It is an honor to chair the UA Sarver Heart Center Advisory Board as we welcome Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD, as the new director of the center and chief of the Division of Cardiology in the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. As a member of the search committee that recommended Dr. Sweitzer’s appointment, it is very clear to me that we made the right choice. Dr. Sweitzer combines the curiosity of a scientist with the passion of a cardiologist committed to high-quality cardiovascular care, all wrapped with the necessary business savvy to lead cardiovascular medicine and research through what continue to be difficult times.

Dr. Sweitzer is nationally recognized for her strong leadership and expertise in clinical research, including significant roles with committees of the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association. We look forward to working with her as she implements her plan to grow the Sarver Heart Center’s regional and national presence, increasing its prestige and recognition.

As noted in Dr. Sweitzer’s message (see page 1), so many great advances in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease that we now take for granted are the result of important clinical research. We support her goal of building the clinical research core of the UA Sarver Heart Center – a key component that will help us achieve the next level of excellence and assist with faculty growth and development.

As a cardiologist with expertise in caring for heart failure and transplant patients, Dr. Sweitzer also brings a fresh focus on these important and growing areas of advanced heart disease.

Since Dr. Gordon Ewy’s well-deserved retirement, we have been fortunate to have strong, dedicated interim leaders keeping our staff and communities focused on the Sarver Heart Center’s mission. On behalf of the advisory board, I’m particularly grateful for the time and talent Carol Gregorio, PhD, contributed. She served not only as chair of the search committee to select Dr. Sweitzer, but also as interim director of the Sarver Heart Center. We also greatly appreciate the work of Karl B. Kern, MD. Dr. Kern accepted the role as interim chief of the Division of Cardiology, kept the clinical programs running and continued to add much-needed quality faculty to the division.

Now, with Dr. Sweitzer’s visionary leadership presence, we look forward to working alongside her in the journey toward a future free of heart disease and stroke.

Kalidas Madhavpeddi,  
UA Sarver Heart Center Advisory Board Chair