of Medical Education Scholars, or AMES, UArizona Chapter at the College of Medicine – Tucson: **Maria Bishop, MD**; (SAVAHCS, Hematology & Oncology); **Joy Bulger Beck, MD** (GGP); **Jennifer Plitt, MD** (GGP), and **Saman Nematollahi, MD** (ID). Three others from the DOM won research grants: **Bhupinder Natt, MD** (PACCS), **Maxwell Hart, MD** (graduating IM resident), and **Katherine Robbins, MD** (dermatology resident). AMES UArizona chapter chair **Tara Carr, MD** (PACCS), presided at the event. [Learn more.](#)
- GGP's **Meenakshi Dagar, MD**, has been elevated to program director for the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship as of July 1.
- GGP's **Jennifer Plitt, MD**, was selected as a 2024-25 **Societies Mentor** for the College of Medicine – Tucson. Among DOM faculty now serving in that role are: Catalina House – **Kevin Moynahan, MD** (GGP), **Serena Scott, MD** (GGP), and **Puneet Shroff, MD** (PACCS); Tortolita House – **Daniel Butler, MD** (Dermatology), and **Maria Bishop, MD** (SAVAHCS); Santa Rita House – **Dalia Mikhael, MD** (GGP), and Rincon House – **Joy Bulger Beck, MD** (GGP), and **Sarah Tariq, MD** (Endocrinology).
- Women We Admire, a group of accomplished U.S. and Canadian women executives and leaders, included Cardiology's **Elizabeth Juneman, MD**, among its 2024 Rising Star Women of Medicine. [Learn more.](#)
- Regents Professor, GI chief and UArizona Cancer Center interim director **Juanita Merchant, MD, PhD**, was **presented with a plaque** after presenting May 10 at the

Yale Cancer Center Grand Rounds on “PDE Inhibitors Block MDSC Metabolism in Gastric Adenocarcinoma.” [Watch it here.](#)

■ **Abby Fuoto, DNP, ANP-BC**, GGP nurse practitioner and specialty instructor, was invited to serve as faculty and speak at the [2024 APP Oncology Summit \(APPOS\)](#), in Scottsdale on the topic, “Mastering Difficult Conversations in Oncology APP Practice,” Aug. 17.

■ ID fellow **Maryam Naveed, MBBS**, was invited to present her research on, “The Role of Antifungal Susceptibility Testing in Management of Mucormycosis,” (under mentorship of Dr. Al Obaidi, **Tirdad Zangeneh, DO**, and **William Lainhart, PhD**) at the [American Society of Microbiology Microbe meeting](#) in June 2024 in Atlanta.

## Media Mentions

- **Frank “Chip” Brosius, III, MD**, professor, Division of Nephrology, “**Ozempic, Wegovy may protect kidney health, new research finds**” ([Health](#), [Yahoo!](#) & [AOL](#); June 10).
- **Jennifer Carew, PhD**, professor, Division of Hematology & Oncology, and director, Translational Research and Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials, UArizona Cancer Center, “**New method to lower breast cancer metastases to brain**” ([MedicalXpress](#), [Science Magazine](#), [Bioengineer](#); June 7 – *this news item was picked up by at least 17 media outlets globally through June 10*); [related content](#).
- **Sairam Parthasarathy, MD**, professor and chief, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, and PI, Arizona CEAL COVID Consortium, “**Sleep issues affect COVID-19, vary by sex**” ([Consultant Live](#), June 4).
- **Akshay Amareneni, MD**, associate professor, Division of Hematology & Oncology, “**Angelique Lizarde – Battling Back, Part 1 & 2**” (KVOA-TV News4, [May 29](#) & [30](#)).
- **Jennifer Bea, PhD**, associate professor, Division of Hematology & Oncology, “**Obesity and Cancer: Untangling a Complex Web**” ([Medscape](#), May 28).
- **Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, MD**, professor and chief, Division of Dermatology, co-director, UArizona Skin Cancer Institute, interim research director, UArizona Cancer Center, “**What Gen Z gets wrong about sunscreen**” ([New York Times](#), May 27; [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#), May 28; [Strait Times Singapore](#), June 10 – *this news item was picked up by several news outlets globally through June 10*).
- **C. Kent Kwoh, MD**, professor and chief, Division of Rheumatology, and director, UArizona Arthritis Center, “**Biking linked to reduced knee pain in later life**” ([NBC News](#), [NPR](#), [New York Post](#), May 20 – *this news item on study*

