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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Department  
of Medicine



INTERNAL  
DIGEST

July 2024

## Chair's Message

Colleagues,

I take this opportunity to welcome our new internal medicine residency and fellowship trainees to our department. Our faculty are excited to work with some of the most distinguished trainees from across the country and look forward to supporting their clinical training during an important period in their academic career. The Department of Medicine offers a wide variety of educational opportunities through grand rounds, seminars, didactic lectures, and teaching sessions as well as opportunities to be involved in research and other Divisional activities. I invite you to view our newsletter to learn more about the exciting opportunities and events occurring in our 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



### [Eleven new faculty welcomed to DOM in July](#)

Eight are hospitalists with the Division of Inpatient Medicine, and the Cardiology, Dermatology and Pulmonary divisions get one each. Four are former UArizona residents, two are “MedCats for Life,” and one is a former UArizona fellow. See who they are and welcome them to summer in the Sonoran Desert!



### [Banner – UMC Tucson best hospital in Tucson and No. 3 in state again](#)

U.S. News & World Report ranked Tucson’s only Level I Trauma Center once more as the No. 1 hospital in Tucson, No. 1 hospital in Southeastern Arizona and No. 3 in Arizona, with additional credit as high performing in five adult specialties and nine procedures and conditions for 2024-25.



### [New residents, fellows join DOM just in time for 4th of July holiday](#)

Independence Day dropped into the middle of the week for new resident and fellow physicians beginning their training within the Department of Medicine’s two residencies and 18 fellowships, 15 of which are ACGME accredited. That’s 46 residents and 39 fellows in all. They’ve already gone through [orientation](#) and enjoyed [two welcome receptions](#), with [more to come](#).

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## Upcoming Events

- JUL 30** [Pima County Medical Society/Pima County Health free public health forum for health care providers](#)  
6-7 p.m. | Virtual
- AUG 1** [CMM Seminar Series: 'Unlocking the role of sMyBP-C in sarcomere function, structure & congenital muscle disorders'](#)  
9-10 a.m. | Virtual
- AUG 6** [U of A Gem and Mineral Museum: End of Summer Celebration \\$5 Admission for Everyone](#)  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. | 115 N. Church Ave., Ste 121
- AUG 8** [Banner Resident/Fellow Acai Bowl Appreciation Event](#)  
8-10 a.m. | Banner – UMC South Resident Lounge
- AUG 8** [General Faculty Meeting | College of Medicine – Tucson](#)  
4:30-6 p.m. | COM-T Social Hall
- AUG 16** [New Faculty Retreat | College of Medicine – Tucson](#)  
9-a.m. - Noon | UAHS Library Room 4150
- SEPT 6** [FemTech I-Corps Cohort Info Session](#)  
1-2 p.m. | Virtual
- SEPT 10** [FemTech I-Corps Cohort Kickoff Session](#)  
1-2 p.m. | Virtual
- SEP 30** [Meet Your College of Medicine – Tucson TLA Faculty Innovation Ambassador, Julie Ledford, PhD](#)  
Noon-1 p.m. | AHSC Room 2500 (COM-T Social Hall)

[MORE EVENTS ►►►](#)

## Honors & Awards



Five DOM faculty in first class of COM-T, Eller Advanced Healthcare Leadership Academy: Tara Carr, MD, Janet Funk, MD, Elizabeth Juneman, MD, Serena Scott, MD, MBA, and Tejo Vemulapalli, MD, are among 13 in the inaugural cohort for the re-envisioned and expanded Learning to Lead program. It's designed to enhance the college's leadership culture and build a better community of colleagues with shared goals. [Learn more.](#)

■ Congratulations to **Mohanad M. Al Obaidi, MD, MPH, FIDSA**, clinical assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases, who was conferred as a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America in May. He'll be inducted into the 2024 FIDSA class during IDWeek in Los Angeles, Oct. 16-19. [Learn more.](#)

■ Kudos to **Vijay Chandiramani, MD**, associate professor and associate chief in the Division of Inpatient Medicine, honored earlier this year as the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Physicians' top hospitalist in the state. He was nominated by Matthew Berkman, MD, a professor of emergency medicine. [Learn more.](#)

■ Three out of a dozen nominees for the **COM-T Lura Hanekamp Dedicated Staff Award for Excellence** were from the Department of Medicine. Congratulations to all the nominees – including the Division of Cardiology's **Mia Gonzales**, Pulmonary division's **Brenda Lambert** and DOM Finance's **Courtney Smith**. They, the other nominees and the two overall winners were feted at an awards ceremony on June 26 in the Health Sciences Innovation Building. [Learn more](#) & see a mini-photo gallery.

