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The University of Arizona  
Health Sciences



Joe G.N. "Skip" Garcia,  
MD

## UA Health Sciences Achievements Outlined at Nov. 14 Address

During 2016, the University of Arizona Health Sciences saw major advancements in biomedical research, education, clinical care and outreach as it continues to meet and exceed goals outlined in its five-year strategic plan, the UA's top health administrator said during a Nov. 14 address.

**Joe G.N. "Skip" Garcia, MD**, UA senior vice president for health sciences, who began his UA duties in September 2013, provided an update on the UA Health Sciences' plan to advance its biomedical research enterprise, effectively address our state's most pressing health concerns, significantly increase diversity among health students and faculty, and expand partnerships and collaborations, among other efforts. The plan aligns with the UA's "Never Settle" strategic plan and the Arizona Board of Regents' Arizona Higher Education Enterprise plan.

"We've seen robust advances," Dr. Garcia said, adding that the UA Health Sciences is gaining a national reputation for its innovative research programs, talented faculty and strong diversity-and-inclusion efforts. "I think we have the structure now to really move forward...I think we're on a very sustainable trajectory."

Since his arrival, Dr. Garcia and UAHS leadership worked with the five UAHS colleges and identified four areas of research excellence: Health Disparities; Population Health and Health Outcomes; Precision Health; and Neuroscience. Four advisory boards, with members from the UA Health Sciences and UA sides of campus, were formed to determine priorities for growth in these areas; the boards recommended the development of new facilities and infrastructure.

To date, seven new centers have been established to support UAHS priorities. This effort is paying off. For example, the new centers, combined with the historic partnership with Banner Health, helped UAHS secure a National Institutes of Health award totaling \$43.3 million over five years to participate in the prestigious Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort Program ("All of Us"). Dr. Garcia cited several other multi-million-dollar grants awarded to UAHS in the past several months as further evidence of success in the research enterprise.

He also noted the major construction taking place at the Tucson and Phoenix campuses, including the \$165 million Health Sciences Innovation Building in Tucson, the \$136 million Biomedical Partnership Building in Phoenix and a new \$400 million Banner – University Medical Center hospital in Tucson, among other major projects.

Under Dr. Garcia's leadership, the UA Health Sciences aspires to become a national model for diversity and inclusion. He cited several specialized programs and initiatives focused on the recruitment, education and training of a diverse group of future health-care educators, practitioners and leaders. Efforts already have garnered a 2016 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award for the UA College of Medicine – Tucson.

For more about the UA Health Sciences' unprecedented successes, view the presentation: <http://uahs.arizona.edu/news/state-ua-health-sciences-november-14-2016>



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