Greetings from the UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

With the holiday season underway and the new year fast approaching, I want to express my gratitude to all UA Health Sciences faculty, students and staff for your service and dedication to our educational, research and patient-care missions. Whether conducting research, participating in teaching, caring for patients or training to become a health professional, we are united in efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of our community, state and nation.

With that mind, please join me in congratulating the UA College of Nursing in becoming the fourth nursing school in the nation, and the first in Arizona, to earn recognition as a Hispanic-Serving Health Professions School (HSHPS), joining the UA Health Sciences’ College of Medicine – Tucson and Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health in this significant designation. HSHPS membership is granted to schools with a demonstrated commitment to increasing diversity within the health workforce and promoting the health of Hispanics.

In addition, the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health has been awarded a major grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct a diabetes-prevention study in Sonora, Mexico. The study will focus on the prevention of cardiovascular disease and its complications among adults with diabetes. This research not only will benefit the neighboring population, but will provide important research and implementation strategies for the U.S. population – particularly the Latino population.

In this issue of UAHS News, you also will learn about a UA Health Sciences study that revealed how chemicals in turmeric – long recognized for its anti-inflammatory benefits – can work as well as commonly prescribed medications in blocking arthritic
inflammation. As a result, this project is moving out of the laboratory into the clinic to study turmeric’s potential therapeutic effect in humans.

This has been a year filled with significant progress at the UA Health Sciences, and 2016 promises to see many more accomplishments as we expand our research enterprise, develop world-class research, educational and clinical facilities and recruit top thought leaders to our team. I greatly look forward to continuing our work to ensure the UA Health Sciences becomes one of our nation’s very best academic health centers and a source of pride to all Arizonans.

Wishing you happy holidays and a joyful New Year!

Joe G.N. “Skip” Garcia, MD
UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

**UA College of Nursing Nationally Recognized as Hispanic-Serving Health Professions School**

The UA College of Nursing has become the fourth nursing school in the nation and the first in Arizona to be recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Health Professions School.

**UA College of Medicine – Tucson Marks Application Milestone**

The UA College of Medicine – Tucson is outpacing other medical schools in terms of attracting an increasing number of applicants who aspire to become physicians.
UAHS Faculty Member Develops Treatments for Lung Diseases

Heidi Mansour, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, is working to develop advanced dry powder inhalers to treat and prevent pulmonary diseases.

UAHS Awarded NIH Grant for Binational Diabetes Prevention Study

The UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health has been awarded a $2.9 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health for a diabetes-prevention study in Sonora, Mexico.

Spicy New Treatment for Rheumatoid Arthritis Moves to Clinical Trials

A UAHS research team studying the anti-inflammatory impact of turmeric is moving the project out of the laboratory and into patient testing.

UA College of Medicine – Phoenix Launches Innovative OB-GYN Anatomy Lab

Hands-on medical training isn’t something students can gain from a text book, online simulation or a lecture but an experience that shows the diversity and uniqueness of patients, according to Rebecca Fisher, PhD.
Celebrate Safely: How to Avoid Holiday Hazards

Each year during the holiday season, the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center at the UA College of Pharmacy receives dozens of calls from people whose holiday festivities have been disrupted by common hazards of the season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| JAN 9  | Connect2STEM |
| JAN 22 | Dementia: A Global Challenge |
| JAN 30 | Beyond Cancer: Finding Joy |

UAHS IN THE NEWS

Biggest Health Policy Stories of 2015
MedPageToday

UA researchers developing brain-mapping technology
Medical Xpress

What you can expect from a telemedicine visit
MSN

RESEARCH

View a monthly listing of UA Health Sciences grant awards here.