*Dr. Kwoh was co-author on had at least 20 media outlet pickups globally May 13-21).*

- **Tara Carr, MD**, associate professor and, director, Adult Allergy Program and Allergy & Immunology Fellowship, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, “**Rubbing Your Eyes Is Way More Harmful Than You Think**” ([Inverse.com](#), [Inkl Australia](#), May 20).
- **Audriana Hurbon, MD**, assistant professor, Division of Inpatient Medicine, “Hormone replacement therapy may benefit some women with pulmonary hypertension” ([Medical News Today](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [AOL](#), May 19 – *this news item had over a dozen media outlet pickups globally through May 23*).
- **Hesham Sadek, MD, PhD**, professor and chief, Division of Cardiology, and director, Sarver Heart Center, “**4 cardiology leadership appointments in 1 month**” ([Becker’s ASC Review](#), May 15).
- **Julia Jernberg, MD**, associate professor, Division of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine, “**More than 200 million seniors face extreme heat risks in coming decades, study finds**” ([KJZZ-Radio NPR Phoenix](#), [Reddit](#), [Ground News](#), May 14 – *this news item was picked up by more than 1,000 media outlets, including nearly all NPR stations*); [related content](#).
- **Esther Sternberg, MD**, professor of medicine and research director, Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine, “**Andrew Weil Center celebrates open house**” ([KOLD-TV Tucson](#), May 6); [related content](#).
- **John Galgiani, MD**, professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, and director, Valley Fever Center for Excellence, “**Valley fever disproportionately affects minority populations**” ([Arizona Daily Star](#), May 5; [Ahwatuckee Foothills News](#) – Phoenix, May 3); [related content](#).

[MORE MEDIA MENTIONS ►►►](#)

## Spotlight on Liver Institute



### Care, research & outreach for awareness &

**prevention:** While officially now part of the College of Medicine – Tucson, the [Thomas D. Boyer Liver Institute](#) has been associated with the Department of Medicine since it was launched as the UArizona Liver Research Institute in 2000 by the late Thomas D. Boyer, MD, who later served as DOM chair (2008-14). Learn more about the Liver Institute—now led by hepatologist **Geoffrey Block, MD, MSc**—via its latest newsletter, which spotlights Global Fatty Liver Day on June 13, recent outreach events and offers updates on latest

policy briefs, clinical trials and current studies, [click here](#).

## Vice Chair Reports

### Faculty Affairs



■ **Nine DOM faculty earn promotions:** Well wishes for Department of Medicine faculty who won promotions for the next academic year— **Mohanad Al Obaidi, MD, MPH; Tara Carr, MD; Michel Corban, MD; Sima Ehsani, MD; Justin Hayes, MD; Olivia Hung, MD, PhD; Neha Jaswal, MD; Elizabeth Juneman, MD; and Bijin Thajudeen, MD.** Three are from Cardiology and two from Infectious Diseases. Congrats! [Learn more.](#)

*For information on jumpstarting your advancement in the department, faculty should reach out to **Terri Buchanan**, DOM coordinator for faculty appointments: [terrib@arizona.edu](mailto:terrib@arizona.edu) or (520) 626-4168.*

■ **COMPAS call for applications:** Are you a faculty member who needs help with your career development? Do you wonder what your peers in other departments are doing to succeed? There's a solution for you. The **College of Medicine Peer Advancement Societies**, or COMPAS, program in Tucson issued a call for applications **due by June 28**. A five-month commitment, COMPAS augments your department's mentoring program with networking, professional relationships development and collaboration across departments. [Learn more and apply.](#)

