BUMCP Offers TAVR to Low-Risk Patients

Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix has launched a groundbreaking Partner III Trial and successfully treated its first low-risk aortic stenosis patient with a transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedure.

Previously TAVR was only offered to high-risk patients who were too ill for open-heart surgery, accounting for only 6 percent of patients suffering from aortic stenosis. With the launch of the Partner III Trial, the TAVR procedure is now a treatment option for the nearly 80 percent of low-risk patients suffering from aortic stenosis.

“This is truly a groundbreaking trial,” said interventional cardiologist Ashish Pershad, MD.
“Not only are we reaching the vast majority of patients suffering from this disease, but never before have we had an opportunity to measure the differences between TAVR and traditional surgery side by side. This study will show us through indisputable data if the less-invasive approach is as safe as or possibly better than open-heart surgery.”

“The Partner series of clinical trials have always chosen high level, coordinated facilities,” said Kenith Fang, MD, cardiothoracic surgeon. “We are truly honored to join the elite institutions across the nation as part of this study and offer the latest in cardiovascular treatment to the patients of Arizona.”

Patients enrolled in the trial will be randomized to receive either the TAVR or open-heart surgery. There is no age restriction for this trial. For more information, contact the BUMCP valve coordinator at (602) 521-3151.

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**Flu Shot Deadline: Dec. 5**

We are on the cusp of flu season and it’s vital that we do everything we can to protect our patients, colleagues, families and ourselves. The flu can be prevented and immunization is one of the most effective ways to decrease the spread of the virus.

Banner Health’s No Flu For You policy requires all employees, physicians, volunteers and students to receive a flu shot or have an approved medical or religious exemption by Dec. 5, 2016.

Flu shot clinics will be scheduled throughout the fall, starting with:

**Banner – UMC Phoenix**
- Sept. 2, 6:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (closed 11:30-noon for lunch), Educational Services B
- Sept. 6, 2-9 p.m. (closed 5-5:30 p.m. for dinner), Educational Services B
- Sept. 8, 2-9 p.m. (closed 5-5:30 p.m. for dinner), Educational Services C
- Sept. 9, 6:30 a.m. (closed 11:30-noon for lunch), Educational Services B

**Tucson**
- Sept. 14, 8 a.m.-noon, Elvira Campus, Break Room
- Sept. 14, 1-6 p.m., UA Cancer Center / North, Conference Room 1290
- Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Banner – UMC South, Room 3030

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**Cerner Demos in Tucson this Fall**

To align with the rest of the Banner Health, Banner’s Tucson hospitals and clinics will convert to Cerner EHR in June 2017. To familiarize Tucson staff and providers with Cerner, several 20-minutes demonstrations will be offered at the following dates and times:

**Sept. 6 (acute care)**
- Banner – UMC Tucson, Dining Room C
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 3 - 6 p.m.

**Sept. 20 (ambulatory)**
Banner – UMC Tucson, Dining Room E
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 3 - 6 p.m.

**Sept. 30 (especially for providers)**
Banner – UMC Tucson, Dining Room F
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 3 - 6 p.m.

**Oct. 12 (acute)**
Banner – UMC South, La Galleria
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 3 - 6 p.m.

**Oct. 21 (ambulatory)**
Banner – UMC South, La Galleria
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m.

**Oct. 26 (providers)**
Banner – UMC South, La Galleria
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m.

Sessions include a high-level overview of Cerner and the patient care workflow followed by Q&A. Stop by any time.

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**Rare Pediatric Disorder Clinic Opens**

**Children's Postinfectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy (CPAE)**
A clinic and research center to address a family of acute-onset neuropsychiatric disorders in children has been launched by UA and Banner Health, and it’s the only one of its kind in the Southwest.

The “**Children’s Postinfectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy (CPAE) Center of Excellence at the UA Steele Children’s Research Center**” is the first to implement a model of clinical care, teaching and research to treat and potentially cure a spectrum of postinfectious autoimmune encephalopathies such as PANS (Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome), PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Strep) and Sydenham's chorea.

