



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Urology

DEPARTMENT OF

UROLOGY NEWS

Volume 5 | FALL 2021

CHAIR

Benjamin R Lee, MD

FACULTY

Juan Chipollini, MD
Joel Funk, MD
Matthew Gretzer, MD
Sueilyn Hall-Harper, MD
Sunchin Kim, MD
David Tzou, MD
Christian Twiss, MD
Deb Jur, FNP
Rosa Garcia, FNP
Alison Grabowski, FNP
Cara Whittingham, FNP

RESEARCH

Ken Batai, PhD
Ava Wong, Coordinator

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Michael Siroky, MD
Maximiliano Sorbellini, MD
Mark Cogburn, MD
Alex Jule, MD
Rajesh Prasad, MD
Jonathan Walker, MD
Philip Gleason, MD
Barry Chang, MD
Hiep Nguyen, MD
Ariella Friedman, MD
Tamis Thrasher, PNP

Department of Urology is published annually by the University of Arizona College of Medicine Department of Urology.

CONTACT:

Benjamin R. Lee, MD
Chair & Professor
brlee@arizona.edu
Department of Urology
The George W. Drach, MD
Endowed Chair
Department of Urology
College of Medicine,
Room 5325
The University of Arizona
1501 N. Campbell Ave.
P.O. Box 245077
Tucson, AZ 85724-5077
520-694-4032
Fax: 520-694-5509
urology.arizona.edu

All contents © 2021
Arizona Board of Regents.
All rights reserved.
The UA is an EEO/AA –
M/W/D/V Employer.

Design:
UAHS BioCommunications

To read this and past issues
of Department of Urology
Newsletter online, visit
urology.arizona.edu/news-o



DR. BENJAMIN LEE

CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY

College of Medicine - Tucson



Banner
University Medicine

Dr. Benjamin Lee Named Chair, DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY at University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson

Benjamin R. Lee, MD, has been named Chair of the Department of Urology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson. For the past 50 years, Urology was a division under the Department of Surgery. On July 19, 2019, the division evolved to an independent clinical Department with Dr. Lee serving as *Interim* Chair. During his tenure, the Department has flourished and witnessed major growth, including an increase in faculty and clinical providers from 3 to 15, a 43% increase in clinical visits and a 50% increase in surgical procedures. Not only has the Department grown its reputation on the clinical front, the Department has also grown in its academic stature by building a national reputation and developing the discipline of urology at COM-T / Banner University Medical Center Tucson. The Department has been making significant strides in research further with a National Institutes of Health grant looking at disparities in treatment of renal cell carcinoma with a Department of Defense grant focused on early onset and aggressive renal cell carcinoma, both in terms of health disparities as well as abdominal adiposity, with Ken Batai, PhD. In 2020, the Department advanced to 31st in the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research rankings of the National Institutes of Health funding.

There has been an increase in the number of clinical trials in which the Department conducts, including A Multicenter, Dose-Ranging Trial Evaluating the Safety, Tolerability and Efficacy of LP-10 in Subjects with Refractory Moderate to Severe Hemorrhagic Cystitis (HC) being led by Dr. Gretzer; A Phase III Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled Study (URIROX-2) focusing on the Safety and Efficacy of Reloxaliase (Oxalate Decarboxylase) in Patients with Enteric Hyperoxaluria with Dr. Tzou. There is also a Phase III Randomized Trial of Standard Systemic Therapy (SST) versus Standard Systemic Therapy Plus Definitive Treatment (Surgery or Radiation)

of the Primary Tumor in Metastatic Prostate Cancer led by Dr. Chipollini. The future goals of the Department are to continue to grow and develop these basic, translational and clinical research studies in a multidisciplinary fashion.