■ **WIMS seeks Ad Hoc Committee applicants:** The Women in Medicine and Science Group at COM-T is seeking applicants for the WIMS Ad Hoc Committee to focus on initiatives for FY24-25 to promote gender equity, career development and mentorship. Open to all college faculty, WIMS' goal is to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for women in these fields. To apply, send a 300-word statement of interest and brief bio to [hinaarif@arizona.edu](mailto:hinaarif@arizona.edu) by Sunday, July 30. Selected committee members will be notified by mid-July, notes WIMS member **Indu Partha, MD**, associate professor, GGP. Look for an email soon with more details.

### Research



■ **Thirsty Thursdays in June for DOM Faculty:** For three consecutive Thursdays in June (**June 6, 13 & 20**), there will be an informal DOM faculty meetup from **3:30-5 p.m.** in the [HSIB's Café Bolo](#), which serves coffee, soft drinks and beer on tap (after 3 p.m.), to discuss research successes, frustrations, questions, and ideas. Please join us.

■ **Summer DOM research meet-n-greet:** Many DOM research groups host research trainees in the summer and/or year-round who are involved with various DOM (e.g., AZ-PRIDE 25) or other training programs (e.g., UROC, MARC, MSRP, UBRP, STEP-UP, COM-T Scholarly Projects, GIDPs, KEYS, BLAISER, FRONTERA, NSURP, etc.). The department will host a by-invitation-only event June 26 in MRB 102 to celebrate those mentors and trainees. Check your email for invites.

■ **Clinical trials insights for you:** A panel discussion at the [Clinical Trials Development Workshop](#) on Friday, June 21, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m., HSIB Forum, includes three DOM faculty sharing their insights: **Daniel Butler, MD**, associate professor and director, Inflammatory & Aging Skin Research Program, Division of Dermatology, and COM-T assistant dean for student affairs; **Sairam Parthasarathy, MD**, professor and PACCS division chief, and director, UArizona Health Sciences Center for Sleep, Circadian and Neuroscience Research; and **Aaron Scott, MD**, associate professor, Hem-Onc division, and co-leader, UArizona Cancer Center's Clinical & Translational Oncology Program. This free professional development event brings together physicians and basic scientists across the Health Sciences, says host **Rachna Shroff, MD, MS**, Hem-Onc chief, COM-T associate dean of clinical and translational research, and Cancer Center interim clinical affairs director. [Learn more & register here.](#)

## Education



■ **Grad Season:** May and June mark many graduations for the DOM residencies and fellowships. Congrats to all our new alumni! [Learn more.](#)

■ **FID Summer Sessions:** Save the date for the remaining Faculty Instructional Development sessions for June, July, and August with **Breanna Sherrow-Serrano, PhD**, there are five sessions remaining via zoom ([see flyer for topics & dates](#)). DOM Vice Chair of Education **Amy Sussman, MD**, will co-present for the August 16, 2024, 2-2:30 pm session on "Teaching with Cases." [Learn more & register here.](#)

■ **New Teaching Tip:** This video is short and provides the framework for the Ask, Tell, Ask Model for providing feedback – [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYXgMobMU8U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYXgMobMU8U).

*Also look for updates this summer to Teaching Resources online.*

## DEI



■ **Juneteenth Culture of Food Extravaganza\*** : Black history and culture will be celebrated through food at the Juneteenth and Beyond – Culture



of Food event June 25 at 3 p.m. at the Student Union Memorial Center's Cork & Craft restaurant. The food tasting event will showcase the rich history and flavors of African American cuisine. [Tickets are available for purchase](#) online. [More Juneteenth information and resources](#) are at the university's Beyond Juneteenth website.

