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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Department
of Medicine



INTERNAL DIGEST

October-November 2024

Chair's Message

Colleagues,

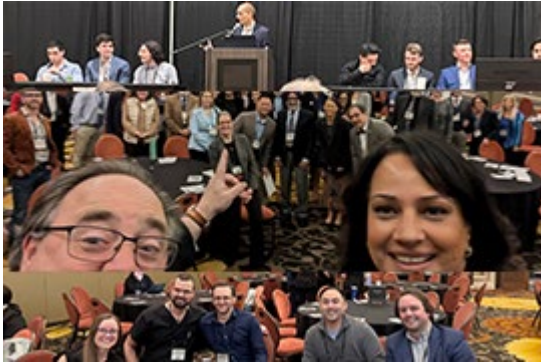
Welcome to the newsletter of the University of Arizona Department of Medicine. As the largest department in the U of A College of Medicine – Tucson, we engage in the diagnosis, treatment and care of adults – with subspecialties from cardiology to rheumatology. As the holiday season approaches, I am grateful for the many dedicated and talented faculty, staff, trainees and students involved 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

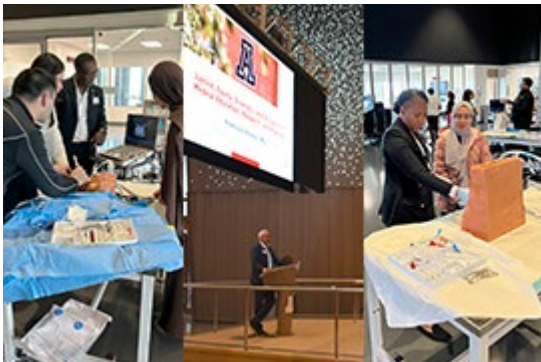


Top Headlines



[Win, place or show, all enjoyed ACP-AZ Chapter Scientific Meeting](#)

DOM faculty, residents and students excelled at this year's American College of Physicians chapter event hosted at Tucson's Casino del Sol Resort, Nov. 8-9, with DOM honors for Educator of the Year (**Joy Bulger Beck, MD**), Internal Medicine Physician of the Year (**Vijay Chandiramani, MD**), and Student of the Year (**Joseph Gunderson**). DOM also took top prizes in poster contests in four of five student and one resident category. Poster entries, registrants and sponsorships also broke records. [Full results and a photo gallery found here.](#)



[Great talk, sim lab experience for those attending DOM DEI Mixer](#)

The 2024 mixer hosted Nov. 4 by the DEI Committee in the HSIB Forum and ASTEC lab drew 30 people, including 10 pre-med and medical students partial to internal medicine. **Christian Bime, MD**, DOM DEI vice chair, dubbed a talk by UAHS EDI associate vice president **Francisco Moreno, MD**, inspiring. Faculty leading sim lab procedure demos included: Nephrology's **Ryan Wong, MD**; Infectious Diseases' **Monica Hinstroza Jordan, MD**; Pulmonary's **Madhav Chopra, MD**; and Pulmonary fellow **Andre Johnson, MD, PhD**. See the photo gallery.



[Infectious Diseases fellows get chance at rotation in Cochabamba](#)

The Division of Infectious Diseases signed a 5-year agreement with the Hospital Clínico Viedma in Cochabamba, Bolivia, to host the division's fellows for an annual elective rotation abroad for four weeks starting this February, said the division's **Monica Hinstroza Jordan, MD**. Terms of the agreement run through January 2030. See a Q&A with Dr. Hinstroza and a photo gallery. [Apply today!](#)

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Celebrating Native American Heritage Month – November

“We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes with Tucson being home to the O’odham and the Yaqui. Skoden (Let’s go), Wildcats!”

Honors & Awards



Dr. Tardiff awarded prestigious AHA lectureship: The Division of Cardiology’s **Jil Tardiff, MD, PhD, FAHA**, was selected to present the Thomas W. Smith Memorial Lecture by the American Heart Association’s Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences. She received the award at the organization’s 2024 Scientific Sessions, Nov. 16-18, in Chicago, where she presented on cardiomyocytes, cardiomyopathies and cardiac remodeling. The Thomas W. Smith Memorial Lecture is one of a series of lectures from some of today’s foremost clinicians and researchers as well as those with a lifetime of contributions to the field of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Tardiff also is the College of Medicine – Tucson’s Steven M. Gootter Endowed Chair for the Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death. [Learn more.](#)

