The White House

**Big Grant: UA Researchers Working on Flexible, Wearable Technology**

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, the seventh of nine new manufacturing institutes will invest $171 million in advancing next-generation flexible hybrid electronics manufacturing, fostering American leadership in manufacturing technologies, from smart bandages to self-monitoring weapons systems to wearable devices.

The University of Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine is part of a group called the FlexTech Alliance, which was awarded $75 million by the U.S. Department of Defense to help establish and maintain a group to create “flexible hybrid electronics,” which include wearable devices to improve medical health monitoring and personal fitness and soft robotics to care for the elderly or assist wounded soldiers, among many other applications. **Read more**

**Health News Digest**

**Huge Disparity in the Occurrence of Leg Amputations on Low-Income and Rural Patients with Type 2 Diabetes**
People with low incomes or living in rural areas who have type 2 diabetes are significantly more likely to suffer the amputation of a lower extremity, largely due to limited access to preventive health care, according to research by the Southern Arizona Limb Salvage Alliance (SALSA) at the UA Department of Surgery. The study, "A Diabetic Emergency One Million Feet Long: Disparities and Burdens of Illness among Diabetic Foot Ulcer Cases within Emergency Departments in the United States, 2006-2010," published this month in the journal *PLoS One*, also found that a system for preventive care for those type 2 diabetes patients could cut national annual health-care costs by billions of dollars.

"We know now there are significant disparities in diabetes care, particularly within the lower extremities," said David G. Armstrong, DPM, MD, PhD, UA professor of surgery and director and co-founder of SALSA. "But the great news about these shocking data is that with a little bit of energy, we can affect change and make a difference for these folks no matter where they live or how big their bank account is." Read more

**Arizona Daily Star**

**Camp Wellness: Where the Routine Becomes Extraordinary**

Tucson-based Camp Wellness seeks to better the odds of Arizonans with serious mental illness, who on average die 33 years earlier than the general population.

Among other things, people with serious mental illness are more likely to suffer from chronic medical conditions, including obesity, heart disease and diabetes. Often those conditions come about because poor mental health can lead people to stop taking care of themselves, and to socially withdraw. The nine-week program for as many as 60 people per session, covers an array of subjects, including nutrition, fitness, stress management, relaxation, hygiene and basic anatomy. The University of Arizona Department of Family and Community Medicine started Camp Wellness in 2009 in direct response to the stark difference in life expectancy between people with serious mental illness and the general population. Read more
KGUN9 News

Hyundai donates $400,000 to UA Steele Children’s Research Center

Two pediatric oncologists and researchers at the University of Arizona Steele Children’s Research Center received a large check from Hyundai’s "Hope on Wheels Program." At a ceremony on Sept. 2, the $400,000 'Hyundai Scholar Hope Grant' was presented to Emmanuel Katsanis, MD, and Yi Zeng, MD, PhD. Both doctors say the grant will be able to further their research regarding graft-versus-host disease. Graft-versus-host disease is a complication that can occur after a stem cell or bone marrow transplant. With the disease, the newly transplanted donor cells attack the transplant recipient's body. Read more

AZBio.com

UA Public Health Researchers Work to Keep U.S. Food Crops Safe

Working to keep U.S. food crops safe, a team of researchers from the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has received funding to study irrigation water quality. The team will focus on developing monitoring strategies and guidelines to provide food safety improvements that can be used by the U.S. produce industry to prevent crops from becoming contaminated. The UA research team will focus on identifying the best strategies for monitoring irrigation water quality and the development of guidelines for the irrigation of food crops. Most of this work will be conducted in Yuma, Ariz., the principal U.S. region responsible for the production of leafy greens, such as lettuces and spinach during the winter. In addition, the team will expand the geographical research to include irrigation systems in Imperial Valley, Calif., and Maricopa, Ariz., thereby increasing the agricultural impact and relevance for more farmers. Read more
MedPage Today

HCMS: 'Healthier People, Smarter Spending' With ACOs

Medicare Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) continue to improve care quality and to lower costs, according to a new report from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Medicare ACOs comprise hospitals, physicians groups and other clinicians working in collaboration to coordinate care for all patients. Since the Affordable Care Act was passed, 420 Medicare ACOs have been established, caring for about 7.8 million people in the United States, according to CMS.

Daniel Derksen, MD, director of the Center for Rural Health at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health in Tucson, said what impressed him most about the latest ACO performance results was that both types of ACO models improved on 80 percent of the quality measures.
As far as fiscal performance, he also noted, that "those who have been at it a little longer do better." About one in four ACOs earned bonuses for meeting cost benchmarks, a figure Dr. Derksen said he viewed as "promising." Read more

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