



Dec. 7, 2018 | Visit our website

Congenital Heart Patient, Age 69, Knows the Power of Physician Collaboration and Awareness



Most adult congenital heart patients have undergone some type of heart surgery in childhood, but at least 10 percent are not accurately diagnosed until adulthood. That was the case for **Patricia Fickett**, a native of San Simon, Ariz., who experienced symptoms of her congenital heart condition for much of her life. Fortunately, her cardiologist referred her to the Adult Congenital Heart Program where UA Sarver Heart Center members combined the expertise of **Raj Janardhanan, MD**, an advanced imaging cardiologist, **Franz Rischard, DO**, a pulmonary hypertension specialist, and **Michael Seckeler, MD, MS**, a pediatric cardiologist highly skilled in repairing adult congenital heart defects. "This multi-disciplinary congenital heart environment is unique in Arizona and provides a tremendous resource for adults living with congenital heart disease," said **Scott Klewer, MD**, professor of pediatrics and medicine at [UA College of Medicine - Tucson](#) and the Sarver Heart Center's **Peggy M. Barrett Endowed Chair for Congenital Heart Disease in Adults**.

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UA Sarver Heart Center Community Partners Updates



Cheryl Alli was acknowledged for her years as a community volunteer; **Alpha Phi Sorority** featured Sarver Heart Center at their Red Dress



Gala; medical students developed **Spanish-language chest-compression-only CPR** materials; and [Dr. Nancy Sweitzer](#) was honored as the **Mary Anne Fay Women's Heart Health Advocate of the Year**.

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Association of Black Cardiologists Honors UA College of Medicine - Tucson Student



Ikeotunye (Ike) Chinyere, a dual MD/PhD student at the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson and a research assistant in the Goldman Research Lab in the UA Sarver Heart Center received the Richard Allen Williams Scholarship for Medical Students from the Association of Black Cardiologists.

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Find More Science News on Sarver Heart Center's News Webpage

More science news is available on UA Sarver Heart Center's News webpage, including:

- [UA Scientist Identifies Cellular Gene Signatures for Heart Muscle Regeneration](#)
- [UA Researchers Help Discover Genetic Factor That Can Help or Hurt Risk for Heart Disease](#)
- [UA Professor Receives Grant for Innovative Research in Preventing Heart Failure](#)
- [Could Wearable Technology Help Patients Monitor Blood Pressure?](#)
- [Another Milestone for UA/Banner Tucson Structural Heart Team- First-Ever Bicuspid TAVR-TEE Procedure with Minimal Contrast](#)

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Mark Your Calendars for Green Valley 2019 Lectures

- Jan. 17 - "**Sleep to Your Heart's Content**" - [Michael Grandner, PhD](#)
- Feb. 21 - "**Aortic Diseases: Can We Intervene Before They Turn Deadly?**" - [Craig Weinkauf, MD, PhD](#)
- March 21 - "**Repairing Heart Valves in Older Adults**" - [Ranjith Shetty, MD](#)
- April 18 - "**Arthritis and Heart Disease: Is inflammation the common culprit?**" [Kent Kwoh, MD, PhD](#)

All Green Valley Lectures are held on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Canoa Hills Social Center, 3660 S. Camino del Sol in Green Valley

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Help Beat Heart Disease!



Have you ever wondered what you can do, personally, to beat heart disease? Cheryl Alli, Shirley Cox, Wanda Moore and Murryelle Bothwell decided to participate in the **Sarver Heart Center Biorepository**. You are welcome

to participate whether or not you have heart disease or a known risk factor. Enrollment means completing a questionnaire, signing an informed consent form that allows researchers to view your electronic medical record and donating about three tablespoons of blood. These blood samples will help scientists better understand heart disease to improve care and treatment now and in the future. Click on the [Cardiology Research Registry link](#) to get started.

[Read more](#)

Support Sarver Heart Center's Mission

We are grateful for your support as we work to improve the health of our community and the world. The Sarver Heart Center was built literally on the foundation set by generous donors who are committed to our mission. Your gifts will help us achieve our mission of Life Saving, Innovative Patient Care for generations to come.



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