

# ARIZONA ARTHRITIS CENTER UPDATE

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A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE, A CENTER OF HOPE

No. 24, Fall 2006

## Center Strengthens Native American Outreach



James Posever, MD

It's a labor of love for James Posever, MD, who makes the majority of the Arizona Arthritis Center's weeklong trips to Native American communities every year. Recently named to a new position, the director of the Native American Rheumatology Service, he will oversee the program's management, including schedules, personnel, educational endeavors and contracts.

"We needed someone to focus on our medical services to Native Americans. The appointment recognizes Dr. Posever for his invaluable commitment to this special project, and he is a natural to lead the effort," says Jeffrey Lisse, MD, interim Center director. Over the last few years, Dr. Posever has been dedicated to this effort and provides eight weeks out of the year to the program.

While trekking up to 1,200 miles to Tuba City, Winslow, Chinle, Gallop and Zuni in one week and seeing as many as 45 patients in one day may be grueling, the trip brings great satisfaction to Arizona Arthritis Center rheumatologists like Drs. Posever, Vaz and Lisse who choose to practice at the Center, not only because of its reputation as a Center of Excellence at The University of Arizona, but also because of this kind of work.

For a total of 12 weeks out of the year, at least two physicians with the Arizona Arthritis Center visit Indian Health Service clinics in Northern Arizona and Eastern New Mexico. Patients from the Navajo, Zuni and Pima Nations benefit from their specialty care. Each month, they also see Tohono O'odham and Pasqua Yaqui patients in Southwestern Arizona.

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## MyWebClinic Enhances Patient Visits

MyWebClinic is a state-of-the-art online site recently offered through the Arizona Arthritis Center that provides rheumatoid arthritis



patients a way to accurately and directly report their health issues, helping their physicians to assess and better treat their disease. The program eventually will be expanded to other arthritic diseases, such as osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, lupus and ankylosing spondylitis.

Lisa Hymson, MPH, the program's coordinator, explains that MyWebClinic allows patients who visit the clinic to easily enter information about their health online to be shared with their rheumatologist and stored electronically. Tracking data over time, rheumatologists are able to determine how patients

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are responding to medications and treatments and how they are coping with their disease.

“Patient visits are greatly enhanced with this tool. Not only do physicians have a chance to talk in more depth with their patients, but MyWebClinic also ensures accurate documentation and eliminates transcription errors. The program provides a complete picture of the patient’s health at a given moment in time and a full and detailed picture of the patient’s health over time,” she says.

The program began through a grant from Centocor for the Advanced Profiling of Anti-Rheumatic Therapies (APART) study to find out if an electronic data-capture system was a useful tool in both data collection and physician-patient interaction. Because of the enormous potential benefit such a system will bring to clinical care and arthritis-related research, the Arizona Arthritis Center opted to use and expand the program when the Centocor grant ended.

The information collected through MyWebClinic becomes part of a larger database – an anonymous registry of disease information not tied to any patient’s personal medical history – that will ultimately help physicians make good decisions for patients based on a vast compilation of medical evidence.

Ms. Hymson outlined other benefits of the system: “Stored data can be used for research purposes by showing how patients respond to particular medications, and genetic factors in disease also may be better understood. Additionally, the data can provide documented evidence for insurance companies of drug response, thereby justifying effective therapies that may otherwise be denied because of expense.”

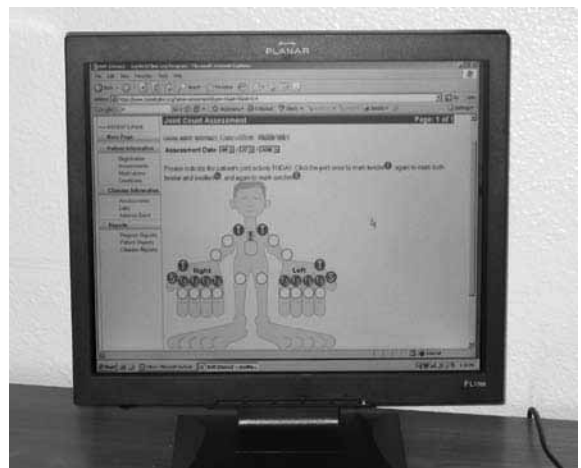
As the database grows, it provides a wealth of important information. Because of the enormous potential of benefits from expanded use, the Center hopes to have MyWebClinic become a tool for rheumatologists across Arizona.



