



College of Medicine

Tucson

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson
Director, Arizona Telemedicine Program



March 2022

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The Opportunity



The University of Arizona (UArizona) College of Medicine – Tucson seeks a visionary telehealth expert to serve as director of the college’s award-winning Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP). Reporting directly to Dean Michael M.I. Abecassis, the director will lead and develop ATP’s team and ATP’s engagement and partnerships with local, regional, and national, healthcare, state legislature, business, and academic leaders; working collaboratively to continually advance and fulfill ATP’s core mission and strategic goals and objectives. The director will also serve as co-chair of the Arizona Telemedicine Council, created by the Arizona State Legislature’s Joint Legislative Budget Committee in 1996, which meets quarterly.

The Arizona Telemedicine Program, located at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson, is a large, multidisciplinary, university-based program that provides telehealth training, distance learning, and telehealth technology assessment capabilities to communities throughout Arizona; and also provides video infrastructure and technology support for education and research programs. (As per the American Telemedicine Association (ATA), the terms telehealth and telemedicine can be used interchangeably, although telemedicine can be considered a subset of telehealth that provides clinical services. Telehealth activities encompass all health services provided using telecommunications technology to enhance health care, including health education delivery and support, and clinical care.) The program has succeeded in creating partnerships among a wide variety of not-for-profit and for-profit healthcare organizations and has created new interagency relationships within the state government. ATP is recognized as one of the premier programs at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson and has received numerous awards at the national level for its research and innovations. Since 2009, the Arizona Telemedicine Program has served as home to the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center, which is funded by a competitively awarded Health Resources and Services Administration grant that provides telehealth technical assistance to the southwest region of the United States.

The Arizona Telemedicine Program was co-founded and directed by Dr. Ronald Weinstein, a renowned innovator in telemedicine and the “father of telepathology.” The next director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program will provide strategic leadership and direction, build on the program’s remarkable history, and expand the impact of the program’s state-wide mission. One key area for growth is increasing integration with the health system partner of the University of Arizona, Banner University Medicine, a seven-state not-for-profit health system that already leverages telemedicine in delivery of care.

The successful candidate will be an outstanding leader with an established track record of leadership, innovation, program development, and authorship of peer-reviewed publications, who is recognized and well-respected by local, regional, and national peers, with strengths and accomplishments as a telehealth expert. The director will set a clear vision, inspire staff and telehealth stakeholders, and drive results. They will have a passion for developing unique models of building relationships with community-based providers and possess a desire to build systems and processes to maximize efficiency. The director will engage faculty and staff, mentor their careers, hold them accountable to agreed-upon

objectives, and create a collaborative environment conducive to camaraderie, research, education, training, and scholarship. Qualified candidates must hold an MD/DO, PhD, MD/DO-PhD or equivalent; and preferably meet UArizona criteria for appointment to a tenured/tenure-eligible senior-level faculty position.

The Arizona Telemedicine Program

Mission Statement: The mission of the Arizona Telemedicine Program is to be a world-class innovator in telehealth services, technologies, and education programs.

Strategic Objectives:

- The ATP will operate a state-wide telehealth and education telecommunications network, the Arizona Rural Telemedicine Network.
- The ATP will provide network-based training and education programs.
- The ATP will market its services to independent, public and private healthcare organizations throughout the state, focusing on customers in rural communities in geographically underserved areas.
 - Special attention will also be directed to the needs of state agencies such as the Arizona Department of Corrections, the Arizona Department of Health Services, and healthcare education programs of Arizona's three state universities.
- The ATP will develop and implement a sustainable business model for the network.

ATP Program Goals

- To enhance healthcare delivery to medically underserved populations throughout the state by educating and training users in telehealth technologies.
- To maintain a statewide Arizona Telemedicine Network to increase access to medical specialty services while decreasing healthcare costs.
- To use telehealth outreach programs to encourage physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to establish and retain practices in underserved rural areas.
- To provide ongoing training for preceptors, medical students, residents, and practitioners.
- To encourage students from rural communities into the healthcare professions and encourage their return to these communities upon completion of their educations.
- To improve public health in rural communities by providing current information and training.
- To have the Arizona Telemedicine Network serve as a test bed to evaluate the effectiveness of state-of-the-art telehealth services.
- To increase and promote the use of telecommunications for distance learning in healthcare.
- To provide healthcare systems throughout the state with information, training, and expertise in the field of telehealth
- To evaluate telehealth equipment and telecommunications options and participate in their development.

T-Health Mission Statement

Mission Statement: Located on the Bio-Medical Campus of the UArizona College of Medicine, T-Health's mission is to create next-generation innovations in healthcare delivery and education, especially those that leverage advances in medical informatics, wireless telecommunications, telemedicine/telehealth, simulation, and robotics.

Strategic Objectives:

- T-Health will advance and educate users on state-of-the-art technologies in healthcare.
- T-Health will drive the development, evaluation and dissemination of education and training products in telemedicine, robotic surgery, virtual reality, medical imaging, haptic system simulation, decision support systems, and database mining; mass customization of curricula; and next generation healthcare monitoring and productivity tools.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

The Program Director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) is a full-time opportunity primarily responsible for developing, implementing, supporting, and evaluating strategies to increase telehealth activities in rural, urban, and underserved areas statewide. Duties include the development and oversight of educational programs, training and technical assistance, and the development of a long-term strategic plan. The Director is also responsible for pursuing external funding opportunities, providing progress reports to funding agencies, meeting program objectives, and staffing the program.

