

# SARVER HEART CENTER

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 80 • SPRING 2021

## NEW ERA FOR STRUCTURAL HEART/VALVE DISEASE PROGRAM



**Meet your Structural Heart Team.** Members of the Structural Heart Team include (from left): Kwan Lee, MD, Madhan Sundaram, MD, Allison Klatt, MSN, FNP, Isabel Corres-Sohrab, RN, BSN, Arka Chatterjee, MD, Raj Janardhanan, MD, Tushar Acharya, MD, MPH, Amitoj Singh, MD. (Not pictured: Deepak Acharya, MD, MSPH, Toshinobu Kazui, MD, PhD, Michael Seckeler, MD, MSc, and Kavitha Yaddanapudi, MD).

The structural heart and valve program at Sarver Heart Center and Banner University Medical Center - Tucson is one of the oldest in the state with the first transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) performed here in 2012. The team has always been a multi-disciplinary team of interventional cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons, cardiac imaging specialists, nurse practitioners, nurses, and medical assistants who work to provide comprehensive care to patients. Under the leadership of Arka Chatterjee, MD, the depth, scope and collaboration in this team has grown tremendously.

Structural heart problems involve heart valves and the walls and chambers of the heart. Structural heart problems may be present at birth (congenital), develop naturally throughout adulthood, or may be due to a disease process, such as heart attacks or heart failure.

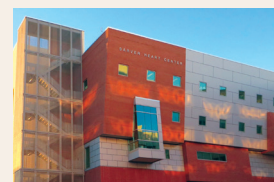
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*Innovating.  
Life-Saving.  
Patient Care.*

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[www.heart.arizona.edu](http://www.heart.arizona.edu)

**For patient appointments,**

please call (520)-MY HEART  
(520) 694-4327

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NOTE FROM THE  
**DIRECTOR**  
NANCY K. SWEITZER, MD, PHD





## Advancing Our Mission Despite the Pandemic

The profound disruption resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis has led to multiple unanticipated changes in the work at Sarver Heart Center during 2020. Despite the pandemic, thanks to generous support from visionary donors, extremely dedicated faculty and staff, and new collaborations bridging work and faculty between the UArizona Colleges of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix, 2020 was a very successful year for the heart center.

Three estate gifts were combined in 2020 to establish the **Sarver Heart Center Endowment for Innovation and Advancement**. Roberta Arida – a long-time friend and patient of Dr. Gordon Ewy, Sarver Heart Center director emeritus – named the Sarver Heart Center in his will. Another estate gift was received from Louis and Mary Allen, Green Valley residents who wanted to support academic medicine. Funds from a trust established by Lewis Weaks, who died of cancer in 1994, rounded out the trio of planned gifts that made the formation of this new endowment at the heart center possible. (See article on page 8.)

## Expanded Collaborations

Two new opportunities for collaboration in 2020 will further Sarver Heart Center's initiatives with colleagues in Phoenix. I was appointed Tucson director of UArizona Health Sciences Graduate Program in Clinical Translational Sciences (CTS) and now co-direct the program with **Ronald Hammer, PhD**, the Phoenix director of the program. The University of Arizona College of Medicine in Phoenix recruited **Christopher Glembotski, PhD**, a renowned cardiovascular disease research scientist, as the inaugural director of the Translational Cardiovascular Research Center at the College of Medicine - Phoenix. (See article on page 7.)

Both of these Phoenix-based colleagues understand the power and potential of sharing expertise and resources at our two campuses.

## Clinical Research Renovations

The Clinical Research Program has navigated pandemic-related curveballs as staff continue to work remotely as much as possible and research visits are limited. Nonetheless, this highly professional team continued to manage a growing number of clinical trials, thanks in part to rapid growth in COVID-related research, often engaging new faculty with a passion for clinical research.

Improving the efficiency of clinical research has long been a priority for me, and I am so proud of the culture of clinical

trials we have created in the Sarver Heart Center. This, along with our investigator awards program, has really made Sarver Heart Center the “intellectual home” at the University of Arizona for clinicians, scientists and others interested in cardiovascular diseases, no matter their home department or allegiance. I am particularly impressed by the professionalism, attention to detail and excellence in clinical research performance exhibited by the team in our Clinical Research Program. Their work elevates what we do clinically, creates a rich intellectual and academic environment, and has garnered us a national reputation as a desired site for clinical trials in cardiovascular medicine. Thanks to the generosity of a grateful patient (who wishes to remain anonymous), the offices of the Clinical Research Program recently underwent re-design and renovation to improve workflow and performance for this incredible team.

