



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
College of Medicine
 Tucson



LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

INTRODUCING THE *UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA JOURNAL OF MEDICINE*

Dear UACOM faculty, staff and students,

Welcome to the University of Arizona College of Medicine's (UACOM) first-ever research journal, created by and for medical students: the *University of Arizona Journal of Medicine* (UAJOM). This journal was created with the intent to establish a new niche within our community: a platform to promote intellectual curiosity and the scientific achievements of UACOM students. Students at UACOM are passionate about and heavily involved in scientific research both on- and off-campus. Many of our students partake in the NIH-funded Medical Student Research Program (MSRP), the UACOM Research Distinction Track (RDT), as well as their own individual projects. Our goal is to showcase all their talents, energies, and accomplishments, and to display to the medical community that Banner – University Medical Center Tucson is a first-class research institution.

We were extensively involved in research prior to medical school. After speaking to several classmates during our medical school orientation, we noticed the heavy involvement in research – both past and present – amongst our peers. We sought an avenue for publication and distribution of their work and thus were inspired to create UAJOM. With the formation of an editorial board comprised of hard-working, intelligent, and energetic peers and faculty came the foundation of UA's first medical student research journal, UAJOM.

This journal is a composition of unlimited laboratory hours completed by our peers and their mentors, many of whom are professors of the medical students. As you peruse the journal, you will come across abstracts and full-length papers in the areas of basic science, clinical, and translational research. Some are original work and some have been previously published, as noted within the article. You will also find student artwork, spotlights on active physician-scientists, and a list of specialty-specific conferences and corresponding submission deadlines, for students interested in presenting their research. Our publications are hand-selected and proofread by our editorial board, without alteration of the content submitted by the authors.

Founding this journal is made possible by the tremendous support and energy of Dr. Marlys Witte, who continually encouraged our idea and nourished it into fruition. We extend our gratitude to Dean Charles Cairns for his guidance and material support of UAJOM. Joining the team of any novice project is a decision that involves laborious hours and immense dedication. As such, we would like to thank our phenomenal editorial board (listed alphabetically): Joseph Frankl, Maryam Gilpatrick, Weston LaGrandeur, Alex Liu, and Rohini Patel. Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank our generous team of faculty editors, whose passion for teaching and student research is evident in the time they dedicate to mentor students (listed alphabetically): Dr. David Elliott, Dr. William Rappaport, Dr. Paul St. John, Dr. Todd Vanderah, and Dr. Dale Woolridge.

This journal lauds the extensive involvement in medical research both at UACOM and several off-campus institutions. We hope to convey the enthusiasm for research expressed by our published authors and to emphasize the importance of scientific advancements within the medical community at-large. This is a biannual publication, and we welcome future submissions for our subsequent 2016 Spring and 2017 Winter issues.

Please enjoy the inaugural issue of the *University of Arizona Journal of Medicine*.

Sincerely,

Tania Hassanzadeh, BS
 UAJOM Founder & Editor-in-Chief
 Class of 2018, UACOM

Vicky Khoury, BS, MS
 UAJOM Founder & Editor-in-Chief
 Class of 2018, UACOM