A NEW ERA FOR THE SARVER HEART CENTER

It’s an exciting chapter at the Sarver Heart Center at the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson. Carol Gregorio, PhD, Elizabeth Juneman, MD, and Mathew Hutchinson, MD, are leading the center and cardiologists into a new tenure focused on engagement of members and patients.

While the center is in a period of transition, the heart remains the same: life-saving innovations, research, and patient care. Membership is growing amongst scientists and cardiologists, promoting translational collaboration from bench to bedside.

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MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING DIRECTOR

Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD

INTERIM DIRECTOR
Carol C. Gregorio, PhD

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When I joined the Sarver Heart Center in 2014, I was excited about the opportunities and challenges facing me as the new heart center director. Looking back eight years later, I want to express to all of you my immense gratitude for the opportunity to lead at this great institution. The move to Sarver Heart Center accelerated my career in many ways, providing me a vast array of new leadership skills, taking me in new scientific directions and providing me with opportunities to grow my national and international reputation in the field of cardiology and particularly in heart failure.

Those engaged in the Sarver Heart Center from both the faculty and the community are a smart and perceptive group, and the mentoring, training, and gentle nudging I received during my tenure have imbued me with an entirely new set of leadership and life skills. The role also allowed me to explore in great depth which aspects of leadership I excel at and which I excel, and those necessary to this role that I leave behind somewhat happily to take on new challenges.

As I depart, I wish to highlight those achievements of which I am most proud. Despite the significant turmoil in governance and leadership in healthcare at UA during my tenure, the Sarver Heart Center has stood firm as a beacon of excellence, and has expanded its reach in cardiovascular education, research and care. Under my leadership, the heart center has become more inclusive of a truly broad spectrum of cardiovascular clinicians and scientists across both the Phoenix and Tucson campuses. Three programs deserve particular mention.

These programs are all near and dear to me personally, and share a common theme of providing resources for career development to Sarver Heart Center members. I have relished developing infrastructure that permits our faculty and fellows to engage in deliberate and directed career development, exposing them to opportunities and roles they might not otherwise have considered, with a focus on academic cardiovascular science and practice. The details of each are below, but I hope you can see that the existence of these programs allows our membership to access career enrichment concentrated in the Sarver Heart Center.

Investigator Awards

Started by Dr. Gordon Ewy, the investigator awards program provides financial support for scientific projects conducted by heart center investigators. In consultation with Carol Gregorio, PhD, co-director of the Sarver Heart Center, I made a strategic decision to formally and specifically give that permits us to raise funds for important heart center activities such as those above. I cannot stress enough the importance of such philanthropy to our faculty, our trainees and the scientific success of the Sarver Heart Center.

Future of the Sarver Heart Center

As I depart, I wish to highlight those achievements of which I am most proud. Despite the significant turmoil in governance and leadership in heart failure.

When I joined the Sarver Heart Center in 2014, I was excited about the opportunities and challenges facing me as the new heart center director. Looking back eight years later, I want to express to all of you my immense gratitude for the opportunity to lead at this great institution. The move to Sarver Heart Center accelerated my career in many ways, providing me a vast array of new leadership skills, taking me in new scientific directions and providing me with opportunities to grow my national and international reputation in the field of cardiology and particularly in heart failure.

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NEW ENDOWED CHAIR

Longtime University of Arizona supporters and volunteers Humberto and Czarina Lopez have given the University of Arizona $3.15 million to establish two endowed chairs, one at Sarver Heart Center.

The Czarina M. and Humberto S. Lopez Endowed Chair for Excellence in Cardiovascular Research has been established at Sarver Heart Center with $2 million from the overall gift. Carol Gregorio, PhD, co-director of Sarver Heart Center and chair of the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine at the College of Medicine - Tucson, is the inaugural chair holder. She also is the director of the Molecular Cardiovascular Research Program at Sarver Heart Center.

“Bert and Czarina are inspiring members of the Wildcat family,” said University of Arizona President Robert C. Robbins, MD. “This exceptional investment in health and education adds to their already generous legacy of time, expertise and philanthropy. I am so grateful for their transformative support and their far-reaching impact across campus.”

Humberto Lopez is a 1969 graduate of the Eller College and chair of HSL Properties, Arizona’s largest owner-operated property management company, which he co-founded. The Lopezes are well-known at the university and in the Tucson community for their philanthropy and for their volunteer service on many organizations’ governing boards.

