$43 million NIH Grant for UA, Banner
5-Year Funding for Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort Program

The National Institutes of Health have awarded the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center and Banner Health a landmark grant to participate in the Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort Program, which aims to enroll 1 million or more U.S. participants to improve prevention and treatment of disease based on individual differences in lifestyle, environment and genetics.

The award, which totals $43.53 million over five years, is the largest NIH peer-reviewed grant in Arizona history.

“The award serves as a wonderful example of how the strengths of Banner Health and the UA Health Sciences can work together for the benefit of patients,” said Kathy Bollinger, executive vice president of Banner — University Medicine. “Participating in this initiative is exactly the type of collaboration we envisioned when we entered into our agreement with the UA.”
Program leaders for the UA-Banner Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort Program (PMI CP) are Elizabeth Calhoun, PhD, MEd, UAHS associate VP for population health sciences, Robert Groves, MD, chief medical officer of Banner Health Network, and Akinlolu Ojo, MD, MPH, PhD, UAHS associate VP for clinical research and global health initiatives.

In the BUMCP Physicians Lounge

Meet BUMG Chief Operating Officer Scott Hofferber

Scott Hofferber, BUMG's new chief operating officer, will be stopping by physician lounges this summer to introduce himself and answer your questions.

Plan to meet Scott when he visits the physicians lounge at Banner – UMC Phoenix:

* 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 1
* 9-10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 15

Welcome Dr. Mathew Hutchinson

New Cardiac Electrophysiology Program Director, Tucson

Banner – University Medical Group is pleased to welcome Mathew Hutchinson, MD, who joins us this month as the new director of the Cardiac Electrophysiology Program in the Division of Cardiology in Tucson.
Dr. Hutchinson, who specializes in treating complex arrhythmia disorders, comes to Tucson from the University of Pennsylvania where he was an associate professor of medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine. He completed his medical degree at St. Louis University School of Medicine and his medical residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School. He completed cardiology and electrophysiology fellowships at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

“Dr. Hutchinson’s international reputation as a clinician and scientist will strengthen and expand our arrhythmia practice, which already provides outstanding patient care, including remarkable outcomes for some very complex procedures,” said Nancy Sweitzer, MD, PhD, director of the UA Sarver Heart Center and chief of the Division of Cardiology within the UA Department of Medicine.

Update from the UA College of Medicine - Phoenix
Eighty-three students symbolically entered the medical profession when they put on their white coats for the first time during UA COM-P ceremonies at Phoenix’s Symphony Hall on July 15. Nearly 1,000 family members and friends attended the rite of passage and cheered as each new medical student donned their coat.

Kenneth S. Ramos, MD, PhD, COM-P interim dean, said the Class of 2020 will face challenges different from previous medical students.

“Medicine is facing a dramatic shift, where leadership skills are going to be even more important,” he said. As a college, “we need to give our students not only knowledge and expertise, but prepare them for making the health-care system work better. With the Affordable Health Care Act, the shifts in health-care delivery and different health-care platforms, they can make huge contributions.”

The College was established in Phoenix as a way to ease the growing shortage of physicians in Arizona. The Phoenix campus has graduated 273 physicians in nine years.

Photos of the ceremony: bit.ly/WhiteCoat2020-Pics
Profiles of students: phoenixmed.arizona.edu/whitecoat
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXQSLfMrETk
Update from the UA College of Medicine – Tucson

Collaboration on National Effort to Develop HIV Cure

The UA College of Medicine – Tucson is working on the project “Bench to Bed Enhanced Lymphocyte Infusions to Engineer Viral Eradication (BELIEVE)” as one of 18 institutions participating in a $28 million, five-year Martin Delaney Collaboratory grant to marshal various immunotherapy advances to create a novel HIV cure strategy. The BELIEVE project will leverage the consortium’s innovative cell therapy approach that focuses on making an individual’s natural immune system work better at eliminating HIV reservoirs.

“We will be working with the BELIEVE team to test a strategy to cure HIV by targeting killer cells to sites within lymph nodes where the virus hides,” said Elizabeth Connick, MD, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and the local principal investigator on the project.

The UA is home to the Arizona AIDS Education & Training Center (AETC), as well as the Petersen HIV Clinics, which are rated among the top three in the country for HIV patient care and are located at Banner – UMC Tucson and Banner – UMC South.