*The screen on the computer will ask you a series of basic questions and you will simply touch the screen to best answer the question.*



*After you have answered the questions, you will see your clinician for your routine exam.*



*After your exam, your clinician enters information into the computer such as the level of pain in your joints.*

One of eight 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 and bone and connective tissue diseases start and progress is the key to helping individuals with arthritis lead healthier lives.

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The following answers to frequently asked questions about MyWebClinic were provided by program coordinator, Lisa Hymson, MPH, for our readers.

**Question:** *I am not very familiar or comfortable with computers. How would I use this program?*

**Answer:** Many people are not computer-savvy. Plus, because their hands and fingers may be stiff and sore, many patients with arthritis are not comfortable using the computer keyboard.

This program addresses these concerns. The screen on the computer will ask you a series of basic questions and you will simply touch the screen to best answer the questions. For example, one of the questions asks you to show where you have pain. You will touch the screen, which will show the outline of a human body, in the places that you have pain. Later, you will be asked to rate the level of pain in each area you reported, and you will simply touch the screen to rate the pain on a scale of one to 10. If it's easier for you to use a pencil and touch the screen with it, that works too.

**Question:** *How long does it take to answer the questions? What if I make a mistake when I am answering questions?*

**Answer:** It usually takes about 10 to fifteen minutes to complete the online questionnaire. It may take a little longer the first time you use it, but as you become familiar with it, you will be able to complete it fairly quickly. If you make a mistake, it's easy to change your answer by touching the screen in the appropriate place to make a change, and then touching the screen in the appropriate place when you are satisfied with your answer.

**Question:** *Why should I use this program instead of talking directly with my doctor about my health issues?*

**Answer:** Because you will answer the online questionnaire prior to your doctor visit, by the time your doctor or nurse practitioner sees you, all your answers will be in front of him or her, along with all your historical input. As a result, both of you will have time to talk in more detail, so you can both better understand your treatment options. In the past, most of the time spent with your doctor was used in answering the same questions found on the online questionnaire, and not all of your responses may have been documented in your records. This process not only provides more accurate record keeping, but also gives you more quality time with your doctor.

**Question:** *Can I use this program at home?*

**Answer:** We are working to make the program available for you to answer the questionnaire on your home computer. We hope to have this in place within two years. You will need to have Internet access. Unless your computer has touch-screen capability, the online program will have you use your keyboard or mouse to input answers. In the meantime, our touch-screens are available in the clinic, and that currently is where you can complete the questionnaire prior to your doctor visit.

**Question:** *Who controls this information and who is protecting the privacy of my medical information in this database?*

**Answer:** The information is strictly guarded and securely stored at the AAC. It cannot be provided to third parties. As part of the larger database or registry, the information no longer is connected to your name. The information is compiled without any personal patient identification tied to it.

Continued from pg. 1

The high prevalence of arthritis in Native American populations is what drives this program, which began at the Center in the early 1990s. Many Native American populations have high rates of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), osteoporosis, spondyloarthropathies, such as ankylosing spondylitis, and may be at risk for other autoimmune diseases. Osteoarthritis is also a common phenomenon. RA seen in Native Americans generally is severe with an early age of onset.

“Our goal is to reach out to the communities and bring them state-of-the-art rheumatology care. We leave behind extensive notes on each patient regarding treatment plans and necessary follow-up. We are also on an educational mission, providing the clinics’

primary care physicians with noontime educational seminars on the latest findings in rheumatology,” says Dr. Posever. He adds that the clinics have excellent primary care physicians on staff who are dedicated to their practice and the patients they serve. “There are exceptional doctors at these clinics, and our role is to empower them to manage their arthritis patients in the best way possible.”