“We’ve been blessed, and we’re getting to an age where we realize we can’t take it with us. We started out with nothing and we will leave with nothing, so in the meantime we’d like to be able to help others,” Humberto Lopez said.

Carol Gregorio, PhD was selected inaugural Czarina M. and Humberto S. Lopez Endowed Chair holder.

“Attending the University of Arizona was the best decision I ever made. It was a steppingstone to get me where I am today,” he said.

The couple have remained connected to the university ever since Lopez’s graduation. They built strong relationships across campus as they served on and led advisory and governing boards for the Eller College, the Steele Children’s Research Center, the UA Arizona Foundation and Sarver Heart Center.

“Bert and Czarina Lopez have been effective friends of Sarver Heart Center for decades. Their engagement and community connections literally helped build the center,” previous 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. Their generous philanthropy will reinforce the renowned research capabilities of the Gregorio Lab immediately and forever increase the stature of Sarver Heart Center at the University of Arizona.”

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. While she had the transplant at another medical center, she has been a patient of Sarver Heart Center, with Dr. Sweitzer and Professor Emeritus Dr. Gordon A. Ewy, former director of the center, providing care.

“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.”

“This appointment will allow me to expand my research program to identify how mutations in essential heart muscle proteins lead to devastating diseases of heart muscle. Obtaining this information is key to the design of new therapeutics. Importantly, this gift allows us to pursue exciting new research directions that involve riskier ‘fishing expedition’ experiments, often resulting in high-impact data necessary to submit competitive applications for scarce federal research funds,” said Dr. Gregorio.
Clinical research, which helps us determine the effectiveness and safety of new medications and treatments for humans, has been part of Sarver Heart Center’s mission throughout its 35-year history. Under the previous leadership of Dr. Nancy Switzer, donor support has helped the center develop a robust research core that serves clinical faculty dedicated to advancing cardiovascular medicine. Thanks to a generous gift from Roberto and Josefina Ruiz in late 2020, the clinical research team now has an updated, highly efficient space that serves as a hub for these studies — sometimes more than 20 at a time — with investigators who specialize in cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery and pediatric cardiology.

Gregorio is being honored for her internationally recognized contributions toward understanding heart and skeletal muscle structure, function and disease.

“It’s an honor to be nationally recognized,” Gregorio said.

The 2021 class of AAAS Fellows includes 564 scientists, engineers and innovators spanning 24 scientific disciplines who are being recognized for their scientifically and socially distinguished achievements.

Other than participating in one of the numerous clinical trials taking place, philanthropy can make a big difference in the future of cardiovascular care, be it outright, endowed, named or planned.

Outright Donors have the option of specifying where they would like to see their money used, including a medical school, fellowship program, Jefrey Tran, MD, Sarver Heart Center Cardiovascular disease fellow is mentored by Nirav Merchant, Director of the Data Science Institute, including supporting the clinical faculty dedicated to research core that serves clinical faculty dedicated to advancing cardiovascular medicine. Thanks to a generous gift from Roberto and Josefina Ruiz in late 2020, the clinical research team now has an updated, highly efficient space that serves as a hub for these studies — sometimes more than 20 at a time — with investigators who specialize in cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery and pediatric cardiology.

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Planned gifts give donors the opportunity to support the Sarver Heart Center without a large upfront gift. Mort and Lorain Zimmerman from Green Valley, became involved in the Sarver Heart Center as a patient after Mort’s bypass surgery at age 75. After losing family members to heart disease and Mort’s own experience, the Zimmermans transformed their losses and supported them to be forever grateful for the Zimmermans who have inspired and supported me in my endeavors, and grateful for the Hall family as well,” LaToya Singletary said.

Charlotte Todd Honored with 2021 Bateman Superb Service Award

Congratulations to Charlotte Todd, Sarver Heart Center’s business manager, who was honored for her thoughtful, professional and hard work as the 2021 recipient of the Brian Bateman Superb Service Award.

“Charlotte makes every aspect of the Sarver Heart Center run smoothly and error-free. She works very independently as the business manager of the center, ensuring we focus on our mission continuously and steward all our resources as wisely as possible,” said Nancy K. Switzer, MD, PhD, previous director of Sarver Heart Center and professor of medicine, UArizona College of Medicine - Tucson.

