University of Arizona Department of Medicine

General Faculty Meeting – Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2019

Monica Kraft, M.D.
The Robert and Irene Flinn Professor of Medicine
Chair, Department of Medicine,
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson
Deputy Director, Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center,
University of Arizona Health Sciences

AGENDA
1. Introductions
   – Monica Kraft, MD, Chair, UA Department of Medicine

2. Accolades & Awards
   – Monica Kraft, MD, Chair, UA Department of Medicine

3. Introduction & Access Initiative
   – Mike Kocsis, Sr. Director, Strategy & Communication, BUMC
   – Daisy Rodriguez, Sr. Administrator, Ambulatory Services, BUMC

4. Educational Update
   – Amy Sussman, MD, Associate Chair, Education, UA Department of Medicine
   – Susan Ellis, Education Associate Specialist, UA Department of Medicine

UPCOMING EVENTS
Sept. 4 | Living Healthy with Arthritis – “Empowered Aging: Bone & Joint Health” | 6 p.m., HSIB
Sept. 5 | “Chronic Lung Injury” with Dr. Francesca Polverino | 12 p.m., HSIB
Sept. 5 | Webinar: 2019 Arizona Legislative Wrap-Up | 12 p.m., telemedicine.arizona.edu
Sept. 6 | New Faculty Orientation and Reception | HSIB
Sept. 7 | Southwest Regional Advances in Digestive Diseases | 7 a.m., Starr Pass Resort & Spa
Sept. 9 | Advances in Aging: “The Burden of Cancer on Older Adults” | 12 p.m., Kiewit
Sept. 27 | Fall Prevention Fair | 3 p.m., HSIB
Sept. 27-29 | Reunion Weekend
Sept. 28 | The Diabetes Heart Disease Connection | 11 a.m., HSIB
Oct. 2 | Discovering New Medicine in Arizona Summit | 8 a.m., PHX Biomedical Sciences Bldg.
Oct. 2 | Arizona Bioscience Awards, 3-8:30 p.m., Phoenix Convention Center
Oct. 17 | 3rd Annual Innovations & Inventions Research Fair | 4:30 p.m., HSIB
Oct. 26 | Spotlight on Stomach Cancer | 8 a.m., HSIB
Nov. 2-3 | Homecoming Weekend
Nov. 9 | UA Urology Golf Tournament for Prostate Cancer Research | 7 a.m., Casino del Sol
Nov. 12-15 | Cancer Convergence | HSIB
Nov. 15 | Founders Day Lecture | 11:30 a.m., HSIB
Nov. 20 | Clinical Excellence Awards (at COM-T General Faculty Meeting) | 4:30 p.m., HSIB
NEW HIRES

■ Division of Cardiology
  Deepak Acharya, MD | Associate Professor, Clinical Scholar
  Preethi William, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor

■ Division of Endocrinology
  Michael Goldman, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
  Ronnie William, MBBS | Clinical Assistant Professor

■ Division of Geriatrics, General Internal Medicine & Palliative Medicine
  David Lieberman, MD | Assistant Professor

■ Division of Hematology & Oncology
  Sara Centuori, PhD | Research Assistant Professor
  Ricklie Julian, MD | Assistant Professor, Clinical Scholar
  Alejandro Recio Boiles, MD | Assistant Professor, Clinical Scholar

■ Division of Infectious Diseases
  Jessica (August) Saenz, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor

■ Division of Inpatient Medicine
  Bonnie Barbee, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
  Khurram Butt, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
  Cara Gerke, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
  Christopher Johnson, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
  Soheila Nuri, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
  Chad Whelan, MD | Clinical Professor
  David Smock, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
  Vasbee Sonoo, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
  Devon Weprich, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
  Anthony Witten, DO | Clinical Assistant Professor

■ Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine
  Michael Insel, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
  Saif Mashiki, MD | Clinical Assistant Professor
ACCOLADES & AWARDS

Welcome for New Dean

Dr. Michael M.I. Abecassis was named the ninth dean of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. A professor of surgery and microbiology-immunology at Northwestern University, he was chief of the Division of Organ Transplantation, founding director of the Comprehensive Transplant Center and an NIH-funded physician-scientist whose translational and clinical studies pursued a molecular biomarker strategy for both kidney and liver transplant patients. His appointment begins early November 2019.

