On April 24, 2003, shortly after the completion of the Human Genome Project, its director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and his team posed 15 grand challenges to the scientific community. They dared researchers to harness the genome to crack puzzles of biology, health and society. In particular, they called for genome-based tools to close health disparities. Since then, the United States has pumped more than $1 billion a year into genomics research. What do we have to show for it? Rick Kittles, MD, director of the Center for Population Genetics at the Arizona Health Sciences Center and co-founder of African Ancestry, Inc., said one reason for the persistence of race and genetics in biomedical research is subtle. Certain diseases cluster in populations. In such cases, some researchers say we should turn our attention away from race and toward ancestry. Read more

KGUN-TV (ABC Tucson)

Regents Member, Wife Donate $1M for UA Cancer Center Outpatient Facility in Downtown Phoenix
An Arizona Board of Regents member and his wife have given $1 million to the University of Arizona Cancer Center to help build an outpatient facility in downtown Phoenix.

Dr. Ram Krishna is a Yuma orthopedic surgeon appointed to the Board of Regents in 2012. He and his wife, Dr. Meera Krishna, made the gift in memory of Meera Krishna's sister, Dr. Mandira Jalajakshi, who was a beloved physician in England when she passed away in 2012. A space in the new center will bear her name. The UA Cancer Center at Dignity Health's St. Joseph's outpatient facility, under construction at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, is scheduled to open in 2015.

Phoenix Business Journal

What $1.2 Billion Means to Banner, UA and the State

With its $1.2 billion purchase of the University of Arizona Health Network, Banner Health made the biggest financial investment in the UA's history.

The deal, worth $40 million a year for 30 years, is a huge investment from both Banner's and the UA's perspectives. Banner Health will become the primary clinical partner for the UA Colleges of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix and provide $261 million toward a $300 million Academic Enhancement Fund for academic enhancements, faculty recruitment and program development at the medical schools.

ABC News

California's Drought Could Increase Health Risks, Experts Say

The arid conditions in California could mean increasing cases of Valley Fever in the state, health officials said. The potentially fatal disease is caused by a fungus called Coccidioides that can grow in the soil and spread in the air through spores if soil dries out. While more than 60 percent of people exposed to the spores don’t have symptoms, people who start to develop the disease can have cough, fever and headache. In rare cases, the disease can lead to death, experts said. John Galgiani, MD, director of the Valley Fever Center for
Excellence at the Arizona Health Sciences Center, said that in Arizona, rain can initially help grow the fungus in the soil but if it's followed by months of arid weather, the spores can start to float in the area and even travel hundreds of miles. Read more

MedPage Today

Friday Feedback: The Latest on Induced Hypothermia

Studies call timing and temperature into question for treating out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. MedPage Today contacted emergency medicine physicians and cardiologists to ask. Two doctors from the Arizona Health Sciences Center at the University of Arizona weighed in:

Daniel W. Spaite, MD, FACEP, professor and distinguished chair, emergency medicine, and associate director, Arizona Emergency Medicine Research Center, and Karl Kern, MD, co-director, UA Sarver Heart Center in Tucson. Read more

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