## Media Mentions

- **Sairam Parthasarathy, MD**, professor and chief, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine (PACCS), and director, Center for Sleep, Circadian & Neuroscience Research, “I’m a sleep doctor – here are 7 ways to reduce jet lag when you travel,” (July 24: [New York Post](#), [American Talk](#), [USA Times](#) and [AOL](#); July 23: [TIME Magazine](#)).
- **Tara Carr, MD**, allergist and professor, PACCS division, “Monsoon storms are sending more people to urgent care, here’s why,” (July 22: [KOLD-TV Tucson](#); [KTVK-TV Phoenix](#) & [MSN](#)).
- University of Arizona Cancer Center/Division of Hematology & Oncology, “Lemonade medicine and breast cancer,” (July 22: [Dr. Sircus](#); [DoctorMurray.com](#)).

- **Andrew Weil, MD**, professor of medicine and founding director, Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine (AWCIM), **“Breathe your way to less stress with these exercises”** (July 17: [Elev8](#); [WZAK-Radio Cleveland](#); [WTLC-Radio Indianapolis](#); [WPZZ-Radio Richmond, VA](#); [WWIN-Radio Baltimore](#)).
- **Andrew Weil, MD**, professor of medicine and founding director, AWCIM, **“No. 1 risk factor to your health: Inflammation – What it is and how to reduce it,”** (July 11: [Lewis Howe School of Greatness Podcast](#)).
- **Joseph Alpert, MD**, professor, Division of Cardiology, **“How long should we kiss for it to be ‘healthy’?”** (July 10: [Bomega, Poland](#) – in Polish; [Twoje Zdrowie, Poland](#) – in Polish).
- Sarver Heart Center/Division of Cardiology, **“Passenger saves man's life while waiting at airport terminal after spotting two worrying symptoms,”** ([Daily Mail, UK](#); [Daily Express, UK](#) & [MSN](#)).
- **Daniel Combs, MD**, assistant professor, PACCS division, **“Is whooping cough (pertussis) hard to diagnose?”** (July 7: [Health](#)).
- **Sairam Parthasarathy, MD**, professor and chief, PACCS division, and director, Center for Sleep, Circadian & Neuroscience Research, **“New Tucson study will try therapies to heal long COVID's effect on people's sleep”** (July 6: [KNXV-TV ABC15 Phoenix](#); July 5: [KGUN9-TV Tucson](#)).
- **Lawrence Mandarino, PhD**, professor and chief, Division of Endocrinology, and director, Center for Disparities in Diabetes, Obesity & Metabolism, **“UArizona works to improve diabetes research in Latinos,”** (July 5: [Tu Salud Magazine](#)); [related content](#).
- **Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, MD**, professor and chief, Division of Dermatology, **“What Gen Z gets wrong about sunscreen,”** (July 5: [Seattle Times](#) – *this story also had several media pickups in late May, early June*).
- **Sairam Parthasarathy, MD**, professor and division chief, PACCS, **“Experts expect spike in COVID cases after holiday weekend”** (July 4: [KOLD-TV Tucson](#); [ExBulletin, Australia](#)).
- **Jennifer Carew, PhD**, professor, Division of Hematology & Oncology, and director, Translational Research and Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials, UArizona Cancer Center, **“New biological mechanism uncovered for treating breast cancer metastasis to the brain”** (July 3: [Head Topics](#); July 1: [Let Life Happen](#) – *this story had about 18 media pickups in late May, early June*); [related content](#).
- **Rachna Shroff, MD, MS**, professor and chief, Division of Hematology & Oncology, UArizona Cancer Center associate director of clinical investigations, and College of Medicine – Tucson associate dean for clinical and translational research, **“Bridging Science and Patient-Centered Cancer Care,”** (June 27: [docwirenews](#)).
- **John Galgiani, MD**, professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, and director, Valley Fever Center for Excellence, **“Dust storms not leading cause of Valley fever,”** (June 22: [KOLD-TV Tucson](#)).

- **John Galgiani, MD**, professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, and director, Valley Fever Center for Excellence, **“More people getting tested for Valley fever in Arizona. This doctors says it's not enough,”** (June 19: [KJZZ-Radio NPR Phoenix](#)).

