



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

College of Medicine

Tucson

THE INVESTITURE OF

Hesham Sadek, MD, PhD

as the

Allan C. Hudson and Helen Lovaas Endowed Chair

and

Sakthivel Sadayappan, PhD, MBA

as the

**Czarina M. and Humberto S. Lopez Endowed Chair
for Excellence in Cardiovascular Research**

PRESIDER

Michael M.I. Abecassis, MD, MBA

Humberto and Czarina Lopez Endowed Dean
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson
Professor, Immunobiology and Surgery



A named and endowed chair represents one of the highest honors a university can bestow upon a select number of leadership and faculty positions. At the College of Medicine – Tucson, these positions represent the pinnacle of academic achievement and excellence and are reserved for the most distinguished and productive physicians and scientists. By endowing these chairs, generous donors acknowledge and recognize their importance and impact toward the success of the institution, providing discretionary funding, in perpetuity, for the individual upon which the endowment is bestowed. The investiture is rooted in a centuries-old tradition based on knighthood ceremonies and has been adopted by universities to honor both the donor and the recipient.

Allan C. Hudson and Helen Hudson Lovaas were a dynamic pair whose professional achievements and community contributions left a lasting impact.

Allan was a key figure in the growth of Hudson Oxygen Therapy Sales Company. Under his leadership, the company became an industry leader in respiratory care products. After Allan's passing in 1987, Helen, who had worked alongside him in the company, assumed the role of CEO. She successfully expanded the business, overseeing a merger with Respiratory Care Inc. and guiding the company's continued growth, solidifying its position as a global leader in respiratory care technology.

Both Allan and Helen were deeply committed to their community. After graduating from University of Arizona they moved to Bonsall, California, in 1970, they became active in local initiatives and contributed to causes that improved the lives of others. Helen became one of the first women to serve as CEO of a medical device company, blazing a trail for those who came after her. She was involved in several prominent industry boards, including Advamed and the American Respiratory Care Foundation.

Their philanthropic legacy was a testament to their values, with significant contributions to education, health care, and local organizations. Their support of the Sarver Heart Center at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson and other community efforts reflects their dedication to making a difference.

Allan Hudson and Helen Hudson Lovaas's legacy of leadership, innovation, and generosity continues to influence both the respiratory care industry and the communities they served. Their contributions will be remembered and appreciated for generations to come.

Humberto (Bert) and Czarina

Lopez are patrons of the University of Arizona and have given almost \$25 million to the institution. Their generous gifts to the College of Medicine – Tucson enabled the creation of the Endowed Chair for Excellence in Cardiovascular Research at the Sarver Heart Center and, most recently, the Humberto and Czarina Lopez Endowed Deanship.



Humberto is founder/chairman of HSL Properties Inc., one of Arizona's largest apartment and hotel owner-operated property management companies, which he co-founded in 1975. Among its extensive holdings are the Ritz-Cariton Dove Mountain, nine other hotels, and nearly 10,000 units in 37 communities, including the Encantada luxury apartment brand, with locations in Tucson and Phoenix. Other interests include a number of large shopping centers, among them La Encantada and Oro Valley Marketplace.

While their accomplishments and impactful contributions are many, Humberto and Czarina have a special place in their hearts for supporting education, health, and the welfare of others through the H.S. Lopez Foundation. They are most proud of the Center of Opportunity, a former hotel that, under the management of Gospel Rescue Mission, and in partnership with approximately 50 local social services and support organizations, is now changing the lives of unhoused Tucsonans.

The notion of helping people who do not have the resources to help themselves is dear to the Lopez family. As a 12-year-old, Humberto was greatly affected by the sudden death of his father, which left his mother alone to care for him and his five younger siblings. From that early age, Humberto took it upon himself to support his family, working more than 40 hours a week while still in school. His education from the University of Arizona, where he majored in accounting, and early experience as a CPA with Deloitte in Los Angeles, allowed him to venture into the field of real estate investment. His hard work, education, and integrity are the keys to his success. His and Czarina's commitment to helping others has never wavered — in fact, their desire and ability to give back has only grown over the decades as their hard work has paid off.

Hesham Sadek, MD, PhD

Hesham Sadek, MD, PhD, is the chief of the Division of Cardiology in the Department of Medicine and director of the Sarver Heart Center at University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson.

Dr. Sadek joined our faculty in 2024, bringing with him a wealth of experience and an impressive research portfolio from UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where he served as associate director of the Center for Regenerative Science and Medicine and a professor of internal medicine/ cardiology with joint appointments in biophysics and molecular biology.

Dr. Sadek's appointments mark a significant milestone in the college's ongoing efforts to enhance its cardiac care and research capabilities. Dr. Sadek is recognized internationally for his research into the regeneration of damaged heart muscle. His seminal discovery of the newborn mammalian heart's ability to regenerate has significantly altered the landscape of cardiac biology. His current research includes advancing drug discovery to enhance heart regeneration and address rare genetic mutations causing heart failure.

His work has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2011, and his clinical expertise in echocardiography and heart muscle function ensures that cutting-edge research translates into superior patient care.

Dr. Sadek's dedication extends beyond the lab and clinic to the classroom and mentorship. He has guided nearly 100 students and professionals in their careers, and his arrival at the College of Medicine – Tucson is expected to enrich the training and development of the next generation of cardiovascular specialists and health care professionals.

Dr. Sadek also is associate editor of the cardiovascular journal *Circulation* and serves on several American Heart Association committees.



Sakthivel Sadayappan, PhD, MBA

Sakthivel Sadayappan, PhD, MBA, is a professor and head of the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, as well as the associate director of the Sarver Heart Center at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson. He earned his bachelor's degree in botany from the American College in Madurai, India, in 1987, his master's degree in botany from Virudhunagar Hindu Nadars Senthikumara Nadar College in 1991, and a doctorate in biochemistry from Madurai Kamaraj University in 1999, where he focused on cardiac hypertrophy. His postdoctoral training took him to the Max Planck Institute in Germany and Cincinnati Children's Hospital.



Dr. Sadayappan started his independent research career as a tenure-track assistant professor at Loyola University Chicago in 2009, becoming associate professor in 2014. In 2016, he joined the University of Cincinnati as professor and executive director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research before moving to the University of Arizona.

His research aims to improve cardiac health and prevent heart failure due to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and coronary heart disease. His team studies the regulation of cardiac and skeletal muscles in healthy and disease states, focusing on: (1) secondary risk factors like diabetes and hypertension in South Asians with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; (2) molecular mechanisms in heart failure with reduced ejection fraction and arrhythmias; (3) autoimmune responses post-myocardial injury; and (4) skeletal muscle pathology in distal arthrogryposis.

Dr. Sadayappan has authored 176 peer-reviewed articles and mentored more than 100 trainees, many of whom are now independent researchers worldwide. His work has earned numerous national and international awards and accolades for teaching. He has secured funding from institutions like the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the American Heart Association, as well as pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Merck. He has also served on NIH and AHA study sections and participated in committees for the American Heart Association, American Physiological Society, and the International Society for Heart Research.





Advancing the wellness and health of our community and beyond, embracing diversity, through the relentless pursuit of innovative excellence across our tripartite mission of education, research and patient care.



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