Dr. Volz...Innovator, Visionary, Leader

A
n innovator, a visionary and a leader, Robert G. Volz, MD, has made an indelible mark on the world of modern medicine.

The moment Dr. Volz stepped onto the UA campus, he began to create and to dream. His vision and his dream showed how entities could come together to achieve greatness with true leadership and direction.

It was a very special day in July, 1973, that Dr. Volz began to share his dream with his soon-to-be lifelong friend, Eric P. Gall, MD. The two young physicians met in a parking lot at University Medical Center (now The University of Arizona Medical Center – University Campus) on that warm day – each on their first day at the UA. Dr. Volz was a new attending orthopaedic surgeon and Dr. Gall a new rheumatologist. The connection between the two was immediate and the fulfillment of a dream to serve patients with cutting-edge care in orthopaedics and rheumatology began.

His vision and his dream showed how entities could come together to achieve greatness with true leadership and direction.

Dr. Volz combined his love for the practice of medicine, teaching and research and formulated a collaborative model that helped form the foundation for the many residents and fellows who trained under him. With the collaboration of Drs. Volz and Gall, orthopaedic residents and rheumatology fellows began to train together. Orthopaedic total joint surgery and rheumatology offered services to patients in the same clinic – a novel idea never before encountered.

A co-founder of the University of Arizona Arthritis Center (UAAC) and founder of the UA Orthopaedic Research Laboratory, Dr. Volz was a true pioneer in the field of orthopaedic surgery. He served as chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the UA College of Medicine from 1985-1992. There, he designed some of the first artificial joints in the United States, including the first artificial wrist and created innovative designs for the elbow and knee.

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As I enter my third year as interim director of the University of Arizona Arthritis Center, I am very grateful for all who have helped me with my mission. Dr. Steve Goldschimid asked me to restore the relationships within our institution and our community. Without his support and that of his staff in the Dean’s office this would not be possible. I have been blessed with an outstanding staff, health-care and research faculty, Advisory Board and Scientific Advisory Board who also support our efforts.

While many names can be mentioned, I want to point out a few. Betty Guenther is our administrator and directs our activities in the office and the Center staff. Rich Wofford, who joined us as our accountant, and Tracy Shake, as our outreach program coordinator, are irreplaceable new additions. Thom Melendez is our able, productive development director. All of these leaders are consummate professionals, are dedicated and enthusiastic and keep us on the road to achieve greatness. The rheumatology section under Dr. Jeff Lisse’s leadership, orthopaedics under Dr. John Ruth, musculoskeletal radiology led by Dr. Mihsa Taljanovic and our many talented basic researchers have created a sense of purpose for our Center and make it attractive for bringing in a new leadership team soon. Our Center Advisory Board led for the last several years by my friend and co-founder of the Center, Dr. Bob Volz, and now under the able leadership of Mark Mitchell, is made up of energetic, insightful, wise and generous members who keep us on track in our development efforts and give generously of their time, talent and treasure. The Scientific Advisory Board has been resurrected and is made up of multidisciplinary researchers (basic, clinical and translational) and has begun to move forward with new projects to benefit our patients. There are many others who are a major part of the Center: John Polle, our webmaster and communication specialist; Julie Johnson and her staff in the Clinical Research Unit; and Alex Alvarez, who runs our IT and data services.

Finally, thank all of you who are supporters of our efforts. We are well under way to recruiting an outstanding new permanent director and are using our search committee, led by Janko Nikolich-Zugich, MD, PhD, and a national executive search firm, Witt/Kiefer, to fill this position. Have a great spring.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Gall, MD, MACP, MACR
Interim Director
The University of Arizona Arthritis Center

CALENDAR

Living Healthy With Arthritis 2012 Lectures Series
The University of Arizona Medical Center, Chase Auditorium, Room 8403
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2
The “Art” in the Heart of Caregiving
Jan Sturges, MEd, LPC
Caregiving Coordinator, The University of Arizona Life and Work Connections (LWC)

Wednesday, June 6
A Fresh Outlook on Osteoarthritis and Physical Capabilities
Randy Raugh, M-PT, C-Ped
Physical Therapist, St. Joseph’s Hospital

Wednesday, July 11
The Science and Psychology of Weight Management and Arthritis
Michael Hewitt, PhD
Research Director, Canyon Ranch Health Resort

The University of Arizona Medical Center, Chase Auditorium, Room 8403
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Monday, August 1
The Future of Total Joint Resurfacing
John Szivek, PhD
Director, Orthopaedic Research
University of Arizona