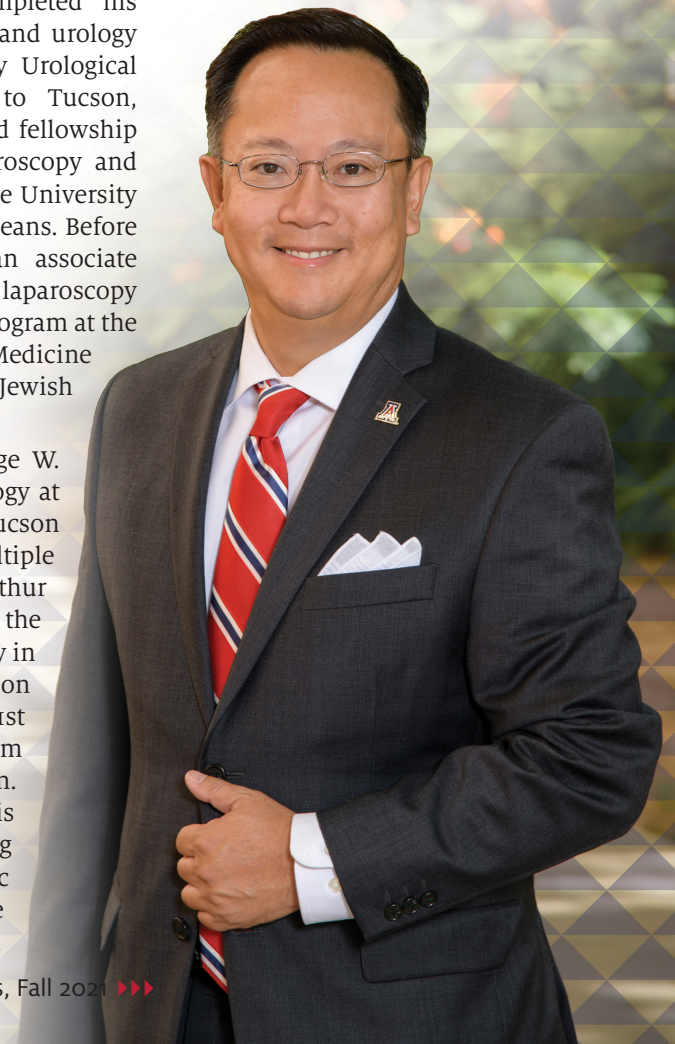
In the past year, the Department has been able to expand its educational reach with the implementation of a virtual sub-internship program by which has allowed live surgery to be broadcasted across the United States. The residency program has also grown and planned to expand to 15 residents in the next coming years.

Dr. Lee graduated *magna cum laude* from Cornell University before earning his medical degree at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he completed his residency training in surgery and urology at the James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute. Prior to coming to Tucson, Dr. Lee served as Professor and fellowship director of the robotics, laparoscopy and endourology program at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. Before New Orleans, Dr. Lee was an associate professor and co-director of the laparoscopy and endourology fellowship program at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Northshore Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York.

Dr. Lee is currently the George W. Drach Endowed Chair in Urology at the College of Medicine – Tucson and the recipient of multiple awards, including the Arthur Smith Award, presented at the World Congress of Endourology in Shanghai, China, and Information Technology Innovators and 21st Century Pioneer awards from the Smithsonian Institution. As a resident, he and his team did groundbreaking work on remote telerobotic surgery that is housed in the permanent research collection

at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Dr. Lee is a member of several prestigious professional societies, serves on the Board of Directors for the Western Section of the American Urological Association, has over 170 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, and is a federally funded scientific investigator. He also is a member of the Clinical and Translational Oncology Program at the UArizona Cancer Center and is enrolled in the executive MBA program at the UArizona Eller College of Management.



CORTARO UROLOGY CLINIC

The University of Arizona Department of Urology is committed to serving the patients of Southern Arizona and has expanded with a satellite clinic in Marana.

In November 2020, the Department of Urology expanded their services to the Banner – University Medicine Primary Care Clinic in Marana. This expansion has seen continuous growth in the volume of patients and has allowed better access to care for patients in Marana, Oro Valley and northwest Tucson.

Providers at the Cortaro clinic include, Dr. Sunchin Kim who specializes in reconstruction & robotic surgery, in

addition to general urology. Cara Whittingham, NP has also been seeing patients at this clinic and focusing on general urology. Both are committed to helping patients with urologic needs including BPH, prostate cancer screening, recurrent urinary tract infections, incontinence, kidney stones, erectile dysfunction, among other diagnosis.