Education – National/Global Recognition

Dr. Yves Lussier gave several keynote addresses in recent months, including at the Bloomberg Health Initiative and United Nations’ “International Conference on Big Data for Health” (Dhaka, Bangladesh – see photo right); “Mayo Clinic Artificial Intelligence Symposium” (Rochester, Minn.); “6th International Conference on Translational Biomedical Informatics” (Chengdu, China); and “EMBL-EBI Pharmacogenetics in Drug Development” (Boston). He also is scheduled to provide the opening keynote at the “Precision Medicine Leaders’ Summit – 2019 South” Dec. 4 at the Texas Medical Center Innovation Institute in Houston.

Four UA medical students mentored by Dr. Mindy Fain, chief of the Division of Geriatrics, General Internal and Palliative Medicine, received Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Program scholarships this summer from the American Federation for Aging Research that are sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, an NIH unit. This brings her number of UA M-Star scholars to three dozen.

UA Fellowship in Integrative Medicine faculty Noshene Ranjbar, MD, and associate director of the center’s Integrative Medicine In Residency Program Mari Ricker, MD, author a paper on a new curriculum, “The Integrative Psychiatry Curriculum: Development of an Innovative Model,” published May 1 in Global Advances in Health and Medicine.

Dr. Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, co-director of the UA Skin Cancer Institute, notes in multiple news reports that an American Academy of Dermatology study showed the chances of young women suffering from melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, has risen by 800 percent since 1970.

Education – UA/State Recognition

Drs. Emad Elquza (Hem-Onc) and Sairam Parthasarathy (Pulmonary) are presented with mentorship awards at the spring 2019 UA College of Medicine – Tucson General Faculty Meeting.

Drs. Ann Marie Chiasson and Lise Alschuler accept new posts as director and assistant director of the UA Fellowship in Integrative Medicine. Dr. Chiasson had been serving as interim director since 2017.

Drs. James Sligh and Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski make it into ACT Against Cancer magazine from UA Cancer Center in cover story on “Skin Cancer Chemoprevention.”
Seventy-two faculty—including five from the DOM: **Drs. Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, Karen Herbst, Monica Kraft, Rebecca Vanderpool** and recently departed **Jason Yuan**—were honored at the **UA President’s Esteemed Faculty Reception** in March.

Of **33 recognized at 2019 DOM Awards Assembly**, double winners included **Dr. Tirdad Zangeneh**, repeat winners included **Drs. Joe Alpert** and **Eugene Trowers** and other faculty honorees included: **Drs. Ahmad Al-Khashman, Meena Dagar, João Paulo Ferreira**, and **Karl Kern**.

**Education – Community Presence**

One of the biggest events this past spring was the **Great Debate on “Prevention vs. Intervention”** between College of Medicine – Tucson Interim Dean **Dr. Irv Kron** and UA Integrative Medicine pioneer **Dr. Andrew Weil**, who were joined UA President Dr. Robert Robbins and among the panel members, the DOM’s **Drs. Juanita Merchant**, GI chief, and **Nancy Sweitzer**, Cardiology chief, for the standing-room-only event at Centennial Hall.

**Dr. Rachna Shroff** (and son) throws out opening pitch June 25 at “Strike Out Cancer Night” for the Sun Belt College Baseball League at Tucson’s Veterans Memorial Stadium.

Cardiologist **Dr. Kwan Lee** and hospitalist **Dr. Alvaro Altamirano-Ufion** win $10,000 grant from American College of Cardiologists to put on first “Cardiac Camp” (June 14-15) at UA for 11 area high school students and another from Nevada.

