Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of Janet and Martin Snyder by their son, Joel Snyder, and Jan Trumbo, the Arizona Arthritis Center (AAC) has been able to purchase cutting-edge audio and visual equipment which will be used by the Center’s clinicians, researchers, trainees and students. “The Arizona Arthritis Center is extremely thankful to the Snyder family for their ongoing commitment and support,” says AAC Interim Director Eric Gall.

The audio-visual system will be used for viewing and discussing medical imagery, viewing presentations and video-conferencing. It will feature a wireless tablet and white board software, which will allow users an avenue for conceiving and archiving their ideas digitally.

“The Arizona Arthritis Center is extremely thankful to the Snyder family for their ongoing commitment and support,” says AAC Interim Director Eric Gall.

The monitor purchased by the AAC is a 55-inch, slim, edge-lit LED LCD, manufactured by a small company in Phoenix. It is one of the finest monitors available, with unsurpassed contrast, color accuracy and clarity. Combined with a professional-grade sound system, it will make the Snyder Library at the AAC an even more effective educational resource.

The AAC is grateful for the continued support of the Snyder family. Their gifts will continue to have a positive impact on the Center for many years to come.

If you would like to support the Arizona Arthritis Center, please call our development director, Thom Melendez, (520) 626-7902.

More about the Snyders on p. 3
Thank you for your continued interest in the Arizona Arthritis Center (AAC). We have been busy with many activities and our search for a permanent Center director is progressing rapidly.

Our programs in osteoarthritis and adult stem cell-induced cartilage growth have made major advances. Orthopaedic Research Lab Director Dr. John Szivek is preparing to launch human studies very soon.

We are expanding our basic research in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), lead by Dr. Sujata Sarkar, by providing a post-doctoral student and other trainees to work in her lab. Dr. Joyce Wu, who has a primary appointment in the Department of Immunobiology and studies RA, now joins her. Dr. Wu has focused her work on models for studying inflammation in RA. In other research news, we are starting up several new studies in our Clinical Research Unit, as well.

In the next few weeks, fellows Paramvir Sidhu, MD, and Jo Ellen Feugate, MD, PhD, will be leaving to practice rheumatology. We are happy to have had them as part of the AAC and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. On July 1st, we welcome two new fellows, one of whom will be funded by an ongoing grant from the Arthritis Foundation. Dr. Shelley Kasle is retiring this July. She has a long time affiliation with the Center and has done important work in the area of spousal interaction in patients with RA and fibromyalgia. She will continue to act as an affiliate of the Center.

Our Living Healthy with Arthritis educational program continues twice monthly at UMC and once monthly in Green Valley. We are looking to expand these programs.

As seen in this newsletter, Lute Olson, who has supported our Center since he first arrived at the University of Arizona, was honored with the 24th Annual Lute Olson Celebrity Auction and Golf Tournament. This year, a number of his former stars, many of whom went on to successful professional basketball careers, returned to share their love and respect for Lute while supporting arthritis research. Our Board of Advisors, under the leadership of Dr. Bob Volz: the Friends of the Arizona Arthritis Center, lead by Joan Årdern; our development director, Thom Melendez; and I, personally, would like to thank you for your ongoing interest and support of our Center.

We hope to identify a new permanent director in the very near future and look forward to an exciting new academic year and many activities with the Center.

Sincerely,

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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY JOINING THE ARIZONA ARTHRITIS CENTER FRIENDS

The Arizona Arthritis Center Friends support the Arizona Arthritis Center through education, public awareness and community involvement. A Friends membership offers discounts and special benefits. Join today and make a difference for the many in our community touched by arthritis.

The Friends of the AAC recently had the pleasure of hearing David Fox, MD, professor of medicine and director of the Rheumatic Diseases Core Center at the University of Michigan, who was guest speaker at their recent Eva M. Holby Arthritis Conversations & Lunch at the Arizona Inn. Besides providing a national overview of current rheumatoid arthritis research, Dr. Fox recognized the pioneering work conducted by researchers at the AAC.

In September, the Friends will host an annual membership drive at Atria Bell Court Gardens, 6653 E. Carondelet Dr., Tucson. We invite you to join us and learn more about the AAC and the Friends.

The Friends are looking for new energy to add to our standing committees: membership, nominating, events and public relations. If you have time and experience to share, contact Joan Ardern, (520) 885-4982.
MARTIN AND JANET SNYDER

Janet Fabe Snyder attended Walnut Hills High School, a college prep school in Cincinnati. When she graduated she entered the University of Ohio, but interrupted her studies to join the U.S. Navy and serve during World War II. She was stationed in Norfolk, Va., where she taught pilots how to fly using flight simulators.

