Arizona Republic

Regents Approve Banner-UA Health Network Merger

The Arizona Board of Regents on Wednesday approved Banner Health's $1 billion-plus merger with the University of Arizona Health Network, giving the state's largest health system a foothold in Tucson. The deal, stemming from talks that started about two years ago, officially closes Feb. 27 with Banner Health acquiring the UA Health Network's two-hospital system and partnering with the University of Arizona Colleges of Medicine, in Tucson and Phoenix. Read more

U.S. News & World Report

My Child Has What? Five Ailments to Have on Your Radar

What is a parent to do when their kid suddenly develops blisters in the mouth, fluid-filled lesions on a limb or an inexplicable rash? Each is a symptom of hand, foot and mouth disease. This viral infection is often found in children under 10, though adults with compromised immune systems are vulnerable too. Hand, foot and mouth disease is very contagious. Seek medical attention if your child stops urinating or is unable to swallow anything due to the pain, says Sean Elliott, MD, professor and associate
chair of the University of Arizona Department of Pediatrics and medical director of infection prevention at the UA Health Network. Read more

PressReleasePoint

Providing Tomorrow’s Medicine Today

Marvin Slepian, MD, University of Arizona professor of cardiology, knows how to bridge the gap between the bench and the bedside. Dr. Slepian, also a member of the UA Sarver Heart Center and co-founder of SynCardia Systems Inc., has made the connection between creative entrepreneurship and significant health-care issues to innovate and deliver solutions, such as the artificial heart, that enhance and save lives. In his latest venture, he will help extend the linkages between UA research and the public as director of the Arizona Center for Accelerated Biomedical Innovation (ACABI). The new center will help researchers form collaborations, find applications for new discoveries, develop their technologies and access resources to move innovations forward. It will focus primarily on the development of translational biomedical technologies. Read more

Phoenix Business Journal

Pass the Tissue: UA Creates Biorepository to Share with Competing Universities

The University of Arizona has created the Arizona Health Sciences Center Biorepository to share tissue samples with researchers at universities across the country. “The idea is to be able to have a resource for people both inside and outside the University who wish to study special populations that are unique to the Southwest community,” said David Harris, PhD, UA professor of immunology, who now also serves as executive director of the new biorepository. “It will provide centralized, specimen collection infrastructure and offer concierge-level technical and regulatory expertise to principal investigators that need tissue samples for their research.” Read more
Arizona Public Media

Here's a Diet That Can Reduce Cancer, Prevent Obesity, Diabetes

University of Arizona nutritionists hosted a conference this week on the value of the "Mediterranean Diet,” a regimen that they say can reduce the risk of cancer and prevent obesity and diabetes. Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts, fish, olive oil and red wine are the primary elements of the diet. Donato Romagnolo, PhD, MSc, a professor in the UA Department of Nutritional Sciences and a researcher at the UA Cancer Center, said a low-fat Mediterranean-style diet can help. Read more

Arizona Daily Star

Health Groups Reach Out to Insure Rural Communities

Since November, more than 169,000 Arizonans have signed up for health coverage through the Affordable Care Act, exceeding last year's total by almost 50,000, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

During this year’s push for health-care enrollment, connecting rural residents with coverage was made a priority across the nation, and many local groups had to go back to basics to figure out the best way to help.

"After the first enrollment period, there were some pretty significant gaps in particular rates of enrollment," said Daniel Derksen, MD, professor at the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and director of the UA Center for Rural Health. "One of the lowest-enrolled groups were people who live in rural and remote areas." Read more
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