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Daniel Derksen, MD

Health-Care Policy, Rural Health Expert Dr. Daniel Derksen Appointed Associate VP at UA Health Sciences

Dr. Derksen to lead outreach, health equity and interprofessional educational activities as he joins fast-growing leadership team of Dr. Michael Dake, UA senior VP for health sciences.

Daniel Derksen, MD, a nationally noted health-care policy and rural health expert, and University of Arizona faculty member and administrator, has been appointed associate vice president for health equity, outreach and interprofessional activities at the UA Health Sciences.

Dr. Derksen is a professor of public health in the Department of Community, Environment and Policy at the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, with a joint appointment in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. Since 2013, he has served as the Walter H. Pearce Endowed Chair and director of the Arizona Center for Rural Health at the UA Zuckerman College of Public Health.

In his new role, Dr. Derksen will collaborate across the five UA Health Sciences colleges, UA main campus, and with stakeholders and partners statewide to build on interprofessional activities that promote health equity – including social, economic, demographic and geographic factors that affect health outcomes.

Over his 30 years in academics, Dr. Derksen's service, research and educational activities include collecting, translating, analyzing and reporting data to inform legislative, regulatory and program policies to improve health equity; increasing health insurance coverage; reducing the number of uninsured; narrowing health disparities; and ensuring a well-trained and distributed health workforce to meet the state's and nation's needs.

Michael Dake, MD, UA senior vice president for health sciences, said, "Dan Derksen is the perfect individual to fill this key leadership position. He is a national expert on health policy, rural health and access to health care. Further, he is a visionary thinker and national expert on topics ranging from the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, Medicaid, health spending and the impact of rural hospital closings, among many others. I look forward to working with Dan in support of the strategic growth and

development of the University of Arizona Health Sciences.”

Dr. Derksen said, “This is a wonderful opportunity to amplify our innovative UA Health Sciences interprofessional activities across the state to better serve Arizona’s diverse communities and populations. While progress has been made, much work remains to address intractable health problems and their social determinants. Sustained change will require our collective effort in transforming a costly, fragmented health system, drawing on new technologies and approaches to health professional education and service that will make health care more effective, accessible, affordable and equitable – and catalyze economic growth in Arizona.”

Dr. Derksen is former president of the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians (2017-2018) and is former chair of the American Academy of Family Physicians Commission on Governmental Advocacy (2013-14). He completed a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship in 2008 with then-U.S. New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman. He researched and drafted provisions to improve the supply of the nation’s health workforce, later included in Title V of the Affordable Care Act. While working for New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez as director of the state’s Office of Health Reform (2011-12), he established the state-run Health Insurance Exchange/Marketplace as principal investigator of the CMS Health Insurance Exchange Cooperative Agreement. As principal investigator of \$60 million of state, federal, foundation, contracts and grants over his 30-year academic career, Dr. Derksen has sought to improve health insurance coverage and access to health care, emphasizing interprofessional, community-based service-learning models in rural areas.

He graduated from the UA College of Medicine in 1984, and completed his residency in family medicine at the University of New Mexico, where he served as a faculty member for 25 years.

The University of Arizona Health Sciences

The University of Arizona Health Sciences is the statewide leader in biomedical research and health professions training. The UA Health Sciences includes the UA Colleges of Medicine (Phoenix and Tucson), Nursing, Pharmacy and Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, with main campus locations in Tucson and the growing Phoenix Biomedical Campus in downtown Phoenix. From these vantage points, the UA Health Sciences reaches across the state of Arizona and the greater Southwest to provide cutting-edge health education, research, patient care and community outreach services. A major economic engine, the UA Health Sciences employs approximately 4,000 people, has approximately 800 faculty members and garners more than \$140 million in research grants and contracts annually. For more information: uahs.arizona.edu (Follow us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#))

Contact: George Humphrey, 520-626-7255



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