■ **Valley Fever Center wins governor’s innovation award:** The U of A Valley Fever Center for Excellence with the Division of Infectious Diseases’ **John Galgiani, MD**, as founding director and **Fariba Donovan, MD, PhD**, among its key researchers, received the Innovator of the Year – Academia Award from the Arizona Technology Council in partnership with the Arizona Commerce Authority. The award was presented at the 21st Annual Governor’s Celebration of Innovation Awards held Nov. 13 at a Phoenix gala. [Learn more.](#)

■ **Bringing precision to murky fish oil debate:** Associate professor with the DOM’s Division of Endocrinology, **Dawn Coletta, PhD**, is among several investigators led by **Floyd “Ski” Chilton, PhD**, professor of nutritional sciences, College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences, and BIO5

Institute member, who'll partner with researchers from Georgetown University and the MedStar Health Research Institute in Maryland to investigate how ancestry and genetics shape the body's response to omega-3 fatty acids. Their study, "Addressing Diet-Induced Health Disparities with Precision Nutrition and Omega-3 Fatty Acids," is supported by a \$3.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. [Learn more.](#)

■ Congratulations to **Kevin F. Moynahan, MD**, vice dean of medical education and professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine, who was as elected chair of the Learning Communities Institute at its annual meeting this month. The institute is a national organization that Dr. Moynahan helped establish to support, study and expand the use of the learning community model for education (e.g., COM-T's Societies Program) within medical schools. He was the organization's second chair in 2015, and he is honored to again serve in this leadership role. [Learn more.](#)

■ **Fariba Donovan, MD, PhD**, Infectious Diseases associate professor and Valley Fever Center researcher, won a 2024 Rosenfeld Foundation award for \$75,000 in September to advance her Valley fever research. She also was an invited speaker at the ID Week annual meeting (Los Angeles, Oct. 16-19), presenting on "Novel Antifungal Olorofim Use in Intractable CNS and Non-CNS Disseminated Coccidioidomycosis," along with three posters covering coccidioidomycosis vertebral osteomyelitis, U.S. healthcare costs related to Valley fever, and U.S. hospitalization incidence and cost of coccidioid meningitis.

■ **Janet Funk, MD**, DOM vice chair for research, professor in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism, and a member of the U of A Cancer Center's [Cancer Biology Program](#), is one of three recipients of an RII Core Facilities Pilot Program grant, the U of A Office of Research, Innovation & Impact announced recently. The CFPP is a quarterly internal grant averaging \$10,000 in support of research projects that use [RII's core facilities](#). Her funded project, "Targeting estrogen receptor signaling to halt ER+ breast cancer progression in bone," is part of a larger collaborative effort that also includes **Sima Ehsani, MD**, associate professor, Division of Hematology & Oncology, and **Joshua Farr, PhD**, associate professor, Division of Rheumatology. As the latest [RII Core Facilities Pilot Program](#) grant application submissions were due Nov. 6, [check here](#) for the next upcoming quarterly deadline in February (*exact date posted soon*).

■ **Franz Rischard, DO**, director of the Pulmonary Hypertension Program in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine and interim associate dean for Clinical and Translational Research at the College of Medicine – Tucson, was featured in an article that ran in the CHEST Daily News during the American College of Chest Physicians' CHEST 2024 event in Boston, Oct. 6-9, on a study, PVDOMICS, that he's an investigator on and which is also looking at refining our understanding of pulmonary hypertension as it impacts race, ethnicity and social determinants of health. "This article presents data from the pulmonary vascular phenomics project. It was an NIH-funded cohort where we participated in research for the seven largest clinical centers in the U.S. I lead the racial disparities portion and presented our data at the CHEST meetings in Boston," Dr. Rischard said. He hosted a similarly themed workshop Oct 22-23 for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, "Disparities Across the Spectrum of Pulmonary Vascular Disease" that [the DOM News reported on](#) and which included a Q&A with him on the subject. For both events, he said the data is unpublished and a manuscript is currently being written. [Read the CHEST Daily News article here.](#)

■ Congratulations to the Division of Endocrinology's **Jennifer Stern, PhD**, recently awarded two grants from the National Institute on Aging, a unit of the National Institutes of Health. The first, for \$2.49 million over five years, is an R01 award for "Investigating the Role of Hepatic Glucagon