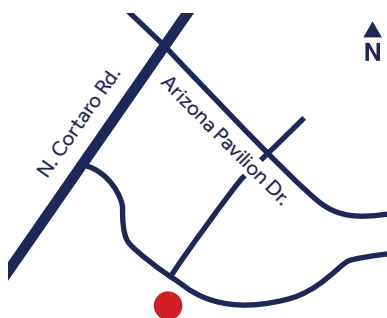
Appointment can be made at (520) 694-4032.



Dr. Sunchin Kim



Cara Whittingham, NP



Research Highlights January to July 2021

Ken Batai, PhD co-authored a paper entitled “Renal Cell Carcinoma Health Disparities in Stage and Mortality among American Indians/Alaska Natives and Hispanic Americans: Comparison of National Cancer Database and Arizona Cancer Registry Data” in *Cancers (Basel)* with **Drs. Benjamin Lee and Juan Chipollini**.

Juan Chipollini, MD published a paper with UArizona Urology residents **Drs. Jiping Zeng and Grant Pollock** entitled, “Leiomyosarcoma of the scrotum: a case report and literature review” in *Tranlational Andrology and Urology*. He also co-authored a paper in *Urology Oncology* entitled “Outcomes of perineal urethrostomy for penile cancer: A 20-year international multicenter experience.” He serves as PI on phase III clinical trial evaluating the overall survival in metastatic prostate cancer patients who are randomized to standard systemic therapy (SST) plus definitive treatment of the primary tumor versus standard systemic therapy alone

Joel Funk, MD and **Ken Batai, PhD** co-authored a paper in *BMC Urology* entitled “Correlation between body mass index and prostate volume in benign prostatic hyperplasia patients undergoing holmium enucleation of the prostate surgery” with recent UArizona Urology graduate **Dr. Aye Lwin** and alum, **Dr. Michael Phung**.

Matthew Gretzer, MD will serve as PI on a clinical trial evaluating the dose-dependent, safety and efficacy of LP-

Continued on page 5

**BANNER –
UNIVERSITY MEDICINE
PRIMARY CARE CLINIC**

Arizona Pavilions Shopping Center
8020 N. Cortaro Rd., Ste. 150
Marana, AZ 85743
Appointments: (520) 694-4032

WELCOME: We would like to congratulate and welcome our 2021 - 2022 incoming PGY- 1 residents.

Dr. Ava Delu comes from State University of New York Suny Upstate Medical University, and she received her undergraduate degree in Physiological Science from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has several peer-reviewed publications in Urology and has several poster presentations at the Northeastern Section AUA annual meetings. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, kickboxing, running, snowboarding, attending concerts, singing/vocal performance, and wake surfing in the California Delta.



Dr. Ava Delu

Dr. Kyle McCormick comes from the University of Kansas School of Medicine Wichita, and he received his undergraduate degree from John Brown University and subsequently attended the Princeton Theological Seminary before pursuing a career in medicine. He has published in *Reviews in Urology*. In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, breadmaking, hiking, skiing, playing with his dog and listening to his wife play the cello.



Dr. Kyle McCormick

CYTOREDUCTIVE SURGERY MAY HAVE A ROLE IN TREATING METASTATIC UTUC

There is scarcity of data on the management of patients with Metastatic Upper Tract Urothelial Carcinoma (M1 UTUC) after treatment with induction chemotherapy. We recently performed a population-based analysis reporting on national practice patterns for use of cytoreductive surgery (CRS) in M1 UTUC after systemic chemotherapy. Our study was published in *Urology* and has recently been highlighted in *Renal & Urology News*.

In a retrospective study of 1182 patients, we found those who underwent CRS had significantly improved median overall survival compared with those who received chemotherapy alone (13.7 vs 10.8 months). Overall, individuals who received CRS had almost a 40% reduction in death with an almost 3-month improvement in overall survival. Our study cautiously showed a survival benefit for surgery within the

multidisciplinary management of M1 UTUC while reporting acceptable perioperative outcomes that could be used to guide counseling for patients with disease stabilization or complete/partial response after chemotherapy.