Living Healthy With Arthritis 2012 Active Series
The University of Arizona, BIO5, Room 103
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 21
Joint Freeing
Kay Quatrano
Canyon Ranch Health Resort

Saturday, May 19
Chair Yoga
Laurie Hutzinger
Canyon Ranch Health Resort

To register or for more information about LHWA events, please call 520-626-5040

2012 Lute Olson Celebrity Auction and Golf Tournament
Friday, May 11
5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Celebrity Auction
The Doubletree by Hilton at Reid Park

Saturday, May 12
7:30 a.m. – Shotgun start
Golf Tournament
Randolph and Del Urich Golf Courses

www.arthritis.arizona.edu
Congratulations Jessica!

Jessica Winburn, a student with the Arthritis Center, will be taking her University of Arizona education and moving on! Jessica is graduating in May, majoring in nutrition. She has been with the Arthritis Center since August 2010 and has been instrumental in the management of our Living Healthy With Arthritis lecture/active series and our annual Living Healthy With Arthritis conference. Her organizational skills and her ability to look for ways to accomplish tasks more efficiently and economically has made her a valuable asset to the Arthritis Center. With a tear in our eye, we wish her the best!

**Coach Olson's Celebrity Auction and Golf Tournament**

Golfers and Wildcat fans alike will have an opportunity to mingle and play golf with retired University of Arizona men’s basketball head coach, and Basketball Hall of Fame Coach, Lute Olson and former Arizona Wildcat basketball star players. Take part in this event, Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12, and raise funds for research at the University of Arizona Arthritis Center (UAAC), a nationally-recognized Center of Excellence at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. We look forward to you being a part of this weekend with our beloved “Coach O” and his phenomenal hoopsters!

Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12. For more information, call 520-303-5604 or visit www.coacholsongolf.org

**2012 Positive Strides to Living Healthy With Arthritis**

A record crowd of 250 enjoyed a day of empowerment, education and fun at the 2012 Positive Strides to Living Healthy With Arthritis conference held on Saturday, Jan. 21, at The University of Arizona Medical Center – University Campus.

UA undergraduate, medical school and residency alumnus James Benjamin, MD, delivered the keynote presentation, “Total Joint Replacement: Facts, Fads and Fiction.” Filled with knowledge, expertise and a glimpse into the future, Dr. Benjamin inspired and educated participants in his rousing presentation. With wit and humor, he helped participants better understand the many facets of maximizing successful outcomes after joint replacement and keenly led conference attendees through the rumors and truths of the current practice of joint replacement.

Designed to provide participants with tools and knowledge to improve daily living with arthritis, the 2012 conference also featured breakout sessions about a variety of topics pertinent to those afflicted with one of the more than 100 forms of arthritis.

Topics included: “Battles of the Bad Back,” “Got Ankle Arthritis: We’ve Got Alternatives,” “Pain and the Power of Perspective,” “Q and RA: Advances in the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis,” “Building Better Joints, Advances in Cartilage Regeneration,” “Fat Burning Myths, the Importance of Weight Management and Joint Health” and a special art session, “Don’t Worry, Bead Happy.”

Planning already is underway for the 2013 Living Healthy With Arthritis conference. We welcome your ideas and feedback as we look again to plan a day filled with education, inspiration and empowerment. And to all those who participated in the 2012 conference, we sincerely thank you!
Grill Family Establishes Legacy Gift to UAAC

"With every deed you are sowing a seed, though the harvest you may not see." – Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Charles “Bus” and Margaret “Marnie” Grill never will know the benefit of the seeds they lovingly sowed throughout their lives. Thanks to the Grill’s generous estate gift to the University of Arizona Arthritis Center, people living with arthritis will benefit immensely from the harvest!

During their 67 years of marriage, the Grills raised their family, teaching them the lessons of love, hard work, dedication and making a difference in the lives of others. They demonstrated the latter through their many charitable gifts.

Charles, a WWII Army veteran, had a very successful 40-year career with Proctor and Gamble. He started as a janitor, but upon returning from Europe he studied and became a certified mechanical engineer. His passion for fixing things extended beyond his job, as he always was ready to jump in and fix things in the house or even at the local bowling alley.

Margaret was enriched by the time she spent with loved ones, especially her grandchildren and great grandchild. She was a very social person: whether playing cards, softball or bowling, Marnie loved spending time with her family and friends, whom she cherished.

