



April 16, 2021

Czarina and Humberto Lopez Establish Two Endowed Chairs



*A \$3.5 million gift creates endowed chairs at UArizona College of Medicine – Tucson, Sarver Heart Center and Eller College of Management. **Carol Gregorio, PhD**, is the inaugural holder of the Czarina M. and Humberto S. Lopez Endowed Chair for Excellence in Cardiovascular Research.*

Humberto Lopez is a 1969 graduate of the Eller College and chair of HSL Properties. The Lopez's **endowed chair in Eller College honors Dan Dhaliwal**, who was head of the accounting department from 1996 until his passing in 2016.

The couple's affiliation with the College of Medicine - Tucson through the Sarver Heart Center is made more personal by Czarina Lopez's experience as a heart and kidney transplant recipient.

"Bert and Czarina Lopez have been effective friends of Sarver Heart Center for decades. Their engagement and community connections literally helped build the center," Sarver Heart Center Director **Nancy Sweitzer, MD, PhD**, said. "Their partnership and advice continue to help guide the direction of the center, and by establishing this endowed chair, they have in perpetuity expanded our ability to recruit and retain world-class faculty."

"We trust Carol will put the money to good use and help people with problems related to heart disease, which has affected us. She's capable

and highly thought of. This addition will help advance her research," Humberto Lopez said. "We expect her to do great things."

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Technology Gives Patient Confidence to Explore Arizona's Wilderness



Patrick Burkhart's health condition involves multiple sclerosis and advanced heart disease. As he returned to Arizona and moved to Cottonwood, he established care with [Dr. Nancy Sweitzer](#), an advanced heart disease expert who also is director of Sarver Heart Center and chief of cardiology. She teamed up with [Dr. Mathew Hutchinson](#), director of Cardiac Electrophysiology, to equip Burkhart with a new way to manage his heart condition.

"This procedure transformed my life. I had become so accustomed to expecting the slow deterioration of my health – being diagnosed with MS seven years ago and managing the aftermath of the heart attack four years ago. But my condition has improved so much, I actually had some difficulty accepting how much better I feel," said Burkhart.

"Mr. Burkhart actively takes care of his health and does his research. His advocacy combined with the collaboration and expertise of the heart failure and electrophysiology teams, helped return his heart and lung pressures to normal. We're able to monitor these implanted devices remotely and provide daily patient consultation if necessary, which is important for people living in outlying communities," said Dr. Sweitzer.

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Sarver Heart Center Member Elected Senior Member of National Academy of Inventors

Meredith Hay, PhD, is one of two UArizona faculty members elected to the National Academy of Inventors Class of 2021 senior members. Dr. Hay, professor of physiology in the UArizona College of Medicine – Tucson, is a member of the BIO5 Institute, Sarver Heart Center and Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute. Internationally known for her work in cardiovascular neurobiology, Dr. Hay was one of the first scientists to look at the role of sex differences in the development of hypertension.

Her studies helped establish guidelines to include gender differences in the treatment of high blood pressure.

May Khanna, PhD, assistant professor of [pharmacology](#) in the College of Medicine – Tucson, also was elected.



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Community Coalition for Heart Health Education Keeps Working Despite Pandemic

Some of their outreach has been virtual, but much has been done in-person, following CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Supported by a grant from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona, the Community Coalition for Heart Health Education, led by Wanda F Moore, distributed hundreds of educational health cards with information on symptoms of heart attack and stroke packaged with individual hand sanitizers.

Pictured: Cheryl Alli and Wanda F Moore



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Are You Interested in Participating in Clinical Research?

The Sarver Heart Center Clinical Research Team stays busy screening and enrolling patients for clinical trials underway. Please complete a **Clinical Research Registry Information Form** to learn about clinical research studies for which you may be eligible.

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DISEASE



IT'S A TEAM EFFORT

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Support Sarver Heart Center

Sarver Heart Center leadership has identified faculty and research priorities to accelerate its growth and influence locally and nationally. "These exciting opportunities need community support to advance our mission in education, research and clinical care. Along with these opportunities, we have identified additional facility needs that will be paramount to sustaining and advancing the services we provide to the community," said Dr. Nancy Sweitzer.

To learn more about these opportunities, please contact **Brian Panique**, senior director of development. Email: panique@arizona.edu | Phone: 520-626-4518.

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