Greetings from the UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

The University of Arizona Health Sciences is off to a great start in 2016 and we are poised for several major announcements and exciting advancements in the coming months.

For starters, I want to highlight the significant recruitment efforts now underway at the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix. The College has initiated national searches for chair positions for the Departments of Medicine, Translational Neurosciences and Interdisciplinary Oncology. These inaugural chairs will shape the College's research growth and advance the delivery of academic medicine in Phoenix, in collaboration with our remarkable health-system partners. I greatly appreciate the service of the search committee members who are hard at work bringing outstanding candidates to the Phoenix Campus.

Next, it is my pleasure to share with you the UA College of Medicine – Tucson annual report, "Shaping the Future of Medicine" in which you will find profiles for each of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson departments, including exciting advancements, new projects, high-profile research grants, leadership appointments and historical highlights.

I also would like to congratulate the UA College of Medicine – Tucson student leaders for launching "Diversity Month" in January. The series of events engage the community and raise awareness of the need to develop a diverse health-care workforce representative of the populations we serve. This effort is critical to reduce Arizona's significant health disparities and improve community health throughout the state, nationally and internationally.

In addition, kudos to the UA College of Nursing for ranking among the Best Online
Graduate Nursing Programs for 2016 in *U.S. News & World Report*. Not only does the College boast the highest ranked online graduate nursing program in the state, it moved up 13 spots from last year’s ranking to No. 23 among 149 schools nationwide.

In this edition of *UAHS News*, you will also learn about a UA College of Pharmacy-led study of a compound found in the natural food additive annatto, which prevents the formation of cancer cells and skin damage from UV radiation in mice. In the future, the compound, bixin, may be valuable in the prevention and treatment of human skin cancers. Of particular note, the Center for Rural Health at the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health was awarded a grant to support the Arizona Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program which provides quality, operational and performance improvement in Arizona’s rural hospitals and affiliated outpatient services.

This is a very exciting time at UAHS. With your dedicated efforts we are working to shape and strengthen the UAHS enterprise through innovation and collaboration and create one of the nation’s premier academic health centers.

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

**U.S. News & World Report Ranks UA in Top 25 for Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs**

The UA College of Nursing has been ranked among the Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs by *U.S News & World Report* for 2016.

**UA Pediatric Pulmonary Center Receives $1.69M Grant**

The UA Pediatric Pulmonary Center has received a five-year, $1.69 million renewal grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration.
UAHS Researchers Identify Food Additive that May Help Prevent Skin Cancer

Researchers at the UA College of Pharmacy have discovered that a compound found in the natural food additive annatto prevents the formation of cancer cells and skin damage from UV radiation in mice.

UAHS Awarded $1.5 Million Grant to Improve Arizona’s Rural Hospitals

The Health Resources and Services Administration awarded the Center for Rural Health at the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health a three-year, $1.5 million grant to support Arizona Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program.

UA College of Medicine – Phoenix Welcomes New Chapter that Promotes Diversity

UA College of Medicine – Phoenix students established a Latino Medical Student Association chapter in the fall and already have hosted the group’s West Region winter legislative board meeting.

Dr. Connick named chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases

Renowned human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) researcher Elizabeth Connick, MD, a professor of medicine at the University of Colorado – Denver, has been named chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson.
UPCOMING EVENTS

| JAN 30 | Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine Symposium |
| FEB 4  | Global Health Seminar 2: Ebola |
| FEB 22 | Climate Change and Human Health |

UAHS IN THE NEWS

- Genetic Variation Linked to Respiratory Disease
  *Science Daily*

- UA Researcher Finding New Drugs for Various Flu Strains
  *Arizona Public Media*

- How to Improve Cardiac Arrest Survival in Three Easy Steps
  *Science Newsline*

RESEARCH

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