Dr. Posever is hoping to establish a research study to examine and better understand why arthritis and autoimmune disease are so prevalent among Native Americans in the Southwest. He will look to both government and private philanthropic dollars to get the study underway.

“There are a lot of issues we need to address to get the study off the ground, including financial support

and approval by the Nations, but our work with the clinics makes this kind of important research a possibility,” he says.

A graduate of Northwestern University Medical School with a fellowship in rheumatology from Stanford University, Dr. Posever reviewed his many options to practice rheumatology and was drawn to the

and could no longer practice her art,” says Dr. Posever. “She returned to weaving when we placed her on a biologic rheumatoid arthritis treatment. Only a few years ago, these treatments were not available and this kind of turnaround would not have been possible.”

Dr. Posever is married to Lisa Sumner, MD, a member of the U.S. Public Health Service, assigned to the Indian Health Service. She served as medical director of the Hopi Health Care Center before completing her fellowship in rheumatology in 2004 at The University of Arizona. She now serves as Indian Health Services Chief of Rheumatology for the Phoenix area.

“I love my work and the fact that the person I love is dedicated to

the same work makes it very fulfilling for both of us,” says Dr. Posever.

Dr. Posever tells the story of an elder Navajo patient who made him feel like a member of her family. After the patient had several clinic visits with him, she respectfully referred to Dr. Posever as “grandson.”

“It really warmed my heart,” he says, “This work is an important part of my life.”



Photo by James Posever, MD.

Beautiful Northern Arizona is one of the many areas in the Southwest that AAC rheumatologists visit through the Native American Rheumatology Service program.

Arizona Arthritis Center. “My father used to take our family to Native American cultural events when I was a kid, and the wonder and beauty of those experiences had an impact on me,” says Dr. Posever. With a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of California, Irvine, and a great appreciation for Native American culture and history, Dr. Posever has found the perfect niche in the Arizona Arthritis Center to pursue his enthusiasm for rheumatology.

Because new biologic treatments for arthritis can drastically alter long-term disease outcomes, Dr. Posever emphasizes that it is more important than ever for Arizona Arthritis Center physicians to bring their knowledge of the latest in arthritis care to the Indian Health Service clinics. “One of our patients is a prominent weaver who developed rheumatoid arthritis



# A Gift that Pays

**Make a gift...receive income for life.** What an amazing opportunity for you and the Arizona Arthritis Center! You make a gift to the Center and receive payments for the rest of your life. That is exactly how a charitable gift annuity works.

Here are the details. You make a gift of cash or marketable securities to the Arizona Arthritis Center in exchange for fixed payments for the remainder of your life or for two individuals' lives. You receive the tax benefits of a charitable deduction and a portion of the payments may be tax-free.

Gift annuity payout rates are typically more attractive than a certificate of deposit (CD) and other common investments. Consider the following example:

Wilbur Wildcat, age 75, is discouraged with the current 4.5 percent interest rate earned on his CD. To increase cash flow, Wilbur establishes a gift annuity for \$10,000 with a payout rate of 7.0 percent. Wilbur will receive \$700 every year compared to the annual interest of \$450 received on the CD. Wilbur will receive a charitable deduction of approximately \$4,800. If the gift annuity was for two lives, both age 75, the payout would be \$600 annually for both of their lives. The charitable deduction would be approximately \$4,100.

***We are enthusiastic about discussing this great opportunity for you to receive income for life and make a gift to the Arizona Arthritis Center. Please call (520) 626-7902 for more information.***



## Special Legislation Allows Charitable Gifts From Your IRA

**Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, you may be eligible to make a gift from your IRA while you are living without incurring undesirable tax effects.** Prior to the new law, you would have to report any amount taken from your IRA as taxable income, and then take a charitable deduction for the gift, but only up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. In effect, this caused some donors to pay more in income taxes than if they didn't make a gift at all.

