

U of A General Faculty Meeting April 2020

I'd like to thank Dean Abecassis for allowing me to update the faculty on the state of our VA. I think it's important to recognize that the Southern Arizona VA has had a successful collaboration with the University for 50 years. As a reminder about our system, we are a 289 bed, Level 1a (highest VA complexity) facility. We have 7 Community Based Outpatient Clinics, extending from Yuma to Casa Grande, to Green Valley and out to Safford. Unlike many other communities, Tucson has seen sustained growth in the Veteran population. We have an enrolled patient population of over 59,000 Veterans and are currently growing by about 3000 unique patients per year.

We continue to have a very strong partnership in medical education. Over 100 medical students rotate through the VA annually. Our support for resident rotations amounts to over 500 resident-months per year. We are proud to have supported new fellowships in Addiction Medicine and Geriatric Psychiatry. We recently secured funding for new GME positions in Emergency Medicine, Surgical Research, Ophthalmology and additional Addiction Medicine positions. We have 125 College of Medicine faculty with active practices at the VA.

Clinically, we opened a state-of-the-art hybrid operating room this year and hope to establish a TAVR program. We are currently in the planning stages for a new bed tower with ground-breaking expected in 2021. We hope to partner with the College of Medicine to support faculty recruitment and new clinical programs.

We have invested in research opportunities and had a small increase in research funding this year. We're excited to have Dr. Jason Wertheim establish laboratory space at the VA and to help us grow our research presence. We look forward to collaborating with the College of Medicine in future research endeavors.