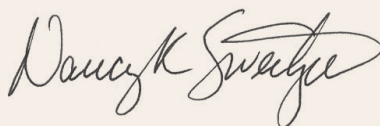
## Development Priorities in 2021

While it often seems as if fundraising efforts are focused on large gifts and generating endowments, every dollar helps. **Dr. Kwan Lee** has worked with several grateful patients to invest in an upgrade to the Cardiovascular Medicine Simulator Training Center.

In November, Sarver Heart Center marked 20 years since the opening of our current building. This hub of education, research and administration, like any home that has been well-loved, needs some updating and maintenance – from modernizing technology to replacing worn flooring. We have new energy to help advance this cause. This summer we welcomed **Brian Panique**, senior director of development for the College of Medicine – Tucson, who is committed to working with donors to raise funds so our building is ready to serve the center for the next 20 years. (Learn more about Brian on page 12.) To reach Brian - Email: [panique@arizona.edu](mailto:panique@arizona.edu) | Phone: 520-626-4518.

As we welcome in 2021, Sarver Heart Center is proud to build on the successes of 2020 with the tremendous support from you, our community. For that, we are ever grateful and encouraged.

Keep your masks on and stay safe and well!



**Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD**  
Director, University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center  
Professor and Chief, Division of Cardiology,  
UArizona College of Medicine – Tucson

# THE TEAM

## Program Directors

- ▶ Arka Chatterjee, MD
- ▶ Toshinobu Kazui, MD, PhD

## Adult Interventional Cardiologists

- ▶ Deepak Acharya, MD, MSPH
- ▶ Kwan Lee, MD
- ▶ Madhan Sundaram, MD

## Pediatric and Adult Congenital Interventional Cardiologist

- ▶ Michael Seckeler, MD, MSc

## Imaging Specialists

- ▶ Tushar Acharya, MD, MPH
- ▶ Raj Janardhanan, MD
- ▶ Amitoj Singh, MD
- ▶ Kavitha Yaddanapudi, MD

## Advanced Practice Provider

- ▶ Allison Klatt, MSN, FNP-BC, Structural Heart Nurse Practitioner

## Program Coordinator

- ▶ Isabel Corres-Sohrab, RN, BSN

## Learn More

[heart.arizona.edu/heart-health/structural-heart-heart-valve-disease](http://heart.arizona.edu/heart-health/structural-heart-heart-valve-disease)

## Contact Structural Heart and Heart Valve Disease

### Adult Cardiology Team

Phone: 520-694-6190  
Fax: 520-694-1007

### Pediatric and Congenital Heart

Phone: 520-694-KIDS (5497)  
Fax: 520-874-7070

## Locations

**Banner — University Medicine North** and  
procedures at **Banner — University Medical Center Tucson.**

Continued from page 1

Most structural heart conditions have been traditionally treated with open-heart operations; now advances in structural heart disease make it possible to treat many of these problems with minimally invasive approaches. The Structural Heart Team includes both adult and pediatric practitioners with unique expertise in minimally invasive approaches.

The Structural Heart Team team provides a catalogue of procedures, including transcatheter aortic valve replacements (TAVR), mitral valve replacements and MitraClips to treat aortic valve and mitral valve diseases. Other transcatheter procedures the team offers are patent foramen ovale closures, atrial and ventricular septal closures, paravalvular leak closures, left atrial appendage occlusions, pulmonary arteriovenous malformations (AVM) embolizations, and AngioVac procedures that can remove arterial thrombi and valvular vegetations (endocarditis).

“Besides our interventional cardiology expertise, we also are the only center in Tucson and neighboring areas to provide the full complement of advanced heart failure options including durable mechanical circulatory support, which some patients need. Our team includes a board-certified adult congenital interventional cardiologist, one of two in Arizona and the only one in the Tucson area.”

*Dr. Chatterjee,  
Associate Professor of Medicine and  
Associate Director of the Structural Heart Program*

“In addition to the team’s expertise in coronary and peripheral interventions, and minimally invasive valve replacement, with Dr. Chatterjee’s leadership, they will expand the research offerings of the Sarver Heart Center bringing new devices and minimally invasive therapies to Tucson. This will allow us to bring the latest advances in heart disease treatment to the people of Southern Arizona,” said Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD, Sarver Heart Center director and cardiology chief.



“I’m so happy with the care I received, particularly from Allison Klatt (MSN, FNP). She’s awesome and so responsive. She answered all of my questions.”