*\*Thanks to the UArizona [Lo Que Pasa newsletter](#) for this news item.*

■ **SPARK DEI lectures & faculty DEI obligations:** The DOM hosted two SPARK DEI events this past quarter either directly via our [Medicine Grand Rounds with UArizona's Dr. Celia Valenzuela on May 29](#) or through support of divisional lectures like the [June 14 lecture by UCSF's Dr. Jenny Murase](#), hosted by the Division of Dermatology. If you've yet to fulfill your faculty DEI credit obligation, you can still do so by taking any of five self-paced LinkedIn Learning short courses online via the UArizona College of Medicine – Tucson. [Look for the courses at this link.](#)

## More News

■ [“Study finds potential pathway to reducing breast cancer brain metastases”](#) (June 6) Brain metastases are the most prevalent adult central nervous system tumors, with 20-30% of cases resulting from breast cancer patients. Hem-Onc's **Jennifer Carew, MD, PhD**, and **Steffan Nawrocki, PhD**, co-author this paper that earned more than a few Media Mentions for June.

■ [“Breathing a sigh of relief: A new therapy for asthma management”](#) (May 29) Asthma sufferers now have a way to manage their symptoms easier and more effectively than traditional therapeutics with SMART therapy, according to the Pulmonary division's **Tara Carr, MD**, in this blogpost on asthma and how to better manage it.

■ [“More than 75 join to celebrate lives of Drs. Jim Dalen, Jay Smith”](#) (May 23) Families, friends and former faculty of the prior College of Medicine – Tucson dean and vice dean—both in Department of Medicine divisions—share memories of a dynamic time in the college's history at May 22 memorial held in their honor and hosted by DOM Chair **Jim Liao, MD**, and Vice Chair **Joe Alpert, MD**. See photo gallery.

■ [“Skin Cancer Institute keeps Arizonans safe with prevention, early detection, treatment”](#) (May 17) In a state with the second highest UV index, Arizonans are affected by the Earth's closest star daily. For **Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, MD**, that connection between sun exposure and skin cancer is alarming. It makes UArizona Skin Cancer Institute research, care and outreach to better harmonize our lives with the sun all the more important.

■ [“Photos, videos showcase Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine grand opening”](#) (May 15) Panel discussion with pioneers in integrative health care, cooking

demonstrations, and a public open house highlight the debut of the new complex. DOM faculty were prominent at each, if only in attending. See two mini-photo galleries (one of the Dr. Weil, Deepak Chopra and Jon Kabat-Zinn panel discussion, and another of the public open house) and a video to see who was there.

■ **[“Mediterranean diet, fiber-rich foods focus of latest ‘Docs in the Kitchen’ cooking demo”](#)** (May 7) A fiber-rich diet’s many benefits include reducing risk of cancer, according to Hem-Onc fellowship director **Kristina Gowin, DO**, and **Juanita Merchant, MD, PhD**, UArizona Cancer Center interim director and GI division chief. See a photo gallery of them helping prepare a four-course meal.

■ **[“New cardiothoracic surgery section chief welcomed”](#)** (May 7) Before joining UArizona, **Scott Silvestry, MD**, was at Advent Health Orlando where he served as co-executive medical director of the Heart, Lung and Vascular Institute and surgical director of Thoracic Transplant Programs.

■ **[“DOM faculty anchor Climate Change panel at Arthritis Center symposium, grab headlines”](#)** (May 6) Arthritis Center director and Rheumatology division chief **C. Kent Kwoh, MD**, moderated the panel which included the DOM’s **Fariba Donovan, MD, PhD**; **Randy Horwitz, MD, PhD**; and **Julia Jernberg, MD**, and the Sarver Heart Center’s **Art Sanders, MD**. A related KJZZ story with Dr. Jernberg was picked up by over 1,000 media outlets. See mini-photo gallery.

■ **[“UArizona presents on invasive squamous cell carcinoma at AACR meeting”](#)** (May 3) Dermatology division chief and UArizona Skin Cancer Institute co-director **Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, MD**, presented the research in San Diego on the effect of melanoma drug TVEC on patients with cutaneous invasive squamous cell carcinoma, or cSCC.

**[MORE NEWS ►►►](#)**

Submit items to be considered for publication in the newsletter to **[David Mogollon](#)**. To subscribe to the DOM Internal Digest, **[see this link](#)**.



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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.*