Receptor Signaling in Healthspan and Aging.” It’s focused on understanding mechanisms by which glucagon agonism could improve aging and decrease age-related disease, such as heart disease, obesity, and Type 2 diabetes. Dr. Stern explained, “While the role of insulin signaling in aging has been extensively studied, this work will be the first to examine the impact of enhancing glucagon signaling on aging.” Glucagon, a hormone that opposes insulin action, is secreted by the pancreas and acts at the liver to maintain glucose homeostasis to help regulate blood sugar levels in response to fasting. Dr. Stern studies how glucagon signaling mediates the impact of caloric restriction on aging and metabolic function. The second award, an R21 award that supports early-stage research projects that could lead to breakthroughs in biomedical, behavioral, or clinical research, is a two-year study on “Serum markers of glucagon sensitivity in calorie restricted humans.” Valued at \$425,958, Dr. Stern said of the R21, it “is our first human study aimed at translating our findings from mouse models of aging to human aging and the response to caloric restriction.” [Learn more.](#)

Upcoming Events

NOV
21

Mini Medical School: Sexual Vitality and Aging 101 (with Dr. Joy Bulger Beck among presenters)
5:30-7:45 p.m. | HSIB Forum & Virtual

NOV
22

Sleep Medicine Grand Rounds: ‘Non-Invasive Ventilation and the Hospital-to-Home Transition: The Must-Knows and the Knowledge Gaps’ with UChicago’s Dr. Alejandra Lastra
8-9 a.m. | Webinar

NOV
22

Physiology STAR Seminar: ‘Epigenetics and LncRNAs – Key players in Diabetic Complications, Inflammation and Metabolic Memory’
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | COM-T 8403 & Zoom

NOV
25

Cancer Biology GIDP Seminar: ‘Oncogenic Activities of MYB Alterations in Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma’
9-10 a.m. | UACC’s Kiewit Auditorium & Virtual

NOV
26

Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds: ‘Vertebral osteomyelitis due to coccidioidomycosis’
8-9 a.m. | COM-T 8403 & Virtual

DEC
1-2

Banner – University Medicine Tucson ZooLights Nights (Banner employees only; Dec. 1 sold out; registration for Dec. 2 still open)
6-8:30 p.m. | Reid Park Zoo, 3400 E. Zoo Court

DEC
2

DOM Research Career Development Workshop: Finding Mentors,
(with Drs. Liz Connick, Juanita Merchant & Sairam Parthasarathy)
Noon-1 p.m. | DOM Conference Room 6416 (in Suite 6401)

DEC
4

Medicine Grand Rounds with Drs. Juanita Merchant & Junaid Arshad
Noon-1 p.m. | COM-T 5403 & Virtual

DEC
5

DOM Annual Faculty & Staff Year-End Luncheon
11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | COM-T Social Hall (Room 2500)

DEC
7

19th Annual Tucson Tamal & Heritage Festival
10 a.m.-5 p.m. | AVA Amphitheater, Casino del Sol Resort, 5655 W. Valencia Road

DEC
11

DOM General Faculty Meeting – Winter 2024-25
5-6:30 p.m. | COM-T 8403 (Chase Bank Auditorium)

MORE EVENTS ►►►

Spotlight on U of A Arthritis Center



Lupus Research Alliance Celebrates U of A's Dr. Kent Kwoh for Native American Heritage Month

Arizona Arthritis Center Director **C. Kent Kwoh, MD, MACR**, who'll retire in December as Division of Rheumatology chief, has been recognized as a "Champion for Health Equity" in honor of Native American Heritage Month by the Lupus Research Alliance. A Nov. 14 article spotlights his and his clinical and research teams work to expand care and make research more accessible to the Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui tribal peoples. That was strengthened in May when the Rheumatology clinic joined the Lupus Clinical Investigators Network (LuCIN) overseen by Lupus Therapeutics, the alliance's clinical affiliate. [Learn more.](#)

Media Mentions



Sleep & dreams, Valley fever spreads, and better, more comfy breast cancer screening: Top honors for October-November in-the-media notices go to **Rubin Naiman, PhD**, assistant professor of medicine and member of the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine, now a part of the Department of Family & Community Medicine. A clinical psychologist specializing in integrative sleep and dream medicine, he coauthored a 2007 book, “Healthy Sleep,” with the center’s namesake founding director Andrew Weil, MD, a professor of medicine, and has also authored other books (“Healing Night: The Science & Spirit of Sleeping, Dreaming and Awakening,” 2009; “The Yoga of Sleep,” 2010; and “Hush: A Book of Bedtime Contemplations,” 2014) on the topic. Dr. Naiman appeared

on **Doctor Radio**, a SiriusXM Radio channel hosted by NYU Langone, on Oct. 15, talking about the health implications and integrative medicine approaches to sleep and dreaming. Snippets of that interview were picked up by NPR stations around the country over the next 11 days, with 180+ media pickups.