UA cardiac electrophysiologist **Dr. Peter Ott** and his band Ruff Mixx, **regulars at the Tucson Folk Festival, put on a show for the 34th annual festival April 6** at the Dusty Monk Pub at Old Town Artisans. They also performed at the 2019 Women of Influence Awards, where **Dr. Monica Kraft** was a finalist for “Healthcare Champion,” and the **COM-T Faculty Appreciation Event at the Tucson Botanical Garden**. Among the nearly 180 who enjoyed the Botanical Garden event were the DOM’s **Drs. Laura Meinke, Kevin Moynahan, Salma** and **Imran Patel, William Roeske, Esther Sternberg** and **Ernest Vina**.

**Dr. Nancy Sweitzer** was **one of five “Remarkable Moms” honored with their own special prom the night before Mother’s Day** as a fundraiser to benefit Tu Nidito, a local non-profit agency dedicated to supporting children impacted by serious medical conditions and death. Their stories also appeared in the **Arizona Daily Star**.

**Dr. Andrew Weil**, who donated $15 million to the UA earlier in the year to rename the UA Center for Integrative Medicine in his honor and to cement and expand its position as a global leader in the field, is **interviewed by local radio host Bill Buckmaster on KVOI AM 1030’s Buckmaster Show** on June 5 about “Why Processed Foods Make You Fat.”

- Dr. Weil also appears in a video interview with NY Times best-selling author **Dr. Joseph Mercola** and in **BizTucson magazine**, regarding his gift to the UA.
- In other news, the center unveils CANHeal online free toolkit for cancer patients to support their overall wellbeing and gain access to useful resources.
Drs. Linda Phillips and Lisa O’Neill, members of the Arizona Workforce Enhancement Program at the University of Arizona Center on Aging, co-wrote Arizona Daily Star op-ed on elder abuse and social isolation of older adults. They underscored the importance of supporting programs like the Pima Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels and watching out for older neighbors and relatives as a safeguard against elder abuse. The occasion was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.

GI’s Dr. Oleh Haluszka and Hemanth Gavini plan 4.0-CME Southwest Regional Advances in Digestive Diseases conference, Sept. 7, in Tucson to educate region’s physicians on ‘Best of DDW’ topics. Event spotlights a who’s-who of GI treatment from UA-Banner clinical alliance.

GI chief, Dr. Juanita Merchant helps organize “Spotlight on Stomach Cancer” event at UA Cancer Center, Oct. 26, with the organization NoStomachforCancer.org.

Clinical – National/Global Recognition

Endocrinology Clinical Chief Dr. Merri Pendergrass figures prominently in new videos and other patient education materials on Diabetespedia.com website, a spinoff from Doctorpedia—for which UA cardiologist Dr. Joe Alpert had recruited her and other DOM docs (Drs. Janet Campion, Steve Klotz, and Eugene Trowers) to participate in 2017 in videos.

Dr. Puneet Shroff is now a Fellow of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology as well as the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (for which he also is a participant in its Leadership Institute). In addition, Dr. Shroff is a current fellow in the UA Fellowship in Integrative Medicine.

The Banner – UMC Tucson and South echocardiography labs led by lead UA imaging cardiologist Dr. Raj Janardhanan were reaccredited this summer by the Echocardiography - Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (formerly ICAEL). In addition, Dr. Janardhanan was named the top influencer at the 2019 Scientific Sessions for the American Society of Echocardiography with 565 tweet mentions during the June 21-25 event in Portland, Ore., where he was asked to serve another term as member-at-large for the ASE Industry Relations Committee. Dr. Janardhanan is currently in China serving as a volunteer for ASE global outreach efforts.

Hem-Onc’s Dr. Rachna Shroff is appointed to the ASCO Education Committee and is made a track leader for the GI ASCO 2020 Program Committee. In addition, Dr. Shroff is an invited speaker on GI cancers at the V Symposium in São Paulo, Brazil, and the American Transplant Congress in Boston.
Integrative Medicine chief, Dr. Victoria Maizes participated in an Aspen Ideas Festival panel discussion, June 21, talking about what’s new in nutrition science and eating for health and healing. She also is quoted in a www.mindbodygreen.com Health article on what younger adults can do to maximize their fertility into their 30s and beyond.

