

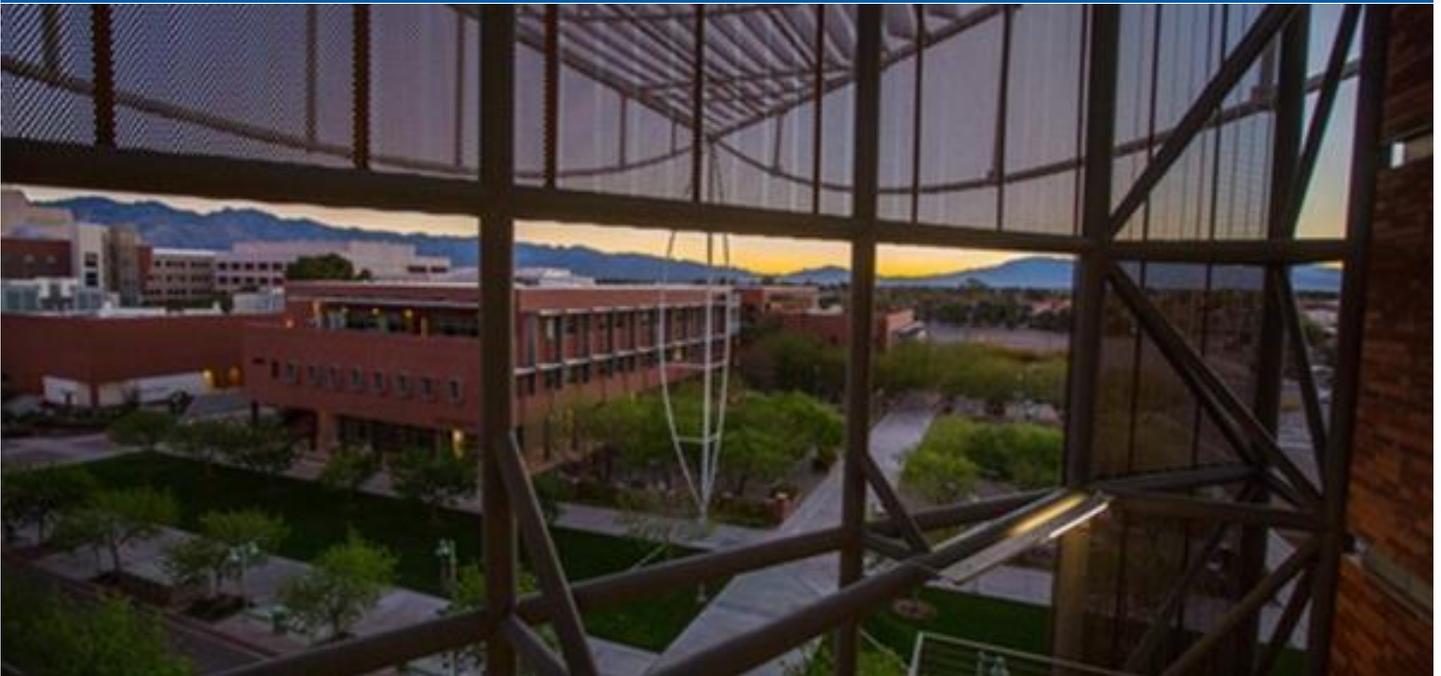


# College of Medicine

Tucson

## LEADERSHIP PROFILE

University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson  
**Department Head, Department of Physiology**



*August 2022*

## Table of Contents

The Opportunity	1
Department of Physiology	2
Principal Duties and Responsibilities	5
Qualifications and Personal Characteristics	6
Procedure for Candidacy	7
The University	8
The University of Arizona Health Sciences	9
BIO5	9
College of Medicine - Tucson	10
Banner Health	11
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System	14
Tucson, Arizona	15

## The Opportunity



The University of Arizona (UArizona) College of Medicine - Tucson invites inquiries, nominations, and expressions of interest for the role of Department Head, Department of Physiology. Reporting directly to Dean Michael M.I. Abecassis, the Department Head will work collaboratively with the leaders of the College of Medicine - Tucson and Banner - University Medicine to build upon excellence in existing clinical, teaching and team-based research programs to position the Department for growth and transformation.

The UArizona College of Medicine - Tucson is part of a university that is a Hispanic serving and Native Nations Institution and fosters a climate of inclusion that supports the active recruitment, training and retention of a medical workforce that is prepared to meet the academic, research and clinical care needs of diverse communities in Arizona and beyond.