Leaving a legacy that will help people living with arthritis was important to the Grills. Their bequest to the UAAC is just one of their many charitable commitments. Their daughter Sandra was diagnosed with lupus, one of the 100 forms of arthritis, which led to their interest in the Center and the research being done here. Although Sandra is in remission, the Grills were committed to making a difference in the lives of people who are impacted by this debilitating disease.

The Grill’s legacy gift will enable researchers at the UAAC to advance the Center’s mission: finding novel treatments and eventually a cure for arthritis!

Sandra recently spoke of her father’s life-long dream. “He always wanted to be a doctor, but he came from a very poor family so he knew that was not possible.” Although he never got to care for people as a physician, the Grill’s gift to the UAAC will help people living with arthritis for many years to come.

The University of Arizona Arthritis Center Friends

By Linda Carolan, UAAC Friends Board Chair

The University of Arizona Arthritis Center Friends is a volunteer support arm of the University of Arizona Arthritis Center (UAAC). In their efforts to serve as an advocacy organization, the UAAC Friends supports the Center through education, community events and awareness.

Again this year the UAAC Friends hosted the Eva M. Holbty Arthritis Conversations Luncheon at the Arizona Inn. The featured speaker was Peter Simkin, MD, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine – Division of Rheumatology, who spoke about “Synovial Joints: The Best of all Bearings.”

Of greatest need for the UAAC Friends is increased membership. In order to continue the good work of supporting the UAAC and those in our community affected by arthritis, the UAAC Friends are in need of membership and creative ideas for the organization overall and especially on several standing committees such as Events, Public Relations and Membership. UAAC Friends membership offers discounts and some free events and other special benefits. Please consider joining UAAC Friends.

If you have an interest in learning more about the UAAC Friends or want to share your time and experience, please contact Linda Carolan, chair, email: lindacarolan@comcast.net or call 520-743-8486.
Letter from the Development Director

“As the purse is emptied, the heart is filled.”
– Victor Hugo

Your hearts must be filled to the point of bursting! Once again, thanks to your generosity, the University of Arizona Arthritis Center has had another successful year. With three months still remaining in the 2011-2012 fiscal year, you already have raised more than $300,000 in gifts.

Thank you!

As you may already have read, the UAAC received a generous gift from the estate of Charles and Margaret Grill. Additionally, we received a gift from the estate of Hazel D. Smith to support arthritis research. I am truly grateful to the families whose philanthropy extends beyond their lifetimes and will benefit people with arthritis for many years to come.

The UAAC continues to receive annual gifts from the Fred and Christine Armstrong Foundation to support our mission to find treatments and eventually a cure for the more than 100 forms of arthritis. We are so grateful for their enduring support.

Thanks to gifts from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and the Walter and Julie T. Absolon Foundation, the University of Arizona Arthritis Center will be expanding the Living Healthy With Arthritis free public programs to Yuma, Sierra Vista and other underserved communities across Southern Arizona. I especially want to thank Linda Lohse of the Tucson Foundations for their help in making the Absolon gift possible.

I am very excited to tell you about a challenge set forth by Mel and Enid Zuckerman. They have committed $50,000 over two years if the UAAC advisory board will raise the match. I am proud to say we are within reach of this year’s goal. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Zuckerman, for your support and your leadership.

We Can’t Do It Without You!

Whether you become a member of the UAAC Friends for $45 a year; or have the resources for a major gift for pediatric rheumatology or an endowed chair, your support and commitment help the UAAC educate people about arthritis and research ways to improve diagnosis and treatment. Together, by contributing to the best of our ability and means, we can fight this debilitating disease.

If you would like more information about how you can support:
• Pediatric rheumatology research
• The Charles W. and Sophie T. McKenzie Endowed Chair for Pediatric Rheumatology
• An endowed chair in your name

Please call our development director Thom Melendez, at 520-626-7902.

To help the UAAC in its mission to cure arthritis, please use the attached envelope to make a donation, or contact the Development Office at the University of Arizona Arthritis Center, 520-626-7902.
Mark J. Mitchell Named Chair of the UAAC Advisory Board

Mark J. Mitchell

Mark J. Mitchell has been named chair of the University of Arizona Arthritis Center Advisory Board after serving as vice chair since 2009.

Mark formerly was a founding partner of Mitchell and Roediger CPA, and Mitchell and Mason CPA and was a partner in the firm of Henry and Horne. He currently is a partner in the accounting firm of Quick, Mitchell and Maish, PLLC. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and both the Arizona and Michigan Society of Certified Public Accountants.

