Friday Feedback: Dr. Elizabeth Calhoun on the Future of the ACA

Several health policy experts were asked if they thought the new Republican majority in the Senate might affect certain aspects of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Elizabeth Calhoun, PhD, MEd, associate vice president for population health sciences, executive director, Center for Population Science and Discovery at the Arizona Health Sciences Center, said, “The biggest driver of health insurance coverage was states' decisions whether or not to expand their Medicaid programs. Those that did saw their uninsured rates decline precipitously; among those that didn't, the rates have been largely steady. At the state level, among those that expanded Medicaid, hundreds of thousands of individuals that didn't have health insurance before are now covered and taking this away could prove politically risky, even in Republican-led states. While expansion states are grappling with issues of capacity and utilization, there is no doubt that, at the national level, access to health care has opened up to as many as 15 million people who didn't have it before.” Read more

KJZZ

UA Medical School in Phoenix Becoming an International Model

The University of Arizona is turning empty lots at Seventh Street and Van Buren in Downtown Phoenix into a world-class medical school. Representatives from the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin visited UA’s Health Sciences and Education Building, which was built two years ago. Back
home, the Royal College tore down one of its older buildings and is looking for a model to base a design for a new building of their own. [Read more]

The Ranger

Dr. Carmona Faced Challenges on Road to Becoming 17th U.S. Surgeon General

The road to success was not always paved in a straight line for Richard Carmona, MD, MPH, the 17th U.S. Surgeon General. He shared his story with students at St. Philip’s College to tell how community college helped him get where he is today. Dr. Carmona, who grew up in New York City, said his family was poor and struggling.

“There wasn’t a day that (mom) didn’t push us to be better,” he said. His mother told her children the most important thing she owned was a library card, and she would bring books home every night for her children to read, he said. [Read more]

KNXV-TV (ABC Phoenix)

University of Arizona Doctors Working on Cure for Valley Fever

There is new hope for thousands of Arizonans who suffer from Valley Fever. Doctors at the University of Arizona believe they may have found a cure for the illness. The new antifungal drug, called “Nikkomycin Z,” is scheduled to move to clinical trials late in 2015. “Nik Z” recently was designated as a “qualifying infectious disease product” (QiPD) by the U.S Food and Drug Administration. [Read more]

Arizona Daily Wildcat

UA Staff Members Honored for Outstanding Achievements

Three UA employees recently were honored for their work and outstanding achievements. Ronald Weinstein, MD, founding director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program, was
honored at the Connected Health Symposium in Boston. **Catherine Gerl**, a human resources representative at the UA College of Nursing, was selected to be a board member for the Arizona Chapter of the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources. **Sean Elliott, MD**, professor of pediatrics and medical director of infection prevention for the University of Arizona Health Network, was appointed to the Governor's Council on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response. [Read more](#)

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