The Department of Physiology is currently comprised of more than 27 tenure-track, tenured and teaching track faculty. This encompasses both significant research and educational leadership within the University of Arizona.

At the University of Arizona, Physiology and Medical Sciences is one of only two undergraduate majors offered as part of the College of Medicine. Coursework, research, student engagement and outreach opportunities prepare students to pursue careers in research, industry, medicine, or other health-related fields.

The UArizona College of Medicine - Tucson is part of the University of Arizona Health Sciences, the statewide leader in biomedical research and health professions training, with over 900 faculty and \$220 million in annual research grants and contracts. The UArizona Health Sciences includes the UArizona Colleges of Medicine (Tucson and Phoenix), Nursing, R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy and the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, with main campus locations in Tucson and the growing Phoenix Biomedical Campus in downtown Phoenix. In February 2015, Banner Health merged with the University of Arizona Health Network in Tucson, Arizona, to form Banner - University Medicine. At the heart of this merger is academic medicine - research, teaching and patient care - across three academic medical centers in Tucson and Phoenix.

The successful candidate will be an academic researcher with a national/international reputation and a substantial record of research, teaching and administrative accomplishments. They will have the knowledge and ability to effectively lead researchers and educators, while embracing the values of quality and financial sustainability. Candidates must demonstrate integrity, intellect, the ability to work collaboratively with numerous stakeholders, and have the leadership experience required to oversee a busy department. Applications from women and candidates with diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged.

## Top-notch Physiology program promoting excellence in research and education

Physiology at the University of Arizona has a strong local, national and international reputation for undergraduate and graduate education and research. The Department has 16 tenured or tenure track faculty, 11 educator track faculty, 2 research track faculty and 17 joint faculty. The Physiology and Medical Sciences undergraduate program has >1,600 majors, as well as an MS and PhD program, and is the home of the Graduate Interdisciplinary Program. The mission of the Department of Physiology is to develop and maintain excellent programs of Research and Teaching in Physiology, an integrative discipline that addresses questions of biological function and disease mechanisms using approaches ranging from molecular to whole-organism levels.

The interdisciplinary nature of the Physiological Sciences Graduate Program is reflected in the involvement of more than 50 faculty members from 19 departments in basic and clinical sciences at the University of Arizona. Graduate students begin their research education in Physiological Sciences with laboratory rotations that are matched to their potential fields of interest.



## Research

Research within the Department of Physiology ranges from studies at the molecular and cellular level through the functional integration of various organ systems. The Department's research efforts provide significant contributions to the field of medicine with primary research programs focused on Cardiovascular and Respiratory Physiology, Neurophysiology, Renal and Transport Physiology, Endocrine, Metabolic and Reproductive Physiology, and Eye/Visual Systems Physiology. Active research programs involve faculty, as well as postdoctoral staff, graduate and undergraduate students, engaged in groundbreaking projects. Members of the Department collaborate with many local, state and international research groups.

Annual research expenditures for the Department exceed \$6 million, and faculty collaborate extensively across campus in the following major centers and colleges:

- BIO5 Institute
- Arizona Center on Aging
- Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium
- Asthma & Airway Disease Research Center
- Comprehensive Pain & Addiction Center
- Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute
- Sarver Heart Center
- UArizona Cancer Center
- UArizona College of Engineering
- UArizona College of Science
- UArizona College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (CALS)
- UArizona College of Pharmacy



Research Technician Aida Hawatmeh (left) from Dr. Fiona Bailey's laboratory, coaches a standardized patient through inspiratory muscle training.

## Education

The Department of Physiology offers a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences with a Major in Physiology and Medical Sciences and a Minor in Physiology and Medical Sciences. This program awards >250 degrees annually and >1,000 students from other majors are enrolled in Physiology courses every year. Students from the Physiology and Medical Sciences program go on to graduate school, health professions programs and careers in healthcare, science and education. The Department also plays a major part in the Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Physiological Sciences that represents collaborations with >70 faculty from across campus with >25 PhD/MD, PhD and >25 MS students active yearly. Department of Physiology faculty also participate significantly in other graduate programs including the Neuroscience Graduate Interdisciplinary Program and the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program.