In Virginia, she met Martin Snyder. He was stationed there in the Army and dated Janet until the war ended. They were married in December 1945. Janet and Martin’s first son, Alan, was born in 1952, their second, Joel, was born in 1962.

In 1950, with Martin having completed podiatry school, they moved to Tucson and he opened his private podiatry practice, which he ran for 28 years. Janet first worked as a secretary in Tucson; she later worked side-by-side with Martin as his nurse, receptionist and office manager.

An avid tennis player, she spent many weekends on the courts with family and friends. After emptying her nest, she took up hiking, completing more than 2000 hikes throughout the Southwest. She passed away December 31, 2010, at age 88.

Martin volunteered at the Southern Arizona VA Rheumatology Clinic for many years and taught residents, fellows and faculty. He had busy practices at the VA and the University of Arizona, focusing on arthritis-related foot and ankle disease. He was a strong proponent of multidisciplinary care and teaching in rheumatology and orthopedics. He began a podiatry resident program at the VA.

He was an active member of the Arthritis Foundation, and served as chair of the Medical and Scientific Committee. He also was an active member of the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals, a national organization.

Martin always was active in the UA College of Medicine’s clinical immunology (later rheumatology) section. He attended all the rheumatology conferences and became a member of the Section. In 1977, he sold his private practice and joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery (Orthopedics) and was an active member of the Section of Rheumatology.

In 1985 when the Arizona Arthritis Center was formed, he became a key member of the Center and served on the Scientific Advisory Board. He taught all of the fellows in rheumatology until his death on May 8, 2001. Martin will be remembered as a kind human being, friend, teacher, clinician and faculty member. He and his family will be honored as steadfast supporters of the Arthritis Center through the library endowed and named in his honor.

“In the final analysis we are all measured by how much we give to others”
- Rabbi Samuel M. Cohon

CALENDAR

Living Healthy With Arthritis

Wednesday, July 6, 2011
“Empathy & Self-Care: A Blueprint for Renewed Civility”
Speaker Steve Ross, MA, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Wednesday, August 3, 2011
Speaker Doug Loveday, MS, Exercise Physiologist, Canyon Ranch

Wednesday, September 7, 2011
Speaker Randy Horwitz, MD, PhD, UA Assistant Professor, Clinical Medicine; Medical Director, Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine

To register or for more information on LHWA events, please call (520) 626-5040

AAC Friends

Fall Luncheon
Thursday, November 3, 2011
Skyline Country Club.

Eva M. Holtby Conversations Luncheon
Thursday, February 9, 2012.
The Arizona Inn

For more information on AAC Friends’ events, please call (520) 626-7901
www.arthritis.arizona.edu
The Arizona Arthritis Center’s Clinical Research Unit (CRU) has been at the forefront of exciting advancements in arthritis and autoimmune diseases for more than 20 years. The CRU offers a great opportunity for individuals who wish to participate in clinical research.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires several different types of clinical trials for new medications prior to their approval. You can help contribute to the advancement of science, while possibly benefiting yourself, when you participate in a clinical trial at the CRU.

For example, prior to Remicade’s approval by the FDA, clinical trials for the drug were conducted at the AAC. Thanks in part to volunteers like you, Remicade now is available at our Biologic Infusion Center in our Rheumatology Clinic. For more information, call (520) 694-4000.

How Can You Get Involved?
The CRU currently is recruiting people for lupus, rheumatoid arthritis and gout studies. If you are interested in learning more about research studies involving these diseases, please contact the CRU to speak with a study coordinator, (520) 626-8219.

A telephone call to a CRU coordinator can help determine your initial eligibility. You then may be invited to the research clinic to learn specifically what the study will entail and what is expected of you. A physician will explain the study and answer your questions. All participants have the option to withdraw from a study at any time and for any reason, without impacting their current medical care.

Each study has different ratios of how many people receive the investigational drug versus a placebo. All participants in a clinical trial will receive close medical monitoring by a rheumatologist.

Contact Us
For information about other ongoing clinical trials, please visit www.arthritis.arizona.edu or call Jessica Sonder, CCRP, study coordinator, (520) 626-8219.

For more information about clinical trials, visit www.clinicaltrials.gov
1993 AAC begins affiliation with Canyon Ranch, through Mel and Enid Zuckerman, in October to offer integrative arthritis education and therapies. The AAC is a seminal site for the NIH Women’s Health initiative. Studying risk factors and treatments of osteoporosis eventually lead to changes in the use of estrogen replacement therapy.

1994 Dr. Yocom becomes director of the AAC. (Dr. Gall leaves to become chair of the Department of Medicine at the Chicago Medical School.)