Fortunately, from now through Dec. 31, 2007, these IRA gifts can be accomplished simply and without tax complications. Plus, you can make the gift while you are living and able to witness the benefits of your generosity.

To be eligible for the special tax treatment, you must be at least 70½ years old on the day you make the gift. The maximum amount you can give from your IRA is \$100,000 for 2006 and \$100,000 for 2007. Your spouse also can give \$100,000 per year if he or she is 70½ or older and has an IRA.

You can make a gift simply by contacting your IRA custodian to make a direct transfer from your account to an eligible organization (excluding gifts made to charitable trusts, donor-advised funds or

supporting organizations). Be sure to have the custodian send the funds electronically or by a check made payable to the charitable organization. If the custodian makes the check payable to you and you deposit it into your bank account and write a personal check for the charitable gift, you will not be eligible for the special tax breaks.

**Example:** Jerry, age 72, has a \$300,000 IRA and would like to make a gift of \$50,000 this year. He contacts his IRA custodian and completes the necessary paperwork to transfer \$50,000 from his IRA to an eligible organization. The custodian handles the transfer and notifies Jerry when it is complete. Because Jerry made the gift according to the provisions under the law, he was able to transfer \$50,000 without having the amount added to his taxable income; he also cannot use it as a charitable deduction.

If you are younger than 70½, you can make a charitable gift from an IRA during your lifetime, but the gift creates income tax issues. Specifically, distributions from your IRA – even if paid directly to a friend or a charitable organization rather than to you – will trigger taxable income to you in the year of distribution. A person cannot make a gift from an IRA during his or her lifetime without reporting the

distribution as taxable income on his or her income tax return. The advantage of making a gift to a charitable organization, though, is that there will be a charitable income tax deduction. Because cash gifts are deductible up to 50 percent of adjusted gross income, in some instances the gift may not be entirely deductible. If it is not fully deductible, however, you can carry it over for five additional years if necessary.

**Example:** Martha, age 55, instructs her IRA administrator to write a check for \$15,000 to her sister and another check for \$20,000 to a charitable organization. Although the checks may have been issued directly from the plan to the sister and the charitable organization, at the end of the year Martha will receive a Form 1099-R from the plan, which states that she must report \$35,000 of income. She can, however, claim a \$20,000 charitable income tax deduction up to 50 percent of her adjusted gross income for the charitable gift of \$20,000.

**Provided by the Stetter Company.  
Source: The University of Arizona  
Foundation website: [www.al.arizona.edu/foundation](http://www.al.arizona.edu/foundation)**

**For more information, please call the AAC Development Office at (520) 626-7902.**

# SAHBA Lute Olson Event Raises More than \$100,000



*UA Men's Basketball Coach Lute Olson shares his thoughts with the audience at "Lunch with Lute," held at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse.*

**One of the most successful events in its 19-year history, the annual SAHBA Lute Olson event held in April raised \$100,091 for the Arizona Arthritis Center.**

The fun-filled three-day festivities included a celebrity auction at the Student Union, a private "Lunch with Lute" at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, and golf at Randolph Golf Complex. Lunch with Lute and the golf tournament sold out. The auction drew more than 350 participants. In all, more than 750 people turned out to support the Arizona Arthritis Center. A charitable community, generous sponsorships and a hard-working committee helped to make the popular fundraiser especially successful this year.

The event was in honor of the late Saul Tobin, a generous philanthropist, renowned homebuilder, Arizona Arthritis Center co-founder/mentor, and chair emeritus of the Center's Advisory Board, who started the tournament almost two decades ago. His vision and guidance continue to inspire the event.

The Southern Arizona Home Builders Association (SAHBA) makes the event possible every year through sponsorships, promotion to SAHBA members and other event assistance. Other major sponsors include Desert Diamond Casino, Borderland and Tucson Decorator Center; CBIZ Gordon, Zucarelli & Handley; Leslie Galloway; and University Medical Center.