Next up is perennial favorite, **John Galgiani, MD**, Division of Infectious Diseases professor and Valley Fever Center for Excellence director, with multiple mentions. First off, he and his team at the center (including fellow ID faculty member **Fariba Donovan, MD, PhD**) were lauded after being presented with the Innovator of the Year Award for Academia at a Phoenix gala Nov. 13 for the Arizona Governor’s Celebration of Innovation Awards (Nov. 15: [Arizona Republic](#) | [PDF](#), [InBusiness Greater Phoenix](#); Nov. 14: [AZ Big Media](#) and [KVOI-Radio Tucson’s Buckmaster Show](#)). The initial awards announcement came last month (Oct. 22: [Phoenix Business Journal](#); [Arizona Technology Council](#)). Also in October, Dr. Galgiani also is quoted in reports on dueling Congress members’ releases about introduction of a federal bill to fund a human vaccine for Valley fever (Oct. 22: [Visalia Times Delta](#); Oct. 18: [KERO-TV Bakersfield, CA](#)). Likewise, there are several mentions of the growing risk of the fungal respiratory illness due to climate change (Oct. 17: [Nation’s Health](#); Oct. 13: [Vancouver Columbian](#); Oct. 7: [Miami Herald](#), [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), and [Kansas City Star](#); Oct. 2: [Los Angeles Times](#) – *this story had 30+ media pickups*).

A little ahead of her Oct. 31 retirement, **Hsiao-Hui “Sherry” Chow, PhD**, a Division of Hematology & Oncology professor and researcher, made the news as part of the research team that won a \$3.3 million National Cancer Institute grant to facilitate more accurate, comfortable breast cancer screening (Nov. 6: [The ASCO Post](#); Oct. 28: [Applied Radiation Online](#); Oct. 25: [Applied Radiation Oncology](#); and Oct. 24: [Radiology Business](#)) spurred by an Oct. 21 [U of A Health Sciences story](#). She and her career also were lauded in a U of A Cancer Center profile reposted as a [DOM Featured Spotlight](#).

Division of Rheumatology chief and U of A Arthritis Center director **C. Kent Kwoh, MD**, who’ll also retire later this fall, found his way into the news in the hoopla about the center’s Oct. 10 annual Bear Down Celebration with Women’s Basketball Coach Adia Barnes and U of A Athletic Director Desirée Reed-Francois. The popular event got great coverage before and after (Oct. 19: [Arizona Daily Star](#); Oct. 11: [KGUN9-TV Tucson](#), [KVOA-TV Tucson](#); Oct. 10: [KVOA-TV Tucson](#); and Sept. 30: [Arizona Daily Star](#)).

Hem-Onc division chief **Rachna Shroff, MD**, is cited a few times discussing treatment advances for those affected by liver cancer, the sixth most commonly diagnosed form of cancer, just in time for

Liver Cancer Awareness Month, i.e., October (Oct. 29: [Good News Planet](#); Oct. 28: [WSBT-TV South Bend, IN](#); Oct. 24: [WHNT-TV Huntsville, AL](#), and [WMT-Radio Cedar Rapids, IA](#)).

Hem-Onc associate professor **Sima Ehsani Chimeh, MD**, won plaudits for her efforts to bring inclusion to breast cancer research to ensure diverse populations are represented in clinical trials (Oct. 6: [Lovin' Life](#); Oct. 3: [Tucson Weekly](#); and Oct. 2: [Foothills News](#)).

Lastly, honorable mentions to Division of Inpatient Medicine assistant professor **Macklin Loveland, MD**, whose research on TikTok medical misinformation keeps coming back (Nov. 5: [Health Digital](#)), after pulling in 200+ media pickups in May 2023 when it was presented at Digestive Disease Week; **Lalitha Madhavan, MD, PhD**, in the GGP division and Department of Neurology, for agreeing to give a presentation Nov. 17 on regenerative medicine and Parkinson's disease at SaddleBrooke, a retirement community north of Tucson (Oct. 25: [Saddlebag Notes](#)); and Dermatology division associate professor **Daniel Butler, MD**, for "A new blueprint for pruritis care," (Oct. 16: [MedPage Today](#)), on his JAMA review article about general itchiness and its causes.