The Department of Medicine wished Drs. Tammy and Lolu Ojo a fond farewell in August as they prepared to depart for the University of Kansas, where he’ll become executive dean of the School of Medicine, overseeing campuses in Kansas City, Salina and Wichita. She was a cystic fibrosis specialist, DOM vice chair for clinical affairs and executive medical director of ambulatory care for Banner – University Medicine in Tucson. He was a world-renowned nephrologist, associate vice president of UAHS Clinical Research and Global Health Initiatives, and principal investigator for the UA-Banner All of Us Arizona cohort.

Clinical – UA/State Activities

Hem-Onc’s Dr. Rachna Shroff has been named director of the UA Cancer Center’s Clinical Trials Office.

Congratulations to all 21 department physicians chosen for Castle Connolly’s “2019 Top Doctors in America” and included in Tucson Lifestyle magazine’s June issue. They include Drs. Robert Aaronson, Liz Connick, Mark Friedman, Paul Gee, Gerald Goldberg, Randy Horwitz, Mathew Hutchinson, Julia Indik, Raj Janardhanan, Karl Kern, Steve Klotz, James Knepler, Monica Kraft, Kwan Lee, Kapil Lotun, Tammy Ojo, Peter Ott, Sai Parthasarathy, James Sligh and Steve Thomson.

The UA Sarver Heart Center, reached a milestone of more than 4,000 people trained in Chest-Compression-Only CPR this year. The feat was achieved with a group of 15 volunteers, mostly UA undergraduate students, coordinate with the UA College of Medicine – Tucson REACT Group, the center’s Minority Outreach Program and the Steven M. Gootter Foundation.

Dr. Kapil Lotun is lauded in a letter from a University of North Carolina undergraduate student who he hosted for an observership for two weeks this August. The experience is memorialized in a DOM Blog post by the student Charles Zhu, a 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholar Program participant who hopes to pursue further education and a career in medicine.

Clinical – Community Presence

Banner – UMC Tucson put on a full-court press this spring with the opening of its new $446-million, nine-story hospital tower on April 22 which realigned its main entrance to 1625 N. Campbell Ave. off Elm Street. All of this was preceded by faculty and staff preview tours, a VIP ribbon-cutting (with the UA’s Wilma and Wilbur Wildcat arriving via helicopter and rappelling down the side of the building) and a public preview that coincided with Tucson’s spring Cyclovia festivities.
Dr. John Galgiani, founding director of the UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence, and Dr. Pavani Chalasani, UA Hematology & Medical Oncology Fellowship program director, were named finalists in the Fifth Annual Influential Health and Medical Leaders Awards, hosted by Inside Tucson Business—him “Achievement in Medical Research” and her “Outstanding Oncology/Radiology” award.

Dr. Imran Patel, in Pulmonary division, opens new orofacial pain clinic focused on temporomandibular disorders (TMD), such as jaw pain, myofascial pain, locked jaw, burning mouth syndrome and neuropathic pain. Patients who cannot tolerate CPAP machine for the management of obstructive sleep apnea now have an option to be fitted with an oral appliance.

KOLD-13 TV starts “Business File” feature in cooperation with Banner – University Medicine to focus on health-care issues. The first interview is with UA dermatologist Dr. Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski on skin cancer issues in Southern Arizona.

Research/Innovation – National/Global Activities

The UA cardiologist, Sarver Heart Center member and Arizona Center for Accelerated Biomedical Innovation director, Dr. Marvin Slepian is elected in July as president of the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs (ASAIO). Among several other honors he received recently are:

- In May, his alma mater, the University of Cincinnati presented him with a Drake Medal for his contributions to the advancement of innovative medical solutions.
- In April, the UA College of Engineering named him a da Vinci Circle Fellow for how his many accomplishments have helped “foster a renaissance in engineering.”
- Also in April, he is one of five UA faculty members appointed Regents Professors by the Arizona Board of Regents.