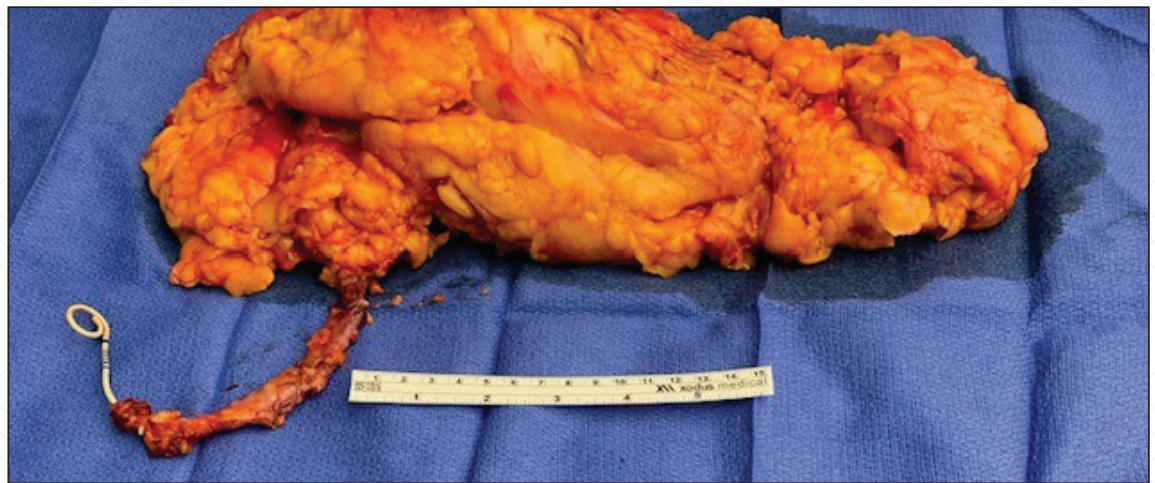
Below is a picture of large, obstructed kidney from a patient with good performance status, presenting with Urothelial

carcinoma, ongoing hematuria and flank pain. ongoing hematuria and flank pain. The patient was discharged the next day after a robotic nephroureterectomy.

Here at BUMC-T, we pride ourselves in offering the latest cutting-edge treatments for complex cases while delivering transformative research and outstanding training.



Dr. Juan Chipollini



Removed obstructed kidney from patient.

Faculty Promotions: Matthew Gretzer, MD, FACS



Dr. Matthew Gretzer

The Department of Urology would like to congratulate Dr. Gretzer on his promotion to Professor of Urology in July 2021. Since his arrival in 2005, Dr. Gretzer has worked hard to develop the GU reconstruction program into a center of excellence. Thanks to the referrals from our peers throughout Arizona and neighboring States, The University of Arizona Department of Urology now performs a high volume of urethral reconstruction, prosthetics and complex cancer survivorship cases.

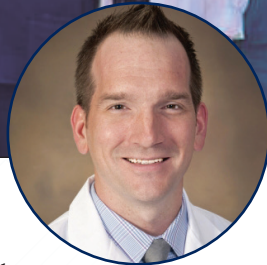
“We strive to provide **safe, compassionate, and state of the art care for our patients** and are honored to provide assistance to our colleagues in the management of these patients with challenging urologic conditions.”

SOUTH CAMPUS Welcomes Robotic System



South Campus Staff, nurses and medical assistants.

Our South campus location is growing and expanding to fit the needs our community. Our urologic center at south has grown not only in providers but space. Our newest physician Dr. Hall-Harper has started with us and is seeing patients at our north, south and green campus location. This has expanded the number of patients that we are able to see and to allows are patients to be surgery in a timely manner.



Dr. Joel Funk



Dr. Suelyn Hall-Harper

The South campus OR is now equipped with the state of the art Davinci XI robot. This has allowed continuity of care to our south side community as well as increases the number of patients that can have robotic interventions. Robotic Sacrocolpopexy is now offered at both BUMC-Tucson and BUMC-South campuses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Clinical Trial

The Department of Urology has been selected as a clinical site to investigate a new therapy for bladder complications related to radiation and certain chemotherapy. Dr. Gretzer will be the Principal Investigator for the University of Arizona clinical site in an ongoing phase-2a clinical trial of LP-10 for hemorrhagic cystitis. LP-10 is a proprietary liposomal formulation of tacrolimus that is currently being evaluated as a treatment for moderate to severe hemorrhagic cystitis. Lipella Pharmaceuticals received FDA Orphan Designation for the use of tacrolimus for the treatment of hemorrhagic cystitis. This multi-site, prospective, open-label, dose



escalation clinical trial is now assessing the safety and efficacy of LP-10 at several sites throughout the United States.