Brian Bateman served as director of development for the Sarver Heart Center for nearly a decade. A key ingredient to his success was the “whatever it takes” attitude that he instilled in those with whom he worked.
DR. RUIZ APPOINTED TO U.S. PREVENTATIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE

Dr. Ruiz has been appointed to the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force. “Dr. Ruiz is one of the world’s leading experts on the social and psychological factors that impact physical health and wellness. His appointment to this important national position will provide the Task Force with the opportunity to influence policies and health care recommendations for all individuals. Congratulations to this important nation leader,” said Dr. Indik.

“The American Heart Association honored Julia Indik, MD, PhD, with the Laennec Master Clinician Award. The Task Force recognizes a senior clinician with a lifetime of outstanding contributions to teaching and patient care in cardiovascular disease. Dr. Indik, professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology, University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson, is director of the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program. She also is the Flinn Foundation and American Heart Association Endowed Chair in Electro physiology and Heart Disease Research.

“Dr. Indik is director of health psychology/behavioral medicine training, and diversity, inclusion and equity in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Arizona. Dr. Indik examines relationships between individual-level psychosocial factors, social behaviors, and a number of important and prevalent health conditions, including atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and metabolic diseases such as obesity and diabetes and cancer. She was a 2018-2019 recipient of a presidential award for her research. Dr. Indik is the first Hispanic woman to be honored with this award. The Laennec Master Clinician Award is one of the highest honors in cardiology and is awarded only to the most distinguished and brilliant teachers of cardiovascular medicine. Dr. Indik is highly deserving of such recognition for her skills as a physician educator of trainees and peers,” said Nancy Sweitzer, MD, PhD, previous director of the Sarver Heart Center.

NEW MEMBERS

In the last year, the UA/Arizona Sarver Heart Center welcomed six new members.

Michael Corban, MD, an interventionalist and cardiology and research clinician, is a clinical assistant professor of medicine who focuses on treating patients with coronary artery disease with percutaneous coronary interventions and invasive diagnosis. He specializes in coronary microvascular dysfunction, endothelial dysfunction, and nonatherosclerotic interventions for patients with valvular heart disease, such as severe aortic valve stenosis.

Robert L. Hooker, MD, is chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, the Sarver Heart Center Jack G. Copeland Endowed Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery and the Michael Drummond Distinguished Professor of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery. He has nearly 25 years of clinical experience specializing in cardiac, thoracic and transplant surgery.

Craig Hoover, MD, an interventionalist cardiothoracic surgeon, was appointed assistant professor of medicine in 1997 after graduating in 1996 from the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson. He was a cardiologist in community practice at the Southern Arizona VA Medical Center in Tucson. Dr. Hoover’s research focus is on clinical trials of novel interventional devices and therapies.

Saad Kubbah, MD, an assistant professor, provides general cardiology and treats patients with complex heart conditions as part of the advanced heart disease and transplant cardiology team and the pulmonary vascular medicine and pulmonary hypertension program. Dr. Kubbah recently completed the advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Kelly Palmer, PhD, MHS, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Promotion Sciences in the University of Arizona College of Public Health. She has extensive experience with lifestyle modification interventions for cardiometabolic disease risk reduction. Broadly, her research seeks to understand sociocultural influences of health behavior and to design and implement culturally informed health equity for marginalized and underserved populations.

Dr. Namit Rohant, clinical assistant professor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson and Sarver Heart Center, is an Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiologist at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson. Dr. Rohant is a board certified internist who previously completed internal medicine residency at the COM–T. He is board certified in cardiovascular disease, adult echocardiography, geriatric medicine and internal medicine.

DR. GOLDMAN NAMED TO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS

Steven Goldman, MD, professor of cardiology and Sarver Heart Center C. Leonard Pfeiffer endowed chair, was among four UArizona faculty researchers to be inducted into the National Academy of Inventors’ 2022 class of Senior Members. His team, a bioengineered patch to implant on damaged hearts. In vivo studies have shown that the patch creates new heart tissue, improves heart function, and increases blood flow. “It is an honor for me to be recognized,” Goldman said, “but I have to give credit to the University of Arizona and the Tucson VA Medical Center for enabling me to get the work done that is the basis for being recognized as an NAI Senior Member.”

“AHA HONORS DR. JULIA INDIK WITH THE LAENNEC MASTER CLINICIAN AWARD

The American Heart Association honored Julia Indik, MD, PhD, with the Laennec Master Clinician Award during the virtual 2021 Scientific Sessions in November. The award recognizes a senior clinician with a lifetime of outstanding contributions to teaching and patient care in cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Indik, professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology, University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson, is director of the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program. She also is the Flinn Foundation and American Heart Association Endowed Chair in Electro physiology and Heart Disease Research.