[MORE MEDIA MENTIONS ►►►](#)

## Spotlight on Skin Cancer Institute



### Care, research & outreach for awareness & prevention:

Recent news items focus on the Skin Cancer Institute’s role in raising awareness about, preventing and treating skin cancer. In April 2005, the Bert W. Martin Foundation funded the institute's development as part of the U of A Cancer Center in Tucson. In April, institute co-director and Division of Dermatology chief **Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, MD**, presented on [use of a melanoma cancer drug, TVEC](#), to treat cutaneous invasive squamous cell carcinoma, or cSCC, at the American Association for Cancer

Research Annual Meeting. Also in April, the Cancer Center spotlighted the institute’s [“sun safety” community ambassadors](#) program. In May, the center [posted a story](#) about institute outreach efforts to focus on skin health and teach prevention. And, in July, Dr. Curiel-Lewandrowski was the subject of a [Cancer Bytes video](#) highlighting risks that go along with Arizona’s high UV index and how to enjoy the outdoors more safely.

## Vice Chair Reports

### Faculty Affairs



■ **WISE seeks mentors to support U of A Women in STEM students:** The university’s [Women in Science & Engineering Program \(WISE\)](#) runs a [mentorship program](#) that pairs undergraduate and graduate women across STEM fields with local industry professionals and U of A faculty for year-long mentoring relationships. Pairing is based on areas of professional interest, expertise, personal background and shared experiences. Mentors are provided with orientation, supplemental resources and training materials to support their role. Pairs commit to meeting monthly from October-April, and also attend an orientation and

closing event. Applications due **Aug. 9**. [Learn more & apply](#). Questions? [See flyer](#) or contact [Gaby Perez](#).

■ **Call for Nominations for WIMS 2024-25 Torchbearer Awards:** The Women in Medicine & Science group at the College of Medicine – Tucson issued a request for Torchbearer Award nominations for the second annual cohort of inspiring women to be celebrated during Women in Medicine Month in September. Submissions **due by Aug. 19**. Eleven DOM faculty received the honor in 2023. [Learn more](#).

■ **Inaugural SSWIMS fellows celebrate success – ‘The power behind women leaders’:** The COM-T fellowship for women in medicine and science supports projects to improve education, research and patient care — and prepare participants for leadership. The DOM’s **Olivia Hung, MD, PhD**, and **Salma Patel, MD, MPH**, were among inaugural fellows, and four more DOM faculty joined for the second cohort. [Learn more](#).

## Research



■ **Published paper of the month: Daniel C. Butler, MD**, associate professor and director, Inflammatory & Aging Skin Research Program, Division of Dermatology, and assistant dean for student affairs at the College of Medicine – Tucson, was first author on a paper published in the journal JAMA on [“Chronic Pruritus: A Review.”](#) Co-authors included faculty from UCSF, Icahn/Mount Sinai, Emory, Johns Hopkins, Penn and the University of Miami. Defined as an itch experienced for 6 weeks or longer, chronic pruritus affects about 22% of people in their lifetime. “It’s a very common symptom of what is just now getting more science and understanding,” Dr. Butler said.

Other recently published research:

■ Division of Infectious Diseases faculty **Talha Riaz, MD**, and **John Galgiani, MD**, were among authors of [“Musculoskeletal and CNS coccidiomycosis in an individual with multiple sclerosis on fingolimod – A case report,”](#) published July 2 in the journal ID Cases.

■ The Division of Cardiology’s **Joe Alpert, MD**, and **Mindy Fain, MD**, chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine, or GGP, authored, [“Frailty: The Sixth and Seventh Ages of Man: Disability and Dementia,”](#) which appeared in the American Journal of Medicine.

■ GGP’s **Esteban Astiazaran Symonds, MD**, is co-author on, [“Management of individuals with germline pathogenic/likely pathogenic variants in CHEK2: A clinical practice resource of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics](#)

[\(ACMG\),”](#) published in the journal Genetics in Medicine on July 25. Dr. Astiazaran Symonds is a member of ACMG’s Professional Practice and Guidelines Committee.

■ A GGP fellow and five faculty members, **Samantha Russell, MD**, and **Karen Parker, MD, PhD**, **Indu Partha, MD**, **Serena Scott, MD, MBA**, **David Lieberman, MD**, and **Mindy Fain, MD**, were among co-authors on [“Post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection \(Long COVID\) in older adults,”](#) which the journal GeroScience published in mid-June.

Grant and research support opportunities:

■ **Hyundai Hope on Wheels (HHOW) FY2025 Young Investigator Grant & Hope Scholar Grant:** HHOW awards – \$400,000 and \$250,000 for two years – are available to researchers at eligible Children's Oncology Group member institutions. [Learn more](#) and [apply](#) by **Aug. 21**.

■ **NIH PAR-23-077: FY2025 Collaborative Program Grant for Multidisciplinary Teams (RM1 - Clinical Trial Optional):** This program is designed to support highly integrated research teams of three to six program directors/principal investigators (PDs/PIs) to address ambitious and challenging research questions that are within the mission of NIGMS. [Learn more](#) and [apply](#) by **Sep. 4**.