Doctoral students Megan Sylvester (left) and Joshua Uhlorn (right) used microscopy techniques to analyze differences in immune cell infiltration in the kidneys of pre- and post-menopausal mice. *Emma Louis, Brooks Lab*



## Diversity

The Department of Physiology believes in a culture focused on diversity and inclusion. Diversity is a focus of the Department's recruitment and retention practices. In accordance with the College of Medicine - Tucson's commitment to inclusive excellence, the Department reflects this commitment by:

- Educating, training and employing diverse faculty, staff and student body.
- Providing cutting edge medical research.
- Fostering the development of personal attributes in its employees and students that are necessary to achieve its mission.
- Encouraging and supporting culturally relevant scholarly activities, that acknowledge and respect systems of healing that emerge from different traditions.
- Providing a culturally competent, inclusive and respectful environment.

## Principal Duties and Responsibilities

The Department of Physiology at the University of Arizona is seeking a Department Head with excellent leadership skills and enthusiasm for world-class research and innovative teaching. The Head of the Department of Physiology will be a vital member of the College of Medicine leadership team advancing research and education, and will make vital contributions to implementing the organization's most critical strategies. The Head will report directly to the Dean of the College of Medicine – Tucson. This person will be directly involved with strategic planning. Planning for future growth and recruitment to accomplish department goals will be integral to the duties of Head of the Department of Physiology.

The Head of the Department of Physiology will ensure that department faculty work in conjunction with one another and with other groups across the College and campus, sharing research resources whenever possible. This will also include administrative, laboratory, and mentoring support. The Head of the Department of Physiology will also be responsible for addressing budget priorities within the Department, including recruitment priorities and outreach decisions.

### Responsibilities

- Work closely with leadership to develop, execute and refresh a strategic plan and direction that fosters the mission, goals and objectives of the University of Arizona, in concert with its strategic direction.
- Facilitate an environment of collaborative research and conduct including maintaining records of accomplishments, facilitating acquisition of external funding and addressing budget priorities within the Department, including recruitment priorities and outreach decisions.
- Provide oversight for the education mission including educating Physiology graduates who are well prepared to be productive in a modern research setting, business setting, graduate school, medical and other professional schools.
- Review and report on faculty performance annually.
- Maintain an inclusive, positive workplace environment.
- Lead the Department in achieving student and faculty recruitment and retention goals.
- Oversee the Department's operations, including budgets, resources and fiscal management.
- Facilitate faculty mentoring in research.
- Support inclusive excellence, diversity and equity across the Department.
- Continue independent or collaborative research in line with the goals of the Department.
- Publish in peer-reviewed literature as an author and co-author.
- Provide oversight for the educational portfolio of the Department.
- Prepare documents for a 7-year review.
- Assist with COM-T executive recruitments.

## Goals and Objectives

In addition to the roles and responsibilities outlined above, the following goals and objectives have been identified as key initial priorities for this position:

- The incoming Head will be charged with developing a clear vision for the Department that ensures continued success and growth for the future and supports the College of Medicine's mission and strategic priorities.
- UArizona and the Department benefit from its diverse and inclusive faculty, staff and trainees. The Head will continue to work to recruit, develop and retain outstanding women and underrepresented minorities into these roles and ensure a welcoming and equitable environment for all.
- The Department has been successful with collaborations across the College and University. The Head will identify opportunities and broaden collaborations, recruit outstanding investigators and encourage team-science which will attract increased extramural support.
- The Department runs a very successful undergraduate program in Physiology and Medical Sciences and provides required courses to students in many other disciplines. The Head will maintain the success of this program and look for additional opportunities for collaboration.

## Qualifications and Personal Characteristics

The ideal candidate will possess the following education, training, experience, competencies and personal characteristics:

### Minimum Qualifications

- A PhD or equivalent medical degree.
- Meet University of Arizona criteria for appointment to a tenured faculty position (Associate or Full Professor).
- Scholarly achievement, including a significant record of papers published in internationally recognized, peer-reviewed journals and history of successful research funding.
- Strong and effective communication and mentoring skills.
- Commitment to an inclusive departmental culture.
- Proven and substantial leadership experience in an academic environment.

### Preferred Qualifications

- National/international reputation as a respected and accomplished researcher and educator.
  - Administrative experience as head or associate head, center director, or equivalent leadership position.
  - Membership on boards of academic journals and/or professional associations.
- 

- Commitment to participatory decision making.
- Demonstrated record of engagement with equity issues and diverse faculty, staff and student communities.
- Track record as a creative and strategic thinker who is able to envision and manage for the future.
- Demonstrated ability to build and lead teams, and to develop strong ties and connections with external constituencies and individuals.