“As I look over the list of past honorees, I’m overwh elmed,” said Dr. Indik, who specializes in cardiac electrophysiology, a cardiology subspecialty that focuses on heart rhythm disorders. “During the past 20 years, the idea of ‘bedside’ cardiology has changed so much, particularly the way technology is incorporated into patient care and diagnostics,” she said.

“The Laennec Master Clinician Award is one of the highest honors in cardiology and is awarded only to the most distinguished and brilliant teachers of cardiovascular medicine. Dr. Indik is highly deserving of such recognition for her skills as a physician educator of trainees and peers,” said Nancy Sweitzer, MD, PhD, previous director of the Sarver Heart Center.

PREVENTATIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE

The Task Force is an inde pendent, non-profit panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine. Members come from primary care and prevention-related fields, including internal medicine, family medicine, public health, pediatrics, behavioral health, obstetrics and gynecology, and nursing. Members are appointed to serve 4-year terms.

“Dr. Ruiz is one of the world’s leading experts on the social and psychological factors that impact physical health and wellness. His appointment to this important national position will provide the Task Force with the opportunity to influence policies and health care recommendations for all individuals. Congratulations to this important nation leader,” said Dr. Indik.

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FORERUNNER INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

These clinical research stories demonstrate the potential of the Sarver Heart Center Investigator Awards Program. Innovated ideas fueled by award developed data to then be funded by the National Institute of Health in the next stages of their clinical trials.

Katri Typpo MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, received the William “Billy” Giesler Award in 2015 to pursue a study called, “Gut Dysbiosis is a Target to Improve Surgical Outcomes for Infants Born with Congenital Heart Disease.” Dr. Typpo’s goal was to identify methods to target a disordered intestinal microbiome and improve post-surgical care of infants with congenital heart disease.

Dr. Typpo now studies how enteral nutrition may work to alter the gut microbiome and improve lung injury and inflammation in pediatric acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). She recently transitioned from a NIH K23 Award to an R01 grant program.

E. Fiona Bailey, PhD, professor of physiology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine — Tucson, was awarded a five-year, $3.4 million grant from the National Institute on Aging, a division of the National Institutes of Health, to build on her group’s previous research that showed a respiratory workout entailing 30 breaths a day can lower blood pressure. In 2019, Dr. Bailey mentored Jennifer Vanrijs, then a graduate student, who was awarded $25,000 for her project, “Respiratory Training and Cardiovascular Health in Sleep Apneas.”

“Sarver Heart Center’s support was key in getting Jennifer’s idea of the ground and the outcome provided us preliminary data for an American Heart Association Grant in Aid which in turn provided us the preliminary data for our current R01 from NIH/National Institute of Aging,” said Dr. Bailey.

FORMER INVESTIGATOR, MENTOR NOW FUNDED

These clinical research stories demonstrate the tremendous potential of the Sarver Heart Center Investigator Awards Program. Innovated ideas fueled by award developed data to then be funded by the National Institute of Health in the next stages of their clinical trials.

Tushar Acharya, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiology with Franz Rischa, DO and Nancy K. Sweltzer, MD, PhD.

Donors: Elia Waltz & Thomas Berresford Heart Research and Phil and Bobby Hanft Young Investigator Award

Dr. Acharya’s study is seeking a more efficient, streamlined method for evaluating the performance of the right side of the heart and lung function in patients with pulmonary hypertension, a serious condition that affects these organs. He will collaborate with Dr. Rischa, a pulmonary hypertension specialist, to evaluate the feasibility of simultaneously performing right heart catheterization and CMR with exercise testing to obtain comprehensive simultaneous RV PV-loops, with and without exercise. The Investigator Award will allow the research team to enroll 80 pulmonary hypertension patients scheduled to undergo a clinically indicated invasive cardiopulmonary exercise test to test this methodology.

Erik Blackwood, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, University of Arizona College of Medicine—Phoenix with Christopher Gembotski, PhD and Steven Goldman, MD

Donors: Irving J. Levinson Memorial Research Award and J. G. Murray

In prior research, Dr. Blackwood has shown that activation of stress-responsive signaling pathways via a novel small molecule which he and his team discovered provides a promising approach for reducing heart-attack-associated injury and heart-muscle damage. The Investigator Award provides him the opportunity to study toxicity and effectiveness of the identified pharmaceutical compound in a clinically relevant large animal model.