He is past president of the Casas Adobes Rotary and has been a member of the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association and the Northern Pima County Chamber of Commerce. He also has served as vice president and board member of Our Town Family Center, Inc.; board member of Friends of the Gifted, Satori School; board member and finance committee member of the United Way of Southern Arizona; member of the University of Arizona Arthritis Center Lute Olson Golf Tournament committee and was a founding member of the Asia Injury Prevention Foundation.

We welcome Mark as chair of the UAAC Advisory Board.

Letter from the UAAC Advisory Board Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our former chair, Dr. Robert G. Volz, for his many years of dedicated service and commitment to the UAAC Advisory Board and the Center.

It is an honor and a privilege for me to serve as chair of the UAAC Advisory Board. After having served on the Board since 2001 and as vice chair since 2009, I have come to appreciate the Center’s efforts and I have a strong commitment to its success. It is not only through the hard work of the researchers at the Center but through the community, as well, that exciting research has been achieved — but much remains to be accomplished.

The search to fill the director position is well on its way. The search firm met with the UAAC Advisory Board to answer any concerns the members may have. In addition to seeking what the Board members are looking for in a director, they presented their goals. It is anticipated that we will have candidates by mid- to late summer. In the meantime, we appreciate the hard work of our interim director and Center co-founder, Dr. Eric P. Gall.

We’ve had some exciting events recently with more to follow. The UAAC Friends hosted their annual Eva M. Holby Conversations and Lunch at the Arizona Inn on Feb. 23. It was extremely successful! In addition to an outstanding presentation by Dr. Peter Simkin of the University of Washington, the attendees were given an opportunity to be seated with UAAC researchers to learn about the work they are doing. This year’s luncheon also was a memorial to a fine couple. Eva and Philip Holby. Eva was the founder of the University of Arizona Arthritis Center Friends and together with her husband, Philip, set up an endowed account for this annual event. Eva passed away in 2003 and Philip recently passed away in November, 2011. Their legacy will go on.

Mark your calendars and dust off the golf clubs to get ready for the 25th Anniversary Lute Olson Celebrity Auction and Golf Tournament to be held May 11 and 12 at Randolph Park. Former Wildcat basketball players along with Lute Olson will be on hand to add to the fun and excitement. This event is the biggest fundraising event for the UAAC. It is made possible through the generous support of Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment. Let’s all get out and participate!

Finally, I want to assure you and the UAAC Advisory Board that you have my strong promise of dedication and commitment to the Board and the Center. Every effort will be made by me and this Board to help in continued excellence in arthritis research.

RHEUMATOLOGY CLINIC
The University of Arizona Medical Center - Wilmot Clinic
535 N. Wilmot

Outstanding patient care from our rheumatology specialists, who also teach and conduct research to discover new treatments and improve diagnosis.

No referrals are necessary except when required by insurance. Most insurance plans are accepted.

To make an appointment, please call 520-694-4000.

The University of Arizona Arthritis Center has several clinical trials currently open for enrollment and is recruiting individuals who have rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, gout or systemic sclerosis with digital ulcers. All study procedures and investigational medication are provided at no cost to participants. If you or someone you know is interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Jessica at 520-626-8219 or JessicaS@arthritis.arizona.edu
Traveling with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Thirty to forty percent of Americans travel outside the United States every year. The inclination to travel is becoming greater among rheumatology patients as they are healthier despite their illness. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the most common disorder that is encountered regarding travel.

Advances in therapy have lead to remarkable improvement of symptoms and function, however, they also are associated with an increased risk of serious infections. Complicating matters, safer traditional travel destinations like Europe and the Caribbean resorts are being replaced by more exotic nontraditional places like Latin American and Africa as well as ecotourism. A particularly infection-susceptible group of travelers is those whose purpose is to visit friends and relatives. At best, only 66 percent of organ transplant recipients seek pre-travel advice. We don’t know how many patients with rheumatoid arthritis seek advice.

Patients with RA are catalogued as immunocompromised when they are on glucocorticoids (more than 20 mg a day), methotrexate, leflunomide and, most significantly, biological agents like Etanercept, Remicade, Oremcia and Actemra among others. Under the best of circumstances, infections are an ever-present problem with these agents and this concern grows when traveling to areas of endemic tuberculosis and other local organisms.