*Dana McCune  
MitraClip Patient*

## DANA MCCUNE — MITRACLIP PATIENT

Dana McCune wasn’t feeling great, but like too many women, she ignored her own health and left work midday in 2019 to meet her husband for his cardiology appointment. When she mentioned to the doctor that she didn’t feel well and asked him to listen to her heart, he told her to check in at the front desk to register as a new patient. Instead she went home with her husband. “I took a nap and around 7 p.m. had difficulty breathing. My husband drove me to St. Joseph’s, the closest hospital. I coded when he pulled up to the emergency entrance,” said Dana. She was in cardiac arrest.



# TAVR PATIENT KEEPS ROLLING

Since he was 45, Bill Fenton's doctors were aware he had a "heart murmur," a congenital condition that caused his heart sound to go "woosh," instead of "lub dub." After age 60, his doctor started monitoring his condition with echocardiograms. A certified public accountant who splits his residences between Massachusetts and Tucson, Bill asked his friend, Barry Pomerantz, MD, (a retired physician and Sarver Heart Center board member), who he should see for echocardiogram examination in Tucson. Since Bill is an avid bicyclist, it made sense that Dr. Pomerantz would refer him to Charles Katzenberg, MD, another avid cyclist who has since retired.

Dr. Katzenberg retired in 2019 and now Bill's cardiologist is Tushar Acharya, MD, MPH, a cardiovascular imaging expert who is part of the Structural Heart team. This past summer, Dr. Acharya informed Bill that his aortic valve was narrowing. "I just rode my bike 50 miles. How could this be?" Bill asked. In evaluating Bill for a minimally invasive valve replacement procedure (TAVR) versus open heart surgery, the Structural Heart team discovered Bill had a tumor on a kidney.

Fortunately, Dana's husband flagged emergency responders who worked to resuscitate her. When the cause of her cardiac arrest remained unclear, doctors transferred her to Banner – University Medical Center Tucson for the highly specialized care provided there, including a cardiac MRI examination. Stress was the likely cause, testing revealed. Dana also has a complicated health history that included Hodgkin's Disease, at age 27, which involved radiation therapy, breast cancer that led to a double mastectomy, and now, polycystic kidney and liver disease.

"I was hoping to get on the kidney transplant list to treat the polycystic disease, an inherited condition," said Dana. However, a year after her



*Bill Fenton and his wife, Gayle, look forward to more time with their growing family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

"This made me a candidate for TAVR. I had two surgeries in 26 days – TAVR at the end of July and kidney removal at the end of August. Fortunately, the cancer was removed and I'm back to my normal activities," said Bill, who will turn 71 soon. He averages 400 miles a month on his bicycle and is tracking 4,000 miles for

the year despite his rough stretch during the summer.

These sudden health alarms reminded Bill to not take anything for granted. "Don't buy green bananas. You don't know if you'll be around for them to ripen," said Bill, although he continues to ride on.

cardiac arrest, the Structural Heart Team detected McCune's mitral valve was leaking and she was a candidate for the MitraClip procedure, implanted by Dr. Arka Chatterjee. She spent a night in the hospital and now is breathing easier since her mitral valve leak has been reduced from severe to minimal. "The leaking valve was leading to pulmonary edema, or increased pressure and fluid leakage into my lungs. This has improved with the MitraClip. With the MitraClip in place, a CPAP machine for sleeping and the other management of my heart condition using medication, I'm hoping to be able to get on the kidney transplant list now," said Dana.



## CLINICAL RESEARCH AT SARVER HEART CENTER

Patient care advances rely on good clinical research. Clinical trials are research studies that explore whether a medical strategy, treatment or device is safe and effective for humans. These studies also may show which medical approaches work best for certain illnesses or groups of people. Clinical trials produce the best evidence to guide health care decisions.

The University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center is enrolling patients for several clinical research trials to improve patient care for several cardiovascular diseases. Please visit [heart.arizona.edu/clinical-research](https://heart.arizona.edu/clinical-research) to complete a **Cardiology Research Registry Information Form** to learn about new clinical research studies for which you may be eligible.

For more information, please contact **Lizzette Cruz, RN, MS**, operations manager, at [marquez@shc.arizona.edu](mailto:marquez@shc.arizona.edu) or 520-626-5431.



# Chest-Compression-Only CPR

## CPR In the COVID-19 Era

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it's natural to question how to respond. American Heart Association's journal, *Circulation*, published a study indicating the risk of contracting the virus while doing chest-compression-only CPR is low. Most out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the home or in long-term care facilities, with only 18.8 percent happening in public, according to the AHA. So, it is most likely a rescuer will be helping a family member or friend.