Alexandra (Bobbie) Garvin, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, physiology, basical medical sciences, College of Medicine—Phoenix with Taven Hale, PhD

Donors: Dr. Alex Frazer and Frank H. Frazer, Robert C. and Olive M. Johnson, John T. and Janet K. Billington

Heart muscle injury, often caused by poorly controlled high blood pressure or heart attacks, leads to activation of cardiac fibroblasts. Prolonged activation of these cells leads to cardiac fibrosis, resulting in heart muscle stiffening that impedes the heart’s ability to pump blood efficiently. Dr. Garvin is studying ways to leverage microbiotal-mediated cell death as a force for good by curtailing the activated cardiac fibroblasts that cause fibrosis.

Vito Marino, PhD Student, Physiological sciences with John Konhilas, PhD

Donors: Ralph and Shirley Morgan Cardiovascular Research Award and J. G. Murray

Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. Women have a higher mortality and worst prognosis after acute cardiovascular events. These discrepancies are likely due to the loss of the sex hormone estrogen during menopause, a condition almost all women will experience. The goal of this project is to find the connection between loss of estrogen during menopause and changes in gut microbes and gut permeability that contribute to worsening cardiovascular disease risk and outcomes after menopause in women.

Noelle Steiner, doctoral candidate, Pharmacy Practice and Science with Jason Karnes, PharmD and Nancy Sweitzer, MD, PhD

Donors: The Finley and Florence Brown Endowed Research Award

Focusing new research on an old drug — warfarin, Steiner will apply two state-of-the-art research methods to warfarin dose prediction: machine learning and metagenomics. Machine learning uses artificial intelligence algorithms to identify patterns in and learn from data. Metagenomics will allow Steiner to read the genome of thousands of organisms from the gut simultaneously, thereby surveying the ability of the microbiome to produce vitamin K.

Jacob Ref, medical student, Class of 2025, with Steven Goldman, MD

Donors: Margarito Chavez Undergraduate/Medical School Student Awards

While working with scientists in the Goldman Lab, Jacob Reif used his growing knowledge of clinical medicine to observe that the 2-dimensional black and white radiology images were perhaps not the best tool to provide a true scope of the damaged area to guide research procedures. To bridge the translational gap from science to the patient, Jacob has been working alongside Brad Baxley, a local architect and creative director at Part to Whole, along with experts in cardiovascular imaging, to execute a methodology that creates a 3D model of the heart that is anatomically correct based on clinical and research images.
Continued from page 1

Nancy Sweitzer, MD, left the Sarver Heart Center after serving as the Director and Chief of Cardiology for nearly seven years. You can read more of her farewell message on page 2.

During the recruitment process for a new leader of the heart center and division of cardiology, several prominent, longtime members and supporters are stepping up to continue the decades-long success.

Carol Gregorio, PhD, co-director of the Sarver Heart Center and a member since 1996, is serving as interim Director. Under her direction, the heart center continues its achievement in the beloved grand rounds, investigator awards, and trainings of chest compression-only CPR.

Her goal is to facilitate a seamless transition between hires.

“A search is underway to find a new Director of the Sarver Heart Center and Chief of Cardiology,” said Dr. Gregorio. “I am a member of the search committee to ensure the Center’s commitment to research and patient care remains a focus.”

Carol Gregorio, PhD, director of the Molecular Cardiovascular Research Program at the UA College of Medicine, is the Caetana M. and Humberto S. Lopez Endowed Chair for Excellence in Cardiovascular Research. She also heads the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine and is the Assistant Vice-Provost for Global Health Sciences.

As a basic scientist, Gregorio has a special research interest in the contractile proteins of heart muscle. Not only has she made major contributions to the understanding of heart muscle abnormalities, but she also has been an integral part of the UA College of Medicine’s goal to strengthen its translational research and the UA Sarver Heart Center’s effort to recruit other outstanding basic scientists.

Elizabeth Juneman, a member of the Sarver Heart Center since 2004 and faculty at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson from 2007, is an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology. She currently serves as the medical director of Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation. Dr. Juneman’s translational research interest is focused on mechanical and cellular remodeling in heart failure.

“We are in a time of change, and we must come together to better the Division as we adapt and become stronger,” said Juneman in a statement to the cardiology facility.

Juneman, a member of the Sarver Heart Center since 2004 and faculty at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson from 2007, is an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology. She currently serves as the medical director of Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation. Dr. Juneman’s translational research interest is focused on mechanical and cellular remodeling in heart failure. Her clinical interest is cardiac physiology in the failing heart as well as women’s cardiovascular disease.

