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Dr. Joe G.N. "Skip"  
Garcia

## **We're proud of what we do.**

**June 8, 2016**

Dear UA Health Sciences Community,

The University of Arizona Health Sciences has made great strides to ensure the long-term success of the only academic health sciences center in our state so we can continue our mission to improve the health of Arizona. Critical to these efforts is the development of our Phoenix-based campus and programs. As evidence of our progress:

- The **College of Medicine - Phoenix remains solidly on track for full accreditation** by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education by February 2017.
- The College has **newly appointed chairs** for the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology (Dr. Michael Foley) and the Department of Surgery (Dr. Steve Johnson) and will soon be formally announcing the inaugural Chair of the Department of Medicine.
- Our Banner Health partnership has resulted in the creation of a **\$20 million per year, 30-year Academic Enhancement Fund** to be shared by the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix and the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. These resources are already being used to support the growth of both Colleges.
- Our **College of Medicine – Phoenix Medical Education Program is attracting national and international attention**, with more than 5,000 applicants for 80 medical school slots.
- We **established the Health Disparities Advisory Council to improve diversity** among faculty and students.
- **100% of our graduates have placed in graduate medical education residencies**, with nearly 50% of those placements in Arizona-based programs.

**We are proud of these successes and ask you to share them with others.**

On June 4, the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) challenged UA leadership in response to the recent departures of key leaders at the College of Medicine – Phoenix. While we are surprised and disappointed with ArMA's actions, we are confident that the College is foundationally sound and will continue its trajectory of excellence as we recruit new leaders to those positions and pursue full LCME accreditation.

Interim Dean Ken Ramos, MD, PhD, has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in his first 60 days, already naming three interim leaders: Susan Kaib, MD, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Glen Fogerty, PhD, Assistant Dean for Admissions, and Paul Boehmer, PhD, Associate Dean for Research. He will continue to guide the College during this period of leadership transition, which happens regularly among the more than 170 medical degree granting institutions in the U.S., all competing for the best talent.

The UA College of Medicine – Phoenix has built an exceptional culture of learning, collaboration and service. As we build our leadership team, they will continue to advance our mission and elevate our status as an elite medical school.

We are fortunate to have two innovative medical schools serving our state, the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix and the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. Both are integral to our mission. Nothing will deter us in that pursuit.

**Thank you for your continued support!**

Sincerely,

**Joe G.N. "Skip" Garcia, MD**  
UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences  
Dr. Merlin K. DuVal Professor of Medicine