Co-sponsors include Aqua Pure; Canyon Ranch; Chase Bank; DeVries CPAs of Arizona, P.C.; eegee's; Fidelity National Title Agency, Inc.; Finley Distributing; KB Home; Koedyker & Kenyon Construction, Inc.; Port-A-Pit Catering; Pepsi One; Royal Buick; Robert Volz, MD; and Wells Fargo Private Client Services.

Well known for its commitment to the community through extensive charitable support, Title Sponsor Desert Diamond Casino was represented by John Fendenheim, chairman of Desert Diamond Gaming, and Trina Parvello, marketing director, who addressed event participants. They spoke of Desert Diamond Casino's special interest in arthritis research and clinical care to benefit others as well as members of the Tohono O'odham Nation, who suffer disproportionately from the disease.

The Wildcat basketball team was on hand at the auction to sign



**SAVE the DATE!!**

**April 19, 20 and 21, 2007**

Please be sure to join us for a very special celebration – the 20th Annual Lute Olson Celebrity Auction, Lunch and Golf Tournament. Next year, it will be two decades since Lute Olson began an amazing annual commitment to the Arizona Arthritis Center to help raise funds to find better treatments and ultimately a cure for arthritis. You won't want to miss this three-day event!

**For more information,  
call (520) 626-7901**



autographs. With Ryan Hansen as the auctioneer, Lute Olson, his coaches and team were up for bid at the live auction. The highest bidders' foursomes got to play with them in the tournament – quite a treat! Included in the live auction with Wildcat celebrities were a stay at Canyon Ranch Health Resort, a motorcycle from Arizona Victory Motorcycles and a golf cart from Kachina Golf Cars. A silent auction preceded the live auction

and showcased hundreds of items generously donated by community businesses and artists.

The Arizona Arthritis Center is extremely grateful to its sponsors and participants for their incredible support. Special appreciation goes to Ed Taczanowsky, SAHBA president and Carole Pawlak, SAHBA life director.

An additional special thank you goes to Tony Mellor of Tiger Promotions, who has served on the committee almost since its beginning and in recent years has chaired the group, keeping the event tasks, sponsorships and participation levels on a successful track.

**Many thanks to the amazing committee members who put so much time, effort and talent into making the event so successful:**

Tony Mellor, chair  
*Tiger Promotions*  
 Nikki Araiza  
*Premier Title Group*  
 Larry Barnhill  
*BH Properties*  
 Karen Childs  
*The Arizona Arthritis Center*  
 Renee Cooperman  
*Mystic Custom Pool & Spa*  
 Mari DeVries, CPA  
*DeVries CPAs of Arizona, PC*  
 Leslie Galloway  
*CBIZ Gordon, Zucarelli, and Handley*  
 Steve King  
*Fidelity National Title*  
 Scott Kuzma  
*Tucson Decorator Center*  
 Shirley Laughlin  
*National Bank of Arizona*  
 Mark Mitchell, CPA  
*Mitchell & Roediger*  
 Ron Moody  
*Andrew Lauren Interiors*  
 Fred Narcaroti  
*Harris Environmental Group, Inc.*  
 Brian Riese  
*The Arizona Arthritis Center*  
 Linda Ritter  
*The Arizona Arthritis Center*  
 Diane Ruble  
*Standard Pacific Homes*  
 Jon Sams  
*The University of Arizona*  
 BIO5 Institute  
 Chip Travers  
*eegee's*  
 Rick Williams  
*WinStar Mortgage Partners*  
 Robert G. Volz, MD  
*Co-founder, Arizona Arthritis Center*  
 Roger Yoheim  
 SAHBA



First place golf tournament winners, all from Kaiser Garage Doors, included from left: Brand Eigen, Tom Kaiser, and Eric Madson. Not pictured was Eric Rustand.