Dr. O’Keeffe Named Interim Trauma Chief, Tucson

Dr. Terence O’Keeffe has been named interim chief of the Division of Trauma, Critical Care, Burns and Emergency Surgery.

“Dr. O’Keeffe is an outstanding trauma and critical care surgeon who brings considerable leadership experience to the division. We are very excited that he has agreed to serve as the interim division chief and I am extremely confident that southern Arizona will continue to receive outstanding services from our Level 1 trauma team,” said Leigh Neumayer, MD, chair of the Department of Surgery at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson.

Dr. O’Keeffe, an associate professor of surgery who joined the UA in 2008, is chief of staff at Banner – UMC Tucson and medical director of its surgical ICU. His research interests include injury prevention, massive transfusion practices, motorcycle trauma and damage control surgery. He is co-investigator of an NIH-funded multi-center prospective observational study of air ambulance-based prehospital resuscitation regimens.
In other trauma news, there’s still time to register for 27th Annual Southwest Trauma Conference at JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort, Aug. 4 - 5. This annual conference, presented by the Division of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery and Banner – UMC Tucson, features a number of faculty presenters, including Drs. Giles Becker, Hans Bradshaw, Travis Dumont, Bellal Joseph, Jarrod Mosier, Terence O’Keeffe, Mike Ori, Amber Rice, Mazda Shirazi, Jennifer Smith, Andrew Tang, Patrick Tsai and Christopher Williams. Dr. Tang serves as this year’s program chair. Click here to register.

Grace Under Pressure

Banner – University Medical Group extends a sincere thank you to BUMG providers for their patience and resourcefulness during Banner – UMC Tucson’s unexpected power outage last week. An overloaded circuit breaker in the basement darkened several areas of the hospital for hours July 14 as our facilities personnel, Tucson Fire Department and Tucson Electric Power worked to identify the problem.

The safety of our patients being a top priority, providers and staff sprang into action. They moved several patients out of the hospital’s main tower over to adjacent Diamond Children’s Medical Center, which had full power. Partnering with Tucson Fire Department and other city emergency agencies, they were able to transport and treat trauma patients at Banner – UMC South until the power was restored at the Level 1 trauma center at Banner – UMC Tucson.

In thanks and recognition of outstanding performance and cooperation by physicians and staff, Banner will host several ice cream socials next week:

**Monday, July 25**
Banner – UMC South, La Galeria
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
5 - 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 26**
Banner – UMC Tucson, Cafeteria Rooms C and D
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
5 - 7 p.m.
Laboratory Testing Transition in Tucson Starts Monday

Please note that beginning Monday, July 25, microbiology testing performed at Banner – UMC South will transition to the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at Banner – UMC Tucson. Turnaround time will be monitored over the next several months to ensure quality consistency.

Courier Times
Monday through Friday: 5 pickups throughout the day
Saturday and Sunday: 4 pickups daily
STAT couriers are available 24/7. Once the courier has been contacted, the expected TAT is 2 hours.

The following testing capabilities will remain on-site at Banner – UMC South:
- Blood & CSF Cultures – CSF and positive blood cultures will be Gram stained, reported/called, plated and incubated on-site until the courier arrives. Isolate identification and AST will be performed at BUMCT.
- STAT Gram stains
- Rapid Strep A Screen – Negative screen will be sent to BUMCT for PCR
- Rapid Influenza/RSV tests (respiratory season only)
- Wet Mount
- C. difficile EIA