1995 “Roof Breaking” on Oct. 14 begins renovations of the top two floors of University Medical Center to house the AAC.

1996 Enid and Mel Zuckerman Chair for Studies in Psychoneuroendocrinology – the branch of science that examines how psychological factors such as stress affect the nervous, endocrine (hormone) and immune systems – established in January to support research, patient care and disease prevention based on the Canyon Ranch model of mind-body therapies.

William and Sylvia Rubin Chair for Orthopedic Research established in January.

Disability Assessment Research Clinic (DARC) established in April under the direction of David Wayne Smith, DeEd, DABPS, DACFE.

Bank One Arizona provides a generous gift in July to fund building of the AAC’s auditorium (UA College of Medicine Room 8403, re-named Chase Bank Auditorium upon Bank One’s merger).

1997 Ebhel McChesney Bilby Endowed Chair for Osteoporosis established in February (currently held by Jeffrey R. Lisse, MD).

Mobile DEXA bone mineral density scanner and van purchased in February to provide osteoporosis screenings throughout Arizona.

Eva Holby founds Friends of the Arizona Arthritis Center in February to build community support.

Arizona Arthritis Center dedicated on March 11 to Fred and Christine Armstrong: new facility houses ten research laboratories, an auditorium, conference rooms, a library and administrative offices.

Grant from the Lovell Foundation in April establishes the “Living Healthy with Arthritis” outreach program.

2001 Endowed Chair for the director of the AAC and Rheumatoid Arthritis Research established in January through the generosity of Charles A.L. and Suzanne M. Stephens. Charles A.L. Stephens Jr., MD, was one of the first rheumatologists in Tucson and was director of the Holbrook-Hill Medical Group, a leading center for rheumatology care and research.

Charles W. and Sophie T. McKenzie Endowed Chair for Pediatric Rheumatology initiated in April (partially funded in 2010).

2003 William and Sylvia Rubin Endowed Chair for Orthopedic Research initiated in April (currently held by John A. Szivek, PhD).

2004 Inaugural Eva M. Holby Memorial Lectureship at AAC Friends’ “Conversations and Lunch” in February.

Sal and Sue Tobin Endowment for Research and Education in Rheumatology initiated in November.

2005 Jeffrey Lisse, MD, becomes interim director of the AAC in February, replacing Dr. Yocom, who joins Genentech, Inc.

2007 Sujata Sarkar, MD, rheumatoid arthritis basic researcher, is recruited from the University of Michigan to open a research laboratory studying TH 17 cells and innate immunity of RA. She receives an NIH Career Development award for five years.

2008 Salvatore Albani, MD, PhD, becomes director of the AAC in January and holds the Charles A. L. and Suzanne M. Stephens Chair for Rheumatology Research. The AAC and Dr. Albani host a pivotal consensus conference in November to outline an ambitious research program in juvenile arthritis.

2009 John Szivek, PhD, director of the UA Orthopaedic Research Laboratory and an AAC senior scientist, is recognized in April with Outstanding UBRP Faculty Mentor Award” for his exemplary work with graduate and undergraduate students. Dr. Szivek and his students have focused on re-growing the cartilage that covers the bone surfaces of joints.

The AAC supports an innovative international program in May for researchers in translational medicine.

Dr. Szivek awarded a National Science Foundation Grant in June for work in biomechanical load analysis. (Dr. Szivek’s research in growing replacement cartilage for joints includes accommodation tests that notify a patient when the joint is overloaded.)

2010 Dr. Albani leaves the AAC for a research position in industry. Eric P. Gall, MD, MACP, MACR, returns to the UA to become interim director of the AAC and to resume teaching in the rheumatology fellowship.

You all are making it possible for us to get closer to new treatments and eventual cures for the more than 100 types of arthritis. Thank you!

March was “Write A Will Month.” The AAC, in partnership with the UA Foundation, hosted a free estate-planning seminar. If you missed this important presentation and are planning for your estate, or would like to know how you can support research and education at the AAC, please contact me at (520) 626-7902 for more information.

Your gift will support the research being conducted at the AAC. Research outcomes will enhance academic programs with a broadened knowledge base available for application by the community of physicians, students and, most importantly, patients.

The AAC’s focus is on groundbreaking research in pediatric rheumatology, adult rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and cartilage regeneration, with the goal to empower patients in managing their lifestyle and disease by combining education, clinical care and support.

Less than one-half percent of AAC’s operating budget comes from state funds, so every private donation makes a big impact on the research that is done here.

Thank you for considering the AAC as you advance your personal philanthropic desires and goals. Make a secure online donation (www.arthritis.arizona.edu) or use the attached pre-paid mailer to support AAC research and programs.