Wilbur Wildcat was hoping to be the highest bidder on the motorcycle donated by Arizona Victory Motorcycles. Maybe next year, Wilbur!

# AAC Calendar 2006-2007

## Thriving with Arthritis Week

Canyon Ranch Health Resort,  
Tucson  
Oct. 22 - 29, 2006



**AAC Friends**  
Membership Tea  
Skyline Country Club  
Thursday, Nov. 2, 2006  
2:30-4:30 p.m.  
(See Below)

## AAC Open House

Arizona Arthritis Center  
Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007  
4-6 p.m.

## AAC Friends Conversations and Lunch

Arizona Inn  
Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007  
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

## SAHBA Lute Olson

Celebrity Auction  
Location to be determined  
Thursday, April 19, 2007  
5:30-9 p.m.



## SAHBA Lute Olson Event

Lunch with Lute  
Flemings Prime Steakhouse  
& Wine Bar  
Friday, April 20, 2007  
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

## SAHBA Lute Olson Celebrity Golf Tournament

Randolph Golf Complex  
Saturday, April 21, 2007  
7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
(19th Hole Party at Noon)

## Living Healthy

Duval Auditorium  
University Medical Center  
May 5, 2007  
9 a.m.



## Thriving with Arthritis Week

Canyon Ranch Health Resort,  
Tucson  
Oct. 14 - 21, 2007



# Join Us!

"This is not your  
grandma's tea  
party"



ARIZONA ARTHRITIS CENTER FRIENDS

## Membership Tea

Skyline Country Club  
5200 E. Saint Andrews Dr.  
The Crown Room

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2006  
2:30 - 4:30 P.M.

**2:30** Greet and meet researchers  
and old and new friends

**3:00** Welcome by co-chairs  
Phyllis Kronenberger, Joan Lisse  
and Doris Nelson

**3:10** Jeffrey Lisse, MD, introduces researchers

**3:45** One-on-one discussions with researchers

\$30 per person (non-member)  
\$25 per person (member)  
\$25 per person (guest of a member)

Your payment in excess of \$20 per person  
is a tax-deductible contribution

**Limited Seating**

**Call (520) 626-7901 for more information**







# Week at Canyon Ranch Beckons

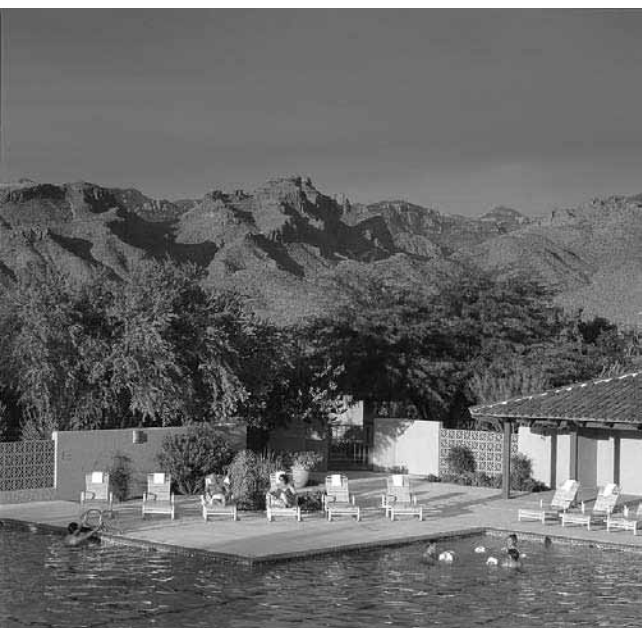
There are still a few openings this year to spend a special week at world-class Canyon Ranch Health Resort in Tucson. From Oct. 22 - 29, Canyon Ranch's Life Enhancement Program will feature Thriving with Arthritis Week. The program will be held again next year from Oct. 14-21. If you have osteoarthritis, rheumatoid or psoriatic arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus or scleroderma, you will want to consider participating in these outstanding opportunities to improve your health and quality of life.

