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Good News Still Happens - *Spotlighting the next generation*



Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD

Although the problems of the world and our region loom large right now, we have chosen to focus this issue of the e-newsletter on the students and post-graduate trainees of all levels who are advancing the mission of the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center. Please join me in taking a break from the current stresses of our lives to experience some brightness and hope for the future.

These young people stood with us as we suddenly adjusted "business as usual" to respond to patient care during a pandemic, rapidly modifying not only our clinical care, but also research and education models, while moving community education and outreach entirely to digital formats. Several of these remarkable young people have worked with faculty to address health disparities based on race, gender and socioeconomic status. Some are helping us re-imagine the Sarver Heart Center's community education. Many did all this while keeping an eye on the burning mountains above homes in Tucson.

I'm inspired and proud of my eight cardiology colleagues newly graduated from our fellowship programs. While training with us, they provided remarkable care for our patients, many of whom are managing unprecedented levels of stress and fear. Our graduation ceremony in 2020 was much smaller than anticipated; however, the celebration of their achievements was [streamed worldwide](#) and enjoyed by many more than we could accommodate in person, even in

a grand ballroom.

All graduates experienced strange commencements this year. Please join me in celebrating the achievements of these physicians, new grads and students as they advance to their next steps. I know each of them will take what they've learned and continue to care for people with skill, equity and compassion. I'm grateful that Sarver Heart Center was part of their journey.

[- Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD](#)

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Cardiology Fellowship 2020 Graduates Celebrate in Pandemic Style



Class of 2020 Graduates of the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program: Christopher Angus, MD, Jovil Kannampuzha, MD, MSc, Bishnu Dhakal, MBBS, Kristina Skinner, DO, and Saad Kubba, MD.

With family and friends spread around the world and unable to travel amid concerns about a surging pandemic, the 2020 fellowship graduation celebration was different than the large gatherings of prior years. Yet, technology allowed even more people to "attend" the sparsely populated gathering at the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center. Five fellows graduated from the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship, two from Interventional Cardiology, and one from Cardiac

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Hall Award Recipient's Cardiology Interest Started Early in Life



"I've been interested in cardiology since as long as I can remember. My interest in cardiology has only grown over the last couple years throughout my residency training due to having the opportunity to meet and learn from amazing mentors," said Maryam Hosseini, MD. A rising third-year internal medicine resident, Dr.

Hosseini collaborated with

classmates to start the Cardiology Club. She also worked on research focused on genetic admixture and survival in diverse populations with pulmonary arterial hypertension, published in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, January 2020.

Dr. Hosseini is part of the research team of [Khadijah Breathett, MD, MS](#). "We are very proud of Dr. Hosseini! Along with Erika Yee, BS, and Bianca Duarte, BS, she evaluated gender disparities in transplant donation," Dr. Breathett said. The work was recognized as a top abstract at the American Heart Association Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Scientific Sessions. "These ladies are poised to do great things in the field of cardiology," Dr. Breathett added.

#WomenInCardiology

The Charles W. Hall Jr. and Virginia C. Hall Memorial Endowment Award was established at the Sarver Heart Center to inspire and reward the most outstanding residents based on their performance and excellence in the Cardiac Care Unit.

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Medical School Graduates Receive Noon Award for Excellence in Cardiology



Catherine Foley Jerman, MD, and Akshay Roy-Chaudhury, MD, are the 2020 recipients of the Zenas B. Noon Award for Excellence in Cardiology from the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center. Both new physicians are 2020 graduates of the UArizona College of Medicine - Tucson.

Dr. Noon's family generously established the award out of gratitude for the excellent care he received from the members of the Cardiology Division at the University Hospital in 1971, following a heart attack. After that, he finally began to take the vacations he so often prescribed to his patients during his many years serving Nogales, Ariz. Dr. Noon died suddenly in 1981 while on safari with his wife, son and daughter-in-law.

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Celebrating Student Volunteer Graduates 2020



Class of 2020 volunteer graduates: Emily Eddy, BS, Kevin Loi, BS and Shivi Singh, BS

Each Sarver Heart Center student volunteer dedicates at least five hours every month to teach chest-compression-only CPR in communities throughout Southern Arizona. Led by **Erika Yee**, health

education assistant, this group taught 4,600 people this academic year. They were invited to schools, churches, community centers, and other group gatherings.

"The dedication of this group of volunteers has made it possible for Sarver Heart Center to greatly expand this life-saving knowledge and training," said **Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD**, director of the Sarver Heart Center and chief of cardiology at the UArizona College of Medicine - Tucson.

We miss being in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, but our website remains open 24/7. Visit the "**Learn CPR**" webpage for online resources.

[Read more about graduates](#)

Kudos to Faculty, Fellows and Students

The times may be unprecedented, but Sarver Heart Center faculty, fellows and students continue to advance research, scholarship and leadership. Here are some rays of normalcy during a time filled with challenges from **Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD, Deepak Acharya, MD, MSPH, Khadijah Breathett, MD, MS, Julia Indik, MD, PhD, Bishnu P. Dhakal, MBBS, Jacob Ref** and **Jordan Fink, BS**.

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Support Sarver Heart Center's Mission



We are grateful and proud to recognize **Mort and Lorain Zimmerman** of Green Valley for their outstanding generosity to the Sarver Heart Center. They have chosen to support cardiac research and education through their estate gift and charitable gift annuities (CGA). Charitable gift annuities offer a fixed stream of income with partial tax deduction, which also supports the giver's philanthropic desires. For more information on setting up an endowment or CGA to benefit the work of the Sarver Heart Center, please contact **John Fung**, Director of Development - Office: 520-621-1946 or Cell: 520-490-9750.

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