## Procedure for Candidacy

For full consideration, please apply at the UArizona link below on or before October 3, 2022. A CV and Letter of Interest will be required at that time.

<https://arizona.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/4/home/requisition/11416?c=arizona>

**Confidential inquiries or nominations may also be sent to Search Committee Chair, Dr. Todd Vanderah, Professor and Chair of Pharmacology at**

[physiologysearch@arizona.edu](mailto:physiologysearch@arizona.edu)

*At the University of Arizona, we value our inclusive climate because we know that diversity in experiences and perspectives is vital to advancing innovation, critical thinking, solving complex problems, and creating an inclusive academic community. As a Hispanic-serving institution, we translate these values into action by seeking individuals who have experience and expertise working with diverse students, colleagues, and constituencies. Because we seek a workforce with a wide range of perspectives and experiences, we provide equal employment opportunities to applicants and employees without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. As an Employer of National Service, we also welcome alumni of AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, and other national service programs and others who will help us advance our Inclusive Excellence initiative aimed at creating a university that values student, staff and faculty engagement in addressing issues of diversity and inclusiveness.*

*We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.*

## The University



Established in 1885, the University of Arizona, the state's land-grant university with two medical schools, produces graduates who are "real-world ready" through its [100% Engagement initiative](#).

Recognized as a global leader, the university is also a powerhouse in research, with more than \$760 million in research expenditures each year, and ranking 20<sup>th</sup> among all public universities.

UArizona is advancing the frontiers of interdisciplinary scholarship and entrepreneurial partnerships and is a premier public research university. UArizona also is an economic engine, benefitting the entire state with an estimated economic impact of \$4.1 billion annually.

The National Science Foundation ranks UArizona 20<sup>th</sup> in research and development expenditures among U.S. public universities and 35<sup>th</sup> overall. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks UArizona among America's best colleges, and the *Princeton Review* lists UArizona as one of the nation's best universities. UArizona ranks No. 93 in the world and No. 48 nationally, according to the Center for University World Rankings, and UArizona is also one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright Scholars.

UArizona is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, one of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada, and the only AAU member in Arizona.

UArizona is a premier research institution. The National Science Foundation ranks the university 21<sup>st</sup> in research and development expenditures among U.S. public and private universities. The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research ranks UArizona 50 of 140 institutions for NIH funding in 2021. UArizona is home to the University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS), which includes The University of Arizona Cancer Center, the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center headquartered in the state of Arizona.

## The University of Arizona Health Sciences

The University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS) is the statewide leader in biomedical research and health professions training. The UAHS includes the UArizona Colleges of Medicine (Tucson and Phoenix), Nursing, Pharmacy, and the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, with main campus locations in Tucson and the growing Phoenix Biomedical Campus in downtown Phoenix. From these vantage points, the UAHS reaches across the state of Arizona and the greater Southwest to provide cutting-edge health education, research, patient care, and community outreach services. A major economic engine, the UAHS employs almost 5,000 people, has nearly 1,000 faculty members, and garners more than \$126 million in research grants and contracts annually. For more information: <http://uahs.arizona.edu/>

### UAHS Strategic Plan

UAHS is currently in the implementation phase of the strategic planning process. The key pillars of the plan include:

1. NEXT-GENERATION EDUCATION  
Preparing students to build and lead the future of health care
2. PRECISION HEALTH CARE FOR ALL  
Designing and developing precision treatments for all populations
3. MAKING WELLNESS AGELESS  
Influencing the critical factors that affect the health of an aging population
4. CREATING DEFENSES AGAINST DISEASE  
Unraveling the complexities of human biology to build better defenses against disease
5. NEW FRONTIERS FOR BETTER HEALTH  
Expanding capabilities to identify innovative solutions to health care problems

See the full plan at <https://uahs.arizona.edu/strategic-initiatives>

### BIO5

The University of Arizona BIO5 Institute launched in 2001 with financial support generated by the Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF), a special investment in higher education made possible by the passage of Proposition 301 by Arizona voters in November 2000. BIO5 harnesses the collaborative power of five core UArizona colleges – Agriculture, Engineering, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Science – to find bold solutions to complex, biology-based challenges affecting humanity: How do we prevent, treat, and cure diseases? How do we address the many environmental issues we face? How do we feed a hungry planet? Since 2001, this interdisciplinary approach has been an international model of how to conduct collaborative research and has resulted in improved food crops, innovative diagnostics and devices, and promising new therapies. For more information: [www.BIO5.org](http://www.BIO5.org).

