

Heart Health Updates from S

Sarver Heart Center Welcomes New Cardiology Staff



Ranjith Shetty, MD, assistant professor of medicine in cardiology, joined the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson, Division of Cardiology from the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System in Richmond where he was an assistant professor in interventional cardiology. His cardiology training includes a structural heart and peripheral vascular

interventions fellowship at Swedish Medical Center – Cherry Hill Campus in Seattle, interventional cardiology and cardiovascular disease fellowships at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, and a venous thromboembolism fellowship at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Boston.



Prakash Suryanarayana, MD, assistant professor, clinical medicine, joined The University of Arizona Medical Center – South Campus cardiology team this past summer after graduating from the UA Sarver Heart Center Cardiovascular Medicine Fellowship Program. During his training, he received an honorable mention from the American College

of Cardiology in Chicago in the Young Investigators Competition for research on cardiac transplantation in African Americans, under the mentorship of Mark Friedman, MD. He graduated from the Kasturba Medical College in India and completed his residency at PGIMER Chandigarh, India, and Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Kat Sisterman, RN, NP, joined the division and provides general cardiology care at University Campus’ sixth floor clinic. She also works closely with interventional cardiologists Kapil Lotun, MD, and Ranjith Shetty, MD, to provide pre- and postoperative care for transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and other structural heart disease patients.

A certified family nurse practitioner since 2007 and a registered nurse since 2004, Sisterman received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and her master’s in science from the University of California San Francisco. She currently is studying for her acute care and geriatric nurse practitioner certification from the University of Arizona. Sisterman previously provided primary care with the UA Department of Family and Community Medicine. Before that, she enjoyed emergency nursing in San Francisco, rural medicine in Tahoe National Forest, and serving the underserved with Doctors Without Borders in Haiti and the Central African Republic.

Native American Cardiology’s Dr. Eric Brody Receives the IHS Award



The Native American Cardiology Team includes Phyllis Sanderson, program director and cultural liaison, Carol Locust, PhD, traditional practitioner; Eric Brody, MD, medical director; and Betsy Painter, NP, nurse practitioner.

The Indian Health Service, a federal health program for American Indians and Alaskan Natives, is formally recognizing the excellence of The University of Arizona Medical Center’s Native American Cardiology and Medical Service Program (NAC-MSP).

Led by Eric “Rick” Brody, MD, medical director, their group received the IHS Directors Award for 2013 for their collaboration and excellent care. The IHS acknowledged the NAC-MSP for nearly two decades of providing primary and tertiary cardiology care to Native American patients and their families. The IHS cited the team’s efforts to offer care not only in Tucson but at tribal and IHS facilities throughout Arizona. They created a curriculum to advance the cultural competency of UAMC staff, undergraduates and medical students. The program also expanded accessibility by using the Arizona Telemedicine Program. IHS noted the program’s collaboration to assist with housing, transportation, meal costs and other essentials.

“It means all the more when we are essentially outside the IHS system, but recognized for doing something so good for native people. UAMC deserves credit for its vision and for their support of our mission. Our team members really deserve to be recognized: Phyllis Sanderson, program director and cultural liaison; Betsy Painter, NP; and Carol Locust, PhD, traditional practitioner,” said Dr. Brody.

The IHS director’s award ceremony was presented in the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, in Washington, D.C.

Sarver Heart Center Members

Dr. Scott Klewer Appointed to ACHA National Board

Scott Klewer, MD, professor of pediatrics in the UA College of Medicine – Tucson, Sarver Heart Center’s *Peggy M. Barrett Endowed Chair for Congenital Heart Disease in Adults*, and member of the UA Steele Children’s Research Center, was invited to join the national medical advisory board for the Adult Congenital Heart Association (ACHA). ACHA connects college health professionals to promote healthy communities and individuals. “This is a tremendous opportunity to collaborate with others around the country who are working to improve care for adults with congenital heart disease and incorporating care for these patients into the education programs for cardiologists who work with adults,” says Dr. Klewer.



Scott Klewer, MD

A generation ago, few children born with congenital heart disease lived to adult age, so adult cardiologists had little need to study congenital heart conditions. Today, the population of adults living with congenital heart disease is expanding. Dr. Klewer’s goals are to provide quality care for patients as they transition from pediatrics to adult care, and increase education and training about moderate to complex congenital heart problems to cardiologists.



Aiden Abidov, MD, PhD, FACC, FAHA, FASE

UAHN Gains Echocardiography Accreditation

The University of Arizona Health Network (UAHN) has been granted a three-year accreditation in adult transthoracic, adult stress and transesophageal (TEE) echocardiography by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). The IAC grants accreditation only to facilities found to provide quality patient care, in compliance with national standards through a comprehensive application process including detailed case study review. IAC accreditation is a seal of approval that patients can rely on as an indication that the facility has been carefully critiqued on all aspects of its operations considered relevant by medical experts in the field of echocardiography.

“This is a huge achievement for the UAHN Cardiovascular Imaging, which covers the University Campus, South Campus and all our satellites. The accreditation is a result of two years of vigorous groundwork and daily efforts to maintain the highest possible standard in our clinical protocols. I would like to thank the entire team for helping us to achieve this important target,” said Aiden Abidov, MD, PhD, FACC, FAHA, FASE, medical director, UAMC cardiovascular imaging.

Sarver Heart Center Members Awarded NIH Grants

Frank I. Marcus, MD, professor emeritus in the Division of Cardiology at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson, is a principal investigator on RO1 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant number HL116906 for a multicenter four-year study, “Mechanisms, Genotypes and Clinical Phenotypes of Arrhythmogenic Cardiomyopathy.” He received \$1.2 million and is collaborating with **Julia H. Indik, MD, PhD**, associate professor and the Sarver Heart Center’s *Flinn Foundation and American Heart Association Endowed Chair in Electrophysiology*, who is directing a diagnostic core.



Frank I. Marcus, MD and Julia H. Indik, MD, PhD



Jil C. Tardiff, MD, PhD

Jil C. Tardiff, MD, PhD, professor of medicine and cellular and molecular medicine and the Sarver Heart Center’s *Steven M. Gootter Endowed Chair for the Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death*, was awarded \$1.4 million (NIH grant number HL075619) to continue her lab’s study of “Integrative Approach to Divergent Remodeling in Thin Filament Cardiomyopathies.” Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy is an often devastating and common cardiac genetic disease. The goal of this research is to improve the understanding of how independent mutations cause this complex disorder and discover better therapeutic options, especially in young people.