Discussing your desire to travel with your rheumatologist is a good initial step. A clear outline of the travel plans (location, activities and purpose) can help you prepare for the three phases of your trip, i.e., pre-travel, your stay and post-travel surveillance. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Travelers’ Health website (wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel) is a good source of information for discussions with your health-care providers. Vaccinations are an important pre-travel measure. They generally are well tolerated in RA patients although live vaccines should be avoided. A generous supply of all medications, split between your carry-on and checked luggage, is wise. Check with your airline or the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (http://www.tsa.gov/311/) for allowed amounts. Carry with you contact information for an English-speaking physician and a copy of pertinent medical records, including all medications, to save a lot of frustration, concern and frantic international calls. Air travel is relatively safe since there is little evidence of transmission of bacterial agents and highly efficient particulate air filters on planes trap most bacteria. A consultation with an expert in travel medicine is an option for complicated or unusual circumstances.

Upon returning to the United States, an opportunistic infection may express itself as fever, diarrhea or respiratory distress. The type of infection is dependent upon the characteristics of your trip. A visit to your rheumatologist within a month of return is important. A tuberculosis skin test should be repeated six weeks after returning if you are on a biological agent. A little preparation and common sense will go a long way toward fulfilling your wanderlust.

Dr. Susan Knowles Studies the Effects of Valley Fever in RA Patients

Second year rheumatology fellow Susan Knowles, MD, has been working on a project with faculty mentors Jeffrey Lisse, MD, and Susan Hoover, MD, involving coccidioidomycosis (cocci, or valley fever) and patients with rheumatic diseases.

Valley fever is a fungal infection endemic to the Southwestern United States, affecting approximately 150,000 people annually. Most cases present as a respiratory infection or pneumonia with cough, fevers and malaise. Some patients develop night sweats, joint pain and a characteristic rash called “erythema nodosum.” Interestingly, it is estimated that up to one-third of all cases of pneumonia in Southern Arizona may actually be due to cocci.

While most cases of cocci are mild and self-limited, some patients with rheumatologic diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus, who take medications that suppress their immune system, are at higher risk of developing severe or disseminated infection. They are at risk of developing severe pneumonia with complications and spread of the infection to other areas including the skin, bones and joints.

Drs. Knowles, Lisse and Hoover have performed a detailed review of rheumatology patients who developed cocci while on immunosuppressive medications, including tumor necrosis factor antagonists (Humira, Remicade, Enbrel). Their chart review focused on how to manage the immunosuppressive medications after the diagnosis of cocci and any complications that the patients developed.

They found that most patients did well overall and were able to resume their immunosuppressive medication. Based on their preliminary data, they have developed an algorithm for the management of immunosuppressive medications in rheumatology patients who develop cocci. Their data was presented at the annual American College of Rheumatology meeting in November, 2011 in Chicago. Currently, they are continuing to expand this project and a larger prospective study is underway.
His total wrist prosthesis was one of only two such devices in the world at the time and was recognized by the American Hospital Association as one of the ten major medical advances in the United States. The first prosthesis fully designed in the United States, it was implanted in August, 1974, and its success paved the way for use in medical centers throughout the world.

In 1976, Dr. Volz followed with the development of a new total elbow prosthesis. Total elbow prostheses had been shown to wear improperly; Dr. Volz’ creation more closely simulated the normal biomechanics of the elbow, allowing for more natural range of motion. He successfully implanted his first new elbow prosthesis in October, 1976. A new knee that was widely used in the United States and abroad was to follow the elbow. The advances by Dr. Volz continued to make headlines in the world of medicine.

He was chief of the Section of Orthopaedic Surgery and a professor of surgery until his retirement in 1992. Now an honored professor emeritus at the UA, Dr. Volz has been recognized as a Who’s Who in the World for his contributions to the field of medicine and was on the “Best Doctors in America” list. He also was co-founder of the Western Trauma Association, one of only two nationally recognized research trauma societies in the United States, and is the Lifetime Surgical Director of the UAAC.

Following his retirement, he and his wife, Ann, traveled to Hong Kong, Sweden, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Vietnam, Bhutan, Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and South Africa to volunteer their time, providing much-needed medical care, outreach and education.

Long known as one of the scientific leaders in the orthopaedic world, Dr. Volz recently was recognized by the UA as one of its top innovators of the past 100 years. Determination, innovation, achievement and leadership have long been the cornerstones by which Dr. Volz has bettered the lives of thousands. Through treatment of patients, education of young aspiring physicians and peers, leadership in the community and love for his profession, Dr. Volz’ impact is everlasting.

The UAAC salutes its co-founder, Dr. Robert G. Volz.