

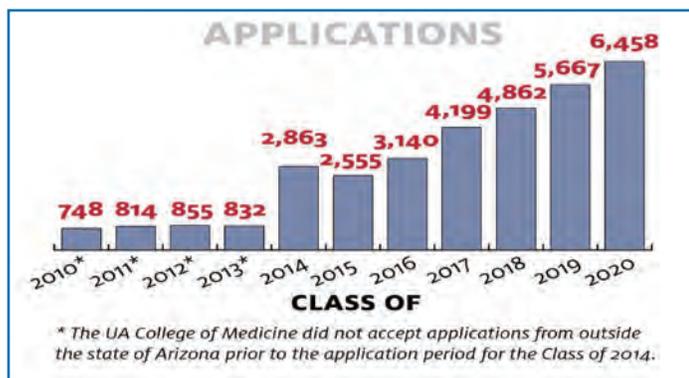
A record year for UA College of Medicine

By Charles B. Cairns, MD – Dean, College of Medicine, Tucson

The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson was founded in 1967, and while we’re approaching the 50th year of training physicians, we’re still a relatively young school when you look at medical colleges in the United States. In fact the first – the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine – just celebrated its 250th anniversary. Despite our relative youth, we are making a remarkable impact on health care in Arizona and this last year has been a truly record year for the College in many respects.

Record year for medical students

We have become a truly national College as applicants from across the U.S. want to study at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. The College received a record 6,458 applications for the Class of 2020, more than two and a half times the 2,500 applications received in 2009, which was the first year we accepted applications from students outside Arizona.



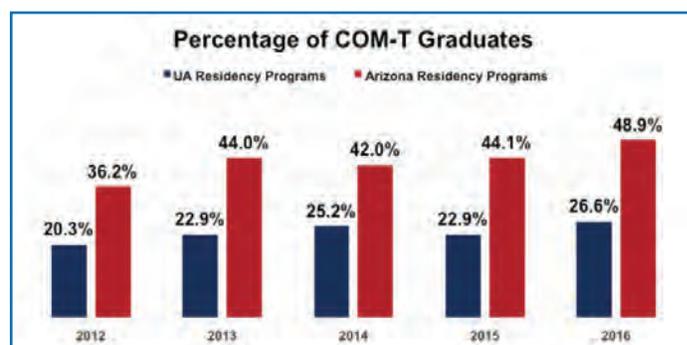
A record yield rate of accepted students led to record enrollment for the Class of 2020, with 135 students starting their first year of medical school with us this fall. In addition, we are attracting top students who could go to medical school just about anywhere; seven of our top 10 applicants chose to enroll here. The students not only bring impressive grades and MCAT scores in the top 1 percentile, they have also conducted research in cancer treatment and nutrition, volunteered time to improve lives overseas, provided medical education to rural communities and more. These experiences make our students successful as clinicians, scientists and educators.

The Class of 2020 also made it a record year for diversity: 35 percent of students are under-represented minorities in medicine. Diversifying our medical workforce goes a long way in improving health in Arizona. It’s been shown that patients treated by physicians who share their culture and language have better outcomes. We have a number of programs in

place to encourage and support increasing diversity for our student body, staff and faculty members to better reflect, and treat, the populations we serve. This is a record we want to continue.

Record year for residents

We had a record-breaking year for residencies. For our graduating Class of 2016, 97 percent matched in the residency of their choice. Furthermore, we had a record percentage of College of Medicine graduates chose a residency program associated with the University of Arizona.



Record year for faculty

It’s been a record year for faculty development and engagement. A record number of faculty – 40 – were promoted this year, a 30-percent increase from just two years ago. We’ve also noticed record participation in the governance of our College with 145 applicants for 91 open committee spots. There are now 20 faculty committees that advise the Dean in the governance of the College. It’s heartening to see the dedication and perseverance of our faculty during a time when we’ve gone through significant changes and disruptions.

Record year for research and innovation

We were recently awarded a grant in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Precision Medicine Initiative® Cohort Program. The Precision Medicine Initiative® (PMI) Cohort Program aims to enroll 1 million or more U.S. participants to improve prevention and treatment of disease based on individual differences in lifestyle, environment and genetics. In partnership with Banner Health, we will enroll over 150,000 participants in Arizona and across the seven states served by Banner Health. The PMI program award totals \$43.3 million over five years and is the largest NIH peer-reviewed grant in the College’s – as well as in the University of Arizona Health Science’s – history.

We also had a record year for the impact of research on the world. Publications from the College’s research

programs create new opportunities in health care that improve the lives of people in Arizona, across the U.S. and the world. In the last fiscal year (FY16), we had a record 613 NIH-funded studies published, up from 541 from the previous year, and the College recorded \$73.8 million in funding.

We had a record year in innovation with new highs in inventions, patents and commercial applications. We continue to make progress here as well. In FY16, the College had a record:

- 62 invention disclosures, compared to 59 in FY15;
- 83 patents filed, compared to 58 in FY15; and
- 20 licenses/options exercised, compared to 17 in FY15.

Thus, it's truly been a remarkable year in the history of the College.

As we move into our next decade serving the health care needs of the state and beyond, I'm committed to continuing the culture of innovation, excellence and impact that our first dean, Dr. Merlin DuVal, brought forth when he took on the daunting task of building a medical college at the University of Arizona in Tucson. We will be strategic in our initiatives and leverage the large, wide-reaching health care partner we have in Banner Health as we continue to train tomorrow's physicians and physician scientists, create new knowledge, invent new technologies, develop new care models and improve the lives of people in Arizona and beyond through innovation and health care delivery. ■

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