You contribution is tax-deductible. You can earmark your gift to address the greatest needs or specify how you would like your donation to be used.
A recent discovery at the UA College of Medicine – that adult stem cells collected from fat tissue can be converted to cells that will grow cartilage tissue – has one Arizona Arthritis Center lab’s research focusing on a promising new approach for osteoarthritis sufferers.

John A. Szivek, PhD, director of the UA Orthopaedic Research Laboratory and a senior scientist at the AAC, is widely recognized for his studies on bone and cartilage regeneration. In recent years, he and his students have focused on the complex problem of regrowing hyaline articular cartilage – the cartilage that covers the surface of bone in all joints.

Until recently, his procedure for studying new cartilage growth involved removing a small piece of cartilage from the target joint (the joint being repaired), extracting cells in the lab and growing the new tissue on a scaffold which was then implanted into the joint. This process was painstakingly slow and unpredictable and new tissue often did not form at all.

Six years ago, however, Dr. Szivek’s team discovered that they could grow cartilage from differentiated (converted) adult stem cells extracted from fat tissue. These cells offer numerous advantages over cartilage cells. Not only can they readily be changed into cartilage cells, but because of their long, spindly shape – unlike the rounded shape of cartilage cells – researchers easily can judge whether the cells are aligning into the highly structured form they must be in to build cartilage. These cells are abundant and easier to obtain than cartilage cells and, since they are derived from a patient’s own fat tissue, they ensure that there is no risk for rejection once they are introduced into the patient.

While earlier work in Dr. Szivek’s lab concentrated on repairing damage to relatively small areas of a joint, the ability to grow cartilage more quickly and easily will make it possible to resurface a large area, offering an alternative to total joint replacement.

Typically, joint replacements are metal or ceramic and plastic parts, he explains. With the new procedure, patients will regrow their own joint surfaces from their own fat tissue-derived stem cells. “We potentially are curing a problem rather than just treating the symptoms,” he says.

Dr. John A. Szivek

Another novel aspect of the scaffold system is that it is equipped with tiny sensors and a radio transmitter to monitor the patients’ activities and warn them if they risk injury to their new cartilage during exercise.

With Dr. Szivek’s newest approach to growing cartilage, the scaffold covers one entire surface of the joint and makes it possible to grow cartilage over a much larger surface area. This scaffold also accommodates sensors and a transmitter that measures the loads passing through the replaced surface and notifies the patient when the joint is overloaded.

The total surface replacement technique currently is being tested in the lab and is showing promise. The next steps include relocating the cell processing procedures to an FDA-approved cleanroom and preparing to test the procedure with a patient, “possibly within a couple of years,” Dr. Szivek says.

For more information, visit www.research.bones.arizona.edu
LOCAL ARTHRITIS HEROES MAKE LIVING HEALTHY CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!

"Be Your Own Hero, Strengthen Your Mind and Body" was the theme of the Arizona Arthritis Center’s annual program of learning and fun, Living Healthy With Arthritis 2011.

More than 100 people attended the conference, which covered information about health, and services that help improve daily life and promote strengthening the mind and body to manage arthritis. Participants were able to attend lectures and breakout sessions on laughter yoga, arthritis and arts, anti-inflammatory diet, Chinese medicine and more.

The keynote presentation was given by Paul Howard, MD, FACR, president of Arthritis Health, Ltd., an integrated medical practice dedicated to the care of adults and children with arthritis, metabolic bone and autoimmune disorders. A practicing rheumatologist, Dr. Howard gave his perspective of the “heroes of arthritis” over the past 30 years and the heroes of the future to a rapt audience.

Living Healthy looks forward to another year of exciting programs and classes. Please visit www.arthritis.arizona.edu for the latest updates!
RHEUMATOLOGY CLINIC

University Physicians Healthcare (UPH)
Clinic at 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 SECTION OF RHEUMATOLOGY AND THE ARIZONA ARTHRITIS CENTER WELCOME FIRST-YEAR FELLOW AMJAD SHEHADEH, MD

Dr. Shehadeh received his MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) from Jordan University of Science & Technology, Jordan, in 1999. After completing medical school he worked as a general practitioner.

In 2001, Dr. Shehadeh moved to the United States where he pursued an internal medicine internship and residency at the University of Connecticut in Farmington, where he became chief medical resident. Dr. Shehadeh's residency was followed by a geriatric fellowship at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, Mich.

In his free time he enjoys playing soccer, watching movies and reading.

Summer Edition, July 2011

One of ten Centers of Excellence at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, the Arizona Arthritis Center is dedicated to biomedical research into the causes and treatments of more than 100 forms of arthritis. Understanding the ways that arthritis, bone and connective diseases start and progress is the key to helping individuals with arthritis lead healthier lives.

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