[MORE MEDIA MENTIONS ►►►](#)

Vice Chair Reports

Faculty Affairs



■ **Fulfilling the Hippocratic oath to other physicians:** Five DOM faculty served on a [Pima County Medical Society](#) Career Workshop Panel, Sept. 28, at the Tucson Osteopathic Medical Foundation: **Billie Bixby, MD**, assistant professor and director, Interventional Pulmonology Program, PACCS Division; **Eric Brucks, MD**, internist, Tucson VA Medical Center, U of A assistant professor, and associate program director and former chief resident, Internal Medicine Residency Program – Tucson Campus; **Monica Hinstroza Jordan, MD**, assistant professor, Division of Infectious Diseases; **Alex Perry, MD, MPH**, ID division assistant professor and director, Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) Program; and **Serena Scott, MD, MBA**, associate professor, Division of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine, and vice chair for faculty development, Department of Medicine. [Read all about it.](#)

New notices:

- **Call for AMES Membership Applications:** The Academy of Medical Education Scholars chapter at the U of A College of Medicine – Tucson is accepting new members. AMES members are an engaged community of educators seeking to enhance the college's educational mission and support other faculty in their medical education endeavors. Applicants should have a terminal degree and have been at COM-T for at least two years. Applications are due by **MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024**, at noon (12 p.m.). Membership criteria and the link to submit applications can be found on [this PDF](#). Questions? Email AMES Chair [Tara Carr, MD](#).

- **Be a speaker for the Tucson Medical Group 47th Annual Winter Conference:** Held in Telluride, Colorado, during Rodeo Break (Feb 20-22, 2025), it offers a small forum to network with Tucson physicians, and can be a great opportunity for our faculty. Topics sought include “anything especially cutting edge” in medicine. Organizers are particularly interested in having more representation from Banner and academic medicine to discuss areas the general medical community would benefit from. A wide group of specialties are represented at this meeting. Reach out to [Serena Scott, MD](#) if you'd like to present. [Learn more.](#)
- **Don't Wait — Invest in Your Growth Now:** With a limited number of spots in the **ACP Physician Peer Coaching Program**, sign up today! Work with physician coaches who specialize in guiding internal medicine physicians through their personal and career development journeys to get from where they are to where they want to be. Must be an American College of Physicians member. [Learn more.](#)

Reminders:

- **TMC Internal Medicine Grand Rounds Update:** TMC Internal Medicine Grand Rounds Update: Speaking opportunities for early- and mid-career faculty, as well as full professors, interested in a chance to talk with community IM physicians. All lectures at TMC's Marshall Auditorium on Fridays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Upcoming U of A faculty speaking there include: March 21, 2025 — PACCS division's **Billie Bixby, MD**, topic: “Updates in diagnosis & treatment of early lung cancer”; April 18, 2025 — Division of Nephrology's **Ryan Wong, MD**, topic: “Hepatorenal Syndrome”; May 2, 2025 — **Akshay Amaraneni, MD**, Division of Hematology & Oncology, topic: “Clotting.” If you'd like to speak too, please email Faculty Development vice chair [Serena Scott, MD, MBA](#).
- **Cultivating Happiness in Medicine:** CHIM funds are available from Banner Health for a multitude of ways to improve physician and APP wellbeing. You'd be amazed what all you can use this resource to support. The current round of funding is available from Oct. 21-Dec. 16. [Learn more & apply. Click here for flyer.](#)
- **Fitness for physician & faculty wellness:** For new and continuing DOM faculty, here's a reminder that Banner Wellness Center memberships are open to all DOM and Banner faculty, including residents and fellows. The exercise center is in the basement of Banner – University Medical Center Tucson. The cost, \$180 a year. [Learn more & sign up.](#)

Education



■ **Vice Chair Reports:** Activity notes from **Amy Sussman, MD**, DOM vice chair for education, include:

- A big thank you to **Indu Partha, MD**, the GGP associate professor, internist and American College of Physicians – Arizona Chapter Education Committee chair who serve as chair of the ACP-AZ Chapter

Scientific Meeting, as well as all the DOM faculty who worked with her to make that event such a success. If you haven't read about it already, [click here for participating faculty and contest results](#). Tucson next hosts this meeting in 2026, with Inpatient Medicine's **Bujii Ainapurapu, MD**, serving as event chair.

