

## ...from the Director



Scientific advances in medical care are predominantly made by academic medical institutions. New approaches to the prevention and treatment of diseases are instituted to improve not only the quality, but the longevity of life. These advances are practiced and taught to the present and future physicians and other health-care providers.

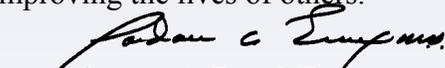
The state-approved “Centers of Excellence” at the University of Arizona are important contributors to the academic mission of our College of Medicine. The Sarver Heart Center’s vision of a future free of heart disease and stroke can only be realized via the academic principles of research, education and service. The majority of the service component in a medical school is patient care and the secret of patient care is caring for the patient! It is through the academic scientific discipline of caring for our patients that one often sees where advances in diagnosis and therapy are needed. These stimulate the so called bed-to-bench-and-back-to-the-bedside research that improves patient care.

There was a time when state support for teaching and the remuneration for patient care were sufficient to allow support of our academic institutions. There

was sufficient “protected” or “research” time to allow for patient care and scientific inquiry and research. In my view, and in the view of many, those times are past. As we look toward the future of academic medicine, endowed chairs will play an increasingly important role. Endowed chairs are established by families or groups who designate gifts to the University of Arizona Foundation. These endowed chairs are “in perpetuity,” in that they will last as long as the University of Arizona lasts. Endowments to the UA Foundation support a specific project or purpose and a percentage of the endowment, which is managed by the foundation, is provided each year to support the academic and research functions of the selected faculty member. Thus the principle is not depleted and will grow with inflation, so that centuries after it is established, it will still produce the income for its intended purpose.

In this issue of the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center Newsletter, we highlight the creation of the *Steven M. Gootter Chair for the Prevention of Sudden Death*. It is because of this endowment that we were able to attract another world-class physician/scientist to our faculty here at the UA College of Medicine. The Steven M. Gootter Foundation board of directors and the many individuals who supported this effort should feel justifiably proud.

We encourage you to visit the Sarver Heart Center to see and hear of the many exciting activities that are part of our daily lives and are aimed at improving the lives of others.

  
GORDON A. EWY, MD  
Director, UA Sarver Heart Center

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