A team of rheumatologists from the Arizona Arthritis Center and Don Goldenberg, MD, internationally renowned rheumatologist and professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine, join with physicians and professionals from Canyon Ranch every year to provide participants personalized consultations and exceptional lectures and group sessions on the most recent health findings.

This year's special guest will include prominent lecturer James S. Louie, MD, who will talk about well-known artists throughout history and how their diseases impacted their life and art.

Thriving with Arthritis Week has been a popular feature provided yearly for more than a decade at Canyon Ranch. Rates start at \$5,000 for double occupancy and include a seven-night stay, three healthy delectable meals daily, airport transfer, use of all resort and spa facilities, allowances for Health & Healing and Spa and Sports services. All gratuities are included in the cost.

***For more information or to make a reservation, please call 1-800-742-9000 or visit [canyonranch.com](http://canyonranch.com)***





# Arizona Arthritis Center Clinic

Make an appointment today to see one of our outstanding rheumatologists. Specializing in lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis and osteoarthritis, the clinic offers state-of-the-art traditional, complementary and alternative therapies and an infusion clinic.

**Location:**  
535 North Wilmot  
(corner of 5th and Wilmot in the University Physicians Healthcare Building)

No referrals are necessary, except when required by insurance.  
Most insurance plans are accepted.  
To make an appointment, please call (520) 694-0611

## Meet our Fellows

**Arizona Arthritis Center fellows are outstanding physicians with a special interest in rheumatology.** To become rheumatologists, the physicians must meet stringent qualifications. They rigorously train for two years at the Center under the direction of Berchman Austin Vaz, MD, who oversees the Fellowship Program, reporting to Jeffrey Lisse, MD.

The fellows work closely with Center rheumatologists Drs. Lisse, Vaz and Posever. Along with clinic work, they participate in research programs and see patients through a collaborative venture with the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. They also participate in the Center's Rheumatology Consulting Program for Indian Health Services.



### **Eric Mueller, MD**

Dr. Mueller has a medical degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine training at The University of Arizona. This included a year as the chief resident, supervising and training junior house officers. He is married and has a 1-year-old son. Dr. Mueller likes to stay fit by swimming. Whenever they get the chance, he and his wife enjoy hiking and exploring the Pacific Northwest and the mountains around Tucson.



### **Noe Richard Olvera, MD**

Dr. Olvera received his Doctor of Medicine Degree from Baylor College of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. He is especially interested in rheumatoid arthritis and lupus and currently is working on a research project studying ankylosing spondylitis. He is married and enjoys playing the piano, reading and tennis. When he gets a chance in his hectic schedule, he plans to visit his hometown of Harlingen, Texas, and get in a little good fishing.



### **Kyaw (Joe) Swe, MD**

Dr. Swe received his medical school training at Yangon Medical College, Yangon University, Myanmar. He had three years of medical training in England before he came to the United States. Dr. Swe completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at The University of Arizona. He is conducting research with the Arizona Arthritis Center in collaboration with and under the direction of James Posever, MD, and Shelley Kastle, PhD. His clinical focus is on rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, osteoporosis and scleroderma. Dr. Swe is married and especially enjoys the sport of soccer.



# Message from the Chair

## Arizona Arthritis Center Friends



Ralph Silberschlag,  
Chair, Arizona Arthritis  
Center Friends

**Come join us please!** You will be glad you did. I invite you to become a member of the Arizona Arthritis Center Friends. Attend an informative breakfast, luncheon, tea, and other get-togethers over the upcoming year while supporting a truly worthwhile cause through your membership. The opportunity to gain important knowledge and new friends surely will enrich you.

Chances are great that arthritis has impacted you or someone you know. There are more than 100 forms of arthritis, and the disease is often associated with pain and disability. While it is a growing epidemic among our aging population, arthritis also afflicts thousands of children. Recent projections by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict that more than 100 million people will be affected by arthritis by 2020.