- Dermatology and IM residency programs began interviewing candidates in October;
- Fellowships will be closing out their interview season with final rankings in November and matches announced Dec. 4.

■ **Teaching Excellence Tips:** And the latest from **Breanna Sherrow-Serrano, PhD**, faculty development & teaching excellence director, include:

- The Must Reads section of the Teaching Resources webpage is now available. Each quarter, we'll identify a few noteworthy articles from the health professions education literature and label them as "must reads." [Learn more](#).
- Upcoming Faculty Instructional Development (FID) Sessions:
 - One session via zoom Friday, Nov. 22, 1-1:30 p.m., "Bedside Teaching Tips." Presenters: **Amy Sussman, MD**, and **Breanna Sherrow-Serrano, PhD**. [Register here](#).
 - FID Sessions for December-January include three next month (Dec. 2, Dec. 13 and Dec. 16) and two for the New Year (Jan. 8 and Jan. 13). [Click here for details, the flyer and links to register](#).
- **New Teaching Tip:** This video describes the mnemonic T.E.A.C.H. which recommends qualities to adopt as a clinician educator. See timepoint 3:42 for an explanation of the mnemonic: Trust.Embody.Advance.Care.Humility
– <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7JJHwpEdDw>

■ **AMES Medical Education & Travel Awards:** Support for The [U of A College of Medicine – Tucson Chapter of the Academy of Medical Education Scholars](#), or AMES, offers two ways to advance research and support medical education activities for faculty and trainees:

- AMES Grants to Support Medical Educational Development are intended to support the cost of attending educational development activities for faculty members, fellows and residents seeking to improve skills within medical education. [Learn more](#).
- AMES Travel Awards to Present Medical Education Research offers travel grants for faculty, staff (appointed personnel) and trainees (fellows, residents, medical students) to present research on medical education at regional and national conferences. [Learn more](#).

Request for applications are issued in the fall (usually October for November awards) and spring (usually February for March awards). Travel or grant expenses should be submitted for reimbursement within 90 days from when they're incurred. Look for the next RFA in your email. Questions? Contact UACOM-T AMES Chair [Tara Carr, MD](#).

Research



■ **Research career development for early-career faculty:** Our second [DOM Research Career Development Workshop](#) (Dec. 2) features advice and insights from **Liz Connick, MD**, Infectious Diseases division chief; **Juanita Merchant, MD, PhD**, GI division chief and interim director, U of A Cancer Center; and **Sairam Parthasarathy, MD**, chief of the PACCS Division and director, Center for Sleep, Circadian and Neuroscience Research. They'll discuss how to find mentors that add value to your career growth. If interested in attending or joining the Whatsapp peer group for this, please contact DOM Vice Chair for Research **Janet Funk, MD**, for more information. Additional events will be planned quarterly. [Click here for the flyer.](#)

■ **Submit your research for 2025:** GGP's **Indu Partha, MD**, associate program director for the U of A Internal Medicine Residency Program – Tucson Campus, points out that the **deadline** for **clinical vignettes, scientific abstracts, and innovations in healthcare delivery or medical education** for the [SGIM Annual Meeting](#) in Hollywood, Florida, May 14-17, 2025, is fast approaching. **All submissions should be in by Dec. 19.** The Society of General Internal Medicine represents people working in academic general internal medicine with more than 3,300 of the world's leading academic internists as members. [Learn more.](#)

■ The **2nd Annual Translational Medicine Symposium**, which takes place Friday, April 4, 2025, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Health Sciences Innovation Building, issued a **call for submissions**. It's looking for entries for a Graduate Student Research Poster Competition (due by Monday, March 3, 2025; prizes: 1st place - \$1,000, 2nd place - \$500, 3rd place - \$250) and for a Best Translational Research Concept Competition (by Monday, Jan. 27, 2025; top concept awarded \$10,000). The symposium is hosted by the DOM's **Jennifer S. Carew, PhD**. [Learn more & register here.](#)

In other research news this month:

Biostatistical support: DOM has a full-time biostatistician, **Maryam Emami Neyestanak, PhD**, available to support DOM faculty in their preparation of grant proposals or manuscript submissions. Email Dr. Emami to discuss your biostatistical needs at: maryame@arizona.edu