Research Highlights 2021

Continued from page 3

io (liposomal tacrolimus) for the treatment of hemorrhagic cystitis.

Dr. Benjamin Lee co-authored a paper in *Urology Oncology* entitled “Robotic fatigue?” - The impact of case order on positive surgical margins in robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy” with UArizona COM-T medical student **Holly Lawry**. He serves as PI on phase III clinical trial comparing the effect of adding surgery to a standard of care immunotherapy-based drug combination versus a standard of care immunotherapy-based drug combination alone in treating patients with kidney cancer that has spread to other places in the body.

UArizona Urology resident **Dr. Grant Pollock** authored a paper in *Urology* entitled “Postoperative and Survival Outcomes After Cytoreductive Surgery in the Treatment of Metastatic Upper Tract Urothelial Carcinoma” with co-authors **Drs. Benjamin Lee, Juan Chipollini, and Ken Batai**.

Christian O. Twiss, MD and Joel Funk, MD co-authored a paper entitled “Pain Resolution and Recurrent Prolapse Rates Following Vaginal Mesh Removal” with alum, **Dr. Andrew Bergersen**, published in *Urology*.

David T. Tzou, MD received a 2021 University of Arizona Health Sciences Career Development Award and a \$15,000 grant from the University of Michigan O’Brien Kidney Translational Core Center to support of his research “Urinary Stone Endotoxin and its Cellular Impacts: Considerations for Sepsis Development.” He also serves as the PI for a multicenter, global, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Reloxaliase on reducing oxalate levels in urine.

UArizona Urology resident **Dr. Jiping Zeng** authored a paper in *Journal of Kidney Cancer and VHL* entitled “Nephrectomy Delay of More than 10 Weeks from Diagnosis Is Associated with Decreased Overall Survival in pT3 RCC.” His co-authors were **Drs. Benjamin Lee and Ken Batai**.



NORTH CAMPUS MAS & NPs




John M. Martin

Welcome John, Our Administrator

We welcomed John Martin, our new Department Administrator, to our team in August. John has over 10 years' experience in academic medicine administration with our organization and has previously served in administrative leadership roles in the departments of Family & Community Medicine and most recently, Obstetrics & Gynecology. John is a nearly native Tucsonan and a proud University of Arizona Wildcat and alumnus. In his free time, John enjoys hiking, camping, fishing trips with friends, and playing with his dog Roscoe.

UROLOGY HITS A HOLE IN ONE PROSTATE CANCER GOLF BENEFIT



IT'S ROUND 2!
DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY 2ND ANNUAL
GOLF BENEFIT FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST
PROSTATE CANCER
Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021
7 AM Registration | 8 AM Shotgun

Sewailo Golf Club
Casino Del Sol
5655 W. Valencia

For more information:
Benjamin R. Lee, MD
Melody Hoopes
mlhoopes@arizona.edu
(520) 626-2016

- ▶ **\$500 per foursome**
(\$140 tax-deductible) green fee, golf cart, GPS system, driving range, unlimited Practice balls, cooler
- ▶ **Early Registration \$150/per person**
(\$60 tax-deductible) Registration after Feb. 28: \$175/per person (\$85 tax-deductible)
- ▶ **Registration includes:**
Green fees, golf cart (1 cart per twosome), GPS system, driving range/balls, lunch and gift bag. Additional lunch tickets can be purchased for \$30

The University of Arizona, Department of Urology is hosting our 2nd Benefit in the *Fight Against Prostate Cancer* at Casino Del Sol's Sewailo Golf Club. We are coming together to honor cancer survivors, raise awareness about prostate cancer research, and focused efforts to be on the cutting edge of research, education and state of the art treatments for our patients. Our goal is to provide a beautiful venue for cancer survivors and those who support them. November is the month of thankfulness and awareness, and is also Men's Health Awareness month.