## College of Medicine – Tucson

*Mission: Advancing health and wellness of our community and beyond, while embracing diversity in the pursuit of excellence through innovation in our tripartite mission: education, research, and patient care.*

The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson provides state-of-the-art programs of medical education, groundbreaking research opportunities, and leading-edge patient care. From an initial class of just 32 students in 1967, the College today has graduated more than 4,000 physicians.

The College has 22 departments – five basic science and 17 clinical science – and nine centers dedicated to specific areas of research, clinical care and teaching: the UArizona Arthritis Center; the Arizona Center on Aging; the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine; the Arizona Emergency Medicine Research Center; the Arizona Telemedicine Program; the UArizona Steele Children’s Research Center; the UArizona Sarver Heart Center; the UArizona Thomas D. Boyer Liver Institute; and the Valley Fever Center for Excellence. The VIPER Institute (Venom Immunochemistry, Pharmacology, and Emergency Response), the Arizona Telemedicine Program, the AIDS Education and Training Center, and the Sonoran UCEDD Center for Excellence also are under the College’s umbrella.

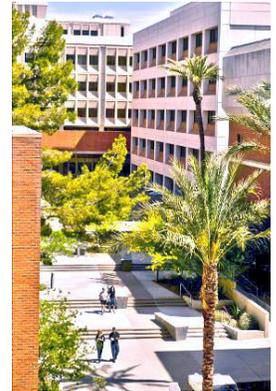
Research concentrations include biomedical imaging, aging, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and neuroscience. Total annual research funding for the College has grown from \$345,000 in 1967 to \$127.4 million in 2020.

Each year, the College admits 120 students, and the class of 2026 was selected from more than 8,600 applicants. The College currently has 514 medical students studying at the Tucson campus and offers three dual-degree programs: MD-PhD, MD-MPH and MD-MBA. The College also has 1,995 undergraduates (Physiology and Medical Sciences majors and minors offered through the Department of Physiology; Emergency Medical Sciences through the Department of Emergency Medicine; and a recently started Bachelor of Science in Medicine through the Department of Pharmacology). A Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) has been awarded from the NIH and is designed to train students planning careers in academic medicine or biomedical research. Through the collaborative efforts of the College of Medicine and the Graduate College, research-intensive training is pursued through one of over 14 biomedical science departments and interdisciplinary programs. The University of Arizona College of Medicine Graduate Medical Education program oversees 65 ACGME-accredited residency programs in all major specialties and subspecialties. More than 730 residents and fellows receive training at more than 50 sites in Tucson and at various Indian Health Service locations. For more information: [www.medicine.arizona.edu](http://www.medicine.arizona.edu)

## College of Medicine - Tucson Strategic Plan

The [strategic plan](#) for the College of Medicine – Tucson is closely tied to the plans of the University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS), and to the strategic academic and business plan of the University of Arizona.

The premise of the strategic plan is to create a culture of alignment through a common set of strategic goals and objectives, and to foster a sense of shared purpose, shared responsibility and accountability towards a collective destiny, engendering a concerted pride of enterprise.



## Banner Health

Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, Banner Health is one of the largest nonprofit health care systems in the country and the leading nonprofit provider of hospital services in all the communities it serves. With nearly 50,000 employees, Banner Health is the largest private employer in Arizona.

The system owns and operates 29 acute-care hospitals, including three academic medical centers, long-term care centers, outpatient surgery centers, and an array of other services, including family clinics, home care and hospice services, pharmacies, and a nursing registry. Banner Health is in six states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming.

In February 2015, Banner Health marked an historic moment in its long history, with the completion of its merger with the University of Arizona Health Network in Tucson, Arizona, to form Banner – University Medicine. This health system, anchored in Phoenix and Tucson, makes the highest level of care accessible to more Arizona residents. At the heart of this merger are academic medicine – research, teaching, and patient care – at the Tucson adult hospital, Tucson pediatric hospital, and South Campus hospital.

