

UA-Banner
All of Us
Research Program
Newsletter

Volume 1 | Issue 5
June 1, 2017



www.allofusaz.org
(coming soon!)

Toll Free Number
(coming soon!)

We have a new look for the UA-Banner *All of Us* Research Program (AOU) newsletter and are excited to announce our social media handles as well (see the left column). While we have not posted any material, we expect to fill your feed around the first week of July. We continue to develop the UA-Banner AOU website as well as the toll free number for our program. Share these with friends and let's get the word out together!

National News:

Democrats chalk up big wins in government funding deal

The administration had asked in March for \$18 billion in cuts for domestic programs, but as CBS News reported earlier this month, they were expected to be ignored in the deal. But rather than cutting, the senior congressional aide said the funding levels for domestic programs would actually increase under the bill. The NIH would receive a \$2 billion increase over 2016 spending levels, which prioritizes funding for research related to the brain, antibiotic resistance, Alzheimer's Disease and the Precision Medicine Initiative. Full story [here](#).

Congress Saved the Science Budget – and that's the Problem

Focusing on health and medicine seems logical. Ideally, biomedical research lessens human suffering. Hosing down the NIH with \$2 billion for priorities like Alzheimer's and the Precision Medicine Initiative might save lives down the line, and it's also the kind of thing that aging members of Congress can wrap their heads around most easily, because old people are scared of dying. (The average age of a congressperson is around 60; voters over 71 years old typically have huge election turnout.) Full story [here](#).

The Netflix Model Could Help Fight Cancer

Two years ago, former President Barack Obama announced the Precision Medicine initiative in his State of the Union Address. The initiative aspired to a "new era of medicine" where disease treatments could be specifically tailored to each patient's genetic code. This resonated soundly in cancer medicine. Patients can already manage their cancer with therapies that target the specific genes that are altered in their particular tumor. For example, women with a type of breast cancer caused by the amplification of gene HER2 are often treated with a therapeutic called herceptin. Because these targeted therapeutics are specific to cancer cells, they tend to have fewer side effects than traditional cancer treatments with chemotherapy or radiation. Full story [here](#).

Kathy Bollinger, FACHE, Banner University Medicine Division President, speaks to attendees at the UA-Banner Regional American Indian and Alaska Native Dialogue Conference for the All of Us Research Program on May 25th. More than 100 attended the conference held at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino May 25th and 26th.



Photo courtesy of Rachele Peterson

UA-BANNER Updates:

NIH Precision Medicine Initiative Set to Launch Amid Turmoil

The National Institutes of Health Precision Medicine Initiative, first announced by President Obama, will start next week in a political climate that is drawing attention to medical biases. The initiative, dubbed the All of Us Research Program, is designed to collect information on lifestyle, environment, and biology from at least 1 million people to boost research and improve health. But this won't work without widespread public engagement, Usha Menon, PhD, from the University of Arizona College of Nursing in Tucson, said at the Big Data in Biomedicine 2017 Conference in Stanford, California. Full story [here](#).

Sign up for UA-Banner *All of Us* program updates [here](#)

Upcoming Events

June 9: AOU Provider Engagement - Grand Rounds Physicians & Leaders, Noon to 1 pm, Banner Estrella Conference Center (on the west side of the facility straight across from the main entrance) 9201 W. Thomas Rd, Phoenix AZ 85037. Drs. Andy Theodorou and Usha Menon

Program Launch Preparation

- Alpha Phase – We anticipate to have our initial soft launch phase start around the middle of June and expect it to last about two weeks. The purpose of this phase will be to test systems and processes with real participants with some limited data on the participant experience during the Alpha Phase.
- Beta Phase – The second phase of the soft launch is anticipated to start around the first week of July and is expected to last about eight weeks. The purpose of this phase will be to assess broader local/national system issues and begin employing and testing strategies for enrolling diverse populations. ***If you would like to be among the first for the UA-Banner AOU Research Program, register [here](#).***

Sign up for NIH PMI program updates [here](#)

Your participation is encouraged

Spread the word about us on your social media pages, send us photos, tell a friend, and PARTICIPATE!!! Feel free to send AOU-related items to [Barry](#).

Coordinators Corner

The Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) is a research specialist working with and under the direction of Principal Investigators (PI). The coordination between the PI and CRC is essential, as well as vital, to the conduct of the study. Each month, we will highlight one of our coordinators for the UA-Banner *All of Us* Research Program so that you may become familiar with them and learn a little more about what motivates their involvement with *All of Us*. Currently, we have 19 Coordinators with the anticipation of more being added to the team as we progress with the program.



This month's Coordinator in the spotlight is **Elise Marsh**, who has called Tucson home since moving here when she was 18 months old. She has a passion for learning about peoples and cultures from around the world, and has had the privilege to travel to four different continents, with hopes of visiting all seven. As a fun fact, Elise wants everyone to know she enjoyed drinking camel milk while visiting Kenya in 2016.

Why did she join the *All of Us* team as a coordinator? Elise wanted to be a part of this immense effort to improve the health of all people. The goals of *All of Us* are of particular interest for her, as Elise along with her mother and aunts all have different autoimmune disorders. She is hopeful that with the help of this program future generations will have access to better, more precise treatments or cures for diseases like those that run in her family and so many more.



What is she most excited about for the *All of Us* PMI? Elise is most excited about the mission of *All of Us*, to empower and integrate patients with researchers and providers, to work together and form partnerships to create a future where everyone is able to receive more personalized care. Elise has spent time working with refugees and other underserved populations, learning more from these experiences with remarkably resilient people than she could have imagined, and she is excited to be a part of a program that aims to truly represent and reflect the rich diversity of this Nation.

Welcome New Team Members

Jillian Renslow joined the *All of Us* Research Program in May. She will recruit and enroll English and Spanish-speaking individuals in the research program, as well as assist with various aspects of data management and regulatory compliance in order to contribute to the program's success. Jillian received a Bachelor of Arts in global health from Arizona State University, and she is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health from the University of Arizona. She has an array of research experience, including analyzing child perceptions of health in the United States and Guatemala and promoting colorectal cancer screenings and prevention education among low-income, underserved populations in the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

Marco Miramontes is recent graduate from the University of Arizona having studied Biosystems Engineering. During his time as an undergraduate student, he developed an interest in the research and development of disease treatment options and their use in future therapeutic applications and preventive measures. For the past two years, Marco has served as a student research coordinator at the University of Arizona's Arizona Center on Aging where he gained direct exposure to research projects in areas of chronic disease and geriatric syndromes, with an emphasis on frailty.