Phoenix Business Journal

Banner Health to Buy UA Hospitals in Tucson, Expand Geographical Footprint

The state’s largest health system is set to become even bigger as it plans to purchase the University of Arizona hospital system in Tucson — an area where Phoenix-based Banner Health doesn’t yet have a footprint. Banner has agreed to pay $300 million to establish the Academic Enhancement Fund, pay another $146 million to pay off the University of Arizona Health Network’s long-term debt and will commit to $500 million for capital projects in Tucson to support the clinical enterprise over five years. Read more

Arizona Business Magazine

AZBio Expo 2014 Produces 'Aha' Moments

Valley fever, considered an orphan disease, hits about 150,000 people a year – 60 percent live in central Arizona. Current treatments have major shortcomings, with about 60 percent of those treated being unresponsive. The result is 2,000 serious cases and 150 deaths a year. It affects pets in nearly equal proportion. To help raise awareness and prevention, the Arizona Board of Regents created the Valley Fever Corridor project, a public health program led by University of Arizona College of Medicine’s John Galgiani, MD, who is also the chief medical officer for Valley Solutions. Read more
Arizona Daily Star

Street Smarts: Health Epiphany Launched Canyon Ranch

Dec. 20, 2014, will mark the 35th anniversary of Canyon Ranch in Tucson. It is still operated by Mel Zuckerman, now 86. He and his wife also are the namesake of the UA Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.

The Zuckermans opened the Canyon Ranch health resort in 1978. They visited the Double U Dude Ranch, south of Snyder Road, and felt the land had a magical quality, although the ranch was in disrepair. They bought the 42-acre ranch in May of 1978 and decided to call it Canyon Ranch, a name derived from Sabino Canyon and the Double U Dude Ranch. Read more

Cancer Digest

New Drug Shows Promise for Recurrent Ovarian Cancer

Women treated with a new type of drug halted their recurrent ovarian cancer significantly longer than women treated with a standard chemotherapy treatment, according to a new report in the June 19, *Lancet Oncology*. The doctors at the University of Arizona Cancer Center published data from 919 women with recurrent ovarian cancer treated at 179 cancer centers in 32 countries. The drug, called Trebananib, is a first-in-class agent that prevents two proteins from binding to a tumor cell receptor that triggers the process of angiogenesis, or growing blood vessels needed for tumor growth. Read more

DAIC

Startup Company Targets Paradigm Shift in Heart Valve Surgery

PolyNova, a startup company that has grown out of an inter-institutional collaboration between the University of Arizona (UA) and Stony Brook University, announced it is developing a novel polymeric prosthetic heart valve.

Sarver Heart Center cardiologist Marvin J. Slepian, MD, professor of medicine and biomedical engineering at the UA, is the founding CEO of the
new venture. PolyNova entered an exclusive option to the patent rights jointly held by the two universities earlier this spring. Read more