Friends is a dynamic organization dedicated to building community support for the Arizona Arthritis Center through education, public awareness and community involvement. The Arizona Arthritis Center is a nonprofit, nationally recognized Center of Excellence at The University of Arizona that has been at the forefront of advances in arthritis research and care since the 1970s. With a mission to create a world free of arthritis and autoimmune disease, the Center provides basic and clinical research linked with excellent clinical care and education.

Annual Friends membership dues are only \$35 for an individual or \$60 for a family. Your membership entitles you to great benefits during the 2006-2007 year:

- A \$5 discount to our Membership Tea, Nov. 2, at Skyline Country Club, where you will meet Center researchers/rheumatologists and receive presentations on the latest findings.
- An invitation to attend the Center's annual Open House Jan. 24, 2007, where you can enjoy refreshments while visiting with researchers to learn more about exciting projects.
- A \$5 discount to our premier event featuring a world-renowned rheumatologist: The Eva Holtby Memorial Lectureship/Conversations and Lunch, at the Arizona Inn, on Feb. 15, 2007.
- A morning of arthritis presentations and delicious buffet called the "Breakfast Chat." The complimentary event is held in the spring at world-renowned health resort, Canyon Ranch, and is open to Friends members.
- An invitation to Living Healthy with Arthritis, a four-hour, nominal-cost morning conference in early May, offering several workshops and a healthy mid-morning brunch.
- An invitation to the fun three-day SAHBA Lute Olson fundraising event benefiting the Center.

Please join Arizona Arthritis Center Friends today. Your membership will help to advance arthritis information and understanding as well as create awareness of vital Center research. We look forward to receiving your response!

Best wishes,

Ralph Silberschlag  
Chair, Arizona Arthritis Center Friends

### Arizona Arthritis Center Friends Membership Form

Yes, I/we would like to join or renew membership in the Arizona Arthritis Center Friends:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$35.00 / yr\*    \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$60.00 / yr\*

**\*Membership is not a tax-deductible donation.**

#### Pay by credit card:

\_\_\_ VISA    \_\_\_ Master Card    \_\_\_ American Express

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR: Make checks payable to UAF/AAC.**

Please print the following information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to :** Arizona Arthritis Center • 1501 N. Campbell Ave. • P. O. Box 245093 • Tucson, AZ 85724-5093

**For more information, please call (520) 626-7901**

# *A Message from the Interim Director*

As we head into the new fiscal year, the Arizona Arthritis Center is poised for growth and success. First, I would like to report that the search for a permanent director has been reinvigorated by the appointment of John Galgiani, MD, to head the search committee. Dr. Galgiani leads the Valley Fever Center for Excellence at The University of Arizona. Dr. Galgiani is working proactively with the search committee to identify and contact quality candidates for the position.

The Rheumatology Health Tracker has been implemented in the clinic. This web-based registry will allow patients and their caregivers to follow the course of the patient's rheumatoid arthritis over time and track the effects of various therapies on their disease.

The basic science research projects are progressing under the direction of John Szivek, PhD, and Miranda Adelman, PhD, as is the neuroimmunologic research of Shelley Kasle, PhD. Gail Kershner Riggs, MA, CHES, and I are working with the State of Arizona on projects involving arthritis and osteoporosis.

Our clinical research also is moving forward. James Posever, MD, has begun a project to characterize certain forms of vasculitis, and Berchman Austin Vaz, MD, is investigating continuing infections in patients with autoimmune diseases and the interaction between infections and the drugs used to treat these diseases.

We have two new fellows in training, Noe Richard Olvera, MD, and Eric Mueller, MD, and the Center continues to do well recruiting excellent trainees. These outstanding young physicians will be the future of rheumatology care, research, and education, and we are researching creative ways to fund their training.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of those of you who support, work or volunteer at the AAC and its functions, we will continue to excel.



Jeffrey R. Lisse, M.D.  
*Interim Director,  
Arizona Arthritis Center*

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