Greetings from the UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

Please join me in congratulating this year’s seven University of Arizona Health Sciences junior faculty members selected for UAHS Career Development Awards.

Now in its second year, these awards are designed to help develop outstanding junior faculty members and facilitate their success in academic medicine. The program provides awardees the protected time, formal training, mentorship and applied research experiences necessary to obtain independent funding and develop successful academic careers. You can read more about each of this year’s awardees and their research focus here.

In addition, I would like to congratulate the UA College of Nursing for being ranked No. 1 in the state for program outcomes by the Arizona State Board of Nursing. Last year, UA nursing students achieved a first-time pass rate of 95 percent on the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses. This is a major success, as compared to the national average first-time pass rate of 82 percent, and is a reflection of the tremendous scholarly achievement of our students and the dedication to excellence of the college’s faculty and staff.

In this issue of UAHS News, you also will read about our latest accomplishments in research and recent honors and awards. Of particular note is a UAHS-led study on age-related macular degeneration – the eye disease that gradually destroys the ability to read, drive, write and see close-up in 30 percent of older Americans – that likely will lead to a way to delay or prevent the disease. Another UAHS study looking at antioxidant therapy revealed that increased antioxidant levels in our diet could have negative outcomes that override their positive effect of removing free radicals.
As we prepare to enjoy Thanksgiving with family and friends, I want to express my gratitude to all of you for your many noteworthy contributions to the advancement and support of our academic programs and ongoing efforts to significantly expand UAHS’s research enterprise. I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyful, relaxing holiday. With deep appreciation and thanks for all you do!

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

UAHS-Led Research: Prevention of Macular Degeneration Possible

A UAHS-led study on age-related macular degeneration – the eye disease that gradually destroys the ability to read, drive, write and see close-up in 30 percent of older Americans – likely will lead to a way to delay or prevent the disease.

UA College of Nursing Ranked No. 1 in Arizona for Program Outcomes

The UA College of Nursing has been ranked No. 1 in the state for its program outcomes by the Arizona State Board of Nursing.

UAHS Researchers Add New Twist in Debate over Free Radicals, Antioxidants in Cardiovascular Health

Increased antioxidant levels in our diet could have negative outcomes that override their positive effect of removing free radicals, according to researchers at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson.
New 3D Printer Enables UA Pediatric Cardiologist to Expand Teaching Method

Michael Seckeler, MD, MSc, assistant professor, UA Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Cardiology, is using three-dimensional printing technology to transform teaching pediatric cardiology to medical students and residents at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson.

UAHS Researchers Find Obesity Gene Linked to Time Spent Sitting

A gene that affects body mass index may increase the risk of obesity through sedentary behavior, according to a new study by researchers at the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.

Dr. Garcia Elected to the Board of the Association of Academic Health Centers

Joe G.N. "Skip" Garcia, MD, senior vice president for health sciences at the University of Arizona, has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors for the Association of Academic Health Centers.

UA College of Medicine – Phoenix Graduate Wins National Health-Care Competition

For three months, health care professionals across the country competed online for the chance to become a finalist and pitch their innovative ideas on how they can change the current state of medical care.
Dr. Lee Named Geriatrician of Year

Jeannie K. Lee, PharmD, assistant head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the UA College of Pharmacy and an associate professor in the same department, has been named the 2015 Geriatrician of the Year by the Arizona Geriatrics Society.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| DEC 2 | Mini-Med School 3.0 |
| DEC 4 | Workshop on the Human Virome |
| DEC 7 | Integrative Health Care & Cancer |

UAHS IN THE NEWS

Bike Helmets Protect Against Severe Brain Injury, Study Says

*U.S. News & World Report*

Melanoma Subtypes Challenging to Diagnose, Treat

*Modern Medicine*

Raising the Bar on Corporate Wellness

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