If a bystander sees a stranger collapse suddenly, doing chest-compression-only CPR during the COVID-19 pandemic certainly raises concerns. Calling 911 is imperative since the emergency responders are equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE). If you decide to respond before emergency professionals arrive, make sure you are wearing a mask and can cover the victim's face with a cloth or shirt.

### For Sudden Cardiac Arrest if someone unexpectedly collapses follow these steps:



**Check for responsiveness.** Shake the person and shout, "Are you all right?" Rub the breast bone with your knuckles.



**Call 9-1-1.** Or direct someone to make the call if the person is unresponsive and struggling to breathe, gasping, snoring, or not breathing at all.

### COMPRESS



**Compress.** Position patient on the floor face up. Place the heel of one hand on the center of the chest and the heel of the other hand on top of the first. Lock your elbows, move your shoulders over the center of the chest, and use the weight of your upper body to "fall" straight downward, compressing the chest at least two inches. Lift your hands slightly each time to allow chest wall to recoil. Compress chest at a rate of 100 per minute. When you tire, take turns with others until paramedics arrive.



If an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is available, turn it on and follow the AED's voice instructions. Otherwise, continue chest compressions until paramedics arrive.

Visit [heart.arizona.edu/heart-health/learn-cpr](https://heart.arizona.edu/heart-health/learn-cpr) for more information,  
training videos and resources.



# MEMBER UPDATES

## Expanded Collaborations Accelerate Heart Disease Research and Discovery

Translational research is a complex web that transports ideas and knowledge between collaborative minds with expertise in both patient-care settings and research laboratories. The concept that breakthroughs come by bringing disparate experts together in a common cause has been integral to Sarver Heart Center since it was established in 1986. Then, basic life scientists from various academic departments worked with cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery faculty to address the great challenges related to organ transplant rejection and circulatory support systems.

Members' collaboration grew beyond the walls of the Sarver Heart Center building (which opened 20 years ago in 2000) when the Molecular Cardiovascular Research Program was established in the Medical Research Building in 2006, under the leadership of **Carol Gregorio, PhD**. Named co-director of Sarver Heart Center in 2007, Dr. Gregorio also serves as assistant vice provost, Global Health Sciences and department head, Cellular and Molecular Medicine at UArizona College of Medicine – Tucson.

During 2020, a significant new opportunity developed that has great potential to develop stronger relationships with Phoenix-based colleagues, said **Dr. Nancy Sweitzer**, director of the Sarver Heart Center.

UArizona College of Medicine - Phoenix appointed **Christopher Glembotski, PhD** the inaugural director of the Translational Cardiovascular Research Center. He is a renowned researcher in cardiovascular disease with a wide-range of accomplishments as a scientist, educator and leader. He also is associate dean for research; and a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

"The leadership of Dr. Glembotski in our Phoenix college of medicine and his engagement with Sarver Heart Center will ensure development of complementary and highly collaborative expertise on both campuses, with exciting possibilities for exchange and innovative partnerships," said Dr. Sweitzer.



*Christopher Glembotski, PhD, director of the Translational Cardiovascular Research Center, University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix.*



*Frank Marcus, MD*

## Retirement During a Pandemic

While **Frank Marcus, MD**, professor emeritus, may have originally retired from the University of Arizona in 1999, he still came to the office every day, and was not retired from cardiology research and patient consultations until recently. After 51 years at the UArizona College of Medicine - Division of Cardiology, he re-retired in December 2019 and left his office in July 2020 at age 92.

"Our plan had been to recognize Dr. Marcus' remarkable career when he retired in a way that honors one of his greatest passions - continuing medical education. However, the coronavirus pandemic altered that," said Dr. Nancy Sweitzer. "We plan to schedule a professional cardiology conference in Dr. Marcus' honor as soon as it's safe to do so."





## SARVER HEART CENTER

# ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED FROM DECADES OF GIFT PLANNING



Planned gifts offer forward-looking donors the opportunity to support Sarver Heart Center without a large up-front gift. Planned gifts offer substantial tax savings to donors, particularly on appreciation income, allowing reductions in income tax and avoidance of capital gains taxes. In 2020, three previously established planned gifts were received by the Sarver Heart Center and combined to establish the Sarver Heart Center Endowment for Innovation and Advancement.

