Banner Home Health Expands to Tucson

Banner Health has signed a letter of intent to purchase SunLife Home Health, a Medicare-certified home health agency that has been serving the Tucson area since 2010. The transaction is expected to close on Jan. 31, pending regulatory and other approvals.

Upon completion of the sale, Banner will assume 100 percent ownership of SunLife’s home health business, and transition those operations into Banner Home Care, the home care division of Banner Health.

“This purchase provides a tremendous opportunity for us to expand our Banner Home Care operations into southern Arizona,” said Lynn Rosenbach, Banner’s vice president of post-acute services and CEO of Banner Home Care. “SunLife has built a wonderful reputation for compassionate, patient-centered care, a reputation we are determined to preserve and build upon as we begin providing services on Feb. 1.”

“This focus on care at home is good for our aging community,” said Monica Vandivort, MD, Home Care medicine director and UA assistant professor in the Division of Geriatrics, General Internal Medicine, and Palliative Medicine. “When we expand our home-centered care options, with skilled nursing and rehab therapies as an important part of the continuum, we are doing what people want. Remember, most older adults prefer to remain at home or return to home as soon as they can after an illness or injury. We need to advocate for what our patients and families want when there is a choice.”
‘TelePeds’ Service for Copper Queen

Diamond Children’s Specialists Available to Bisbee Hospital

A new “TelePeds” service launched this month allows Diamond Children’s pediatric specialists to consult in real time with emergency physicians at Copper Queen Community Hospital in Bisbee.

“Our desire is to keep kids from having to travel to us, making everything easier for the family while still ensuring they are receiving excellent care,” said BUMCT pediatric emergency medicine specialist Chan Lowe, MD.

From left: Jeanne Fenn, PNP; Diamond Children’s Nurse Director Kara Snyder, RN; Chan Lowe, MD; hospitalist Ann Juodakis and baby son; Copper Queen CMO Daniel Roe, MD, and hospitalist Jeffrey Rein, MD.

Topping Off Ceremony, 10 a.m. Jan. 18

Construction Milestone for New BUMCT Tower

BUMG providers are cordially invited to attend a “topping off” ceremony next Wednesday morning to mark an important milestone in the construction of the new patient tower at Banner – UMC Tucson.

The nine-story tower is now at its full height of 160 feet and its steel frame is complete. At the topping off ceremony, the last three structural beams will be hoisted into place.

Stop by the 10 a.m. event at the construction just west of the Cafeteria stairs to write your name on one of these beams and enjoy coffee and pastries. Hospital CEO Tom Dickson, COM-Tucson Dean Charles Cairns, MD, and others will make brief remarks.

The $400 million tower is on schedule to open in April, 2019!
New Vascular Surgery Division Chief in Tucson

Wei Zhou, MD, an internationally known vascular surgeon-scientist, arrived in Tucson this week as the new professor and chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery in the UA Department of Surgery and at Banner – UMC Tucson.

Previously Dr. Zhou was a professor of surgery at Stanford University and chief of Vascular Surgery at the Veteran’s Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System, which under her tenure became a referral center for complex vascular cases within the VA system.

Dr. Zhou completed her surgical training at University of California – San Diego and a vascular fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. She then took a faculty position at Baylor before being recruited to Stanford, where she built a robust clinical and translational research program.

She is a distinguished surgeon-scientist and leader in the impact of carotid interventions, with 120 publications, 23 book chapters and 70 invited lectures at national and international meetings. She has been the principal investigator of more than 30 clinical trials. Welcome, Dr. Zhou!

Physician Champions for Cerner Transition

Our Tucson hospitals and clinics will convert to Cerner EHR in June 2017 to align with the rest of Banner Health. To make this major transition as seamless as possible for BUMG providers, the following physicians have volunteered to serve as Cerner transition champions over the next several months. They are your go-to resource for questions and concerns about the new EHR:

- Anesthesiology: Dr. Patrick Boyle
- Behavioral Health: Dr. Ole Thienhaus
- Cardiology: Drs. Kwan Lee and Nancy Sweitzer
- Cardiac Surgery: Drs. MaryJane Barth and Scott Lick
- Critical Care: Drs. Christian Bime and Terence O’Keeffe
- Dermatology: Dr. James Sligh
- Emergency Med: Dr. Lisa Chan
- Gastroenterology: Drs. Bianca Afonso and Steve Goldschmid
- Hospital Med: Dr. Tejo Vemulapalli
Doc Talks: The Future of Medicine
Public Lecture Series in Phoenix and Tucson Resorts in February

Banner – University Medicine and the UA Colleges of Medicine will host a public lectures series in Phoenix and Tucson next month featuring outstanding faculty physician-scientists discussing the future of medicine and personalized health care.

