

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

Department Awards

Leadership

Thanks to Dr. Katie Brite we now have an Office of Community Engagement, a 3-year progression track, and many more exciting curriculum innovations in the works.

Clerkship Educator

Dr. Giao Guach from One Medical — the students appreciate his approach to teaching.

Rural Educator

Dr. Naomi Clancy from Gila Health in Morenci, Arizona inspires students on their rural rotations.

Research

Dr. Freya Spielberg has submitted an incredible number of grants, started clinic research projects, and inspired collaboration.

Clinical Quality

Dr. Jason Leubner has led exceptional gains in clinic quality and he leads the Banner Health Clinical High Reliability Group (CHRG) for primary care.



Annual Department Dinner Meeting

On May 9th, we held the annual department dinner and awards at the University Club of Phoenix. This traditional location is known and loved by several faculty members. We were proud to increase our attendees this year. Katie Brite, MD, Taylor Young, PhD, and Gina Touch Mercer, PhD, planned the event and entertained us with costumes, top hats, and movie references. A department committee chose the awards and recipients and they were presented at the event.

Faculty members are doing many exciting and innovative things to advance Family, Community and Preventive medicine amid rapid change,

funding uncertainties, workforce shortages, and other obstacles and adversities. Every day, I feel grateful to be in a specialty that makes caring about the health and well-being of the community a top priority.

-Sharry Veres, MD, MHSM, FCPM Department Chair



Interprofessional

Dr. Taylor Young, PhD, has been an inspiration for innovation and collaboration in behavioral health in primary care.

Impact

Dr. Roberta Matern has impacted the Family Medicine community with her ongoing leadership in maternity care and for standing up the first ACGME-accredited Rural Training Program in Arizona.

Collaboration

Dr. Jenna Buchanan was selected for her ability to build rapport and improve communication across the clinical department. She role-models this skill for the residents.

Innovation

Dr. Leah Hillier increases the level of innovation and achievement in the department. She exemplifies a “can do” attitude in the challenges we take on as a team.

Department Updates

Rural Updates

We have a few new Longitudinal Integrated Curriculum Sites. We continue to develop sites that will have both medical student and resident education combined.

Dr. Steve Brown Receives National Award

Steven Brown, MD, program director of the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix’s [Family Medicine Residency – Phoenix](#), was

recently awarded the Nikitas J. Zervanos Outstanding Program Director award by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors. The award



honors a program director who demonstrates leadership and advancement of the specialty, is a mentor to residents and medical students, and provides service to the community and to family medicine organizations. See the write-up on this award [here](#).

Dr. Jennifer Hartmark-Hill Receives Arizona Medical Association Award

Jennifer Harkmark-Hill, MD, received Arizona Medical Association’s Distinguished Service Award, the organization’s highest honor. She was commended for her



commitment to teaching, scholarship, service and advocacy in Arizona. See the write-up on this award [here](#).

Advocacy for Family Medicine

The Faculty in our Department care about the Future of Family Medicine in Arizona and worry about the increasing primary care shortage, the rate of physician burnout, the decline in students choosing primary care, and the fate of our health systems. We are taking some steps to address this.



Research

The department is steadily increasing research faculty with protected research time. We have submitted a large number of grant applications in the last year. We are currently completing an inventory of faculty research interest—we want to identify areas of passion and support our faculty with coordinated support and resources. We will create affinity groups, connecting researchers with similar interests to develop projects and grant applications (with department support). We are sending out a survey of research interests and would like faculty to complete it.

Graduate Medical Education

Banner University Phoenix Family Medicine Residency class starts in June.

Payson Family Medicine Residency starts their second class of two residents this Summer and their clinic expansion opens in June.

Banner Desert Residency first class of six residents start this Summer. They have several graduates of the BUMCP FM residency joining their faculty.

These expansions have doubled the COM-P Banner FM residents (from 8 to 16).

Our actions this year include:

- ◆ Updated department strategy that specifically includes Arizona Future of Family Medicine initiatives
- ◆ Helped obtain \$7 million in grants to support primary care workforce strategies (and we are applying for more)
- ◆ Collaboration across the state with Academic Primary Care leaders, a residency learning network, and a primary care research network
- ◆ A Summit with stakeholders to address Primary Care Physician shortage (we had 88 leaders in attendance!) A report on the summit will be published online and a workgroup will continue.
- ◆ Gathering a team to compile and track statewide data on the continuum of primary care physician workforce (and make it visible and accessible)
- ◆ Creating primary care admissions, innovating around longitudinal and accelerated curriculum, developing community training partnerships and primary care scholarships
- ◆ Expanding primary care-focused student pathways programs, increasing opportunities for students to learn about Family Medicine



Top from left: primary care summit, Arizona Academic Family Medicine Innovation Conference, residency career fair Bottom: Residency Learning Collaborative

Our Patient is Everyone

The Community is our Operating Room

Family Medicine Clerkship

The clerkship is now a 1 month required student rotation. We are converting the Primary Care Scholars Certificate of Distinction (COD) into a longitudinal primary care curricular support program. Most primary care COD students are joining Service of Community COD programs.

Office of Community Engagement

Katie Brite, MD, is in a new role, Associate Dean of Community Engagement. The Office of Community Engagement (OCE), supported by the FCPM department, houses primary care collaborative curriculum and administrative functions that are vital to our Future of Family Medicine strategies.

Grand Rounds

This continues on the third Thursday of the month every two months (six times per year).

Behavioral Health

Taylor Young is expanding the CoCM program and working to collaborate and share experiences across the residency programs.

Community Medicine and Population Health Summer Internship

We want students to hear about Family Medicine, Primary Care, and Community Health before they get into medical school. We are adding a special program to the University of Arizona Summer internship programs to help do this!



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA | **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN COMMUNITY MEDICINE & POPULATION HEALTH
June 9th - August 15th, 2025

Are you interested in a career in health care?
Do you have goals to improve the health of your community?

Apply for our summer internship at the University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix and learn about community medicine, population health, and primary care!

This competitive program selects accomplished students who demonstrate strong academic achievement and a commitment to community health.

This internship is open to current undergraduate students and recent graduates taking a gap year.

Internship Goals

- Collaborate with faculty mentors on real-world community health projects
- Design and carry out your own community-based research.
- Get meaningful clinical exposure in underserved communities.
- Build a personalized roadmap for applying to health professional programs.

Paid Internship \$400 per/week

Deadline To Apply: May 21st, 2025

Apply Today!
https://u.arizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dosIWnRhMk1KIHQ

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Questions? Contact
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Other News and Events

ALSO COURSE

The Phoenix Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics mega course will be held on July 11th at the Creighton Phoenix Campus.

March podcast with updates [here](#). **New edition coming in June!**