Dr. Frank Marcus was honored in May for his research on ARVC/D, a rare form of cardiomyopathy that can lead to sudden cardiac arrest or heart failure, at the 40th Scientific Sessions of the Heart Rhythm Society in San Francisco.

Kudos to Dr. Louise Hecker, advisor to the newest chapter of the Tri-Beta Biological Society in the country. She mentored five students in her BIOS lab to launch the UA’s Epsilon Chi Lambda chapter, which was recognized this past spring. Two students won awards at a regional contest and head next to nationals.

GI Medical Oncology section chief, Dr. Rachna Shroff authors breakthrough paper on triple chemotherapy regimen for biliary cancer patients in UA-led study that appears in JAMA Oncology.

Dr. Lisa O’Neill named among dozen 2019-20 Health and Aging Policy Fellows nationally with Columbia University’s National Program Office and travels to Washington, DC, in September and again later in fall for orientation on the year-long program.
Sleep medicine specialist Dr. Salma Patel wins a $100,000 AASM Foundation Career Development Award to study relationship between obstructive sleep apnea and mortality, using EKG data from the Sleep Heart Health Study and Banner Health databases.

Twenty-two female data scientists, among them the DOM’s Drs. Joanne Berghout, Francesca Vitali and Rebecca Vanderpool—join forces in April to host regional UA Women in Data Science Conference. It was among 150 satellite events across the globe to the main conference at Stanford.

Dr. Aaron Scott led the Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic and Gastrointestinal Cancers Session at the SCOS 2019 Annual Conference Featuring ASCO Direct Highlights hosted Aug. 10 by the South Carolina Oncology Society (SCOS) and Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) in Charleston, S.C.

Cardiologist Dr. Khadijah Breathett, a heart failure specialist with the UA Sarver Heart Center, was among 10 people participating as recently named RISE Scholars in a two-week summer research institute at the UCSF Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in July. It was for the Research in Implementation Science for Equity (RISE) program that is part of an NHLBI initiative known as PRIDE (Programs to Increase Diversity among Individuals Engaged) in Health-Related Research.

Pulmonary chief, Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy, contributes a podcast for Consultant360.com’s Cardiology Consultant podcast on the subject of “Reducing Rehospitalization of Patients with Heart Failure and Sleep-Disordered Breathing,” that ties into an NIH grant subcontract he and Cardiology chief Dr. Nancy Sweitzer won from Ohio State University. In late March, Dr. Parthasarathy also wrote a blogpost for EverythingAboutMensHealth.com on the benefits of healthy sleep.

Dr. C. Kent, Kwoh was named to the prestigious editorial advisory board for MDedge Rheumatology, which is presented by Rheumatology News and offers medical news and views, conference coverage, news summaries of journal articles and guidelines, FDA and CDC alerts, to name a few.

GI Division Chief Dr. Juanita Merchant was profiled in July as the Researcher of the Month by the AGA Research Foundation, which supports the American Gastroenterological Association. In the profile, one of the things she’s lauded for is her Cookin’ Docs culinary program to provide patients with digestive disorders healthy recipes. The program’s motto: “Eat your guts out!” The profile also was featured in the AGA eDigest newsletter.

The Journal of Endocrinology accepted a paper on research led by Endocrinology’s Dr. Jennifer Stern on how “Obesity dysregulates fasting-induced changes in glucagon secretion,” that suggests obesity’s metabolic pathophysiology may be driven by inappropriate fasting-induced regulation of glucagon—a hallmark in obesity and insulin resistance that can lead to type 2 diabetes.
The UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence’s Drs. Fariba Donovan and John Galgiani had three papers picked for publication on studies they’ve been doing into evaluation of early coccidioidomycosis infections. Two papers on “Delays in Coccidioidomycosis Diagnosis and Associated Healthcare Utilization” in Tucson and Phoenix appear back to back in the September issue of Emerging Infectious Diseases. The third, “Early Events in Coccidiomycosis,” will appear in Clinical Microbiology Reviews.