Banner's vision is to be "a national leader recognized for clinical excellence and innovation, preferred for a highly coordinated patient experience, and distinguished by the quality of our people." Banner has been nationally recognized for standardization of the electronic medical record, simulation education, and telemedicine. Banner is dedicated to strengthening patient care via a continuous focus on improving patient outcomes and service and implementing best practices across the system.

Innovation is a cornerstone of Banner's mission and vision. Innovation at Banner is defined as the rapid identification and deployment of strategies leveraging Banner's operating model and the science of care delivery to ensure an extraordinary patient experience, which is safe, efficient, and effective.

At Banner Health, the organization believes fully engaged employees are the foundation of providing excellent patient care. The enterprise values diversity and offers excellent career opportunities with great benefits for those looking to make a difference in the communities they serve.

### **Banner Health Leadership:**

- Named a Top 5 Large Health System three out of five years by Truven Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters).
- Twenty-one of Banner's hospitals are at the highest level of electronic medical records.
- At Banner's 55-bed simulation medical center – the largest "virtual hospital" of its kind – Banner health care providers can enhance their skills and training.
- Banner Health is the first health care provider in Arizona and Colorado to use technology to monitor patients from hundreds of miles away using [Banner Telehealth](#).
- Research in the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease conducted by the Banner Alzheimer's Institute (BAI) and the Banner Sun Health Research Institute has resulted in two grants of nearly \$50 million to support BAI's innovative approach and leadership in the field of Alzheimer's disease prevention and treatment.

## Banner Telehealth Overview

Banner Health is nationally recognized for its innovative telehealth programs, which include:

- Critical Care, including TeleICU (27 sites, 747 beds), Virtual ED Triage, and Virtual Nursing
- Home Based Care, including COVID @ Home for 40 patients
- Specialty Acute Consults, 35,000 encounters delivered in over 28 hospitals
- Ambulatory Virtual Telehealth Visits, including urgent care, primary care and specialist care, delivered by over 2500 providers
- Emergent Stroke and Behavioral Health Care, including 3200 teleStroke consults delivered at over 25 sites; and 5700 ED teleCrisis behavioral health assessments delivered at 14 sites.

## Banner - University Medicine in Tucson

Banner - University Medicine's presence in Tucson includes Banner - University Medical Center Tucson, Banner - University Medical Center South, Diamond Children's Medical Center, and more than 40 physician offices and clinics across Southern Arizona.

More than 700 physicians provide primary care services as well as specialty care on an inpatient and outpatient basis in more than 70 medical specialties.

### Banner - University Medical Center Tucson

479-bed, full-service hospital and outpatient treatment center with net patient revenue of over \$710 million.

- Operates Southern Arizona's only Level I trauma center, one of the most highly-rated trauma programs in the nation.
- Received "Magnet" designation in 2003 and re-designation in 2008 from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and was the first hospital in Arizona to receive such designation. Magnet status is achieved by less than two percent of the nation's acute-care hospitals.
- The institution was recognized by *US News & World Report* as among the top 50 hospitals in the nation in four specialties including Cancer, Geriatrics, Gynecology, and Pulmonology. Diabetes & Endocrinology, Gastroenterology and GI Surgery, Nephrology, and Neurology and Neurosurgery were also acknowledged as high-performing specialties. University Medical Center Tucson was recognized as the No. 2 regionally ranked hospital in Arizona.
- Received the Joint Commission's Certificate of Distinction for primary stroke centers in 2009 and became an accredited chest pain center in 2012.

### Diamond Children's Medical Center

Located on the Banner - University Medical Center Tucson campus, Diamond Children's Medical Center is designed to provide the most advanced health care possible while maintaining a comfortable, healing atmosphere for children and their families.

- Diamond Children's Medical Center combines the exceptional quality of care and expertise of Banner - University Medical Center and University of Arizona College of Medicine Steele Children's Research Center, making it Arizona's first children's medical center associated with an academic research facility.
- With 119 beds, Diamond Children's is recognized for its superior capabilities in neonatal and pediatric intensive care, pediatric emergency care, and other specialized services such as pediatric cancer care.
- Diamond Children's Medical Center is a member of the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions ("NACHRI"), an organization of children's hospitals with 218 members throughout the world.

#### Banner - University Medical Center South

245-bed, full-service hospital and outpatient treatment center.

