The Arizona Health Sciences Center has numerous people, programs and initiatives aimed at improving the state’s health-care workforce, life sciences economy and health-care delivery system. This monthly log of top stories and notable news items highlights AHSC efforts and progress in these important areas.

(Please Note: Each “Media Mention” provides a hyper-link to the full story as reported by the respective media outlet listed.)

**Partnering on Health-Care Transformation**

**UA’s Dr. Sean Elliott Appointed to Governor’s Council on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response**

*Posted: Oct. 22, 2014*

The council is comprised of leading experts from the fields of health, human services, public safety, emergency and military affairs, education and more.

**Media Mentions:**
- Arizona Republic
- Arizona Capital Times
- KJZZ
- KTAR News
- Phoenix Business Journal
- Prescott News
- Sonoran News
- Tucson News Now
- UANews

**UA Assistant Professor Dr. Sheila Gephart Selected as One of Only 12 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars for 2014**

*Posted: Oct. 10, 2014*

Highly competitive, three-year, $350,000 award is given to 12 early-career nursing faculty nationally who demonstrate outstanding promise as future leaders in academic nursing.

**Media Mentions:**
- Arizona Daily Wildcat
- Tucson News Now

**Expanding the Life Sciences Enterprise and Health-Care Professional Pipeline**

**Eighth Annual ‘Pandemic: An Exercise in Disaster Preparedness’ Conducted by UA Interprofessional Education and Practice Program, Oct. 31**

*October 30, 2014 - 1:51pm*

Health professions, law and journalism students from Arizona’s three state universities, Midwestern University and the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine and Health Sciences will tackle the complex logistical and ethical problems of a disease outbreak in Arizona and learn the importance of collaborations across professional lines.

**Media Mentions:**
- KJZZ-Radio
- KNXV-TV
UA College of Medicine – Tucson Launches New Pathway to Medical School
Posted: Oct. 8, 2014

P-MAP illustrates the college’s strong emphasis on increasing the diversity of its students and addressing the shortage of physicians from under-represented minority groups, particularly Native Americans.

Media Mentions:
Arizona Daily Wildcat

Expanding Access to Low-Cost, High-Quality Care

UACC and BIO5 researcher awarded $1.59 million NCI grant to study drug resistance in lymphoma tumor treatment
Posted: Oct. 20, 2014

Jonathan H. Schatz, MD, was recently awarded a 5-year, $1.59 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to study ways to effectively combat drug resistance when treating lymphoma — a study that may have wide-ranging impact when it comes to treating a variety of cancers.

Media Mentions:
Arizona Daily Wildcat

UA Led Study Finds a Good Diet before Diagnosis is Linked with Lower Mortality
Posted: Oct. 17, 2014

Study found that diet quality was associated with mortality and may have protective effect after ovarian cancer.

Media Mentions:
Cancer Network
HealthCanal.com
Public Health Watch
Science Daily
MPR
Fox News
Reuters
SFGate
WKRG.com
Science Codex
Arizona Daily Star
Oncology Nurse Advisor

Impact of Lifelong Cytomegalovirus Infection on Aging and the Immune System Focus of UA Research
Posted: Oct. 16, 2014

The study, funded by a $2.3 million five-year NIH grant, is critically important to understanding how to improve older adults’ responses to vaccination against the infectious diseases that remain among the major causes of mortality of those over age 65.

Media Mentions:
Fightaging.org

Valley Fever Drug Receives Fast-Track Designation by the FDA
Posted: Oct. 2, 2014

The University of Arizona’s request to designate the antifungal drug nikkomycin Z (NikZ) as a “qualifying infectious disease product” (QIDP) has been granted; clinical trial to begin in late 2015. In observance of Valley Fever Awareness Week 2014, free events for the public and health professionals will be held in Tucson and Phoenix.

Media Mentions:
Arizona Public Media
Arizona Daily Star
Arizona Daily Wildcat
KTAR News
KVOA-TV
Tucson News Now
KGUN 9
KJZZ
Terra Central
AGU.org
FOX 10 News
Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention awarded $13 million
Posted: Oct. 2, 2014
The Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention has been awarded $13 million from the National Cancer Institute to continue bringing prevention and biomedical research training to Native American communities in Arizona. The partnership focuses on the Hopi Tribe, Tohono O'odham Nation and Navajo Nation of Arizona.

Media Mentions:
KVOA Tucson News

Contributing to the Growth of the Arizona Biosciences Economy

University of Arizona, Phoenix Break Ground on New Downtown Project
Posted: Oct. 16, 2014
Biosciences Partnership Building Will Create Hundreds of Jobs. From left to right: Dave Elrod, regional manager, DPR Construction; Dave Crawford, president and CEO, Sundt Construction Inc.; Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton; University of Arizona President Ann Weaver Hart; Phoenix Councilwoman Kate Gallego; University of Arizona Senior Vice President of Health Sciences Dr. Joe G.N. “Skip” Garcia

Media Mentions:
Arizona Republic
Az Big Media
KNXV-TV
KTAR News
Phoenix Business Journal
UAnews.org
World Construction Network
Yuma News Now
Flinn Foundation