UA College of Medicine – Tucson Interim Dean Testifies At D.C. Hearing on Bioterrorism

Charles Cairns, MD, interim dean of the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson, testified on Capitol Hill this week before the House Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communication. The hearing focused on “Strategic Perspectives on the Bioterrorism Threat.” U.S. Rep. Martha McSally, (R-AZ), subcommittee chairperson, said, “The risk of a biological terrorist attack to America is an urgent and serious threat. A bio-attack could cause illness and even kill hundreds of thousands of people, overwhelm our public health capabilities and create significant economic, societal and political consequences. Our nation’s capacity to prevent, respond to and mitigate the impacts of biological terror incidents is a top national security priority.”

A nationally noted expert on bioterrorism, Dr. Cairns told the subcommittee, “None of these initiatives will be successful, ultimately, without the full cooperation and collaboration across federal agencies, the states and local governments.” Read more

Phoenix Business Journal

Two Banner Facilities Included on List of 100 Great Hospitals
Two Banner Health hospitals are among the 100 greatest in America, according to a new list from *Becker's Hospital Review.*

**Banner University Medical Center – Tucson** and **Banner University Medical Center – Phoenix** both were included on the list, published April 20. The medical facilities are part of Phoenix-based Banner's newly formed University Medicine division. Last month, Banner entered a 30-year academic affiliation agreement with the University of Arizona to become the primary clinical partner of the UA's Colleges of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix.

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**Health News Digest**

**Owning a Dog Provides Health Benefits for Postmenopausal Women**

Working to identify effective strategies to increase physical activity among older adults, particularly women, University of Arizona researchers have identified dog ownership as a key to better health. The findings were published in the January journal *Preventive Medicine,* Volume 70.

Regular physical activity can positively affect health outcomes in older adults, but only half of the older adults in the United States meet the current recommendation of 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week. To identify effective strategies to increase physical activity in older women, researchers at the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health analyzed data from a diverse sample of nearly 160,000 postmenopausal women who were enrolled in the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) clinical trial or observational study.

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**EndoNurse**

**Preventing Colorectal Cancer Names 2015 Champions**

Preventing Colorectal Cancer (PCC) announced the recipients of the 2015 Champion Award for Colorectal Cancer Prevention, an honor the not-for-profit organization established in 2011 to recognize individuals, groups and companies that provide
exceptionally high standards of care or that most effectively advocate for the prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer.

PCC honored Michael R. Mills, MD, program director for two gastrointestinal electives at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix as a recipient of this year’s Champion Awards. A dedicated advocate for the prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer, Dr. Mills instills in his students how best to win the fight against colorectal cancer. Read more

Arizona Jewish Post

Cancer Expert Speaks of Old Treatments, New Hope at UA-Sponsored Cindy Wool Seminar

Siddhartha Mukherjee, MD, presented cancer’s story of major tragedy and future hope to more than 400 people at the Sixth Annual Cindy Wool Memorial Seminar on Humanism in Medicine at the Fox Tucson Theatre on March 31.

Cancer remains a scourge for many people around the world. But the main character in the book, “The Emperor of All Maladies,” is the disease itself, as it’s been diagnosed, treated and thought about over the last 4,000 years, said Dr. Mukherjee, a Columbia University assistant professor of medicine, researcher and staff cancer physician at CU/NYU Presbyterian Hospital. The Cindy Wool seminar included a noon lecture to medical students and faculty at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson, which sponsored the seminar in conjunction with the Maimonides Society of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. Read more
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