- The Behavioral Health Pavilion, in partnership with the Crisis Response Center, offers an integrated approach and a continuum of care for patients experiencing behavioral health crises.
- Recently was designated by the Arizona Department of Health Services as a provisional Level IV trauma center. Its emergency department and cardiac catheterization lab were recently renovated and expanded.
- Designated as a NICHE-certified hospital (Nurse Improving Care for Health system Elders), demonstrating the organization's commitment and continued progress in improving quality and enhancing the care of older adults.

#### **New Construction**

Banner Health recently invested over \$500 million in capital improvements in the Tucson area. This included a \$400 million, nine-story tower at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson that opened in April 2019. The tower is equipped with modern medical equipment and state-of-the-art operating rooms. The tower features 228 private rooms, 20 new operating rooms, new diagnostic imaging and cardiac catheterization labs, a new cafeteria, and stunning views of Tucson and the Santa Catalina mountains. Banner also built a 250,000-square-foot multidisciplinary clinic next to the Arizona Cancer Center, which opened in December 2017.

#### **Banner - University Medical Group (BUMG)**

BUMG is the practice plan of the faculty-physicians of the University of Arizona for both the Colleges of Medicine (Tucson and Phoenix) as well as Banner – University Medicine. More than 900 physicians currently practice in the group. The physicians serve as faculty for the Colleges of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix, treat patients in inpatient facilities and outpatient settings, and conduct research through the Colleges of Medicine and Banner Health. Faculty are dedicated to the three-part mission of clinical care, teaching, and research.

For additional information visit [www.bannerhealth.com](http://www.bannerhealth.com)

## Southern Arizona VA Health Care System

The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) serves over 58,000 unique Veterans located in eight counties in southern Arizona and one county in western New Mexico. SAVAHCS is a 295-bed hospital providing primary care and sub-specialty health care in numerous medical areas for eligible Veterans. SAVAHCS also provides our Veterans with quality care at our seven Community Based Outpatient Clinics located in Safford, Casa Grande, Sierra Vista, Yuma, Green Valley, Northwest and Southeast Tucson.

Every year, nearly 1,000 physician and associated health trainees participate in health care training programs. The SAVAHCS supports clinical training and staff development through its VA certified advanced tier simulation center. Utilizing high-fidelity simulation equipment, the simulation center supports the clinical and non-clinical training needs of the organization in an environment that fosters learning and patient safety. SAVAHCS employs over 3,000 health care professionals and administrative staff.

The SAVAHCS Department of Medicine includes the subspecialties of Cardiology, Dermatology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hematology-Oncology, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology, Neurology, Pulmonary/Critical Care/Sleep Medicine, and Rheumatology along with our Hospitalist Division. All of these divisions participate in our education mission and several divisions are participating in clinical research.

The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System is collaborating with the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson on offers to a transplant hepatologist and a candidate for cardiology leadership. Together, work is being done to expand SAVAHCS' range of expertise by the part-time or fee-basis hiring of a University transplant nephrologist and interventional/structural cardiologists.

## Tucson, Arizona



Tucson is the second-largest city in Arizona after the state capital, Phoenix. It is the county seat of Pima County, which also includes the towns of Marana, Oro Valley, Catalina, South Tucson, Sahuarita, Vail, and Green Valley. Metropolitan Tucson's population is more than 1 million, which includes roughly 62,000 students and employees at the University of Arizona, which was founded in 1885 as Arizona's first university.

Boasting an average 340 sunny days a year and warm, dry air, Tucson's climate is ideal for year-round outdoor recreation. Tucson is set in a Sonoran Desert valley surrounded by five mountain ranges. A 60-minute trip along the Catalina Highway-Sky Island National Scenic Byway from Tucson's valley floor, at 2,398 feet in elevation, to the 9,157-foot Mt. Lemmon summit, traverses seven of the world's nine life zones – similar to what one would see driving from Mexico to Canada. Tucson is bordered on all sides by natural areas, including Coronado National Forest, Catalina State Park, Ironwood Forest National Monument, and Saguaro National Park (land of the rare, giant saguaro cactus). One can get to a nature trail within a 15-minute drive.

Besides Banner facilities, there are two other large health systems in Tucson, the Carondelet Health Network and Tucson Medical Center.

For more information visit [www.tucsonaz.gov](http://www.tucsonaz.gov), [www.visittucson.org](http://www.visittucson.org).

The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from University of Arizona College of Medicine documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.

All images and logos used in this leadership profile were obtained from University of Arizona College of Medicine.