The journal MCP – Molecular & Cellular Proteomics published a paper with significant findings by a UA research team with Dr. Paul Langlais, a Division of Endocrinology associate professor, director of the Quantitative Proteomics Lab and member of the UAHS Center for Disparities in Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism. “We’ve discovered a new network of microtubule-regulating proteins that is responsive to insulin stimulation,” Dr. Langlais noted.

The Division of Cardiology at UA/Banner in Tucson broke the top 5 in recruiting for the DEF 314 study—“A Phase III, Open-Label, Multicenter Trial to Evaluate Ejection Fraction, End-Diastolic and End-Systolic Volumes, by Unenhanced and DEFINITY®-enhanced 2D-Echo and Magnetic Resonance Imaging.” Led by Dr. Raj Janaradhanan, medical director for non-invasive cardiac imaging and echocardiography director for Banner – UMC Tucson and South, we placed No. 3 (ahead of Duke and behind UC San Diego).

Drs. Monica Kraft and Julie Ledford are co-authors on a paper that appears in the Journal of Immunology’s September issue on “Genetic Variation in Surfactant Protein-A2 Delays Resolution of Eosinophilia in Asthma.” Among key points: SP-A aids in resolution of allergic airway inflammation and promotes eosinophil clearance through chemotaxis and apoptosis, and that genetic variation alters the ability of SP-A to induce eosinophil apoptosis.

Research – UA/State Activities

Drs. Monica Kraft, Department of Medicine chair and Asthma & Airway Disease Research Center deputy director, will be honored at the Oct. 2 AZBio Awards in Phoenix as the Arizona Bioscience Researcher of the Year. She’ll begin the day as one of five UA presenters at the “Discovering New Medicines in Arizona Summit,” also in Phoenix. Another presenter will be Endocrinology Chief Dr. Lawrence Mandarino.

Samir Rachid Zaim, a PhD candidate and research advisor to Dr. Yves Lussier in the Department of Medicine and UAHS Center for Biomedical Informatics and Biostatistics, has been inducted as an Ambassador for Data Science by the NSF-funded Data7 Institute at the University of Arizona.

Four faculty members will represent the Department of Medicine at the Third Annual Innovations & Inventions Fair, hosted Oct. 17 by the UA College of Medicine in the HSIB Forum at the Health Sciences Innovation Building. They are: Drs. Edward Gelmann (Hem-Onc), Louise Hecker (Pulmonary), Salma Patel (Sleep Medicine) and Jennifer Stern (Endocrinology).
Dr. Jared Churko, a UA Sarver Heart Center researcher and director of the UA iPSC Core, played local organizer for the Statewide Symposium in Regenerative Medicine, a tri-university event hosted at ASU in mid-May. He also hosted several hands-on workshops from April 27 through June on “An Introduction to Pluripotent Stem Cells” to learn thawing, culturing, passing and banking of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC).

UA employees disclosed 284 inventions in fiscal year 2019—a record-setting number according to Tech Launch Arizona, the office that commercializes inventions stemming from UA research. Among startups assisted by TLA this past year was Fibronox, which is working to treat fibrotic disorders with Nox4 small molecular inhibitors invented by Dr. Louise Hecker. Dr. Hecker also was named the Inventor of the Year at TLA’s 2019 I-Squared Expo & Awards on April 1.

Thank you to the eight DOM faculty who served as presenters and panelists April 13 at a Clinical Trials Development Workshop sponsored by the UA College of Medicine – Tucson with support from the Arizona Biomedical Research Commission: Drs. Hani Babiker, Julie Bauman, Khadijah Breathett, Pavani Chalasani, Kwan Lee, Jarrod Mosier, Sairam Parthasarathy and Rachna Shroff.