Sign up and register today at:
register.uafoundation.org/urologygolf

George W. Drach, MD Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Urology
Dr. Benjamin Lee and Dr. George Drach present:



MANOJ MONGA, MD

Featuring
Manoj Monga, MD
Chair, Department of Urology
University of California,
San Diego School of Medicine

MARCH 1-2, 2022
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

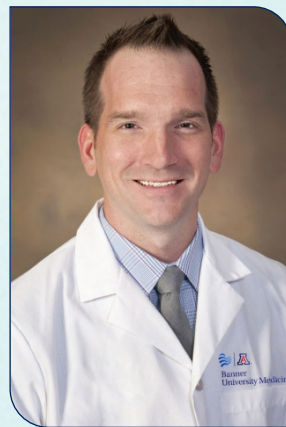
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UROLOGY FACULTY NAMED **2021 TUCSON TOP DOCTORS**



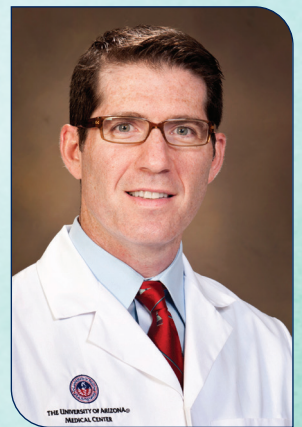
▶ Benjamin R. Lee, MD



▶ Christian O. Twiss, MD



▶ Joel T. Funk, MD



▶ Matthew B. Gretzer, MD



TOP DOCTORS
THE OFFICIAL SOURCE FOR OVER 25 YEARS



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Urology

1501 N. CAMPBELL AVE.
PO BOX 245077
TUCSON AZ 85724-5077
(520)694-4032

OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE: A new ROBOTIC ENDOUROLOGY FELLOWSHIP and/or FEMALE PELVIC MEDICINE & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY (FPMRS) FELLOWSHIP donation can help support fellowship training. Please make a meaningful contribution today at GIVE.UAFOUNDATION.ORG/UROLOGY FOR QUESTIONS CALL: (520)626-2016

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT AT ONE OF OUR FOUR CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

www.bannerhealth.com/locations/tucson/banner-university-medical-center-tucson

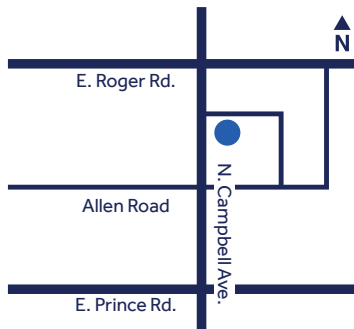
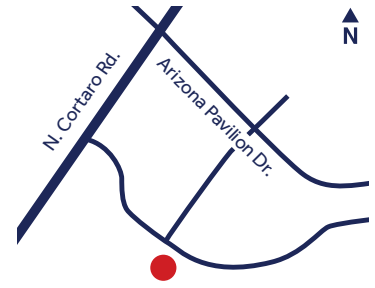
(520)694-4032

FAX (520)694-5509

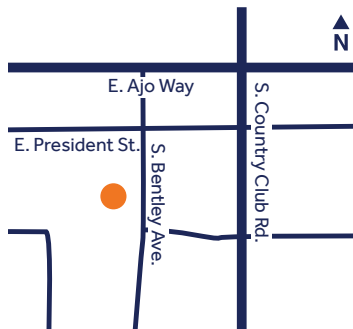
www.urology.arizona.edu

VISIT OUR NEWEST LOCATION!

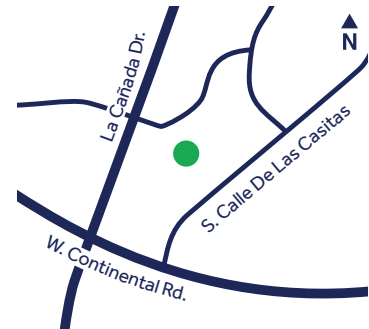
● Banner – Univesity Medicine Primary Care Clinic – Cortaro
8020 N Cortaro Rd Ste 150,
Marana, AZ 85743



● Banner – Univesity Medicine North Campus
3838 N. Campbell Ave. Building 2
Urology Clinic "G", 3rd Floor
Tucson, AZ 85719



● Banner – Univesity Medicine South Campus
2800 E. Ajo Way
Tucson, AZ 85713



● Banner – Univesity Medicine Green Valley Clinic
1141 S. La Cañada Drive
Green Valley, AZ 85614