“These combined gifts, totaling \$2.1 million, are uplifting to faculty and staff at any time, but particularly during these current challenging times of uncertainty. Speaking on behalf of all of us at Sarver Heart Center, I’m immensely grateful for these visionary donors who left legacy gifts to support our mission of innovative, life-saving patient care,” said **Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD**, director of Sarver Heart Center, chief of cardiology and professor of medicine at the UArizona College of Medicine - Tucson. “These gifts will support our mission into perpetuity.”



## Robert Arida Estate Gift

**Robert “Bob” Arida** and his brother, **Victor**, came to Tucson from New York City in 1945 because of their asthma. They became well known and respected financial advisors, not only in Tucson but throughout the Southwestern United States. “They were affectionately referred to as ‘the Arida Boys,’” said **Gordon A. Ewy, MD, DSc**, professor emeritus and director emeritus of Sarver Heart Center.

Bob Arida, a long-time patient and friend of Dr. Ewy’s, established a legacy gift toward the endowment. “As all leaders in academics know, endowments are critical to the development of sustained excellence,” said Dr. Ewy.



*The entire Arida family, including Victor’s wife, Patricia, were very involved since the beginning of Sarver Heart Center in 1986. In 2002, they celebrated the Gordon A. Ewy, MD, Distinguished Endowed Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine. Pictured from left: Dr. Ewy, Priscilla Ewy, and Victor, Patricia and Robert Arida.*

## Lewis Weeks Charitable Remainder Unitrust

A longtime supporter of Sarver Heart Center, **Lewis Weeks** left a substantial gift to the heart center when he died of cancer in 1994. He also established a charitable remainder trust to benefit his long-time personal assistant, **Arnaldo Cabassi**. Following Cabassi’s death in 2020, remaining funds from this trust were distributed to Sarver Heart Center and the University of Arizona Cancer Center. Originally from Tennessee, Weeks had an illustrious career as president of the European division of International Harvester. After four decades of service to French agriculture, he was named a Knight of the Order of the French Legion of Honor.



*Lewis Weeks portrait*

## Louis and Mary Allen Estate Gift

The **Allens** left their entire estate to charity, with 70% going to Arizona Health Sciences, benefiting the Cancer Center, Arthritis Center and Sarver Heart Center.

The couple accessed medical care through University of Arizona Health Sciences. They were pleased with the quality of their care and wanted to support medical education, said their attorney, Phoebe Harris.

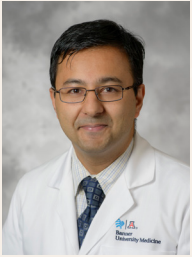
“They wanted their estate to better others. The university has a teaching hospital and they were passionate about using their resources to help new doctors,” said Harris.

The Allens supported several causes, said Harris. Louis was an air traffic controller and Mary was a civilian supervisor for the U.S. Army. They married in Georgia in 1951 and moved to Arizona in the 1980s. They were unassuming and didn’t want to be recognized for their philanthropy during their lifetimes.

## Planned Gifts Come in Various Forms

“As you can see, planned giving has an enormous impact on our ability to advance our missions of research, education and clinical care,” said Dr. Sweitzer. There are numerous options for planned giving. To learn more or to establish a planned gift, please contact **Brian Panique**, senior director of development. Email: [panique@arizona.edu](mailto:panique@arizona.edu) | Phone: 520-626-4518

# NEW MEMBERS



**Deepak Acharya, MD, MSPH**, associate professor of medicine, director of Interventional Cardiology Fellowship Program, member of the Structural Heart team. He is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular diseases, nuclear cardiology, echocardiography, and advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology.



**Christopher Glembotski, PhD**, professor, Department of Internal Medicine, director, Translational Cardiovascular Research Center, associate dean, Research, UArizona College of Medicine – Phoenix. (See article on page 7.)



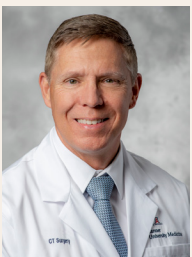
**Mohamed Ahmed, MD, PhD**, division chief, associate professor and Arizona Elks Endowed Chair in Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics. He is board certified in pediatrics and Pediatrics-Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.



**Hong S. Lee, MD, MPH**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular medicine, echocardiography, and nuclear cardiology. His clinical interests include advanced imaging modalities, structural heart disease with interventional transesophageal echocardiogram, preventive cardiology, cardio-oncology, heart disease in women, mobile device cardiology, obesity medicine, and congenital heart disease. He recently completed a fellowship in cardiology imaging at Mayo Clinic at Phoenix. He also obtained a clinical trial certificate at Johns Hopkins University.



