UA Health and Life Science and College of Medicine Clinical, Translational and Basic Researchers Support Regents' Efforts to Create World-Class Academic Health Center at UA

The following letter was submitted to the Arizona Daily Star (additional signatures were added after it was sent):

As the research leadership at the University of Arizona, UA College of Medicine and the Arizona Health Sciences Center in Tucson, we join the College’s 14 clinical department heads to strongly support the Arizona Board of Regents’ efforts to help create a world-class academic health center at the UA.

We would like to add to the points made in the letter from the clinical department heads that the integration of UMC and UPH as UA Healthcare will allow us to turn our most breathtaking research advances into much needed new treatments for the people of Arizona.

Our research faculty have made great strides in understanding cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), pain, arthritis, osteoporosis, asthma, infectious diseases, age-related macular degeneration and many other diseases. The discoveries made by our researchers make possible the prevention of illness and the cure of diseases. Basic research is the building block that enables the clinical research to test new therapies and bring them to fruition. But without a strong academic medical center, this research will never get translated into health benefits for our fellow citizens.

It is basic research in combination with clinical care that helps Arizonans – and all Americans – lead longer and healthier lives.

The successful partnership of UA Healthcare with the UA is critical to attracting researchers who will make the discoveries that will positively impact health care for all of us. Without it, we will be looking at losing the best and the brightest doctors, researchers and innovators.

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Carol Gregorio, PhD, Head, Cell Biology and Anatomy
Glenn Sipes, PhD, Head, Pharmacology
Vicki Wysocki, PhD, Head, Biochemistry
Harvey Meislin, MD, Director, Arizona Center for Emergency Medicine
Mindy J. Fain, MD, Co-Director, Arizona Center on Aging
Eric J. Gall, MD, Interim Director, Arizona Arthritis Center
Magdalene So, PhD, Professor, Immunobiology
Emmanuel Katsanis, MD, PhD, Professor, Pediatrics
J. Kurt Griffin, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics
Heddwen Brooks, PhD, Associate Professor, Physiology
William R. Montfort, Professor, Biochemistry
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Jeffrey Frelinger, PhD, Professor, Immunobiology
John Galgiani, MD, Professor and Director, Valley Fever Center for Excellence
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Lisa Nagy, PhD, Associate Professor, Molecular and Cellular Biology
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