Test Menu Changes
1. Negative Rapid Strep A Ag Screens will reflex to Strep A RT PCR (LAB6012) rather than culture
2. Fluid culture (used for high quality fluids) will be replaced with Aerobic and Anaerobic Culture (LAB4021)
3. Group B Streptococcus Molecular Amplification (LAB4018) will replace the Group B Strep Screen Culture
4. Stool culture will no longer be available as an orderable test. The replacement for it, which also includes the Shiga Toxin, is:
   - a. GI Pathogen Panel PCR (LAB5745) – Targets: Bacteria (Diarrheagenic *E. coli/Shigella, Salmonella, Campylobacter* spp., *Plesiomonas shigelloides*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Vibrio* spp., and *Vibrio cholerae*); Parasites (*Cryptosporidium, Cyclospora cayetanensis, Entamoeba histolytica*, and *Giardia lamblia*); Viruses (Adenovirus F 40/41, Astrovirus, Norovirus GI/GII, Rotavirus A, and Sapovirus). The stool specimen is to be submitted in the C&S orange top ParaPak vial.
   - b. Shiga Toxin (LAB1318)
   - c. Giardia/Cryptosporidium Exam (LAB1319)
   - d. Giardia Antigen Stool (LAB259)
   - e. Ova and Parasite (LAB258)
5. Legionella Culture alone will be replaced by Immunofluorescence and Culture for Legionella (LAB5005)
6. MRSA Screen Culture no longer available. The following are available instead:
   - a. MRSA PCR (LAB3145)
   - b. Staph Screen (LAB229)

New tests available to Banner – UMC South:
1. Procalcitonin (LAB3238)
2. Acanthamoeba Culture (LAB3116)
3. Cystic Fibrosis Culture Screen (LAB3120)
4. Wet Prep for Ectoparasites (Scabies,) (LAB3157)
5. Fecal Lactoferrin (LAB1040)
6. B pertussis and B parapertussis by PCR (LAB923)
7. Pinworm Prep (LAB248)
8. Parasite Macro Exam (LAB247)
9. Quantitative Culture (BAL, Mini-BAL) (LAB267)
10. Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus PCR (LAB3148)
11. Trichomonas vaginalis rRNA Probe, Qualitative (LAB5383)

Replacements will be made in the EPIC order sets and preference list. Personal preference list updates should be made by the user. Questions or concerns? Please contact BUMCS Lab Director Robert Klein, MD, or BUMCT Lab Director Maria Proytcheva, MD.

Meeting the Special Health Needs of Older Adults

Banner Health and the University of Arizona Center on Aging’s Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) are joining forces to improve health care for older adults in our care.

Stacie Pinderhughes, MD, medical director of the Division of Palliative Medicine for Banner Health (left), and Diane Jennings, Banner Medical Group practice administrator, are partnering with GWEP’s Co-Directors Mindy Fain, MD, (right) and Jane Mohler, PhD, to develop a primary care workforce prepared to meet the special health needs of older adults. Pinderhughes and Jennings will bring their leadership and expertise in palliative care to enhance AZ-GWEP’s education and training activities across Banner Health and the state. The Arizona Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Open House, Clinical Trials Discussion, July 28

Community Invited to Arizona Cancer Center / North
A free presentation on cancer clinical trials and a community open house of the University of Arizona Cancer Center / North will be held 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 28 at the cancer center at 3838 N. Campbell Ave. in Tucson.

With his team, Daruka Mahadevan, MD, PhD, director of Phase I clinical trials and co-director of Experimental Therapeutics at the cancer center, will deliver a primer on clinical trials and their importance in advancing medical knowledge.

The cancer center participates in more than 200 clinical trials. For a complete list, see [http://uacc.arizona.edu/research/clinical-trials](http://uacc.arizona.edu/research/clinical-trials)

Dr. Mahadevan, a UA professor of medicine, specializes in the treatment of patients with pancreatic cancer, gastrointestinal stromal tumors, myelodysplastic syndromes and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

The event is part of a monthly series of lectures for the community presented by Banner – UMC and the Arizona Cancer Center. No reservations necessary. Questions, please contact Margie Eller, oncology nurse navigator, [Margaret.Eller@bannerhealth.com](mailto:Margaret.Eller@bannerhealth.com)

---

**In the News**

**Transplant Program Alive and Well**
Scott Lick, MD, director of BUCMT Heart and Lung Transplant Programs

**Banner’s Diabetes Prevention and Education Center**
Merri Pendergrass, MD, director of the Diabetes Program in Tucson

**Shaping the Future of Academic Medicine in Tucson and Across Arizona**
Charles Cairns, MD, dean of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson

**Tucson’s Top Doctors**
Congrats to the following BUMG Tucson physicians named to this year’s Castle Connolly Top Doctors list in the July issue of *Tucson Lifestyle* magazine:

**Adolescent Medicine**
Richard A. Wahl, MD
**Allergy & Immunology**  
Heather R. Cassell, MD (joining BUMG in August)  
Michael O. Daines, MD

