Arizona Daily Star

**Placenta Patch Could Cut Deaths in Cardiac Patients**

Hoping to reduce post-surgical deaths in cardiac patients, a University of Arizona surgeon is testing the healing powers of heart patches made from amniotic tissue. The intent of the patch is to prevent atrial fibrillation, an irregular, rapid heart rate caused by chaotic electrical signals in the heart’s upper two chambers, or atria.

Zain Khalpey, MD, PhD, MRCS, surgical director of the Heart Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program at the UA Medical Center, says he has performed the world’s first procedures using an amniotic membrane patch to help heal a patient’s heart postoperatively. [Read more]

U.S. News & World Report

**Can Exercise Prevent Type 2 Diabetes? Your Genes May Be Key**

For millions of overweight Americans, regular exercise remains a prime weapon against excess weight and the threat of type 2 diabetes.

However, a new study suggests that the battle may be tougher for some than for others, depending on their genes. In the study, researchers led by Yann Klimentidis, PhD, MS, of the University of Arizona, examined interactions among physical activity, genetics and diabetes risk in more than 8,100 white Americans, including 821 with type 2 diabetes. [Read more]
Biz Tucson

**Stopping the Spread of Colon Cancer**

A team of researchers led by the University of Arizona Steele Children's Research Center has discovered a mechanism by which the spice turmeric appears to halt the spread of colon cancer. The team found that curcumin – the bioactive molecular derived from turmeric – blocks the protein cortactin in colon cancer.

“What’s novel about our research is that our study identified one of the mechanisms by which curcumin can prevent cancer cell metastasis in colon cancer,” co-investigator Fayez K. Ghishan, MD, director of the Steele Center, said of the research, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health. [Read more](#)

Arizona Daily Wildcat

**UA Experts Optimistic About Ebola Crisis**

Doctors associated with the UA are working to combat the Ebola virus crisis that is underway in West Africa. Tom Kenyon, MD, MPH, who teaches at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson and is director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center for Global Health, spoke on the Ebola crisis and how the UA can help. He said the Ebola epidemic in West Africa is heavily affecting Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. “[Ebola] has a very high fatality rate,” said Ronald Pust, MD, a professor at the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and director of global and border health at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. “You are about 50 percent or more likely to die without, or even with, treatment. There is no vaccine or proven medications at this point.” [Read more](#)

Phoenix Business Journal

**Why Medical Students Don’t Want to Become Primary Care Doctors**
It’s no secret that America has a shortage of primary care physicians and that the shortage is only going to get worse as the Affordable Care Act provides access to care for more U.S. citizens. An estimated 50 million Americans have inadequate access to primary care and the shortfall is set to worsen in coming years unless new approaches to primary care are implemented, according to the report. Stuart D. Flynn, MD, dean of the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix, said he likes to attract students to the medical school who have an open mind to primary care. Read more

KGUN-TV (ABC Tucson)

A-Fib on the Rise

Atrial fibrillation already affects as many as 3 million people in the United States and that number could hit 12 million by 2050. An aging population and bad health and diet habits are to blame for the increase. A-fib is the most common heart-rhythm abnormality in the nation. Julia H. Indik, MD, PhD, a cardiologist and associate professor at the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center, says a person is at increased stroke risk if they have had heart failure, high blood pressure, diabetes, a history of stroke or mini-stroke, vascular disease, are 65 to 75 years old or are a woman. Read more