**Arka Chatterjee, MD**, associate professor of medicine, associate program director of the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship Program and associate director of the Structural Heart Program at Banner – UMC Tucson. He is board certified in interventional cardiology, cardiovascular disease, internal medicine and echocardiography.



**Christopher Derby, MD**, clinical associate professor and pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon, Department of Surgery, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. He is board certified in surgery and thoracic surgery.

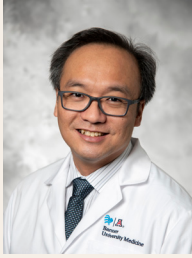


**Talal Moukabary, MD**, clinical associate professor of medicine, cardiac electrophysiologist with expertise in computer modeling of cardiac arrhythmia, imaging in the cardiac electrophysiology lab, cell-based arrhythmia therapy and clinical cardiac electrophysiology. He is board certified in clinical cardiac electrophysiology and cardiovascular disease.





**Paolo Pires, PhD**, assistant professor, Physiology and Neuroscience Graduate Interdisciplinary Program. His research focuses on understanding the regulation of blood flow to the brain under normal and disease states, such as Alzheimer's and hypertension. Another main research focus is on lymphatic drainage of the brain and how it affects development of diseases.



**J.R. Exequiel "Keng" Pineda, MD, PhD**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, board certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular disease, has clinical interests include preventative cardiology, cardiovascular care of patients with cancer who develop cardiovascular toxicities from their treatment, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and interventional cardiology.



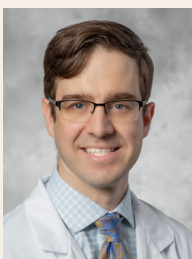
**Amitoj Singh, MD**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, board certified in cardiovascular disease, nuclear cardiology and internal medicine. His clinical expertise focuses on cardiovascular imaging. He is a member of the Structural Heart team.



**Madhan Sundaram, MD**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, associate program director of Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology Fellowships, director, Cardiac Catheterization Lab and Endovascular Services, Banner - University Medical Center Tucson, member of the Structural Heart team.



**Preethi William, MD**, clinical assistant professor, board certified in internal medicine, geriatrics, cardiology and echocardiography. A cardiologist on the Advanced Heart Failure, Mechanical Circulatory Support and Transplant Cardiology team at Banner – UMC Tucson, her clinical interests include heart failure, cardiac transplantation and mechanical circulatory devices.



**Andrew R. Williams, MD**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, board certified in internal medicine and pediatrics. His clinical interests include echocardiography, specifically trans-esophageal echocardiography (TEE) and 3D echocardiography, nuclear cardiology, vascular imaging as well as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and sports cardiology.



**Innovating. Life-Saving. Patient Care.**

## Panique Leads Development Efforts



**Brian Panique** joined the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson as senior director of development. Sarver Heart Center is one of his primary focus areas.

Panique holds more than 10 years of experience in fundraising, including supporting non-profit organizations such as the Make-a-Wish Foundation. He is the former assistant vice president of leadership giving at the CHOC Children's Hospital in Orange, California. Prior to joining CHOC, Panique was the chief development officer at the University of Southern California's School of Pharmacy and the associate director of major gifts at the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health.

Panique holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the UArizona. He is also a former member of the UArizona football team.

For information on supporting Sarver Heart Center, please contact Brian Panique, senior director of development. Email: [panique@arizona.edu](mailto:panique@arizona.edu) | Phone: 520-626-4518

## CHERYL ALLI RECEIVES HEALTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Cheryl Alli** is the 2020 recipient of the Mary Anne Fay Heart Health Advocate of the Year Award. **Dr. Nancy Sweitzer** presented the award virtually during Sarver Heart Center's Fall Board Meeting.

In nominating Ms. Alli, **Wanda F Moore** and **Murryelle Bothwell** wrote, "COVID-19 has challenged everything and everyone during 2020, however, with seemingly endless energy, Cheryl Alli maintained her commitment to community service for Sarver Heart Center and her church's food pantry, Bright Star Community Development, for which she is the CEO. She promotes foods that are good for heart healthy living and coordinates with several community resources and volunteer staff."

"For the past 11 years, Cheryl has been a quiet, but strong and dedicated educator with the Minority Outreach Program's chest-compression-only CPR program and other health education outreach through Sarver Heart Center. She is especially focused on the minority and underserved communities where eliminating disparities in healthcare and health education is a strategic priority for Sarver Heart Center," said Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD, director of the UArizona Sarver Heart Center.