**Cardiac Electrophysiology**  
Julia H. Indik, MD  
Peter Ott, MD

**Cardiovascular Disease**  
Joseph S. Alpert, MD  
Mark J. Friedman, MD  
Raj Janardhanan, MD  
Kapildeo Lotun, MD

**Child Neurology**  
Janet B. Teodori, MD

**Colon & Rectal Surgery**  
Valentine N. Nfonsam, MD

**Dermatology**  
James E. Sligh, MD

**Diagnostic Radiology**  
Kimberly Fitzpatrick, MD  
Dorothy L. Gilbertson-Dahdal, MD  
Phillip H. Kuo, MD  
Mihrta Taljanovic, MD

**Endocrinology**  
Craig S. Stump, MD

**Family Medicine**  
Victoria E. Murrain, DO

**Gastroenterology**  
Thomas D. Boyer, MD  
John T. Cunningham, MD

**Geriatric Medicine**  
Paul Gee, MD

**Gynecologic Oncology**  
Setsuko K. Chambers, MD  
Kenneth D. Hatch, MD

**Hand Surgery**  
Gregory L. DeSilva, MD

**Hematology**  
Andrew M. Yeager, MD

**Infectious Diseases**  
Anca D. Georgescu, MD  
Stephen A. Klotz, MD
Internal Medicine
J. Michael Darragh, MD
Jennifer G. Flynn, MD

Interventional Cardiology
Karl B. Kern, MD
Kwan S. Lee, MD

Maternal & Fetal Medicine
Karen B. Lesser, MD
Kathryn L. Reed, MD

Medical Oncology
Frederick R. Ahmann, MD
Robert R. Livingston, MD

Nephrology
Pradeep V. Kadambi, MD

Neurological Surgery
G. Michael Lemole, Jr., MD
Martin E. Weinand, MD

Neurology
Geoffrey L. Ahern, MD
Bruce M. Coull, MD
Holli A. Horak, MD
David M. Labiner, MD

Neuroradiology
William Erly, MD
Rihan Khan, MD
Wayne S. Kubal, MD

Obstetrics & Gynecology
Amy L. Mitchell, MD

Occupational Medicine
Philip I. Harber, MD

Ophthalmology
Joseph M. Miller, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery
John T. Ruth, MD
Shyam M. Shridharani, MD

Otolaryngology
Mindy Black, MD
Audrey B. Erman, MD
Stephen A. Goldstein, MD
Abraham Jacob, MD
Bruce E. Stewart, MD

Pathology
Achyut K. Bhattacharyya, MD

Pediatric Cardiology
Brent J. Barber, MD
Scott E. Klewer, MD
Daniela Lax, MD

**Pediatric Endocrinology**
Mark D. Wheeler, MD

**Pediatric Gastroenterology**
John David Feerick, Jr., MD
Hassan Hassan, MD

**Pediatric Infectious Diseases**
Sean P. Elliott, MD
Ziad M. Shehab, MD

**Pediatric Nephrology**
Emmanuel L. Apostol, MD

**Pediatric Pulmonology**
Cori L. Daines, MD
Wayne J. Morgan, MD

**Pediatrics**
Kimberly Gerhart, MD
William Marshall, Jr., MD
Shook H. Yap, MD

**Psychiatry**
Beth A. Bernstein, MD
Ole J. Thienhaus, MD

**Pulmonary Disease**
Cristine E. Berry, MD
James L. Knepler, Jr., MD
Sairam Parthasarathy, MD
Franz Rischard, DO

**Radiation Oncology**
Baldassarre Stea, MD

**Surgery**
Lynn M. Gries, MD
Marlon A. Guerrero, MD
Narong Kulvatunyou, MD
James H. McClennathan, MD
Leigh A. Neumayer, MD
Taylor S. Riall, MD
Andrew L. Tang, MD
Gary A. Vercruysse, MD

**Thoracic & Cardiac Surgery**
Samuel S. Kim, MD
Scott D. Lick, MD

**Urology**
Joel T. Funk, MD
Matthew B. Gretzer, MD
Christian O. Twiss, MD
Jonathan R. Walker, MD
Vascular & Interventional Radiology
Charles T. Hennemeyer, MD

Vascular Surgery
John D. Hughes, MD