Running into roadblocks when initiating a clinical trial? Alejandro Roman, Clinical Trials Activation Manager for COM-T, is available to assist: alejandror1@arizona.edu

Become a member today!:

- Involved in cancer research? Take advantage of **U of A Cancer Center** resources and become a UACC member today. [Apply here.](#)
- Interested in joining the **BIO5 Institute**? Take advantage of research cores and other research resources, including internal funding opportunities to jump start projects. Become a BIO5 member. [Apply here.](#)

More News

- **[“New potential drug for Parkinson’s-related cognitive decline, dementia found”](#)** (Nov. 19): Parkinson’s disease causes difficulty in movement and balance, but its cognitive symptoms receive less attention and have no good treatments. **Lalitha Madhavan, MD, PhD**, a neurology associate professor with a dual appointment in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine, and **Kelsey Bernard, PhD**, a researcher in her lab, are among co-authors on a paper published in *Experimental Neurology* showing, in an animal model, the protein PNA5 appears to have a protective effect on brain cells. The discovery could help Parkinson’s patients.
- **[“Tucson Transplant Symposium spotlights chronic kidney disease”](#)** (Nov. 4): The Division of Nephrology co-hosted the inaugural symposium with Department of Surgery, offering 3.0 CMEs for clinicians across southern Arizona interested in the latest information on kidney transplants, the most commonly transplanted organ. Nearly 40 clinicians attended. Among DOM faculty presenting were: Nephrology’s **Bekir Tanriover, MD, MPH, MBA** – chief of the division; **Venkatesh Ariyamuthu, MD**; **Aneesha Shetty, MD, MPH**; and **Abd Assalam Qannus, MD**; and the Division of Infectious Diseases’ **Saman Nematollahi, MD**. See the mini-photo gallery.
- **[“Chemoprevention innovator advances Cancer Center’s impact on early-stage trials”](#)** (Oct. 25): With more than a quarter century’s worth of dedication to the University of Arizona Cancer Center and her retirement approaching, the value of **Hsiao-Hui “Sherry” Chow, PhD**’s impactfulness has been felt far beyond her work with early-phase cancer prevention research trials.
- **[“Bipartisan bill to accelerate human vaccine for Valley fever introduced in Congress”](#)** (Oct. 24): Two U.S. representatives, a Democrat from Phoenix and a Republican from California’s Central Valley, recently filed legislation to fund creation of a national strategy for a human vaccine for Valley fever. DOM infectious diseases professor Dr. John Galgiani is quoted.
- **[“U of A-led NHLBI Workshop explores disparities in pulmonary hypertension”](#)** (Oct. 21): A virtual national workshop, Oct. 22-23, chaired by the DOM Pulmonary division’s **Franz Rischard, DO**, goes beyond how much a person’s race outweighs their mixed ancestry, sex and/or social determinants of health in a disease directly affecting over 2 million people in the U.S. Read the Q&A with Dr. Rischard on why this topic is so important.
- **[“Researchers using \\$3.3M NCI grant to develop better breast cancer screening technology”](#)** (Oct. 21): College of Medicine – Tucson researchers, including the Division of Hematology & Oncology’s **Hsiao-Hui “Sherry” Chow, PhD**, are leading a team that will test noncompression CT technology, which has the potential to detect more breast cancers more accurately while increasing comfort and decreasing radiation exposure.
- **[“College of Medicine – Tucson’s Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary CME Seminar draws 50 clinicians”](#)** (Oct. 9): About 50 general surgeons, oncologists, gastroenterologists, primary care physicians, and HPB specialists who care for these patients attended the daylong event. Among presenters, moderators and panelists were five DOM faculty: the Division of Hematology’s **Rachna Shroff, MD, MS**, **Aaron Scott, MD**, and **Junaid Arshad, MD, MS**; and Division of Gastroenterology’s **Oleh Haluszka, MD**, and **Joshua Melson, MD**.

■ **[“Dr. Dan Combs helps young Down syndrome patients get good ZZZs”](#)** (Oct. 1): The assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics, who serves as assistant director of scholarly projects for the Sleep Medicine Fellowship and a member of the Center for Sleep, Circadian & Neuroscience Research, focuses on improving sleep as the first step toward a better quality of life for his patients and their families.

[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.

College of Medicine – Tucson, 1501 N Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ 85724, US

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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.