■ **Flinn Foundation Seed Grants to Promote Translational Medicine:** The Flinn Foundation is seeking applicants for 2024 seed grant to fund research teams that are advancing new products or services to improve patient care. Awardees will each receive a \$100,000 grant over 18 months, plus programmatic benefits. [Learn more](#) and [request a letter of support](#) by **Sept. 16**.

■ **Greenwall Foundation 2024 Faculty Scholars Program in Bioethics:** This is a career development award to enable junior faculty members to carry out innovative bioethics research. [Learn more](#) and [request a ticket](#) by **Sept. 16**.

■ **Advancing Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce in Neuroscience Development:** The goal of this program is to support educational activities that encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, to pursue further studies or careers in research. [Learn more](#) and [request a ticket](#) by **Sept. 26**.

*Find out more opportunities to advance your research goals or ways to more fully develop them via [Research Development Resources](#) at the UArizona Office of Research, Innovation & Impact. Click here for the latest RII newsletters: [The Current](#) and [Limited Submissions](#).*





■ **New faces & places:** July and August mean many new folks coming from all over to Tucson for pre-med, med school, [resident/fellow training programs](#) and [new positions as faculty or researchers](#). We wish you all a very hardy welcome to the Old Pueblo (aka, Tucson)!

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

■ **New Teaching Tip:** This short video features Rick Nishimura, MD, as he discusses teaching self-directed learning and reflection after clinical experiences – [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSgXkC1c0iw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSgXkC1c0iw).

*Also look for updates this summer to [Teaching Resources](#) online.*

## More News

■ [“Arizona Center on Aging gets \\$5M HRSA grant for geriatric workforce”](#) (July 25): The funds awarded to **Mindy Fain, MD**, for the Center on Aging’s Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program couldn’t come at a better time. That’s due to a growing older U.S. population that’s more racially and ethnically diverse than ever. Meanwhile, Arizona is projecting 38.5% more residents over the age of 60 by 2040.

■ [“Asthma study tracks Tucsonans from birth into adulthood”](#) (July 19): A decades-long study at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center that has included multiple Department of Medicine faculty, including **Stefano Guerra, MD, PhD, MPH**, and **Tara Carr, MD**, is improving lung health through research.

■ [“Clinical trial gives cancer patient the gift of time”](#) (July 3): Silver Darmer gained years of family time thanks to the University of Arizona Cancer Center, **Rachna Shroff, MD, MS**, and **Yana Zavros, PhD**, and a combination therapy that pairs immunotherapy with targeted chemotherapy. Read this heartwarming story.

■ [“New residents, fellows welcomed at Banner Health receptions”](#) (July 3): University of Arizona resident and fellow physicians in their training programs’ first year were feted recently at two receptions hosted by Banner – University Medicine Tucson at the Culinary Dropout restaurant as part of their welcome to Banner, the university and Tucson. See the mini-photo gallery.

■ [“Three from DOM among nominees for COM-T Lura Hanekamp Dedicated Staff Award”](#) (June 28): Congratulations to all the nominees – including the Department of Medicine’s **Mia Gonzales**, **Brenda Lambert** and **Courtney Smith** – and the two overall winners, feted at an awards ceremony June 26 in the Health Sciences Innovation

Building. See the mini-photo gallery.

■ **“Advancing diabetes research and serving an at-risk community”** (June 27): The Center for Disparities in Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism, led by Endocrinology division chief **Lawrence Mandarino, PhD**, is focusing on Latino community health while facilitating research through a specialized biobank.

■ **“Four DOM faculty among those to share expertise at Clinical Trials Development Workshop”** (June 26): Hematology-Oncology chief **Rachna Shroff, MD, MS**, was joined at annual UArizona Cancer Center event by Pulmonary chief **Sai Parthasarathy, MD**, Dermatology’s **Daniel Butler, MD**, and Hem-Onc’s **Aaron Scott, MD**, co-leader of the Cancer Center’s Clinical & Translational Oncology Program. See the mini-photo gallery.

■ **“Resident orientation gives incoming IM interns inside look at physician training”** (June 25): Personalized white coats, stethoscopes and pagers are just the beginning for new Internal Medicine Residency Program interns launching their medical careers as primary care physicians at the College of Medicine – Tucson. See the mini-photo gallery.

■ **“Dr. Vijay Chandiramani named Hospitalist of the Year”** (June 24): The associate professor and associate chief for Division of Inpatient Medicine received the honor from the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Physicians as top hospitalist in the state.

**MORE NEWS ►►►**

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



You are receiving this email from the **MDTC-Dept-of-Med-Friends** mailing list.

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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.*