Greetings from the UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

I am extremely pleased to announce the appointment of Roberta Diaz Brinton, PhD, as the inaugural director of the UA Health Sciences Center for Innovation in Brain Science. Dr. Brinton is an internationally renowned neuroscientist who has made seminal contributions in the field of Alzheimer’s, the aging female brain and regenerative therapeutics to prevent, delay and treat neurodegenerative disease.

I’m also excited to welcome Jorge Gomez, MD, PhD, as associate director of the UA Center for Elimination of Border Health Disparities and assistant director for cancer outreach at the UA Cancer Center. Please join me in welcoming both Drs. Brinton and Gomez to UAHS.

As you are aware, increasing the diversity of the health professions workforce is a top priority for UAHS. Earlier this month a historic agreement was signed with the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and our Colleges of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix to establish the Navajo Nation Future Physicians’ Scholarship Fund to help more Navajo students pursue careers as physicians. The fund will provide financial aid to cover students’ tuition, and academic support for as many as seven Navajo scholars per year, leading to a medical degree from either the UA College of Medicine – Tucson or the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix.

In other good news, the White House recently announced our participation in the national Precision Medicine Initiative, which will pioneer a new model of patient-powered research and accelerate biomedical discoveries. The UA Center for Biomedical Informatics and Biostatistics and UA Center for Applied Genetics and Genomic Medicine will work to develop strategies that advance understanding of the
factors contributing to individual health and disease and personalized approaches to disease prevention, early detection and treatment. Kudos to these Centers and their faculty and staff for leading our precision health efforts and for their well-earned White House recognition.

Lastly, it was gratifying to see 165 soon-to-be resident-physicians in the UA College of Medicine – Tucson and UA College of Medicine – Phoenix Classes of 2016 who learned on Match Day where they will spend the next several years of medical training, a major step in building a medical career. Congratulations to everyone who matched and many thanks to all the UAHS colleagues, friends and families who helped them arrive at this exciting point in their career.

Joe G.N. “Skip” Garcia, MD
UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

Dr. Brinton Appointed Director of New UAHS Center for Innovation in Brain Science

Roberta Diaz Brinton, PhD, an internationally renowned neuroscientist, will lead efforts to accelerate the advancement of evidence-based clinical care of brain disorders caused by disease, genetics or trauma.

Navajo Nation and UA Colleges of Medicine Sign Agreement

Officials with the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and the UA Colleges of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix signed an agreement to establish the Navajo Nation Future Physicians’ Scholarship Fund.
UA College of Pharmacy Tapped for AACP Weaver Award

The UA College of Pharmacy has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 Lawrence C. Weaver Transformative Community Service Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

Arizona High School Girls Learn about Orthopaedic Surgery at UAHS

To create awareness and recruit women to pursue careers in health care, UAHS partnered with the Perry Initiative, a national organization that works to create a pipeline for women to pursue careers in engineering and orthopaedic surgery.

UAHS Commits Biomedical Informatics and Genome Medicine Teams to National Precision Medicine Initiative

As part of a White House initiative, UAHS is committing significant resources to precision medicine – through the UA Center for Biomedical Informatics and Biostatistics and the UA Center for Applied Genetics and Genomic Medicine.

Dr. Gomez, Global Leader in Cancer Research, Joins UAHS

Jorge Gomez, MD, PhD, an internationally respected global health-care leader, formerly with the National Cancer Institute, has been appointed associate director of the new Center for Elimination of Border Health Disparities.
Steps to a Good Night’s Sleep

Jeannie Lee, PharmD, an associate professor at the UA College of Pharmacy, teaches health professionals about medications and behavioral strategies for sleep in older adults.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| APR 6 | Building Better Joints |
| APR 15 | Desert Lung Disease Conference |
| APR 22 | Interprofessional Rural Health Professions Conference |

UAHS IN THE NEWS

iPads Connect Hospice Patients To Nurses

*KJZZ*

An Innovative Project on the Mexican Border Helps People with Disabilities

*National Deseret News*

A Change of Heart

*New York Times*

RESEARCH

View a monthly listing of UA Health Sciences grant awards here.