In Phoenix, these free, educational and engaging lectures will take place at Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia, 4949 E Lincoln Drive. In Tucson the presentations will be held at the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, 3800 E. Sunrise Drive. Refreshments and appetizers will be served. Topics and speakers:

Take a Deep Breath: Is a Cure for Asthma on the Horizon?
5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 2 in Phoenix and Feb. 28 in Tucson

Monica Kraft, MD, professor and chair of the UA Department of Medicine in Tucson and associate director of the UA Health Sciences Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center, will discuss personalized approaches to asthma treatment. Dr. Kraft, who joined the UA from Duke University on 2014, has authored more than 150 publications on adult asthma and the role of infection of asthma.

Preserving Memories: What it Will Take to End Alzheimer’s
5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 9 in Phoenix and Feb. 7 in Tucson

Eric Reiman, MD, executive director of the Banner Alzheimer’s Institute, University of Arizona professor of psychiatry and director of the Arizona Alzheimer’s Consortium, will discuss the latest
research and lifestyle interventions surrounding this feared disease. Dr. Reiman’s research was the topic of a 60 Minutes TV segment in November.

**Precision Medicine: Turning Sick Care into Health Care**  
5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 16, Phoenix and Feb. 14 in Tucson  
**Charles Cairns, MD**, dean of the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson and **Kenneth Ramos, MD, PhD**, interim dean of the UA Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix and UA associate vice president for precision health sciences, will discuss new personalized approaches to old challenges in medicine, including new diagnostic and treatment advances in cancer, lung, cardiac and infectious disease.

**Gut Microbes: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**  
5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 23 in Phoenix and Feb. 21 in Tucson  
**Fayez Ghishan, MD**, professor and chair of the UA Department of Pediatrics in Tucson and director of the UA Steele Children’s Research Center, will discuss gut microbiota in health and disease. Dr. Ghishan is an internationally recognized pediatric gastroenterologist whose research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for more than 30 years.

Seating at these free lectures is limited. Register at BannerHealth.com/DocTalk or call 1-800-230-2273.

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**Banner Bragging Rights at UA Athletics**

Check out this new video playing at UA Wildcat basketball games this spring touting the game-changing medicine we practice at Banner – UMC. This first short video highlights the new hospital school at Diamond Children’s that opened in the fall. Watch for a new video next month at McKale Stadium. Banner Health is a lead sponsor of UA Athletics. Bear Down!
Update from the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix

Dr. Silverman Retires, but Will Continue to Lead Clinical Informatics Fellowship

One of the most beloved faculty members at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix had an official sendoff Jan. 9 during a campus-wide potluck.

Modest and self-effacing, Howard Silverman, MD, had a zeal for teaching and bringing out the humanism in his students and colleagues, who described him as nurturing, brilliant, uplifting, inspirational and kind.

“This job has allowed me to do the work of my heart, not just the work of my head,” he said. “There are not many work environments that allow you to do that.”

Dr. Silverman, who has worked for the university for more than 20 years and is one of the founding fathers of the College of Medicine – Phoenix, officially retired from the university in September 2016. However, he continues to teach and direct the Clinical Informatics Fellowship sponsored by Banner Health.

Full story here.
Class of 2021 Applications Hit New Record

While medical schools across the country saw a decline in applications this year, the UA College of Medicine – Tucson saw a significant increase and surpassed 7,200 applications for the first time in its 50-year history.

The College received 7,216 applications for the 115 spots in the class of 2021, up nearly 12 percent from last year’s 6,458 applications for the class of 2020. This goes against the national trend, with the AAMC reporting a 3-percent decrease in applications across the country.

“This record year in applications reflects our year in research, in diversity, in faculty engagement and achievement, in our match rate and in the acceptance rate for the Class of 2020,” said UA College of Medicine – Tucson Dean Charles Cairns, MD. “It's exciting to see this positive momentum continue as we attract the best possible students to serve the needs of the people of Arizona.”

The Practice of Advanced Critical Care
Simulation-Based Conference at COM-P, Feb.17-18, 2017

Sharpen your emergency life-saving skills at a multispecialty educational conference for bedside intensivists in February at the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix Center for Simulation and Innovation.

Topics include advanced techniques in echocardiography, difficult airway management, rescue therapies for severe ARDS and advanced cardiac life support. This conference features small-group simulations based on real patient cases with expert debriefing and hands-on workshops.

Gregory A. Schmidt, MD, professor of medicine and director of critical care programs at the University of Iowa, will be among the faculty presenters. He is an internationally renowned speaker and expert in the fields of mechanical ventilation, ECMO, fluid resuscitation and critical care ultrasonography. Conference co-chairs are Robert A. Raschke, MD, and Ken Knox, MD.

Space is limited to 60 registrants. 14.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. More info and to register, here.
The Donor Collaboration Committee at Banner – UMC Tucson will host a pizza party 5-9 p.m. Jan. 18 in Cafeteria Rooms C and D to thank the dozens of physicians and staff whose dedication, teamwork and sensitivity contributed to a record-breaking year in organ donation at the hospital. **Ninety-four organs recovered from 27 donors saved the lives of 74 people in 2016,** making it the most active donor hospital in the state, according to the Donor Network of Arizona.

Special guests at the pizza party will be recipients of these life-saving organ donations and some of the UA Women’s Basketball team! Please stop by.