Children’s postinfectious autoimmune encephalopathies, like other autoimmune disorders, are on the rise in children in the Western world. In CPAE, the child’s immune system attacks the brain, causing a range of neuropsychiatric symptoms that can include OCD, tics, severe anxiety, headaches, mood changes, separation anxiety, frequent urination, hallucinations and sensory sensitivities. A [video](#) about this disorder featuring a Scottsdale patient and pediatric immunologist **Michael Daines, MD** (left) was shown at a Tucson press conference announcing the center of excellence earlier this week.
Meet Your Colleague

Julie Bauman, MD, Chief of Hem-Onc in Tucson

Please welcome Julie Bauman, MD, MPH, who starts Sept. 1 as the new chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson and the UA Cancer Center.

Dr. Bauman, who was raised in Tucson, joins us from the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where she was co-director of the Head & Neck Cancer Center of Excellence.

She received her medical degree from Tufts University where she also earned a master’s degree in public health. She completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Utah and a fellowship in medical oncology at the University of Washington Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, where she was a chief fellow and later an assistant professor of medicine. Then she was a clinical associate at the Geisinger Health System’s Henry Cancer Center and an assistant professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the University of New Mexico Cancer Center.

Update from UA College of Medicine - Phoenix

Researcher: Age-Related Protein Lined to Depression

Deveroux Ferguson, PhD, was recently featured in Science News for his research about a busy protein’s role in depression. SIRT1 protein, a histone deacetylase, can change the way certain genes behave. It influences vital cellular processes such as metabolism, development and even cancer.

SIRT1 can also make mice despondent, according to Dr. Ferguson’s research. The study was published Aug. 10 in the Journal of Neuroscience. Dr. Ferguson (center, flanked by research assistant Samantha Carotenuto and post-doc fellow Hee-Dae Kim PhD) is an assistant professor in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences. His research lab focuses on studying mental illness, depression in particular.

“Current treatment approaches for depression are largely ineffective and leave more than 50 percent of patients symptomatic,” Dr. Ferguson said. “They mainly target the monoaminergic system, which is made up of dopamine, serotonin and norepinephrine. Additionally, the older monoaminergic-based medications take several weeks to months to see any clinical benefits and have side effects including nausea, insomnia, fatigue and drowsiness, and increased...
appetite and weight gain.”

“We believe there maybe be fewer side effects with SIRT1-based antidepressants because our experiments reveal SIRT1 functions in more discrete brain regions; thus, they have fewer off-target effects,” he said. “In animal models, the antidepressant effects of decreased SIRT1 are evident within a few days, as opposed to several weeks or months.”

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**Update from UA College of Medicine – Tucson**

**$7 Million NIH Grant to Help Asthma Sufferers Reduce Severe Attacks**

A five-year, $7 million National Institutes of Health grant awarded recently to Department of Medicine Chair Monica Kraft, MD, who specializes in translational asthma research at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson and the UA Health Sciences’ Asthma and Airways Diseases Research Center, will seek a better understanding of mediators that help control lung inflammation and improved therapies to reduce severe attacks in those with asthma.

Funded through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the grant will support a research study, “Dysfunction of Innate Immunity in Asthma,” with three projects, including analysis of human samples of people with asthma and investigation of genetic markers related to dysfunctional immune response mechanisms in asthma. The goal is to develop a better understanding of those mechanisms and refine novel therapies to moderate or eliminate asthma attacks and enable asthma sufferers to breathe easier.

Analysis will focus on dysfunctional single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs or “snips”) of surfactant protein A (SP-A), a lipid constituent of surfactant known as POPG (palmitoyl-oleoyl-phosphatidylglycerol) and Toll-like receptor interacting protein (Tollip). Surfactant helps to open up alveolar sacs in the lungs and change surface tension so lungs can expand. SP-A, POPG and Tollip act as mediators, signaling synergistically which foreign irritants or conditions in the lungs to attack or not. Each perform critical negative regulatory functions interacting cooperatively to offer protection from allergic inflammation and viral exacerbations of asthma—but, when impaired, cause more acute reactions in asthma sufferers.

