Congratulations to Wanda Moore, recipient of the 2011 Mary Anne Fay Heart Health Advocate of the Year Award from the UA Sarver Heart Center. The award was established to honor the advocacy and leadership of Mary Anne Fay, a Sarver Heart Center Advisory Board member and chair of the Women’s Heart Health Education Committee. It was given to Wanda this year to recognize her energetic and enthusiastic outreach and advocacy for all women, especially women of color. Wanda, who also serves on the advisory board and women’s education committee, leads the Community Coalition for Heart Health Education for Women of Color (Minority Outreach Program). She is pictured with Dr. Gordon A. Ewy, who presented the award in October at the Heart of the Matter Luncheon, which focuses on women’s heart health issues.

Congratulations to Leslie Ritter, PhD, RN, FAAN, who received the Extraordinary Faculty Award from the UA College of Nursing for bringing “honor and distinction to the UA College of Nursing through her work with nursing, neurosciences, physiology and medicine at the UA.” Dr. Ritter has earned multiple awards and honors, including the August Krogh Young Investigator Award in 1995, the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in 2000 and most recently, the UA Sarver Heart Center’s William M. Feinberg Endowed Chair for Stroke Research. She led efforts to establish The University of Arizona Medical Center as the first certified Primary Stroke Center in Tucson and Southern Arizona. She provides extensive professional development opportunities to graduate and undergraduate students by catalyzing connections with alumni and faculty members and engages with various communities to promote knowledge about preventing and managing stroke.

Congratulations to Marvin J. Slepian, MD, UA Sarver Heart Center member and chairman of SynCardia Systems, Inc. The company was founded based on technology that was researched and developed by Dr. Jack Copeland and Richard Smith, a biomedical engineer at the University of Arizona Medical Center. Syncardia manufactures the FDA-approved temporary total artificial heart and was named “Arizona Bioscience Company of the Year” by the Arizona BioIndustry Association (AZBio). It also has been inducted into the World Technology Network (WTN) as a new corporate member. Membership occurs through the annual awards process, in which individuals and companies are selected via the judgment of the current WTN fellows. SynCardia was selected as one of six finalists for the 2011 World Technology Award in Health & Medicine, presented in association with TIME, Fortune, CNN, Science/AAAS and Technology Review.

CTSI provides opportunities for practitioners to interact with scientists engaging in basic research.

“The CTSI provides an environment for an exciting, new kind of science, which you could call use-inspired research,” says Dr. Martinez. Physicians who want to be able to apply the most recent findings in their patient care have to have a much deeper understanding of molecular biology than has been required in a traditional clinical setting.

The UA Sarver Heart Center is obtaining CTSI support to recruit another physician scientist with research strengths in developmental cardiovascular biology and the molecular and genetic basis of muscle disease. Under the leadership of Dr. Gregorio, the Center is seeking a tenure-track scientist who will develop or bring an independent and sustainable research program in the field of integrative and translational cardiovascular research.

In the meantime, knowing how to respond if you witness a sudden cardiac arrest is the best prevention we have against sudden death, so visit the “Be A Lifesaver” page on the website, www.heart.arizona.edu for information on upcoming training sessions and to view a six-minute training video.