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A Message from UAHS Leadership



Joe G.N. "Skip" Garcia,
MD

August 15, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

This past Friday, we completed the last of two important presentations before the Arizona Board of Regents Health Affairs Committee. These meetings gave us an opportunity to share with ABOR updates on our efforts to position the Colleges of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix as national leaders in medical education and training, clinical service delivery and biomedical research.

As directed by ABOR, these meetings provided a public forum to address questions about the operation and the direction of the Colleges of Medicine. We were pleased to share with the Committee the progress, successes, challenges and many opportunities we have as Arizona's only academic health center.

As shared with the Committee, and as all of you have experienced first hand, we have seen a lot of change and we also have witnessed some amazing results.



Charles B. Cairns, MD

- We are attracting and educating the best and brightest students who will transform medicine for generations to come.
- We have brought to Arizona a breadth and depth of leadership talent that would be the envy of any academic health center across the country.
- Our strong partnership with Banner Health has bolstered our academic standing and positions us to be *the* national leader in the transformation of academic medicine. We are uniquely positioned, given our Academic Affiliation Agreement, to incorporate new discoveries, technologies and models into education, training and research in health-care delivery.
- And finally, in just the last eight months alone, we've secured more than \$135 million in federally funded research awards. This includes our participation in the Precision Medicine Initiative® Cohort Program, a \$43.3 million award that is the largest NIH peer-reviewed grant in Arizona history.



Kenneth S. Ramos,
MD, PhD, PharmB

Everyone across the UA Health Sciences shares in these successes. Without the hard work and dedication of all faculty, students, trainees and

staff in pursuit of the goal of improving the health of Arizona and beyond, these accomplishments simply do not happen.

The Regents were highly complementary in their response to our presentations, stating that our achievements over the last three years provide the best example yet of the success of the UA Never Settle strategic plan. In reflecting on specific action steps in response to the information presented, the Regents encouraged us to work together to improve the communication and flow of information to both internal and external stakeholder groups. They also recognized that with so much rapid change, we would be wise to consider more deliberately our change-management approach and resources.

We value this feedback greatly and will be working actively over the next several weeks to provide additional communication forums for shared dialog.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions and we thank you for your contributions and continued support.

Sincerely,

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

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