Dr. Alicia Rodriguez-Pla, a UA rheumatologist, spoke in March on “Kidney Involvement in Vasculitis” at the 2019 Vasculitis Foundation’s Phoenix Patient Conference, hosted by the Mayo Clinic Scottsdale. In addition, the foundation has recognized the UA-Banner vasculitis program as among its Vasculitis Foundation Research and Treatment Institutions, she said.

A likeness for Dr. Monica Kraft, chair of the University of Arizona Department of Medicine, is among the latest researchers to be added to the UA BIO5 Institute “Wall of Fame.” It’s one of multiple updates BIO5 planned for the wall this summer. Currently, 17 DOM faculty members are pictured from nine divisions or business units. Others include: Drs. David Alberts, Heddwin Brooks, Liz Connick, Clara Curiel, Janet Funk, John Galgiani, Joe G. N. “Skip” Garcia, Steven Goldman, Stefano Guerra, Louise Hecker, Julie Ledford, Yves Lussier, Akinlolu Ojo, Marvin Slepian, Esther Sternberg, and Nima Toosizadeh.

Research – Contracts & Awards

Endocrinology’s Dr. Dawn Coletta wins $600,000, three-year grant from American Diabetes Association to investigate whether DNA methylation of the mitochondrial DNA impairs mitochondrial function in insulin resistant type 2 diabetic patients.

UA/Banner Adult Allergy Program medical director, Dr. Tara Carr won a $30,000 grant from the UA Office of Research, Development and Innovation for her International Research & Program Development proposal titled “Supporting BEAMS: Binational Research Infrastructure and Maternal Immune Status.” The ABOR-approved funding for RDI projects were subject to peer review as well as by Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF) leadership.
The Arizona AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC) grant was awarded a 5-year contract for nearly $190,000—an 11 percent increase from the prior grant cycle. Arizona AETC is part of the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center region and operates under a subcontract of the University of California San Francisco. Dr. Steve Klotz is the grant’s principal investigator. Funding originates with the federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

Pulmonary Division Chief Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy was spotlighted by UA News for a nearly $1.4 million grant he won from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) for a peer-support program for sleep apnea patients. The program will start at Banner – University Medicine clinics in Tucson and later expand other Banner Health centers, in which more than 11,000 sleep studies are conducted and 9,000 patients seen annually for sleep disorders.

**Other Local/National/Global Achievements**

Congratulations to the dozen promoted DOM faculty recognized at UA College of Medicine – Tucson summer general faculty meeting: Drs. Jennifer Bea, Pavani Chalasini, Ann Marie Chiaisson, James Knepler, Lavanya Kodali, Xingnan Li, Josh Malo, Laura Meinke, Afshin Sam, Robert Segal, James Sligh and Monica Vandivort. Other DOM affiliates promoted include: Drs. Julie Ledford, Jarrod Mosier and Erika Bracamonte.

**Dr. Julie Bauman** was named deputy director of the UA Cancer Center, which is in a national search for a successor to Drs. Andrew Kraft and William Cance, who was named CMO of the American Cancer Society. UACC Associate Director for Basic Sciences Dr. Joann Sweasy is serving as interim director.

Among 300 UA retirees honored for 6,300 years of service on May 23 were DOM retirees: Drs. Rick Ahmann (Hem-Onc), Faiz Anwer (Hem-Onc), Steve Goldschmid (Gastroenterology), David Johnson (Endocrinology) and Victoria Sanguinetti (Geriatrics).

Hematology and Oncology Chief Dr. Julie Bauman has been named a 2019-20 fellow of the prestigious Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM) Program for Women at the Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. The program prepares women for senior leadership roles in schools of medicine, dentistry, public health and pharmacy. Prior ELAM alumni at the UA include Drs. Monica Kraft, Mindy Fain, Leigh Neumayer, Myra Muramoto, Taylor Riall, and Ann Wright.

**Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy** was named chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine in late March. He had been serving as interim chief since December 2016.

**Dr. Frank “Chip” Brosius**, the former Nephrology chief at the University of Michigan who joined the UA faculty in 2017, was named to interim chief of Nephrology at the UA.

-###-