“Dr. Juneman is a natural leader and a highly accomplished cardiologist who brings expertise in translational research focused on mechanical and cellular remodeling in heart failure.”

“‘Our leadership style is based on transparency, communication and equity. We believe in fostering a culture of respect, service to the community and academic advancement.’

Elizabeth Juneman, MD, interim Chair of Cardiology. Our leadership style is based on transparency, communication and equity. We believe in fostering a culture of respect, service to the community and academic advancement. We truly believe in our

Frank Marcus, MD, (right) shakes hands of longtime research associate Michael Bosnos.

A founding faculty member for the College of Medicine - Tucson at the University of Arizona, Dr. Marcus retired in 2020 after 51 years of dedicated service, which included a stint as the Chief of the Section of Cardiology from 1971 to 1981. During his tenure, he became a world-renowned authority in ARVC, a genetic form of heart disease that causes the heart’s muscular wall to break down, increasing the risk of arrhythmia and possibly sudden cardiac death.

Family, friends and colleagues gathered to celebrate the esteemed legacy of Frank I. Marcus, MD, Professor Emeritus, for the 23rd Samuel and Edith Marcus anniversary lecture, following the postponement in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

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SARVER HEART CENTER MINORITY OUTREACH PROGRAM CHAIR HONORED WITH FOUNDERS AWARD

Wanda F Moore, chair of University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center’s Minority Outreach Program, is the 2021 recipient of Greater Tucson Leadership’s Founders Award.

Invited to join the Women’s Heart Health Education Committee in 2009, Wanda quickly began to encourage others to join and to solicit donations for the heart center. Her involvement has included expanding community education and outreach activities to include underserved minority communities. She also serves on the Sarver Heart Center Board.

“African Americans bear a disproportionate burden of heart disease in the United States. Wanda has been personally impacted by heart disease and COVID infection, and has helped to shape our community about the importance of vaccination,” wrote Elizabeth Juneman, MD, associate professor of medicine and medical director of the Advanced Heart Failure Program.

On the first federally recognized Juneteenth National Holiday, the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center faculty and staff gathered with the Minority Outreach Program/Community Coalition for Heart Health Education (CCHHE) to receive $20,000 from Walmart on its National Day of Giving.

“On behalf of Sarver Heart Center, thank you to Walmart for recognizing and supporting the far-reaching work of the Community Coalition,” said Elizabeth Juneman, MD, associate professor of medicine and medical director of the Advanced Heart Failure Program.

Dr. Juneman has collaborated with CCHHE to present health information focused on women. Since 2009, the Sarver Heart Center minority outreach members have contributed 600,000 volunteer hours, primarily in Tucson, Southern Arizona and the Phoenix area. These grants will further our volunteers’ outreach program,” said Wanda F Moore, chair of CCHHE.

“Your good work is making our community healthier. We are proud Walmart can support your work,” said Marques Hunter, senior director II, Regional Health & Wellness Operations, Walmart, who met the CCHHE.

Funds from the grant went back into the Southern Arizona community, by covering some of the cost of the CCHHE’s lunch and learn held in April 2022 on hypertension. More than one hundred community members attended to learn the signs of hypertension, important research being conducted to reduce high blood pressure, and the importance of monitoring your blood pressure at home.

EDUCATING THE TUCSON COMMUNITY ON HEART-SAVING MEASURES

Through extensive research, chest-compression only CPR was developed at the Sarver Heart Center for primary cardiac arrest. Research found rescue breathing isn’t necessary, as the continuous forceful chest compressions circulate the person’s blood to their brain and their heart. Five years of data in Arizona have shown the CCO-CPR method doubles a person’s chance of survival.

The founders award, established in 1985, is a lifetime achievement recognition honoring an individual who has demonstrated significant long-term community involvement and accomplishments and who has helped to shape the community in a positive manner with merit and dedication. The Greater Tucson Leadership selection committee includes community leaders representing business, government, non-profit, and higher education.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 GRADUATING FELLOWS

Cardiovascular Disease
Mahesh Balakrishnan, MBBS
Ibrahim Barry, MD, MPH
Emily Cendrowski, MD
Juliya Cress, MD, PharmD
Michael Kendall, MD, MSc
Adriana Martin, MD, PhD
Nanda Pulela, MBBS
Ignacio Zepeda, MD

Interventional Cardiology
Muhammad Ajmal, MBBS
Sundeep Shenoy, MBBS

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SARVER HEART CENTER MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER
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