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**Professional Education**

*Fundamental Critical Care Support, Sept. 19 & 20*

Banner – University Medicine in association with the Society of Critical Care Medicine is offering a two-day course, *Fundamental Critical Care Support*, Sept. 19-20 at the Banner Simulation Med Center in Mesa. Category 1 Physician CME Credit is offered. Discounts are available to Banner physicians, residents, advanced practice providers, nurses and respiratory therapists. All participants must be ACLS certified. View [flyer](#).
**Patient and Provider Perspectives in IBD, Sept. 24**
A CME symposium from 8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix on inflammatory bowel disease, presented by the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation. Sasha Taleban, MD, of Banner – UMC South is the Foundation’s regional chair for CME and the event organizer. The conference is aimed at gastroenterologists and APPs, as well as IBD patients and caregivers.

- **MACRA Education Sessions**
  Did you miss the recent MACRA education sessions? View a video of the presentation or the 30-minute Question and Answer session here.

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**Tucson Classes of Interest to Your Patients**

**Tame Your Arthritis Pain, Sept. 7**
**Mohab Ibrahim, MD, PhD**, director of the Comprehensive Pain Management Clinic at BUMCS, will present “An Inside Look at Conventional and Alternative Therapies for Pain Management” in BUMCT’s DuVal Auditorium from 6-7:15 p.m. Sept. 7. Free, but pre-registration requested. Call the UA Arthritis Center at 520-626-5040 or email livinghealthy@arthritis.arizona.edu

**Lymphatic Lymphoma & Leukemia, Sept. 9**
**Daniel Persky, MD** and **Ravi Krishnadasan, MD**, will speak on the latest advances in the treatment of leukemia and lymphoma from 5-7 p.m. Sept. 9 at the UA Cancer Center / North, 3838 N. Campbell Ave. Free. More information from oncology nurse navigator Margaret.Eller@bannerhealth.com.

**Senior Stand Tall Program Starts Sept. 20**
Presented by Trauma Services, this 3-part lecture series teaches seniors that falling is not an inevitable part of aging, and offers practical tips on how to prevent falls. **Bellal Joseph, MD**, kicks off the first class. Call 694-4713 for more info and to register. Free. Classes will be held 1:30-3 p.m. Sept. 20, Sept. 27 and Oct. 4 in the Abrams Public Health Building, 3950 S. Country Club Road (next to BUMCS)

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**New Psychiatry & Peds Administrators, Tucson**

BUMG welcomes two new department administrators in Tucson: **Kathleen Dostalik, JD**, in Psychiatry and **Kellie L. McClure, MBA, FACHE**, in Pediatrics. Dostalik has nine years of experience working in behavioral health, most of it at the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona and Cenpatico Integrated Care, and most recently at Pasadera Behavioral Health Network. As the Chief Operating Officer at Pasadera, she oversaw the improvement of the billing encounter rate from 11 percent to 95 percent. As the Compliance Officer at CPSA, she quickly resolved corrective action plans outlined by the State of Arizona. She has expertise in contracting, managing department budgets, team development, program development and
management.
In Pediatrics, Kellie McClure will promote a seamless integration among clinical care, research and teaching activities. She will be responsible for the management and implementation of pediatric business plans, driving profitable growth and improving operational quality and processes in all three missions.

Previously, McClure was the director of academic affairs at National Jewish Health in Denver. She is board certified in healthcare management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), and comes to us with 10 years of healthcare management experience, including staff and volunteer management, service delivery, reimbursement, provider relations, physician relations, teleradiology services, clinical services, revenue growth, project management, and strategic planning. In addition, she has more than 20 years of financial experience, including operations and capital budgeting, financial analysis, job costing, revenue projections, grants administration, risk management analysis and fee billing.

BUMG Physicians In the News

[Click to read about the physicians in the news]

Diabetes Epidemic Prompts Test Strip Thefts
Merri Pendergrass, MD, Diabetes Program director

A Doc Bikes Across Country to Ask Americans About Obamacare. This is how he Ended Up Feeling Hopeful
Paul Gordon, MD, Family and Community Medicine

Banner Notes Value of Seeing Chronically Ill Where they Live
Mindy Fain, MD, and Monica Vandivort, MD, UA Center on Aging