- Provides the leadership and the vision for the ATP to develop long- and short-term strategies for supporting telehealth activities throughout Arizona.
- Work closely with leadership to develop, execute, and refresh a strategic plan and direction that fosters the mission, goals, and objectives of the University of Arizona, in concert with its strategic direction.
- Oversees the development and conduct of statewide regional educational sessions.
- Serves as the representative for the Arizona Telemedicine Program and advocates for and educates on issues and needs for telehealth programs with federal and state governmental agencies.
- Stays current on telehealth-related topics and keeps the Arizona Telemedicine Council, faculty, and staff apprised of activities, progress, and future plans.
- Partner with the primary health system of the College of Medicine – Tucson (Banner University Medicine) to evaluate the optimal implementation of telehealth systems for the provision of care.
- Partner with the primary health system of the College of Medicine – Tucson (Banner University Medicine) to innovate in the domains of home-based monitoring for the treatment of chronic and acute illness.
- Develops and oversees day-to-day administration of ATP-awarded grants.
- Develops a strategic plan to sustain ATP operations into the future.
- Oversees ATP telehealth training and research centers.
- Conducts ATP Council meetings, national and state conferences, workshops, and other education activities.
- Advances the knowledge of internal and external providers regarding opportunities related to telehealth solutions.
- Fosters innovation and new opportunities for the use of telehealth in local, regional, national and international markets.

- Oversee program's budgeting and resource management, meet departmental financial goals, and enact policies and processes that promote fiscal accountability and responsibility.
- As the educational leader of the program, ensure excellent teaching and training programs for students, residents, and fellows.
- Identify new, and expand existing, sources of funding, including extramural clinical and translational research grants revenue.

Qualifications and Personal Characteristics

The ideal candidate will possess the following education, training, experience, competencies, and personal characteristics:

Education and Certifications

- An MD/DO, PhD, MD/DO-PhD or equivalent degree(s) from an accredited institution.

Experience and Qualifications

- A minimum of ten years telemedicine-related experience, preferably in an academic setting which meets UArizona criteria for appointment to a tenured/tenure-eligible, senior-level faculty position.
- Strong record of funding and publication in telehealth.
- National/international reputation as a respected and accomplished telehealth expert.
- Demonstrated appreciation of the three missions of UArizona's academic healthcare environment – education, research, and community engagement.
- Diverse leadership experience within academic and community settings, along with the ability to recruit and retain faculty, mentor, collaborate, understand the ever-changing healthcare environment, and conduct strategic planning.
- A record of accomplishment of management of a telehealth enterprise and demonstrated understanding of the business and financial issues involved. Experience in developing business models and managing a program that has been financially viable.
- Demonstrated experience as a creative and strategic thinker who can envision and manage for the future.
- Proven record of successful recruiting, retaining, and mentoring diverse junior faculty and supporting faculty in research, teaching, clinical, and administrative endeavors.

Personal Characteristics

- A transparent and direct communication style and a collegial presence that encourages consensus-building, collaboration, and cooperation.
- An ability to function effectively and comfortably in a complex, matrixed environment in which there are multiple organizations with some shared and some competitive goals and complex lines of authority and responsibility.
- A consensus-builder: one who has a demonstrated history of having unified various groups toward the achievement of a common goal.
- An interdisciplinary mindset that values the unique opportunities of a fully integrated academic health science center.
- Flexible, adaptable, and comfortable living in ambiguity. Able to provide strong leadership during times of change; possesses the vision and the sensitivity to sustain a cultural transformation process consistent with the mission and values of UArizona.
- Innovative, creative, and able to think outside the box.
- An ability to take a larger institutional view that recognizes the balance between departmental and institutional priorities.
- A commitment to fostering racial, ethnic, gender, and other elements of diversity in faculty, residents, students, and staff.
- A politically astute and skilled negotiator with a collaborative approach.
- Capacity to position the department to meet the challenges and opportunities inherent with value-based care.
- A systems thinker with the proven ability to navigate and execute in a large complex organization.
- Strategic in orientation, with a positive and clear vision for the future direction of the Arizona Telemedicine Program.
- A visible, engaging style with the ability to listen. This individual will have a strong interest in people, thoughtful consideration of others, and a sense of humor and humility to complement a visible management style.
- Emotional intelligence that permits them to function as a leader who embraces challenge and effectively manages conflict.

Procedure for Candidacy

For full consideration, please apply at the UArizona link below on or before **May 9, 2022**. A CV and Letter of Interest will be required at that time.

<https://arizona.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/4/home/requisition/9535?c=arizona>

Confidential inquiries or nominations may also be sent to Search Committee Chair, Mindy Fain, MD. telemedicinesearch@email.arizona.edu

At the University of Arizona, we value our inclusive climate because we know that diversity in experiences and perspectives is vital to advancing innovation, critical thinking, solving complex problems, and creating an inclusive academic community. As a Hispanic-serving institution, we translate these values into action by seeking individuals who have experience and expertise working with diverse students, colleagues, and constituencies. Because we seek a workforce with a wide range of perspectives and experiences, we provide equal employment opportunities to applicants and employees without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. As an Employer of National Service, we also welcome alumni of AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, and other national service programs and others who will help us advance our Inclusive Excellence initiative aimed at creating a university that values student, staff and faculty engagement in addressing issues of diversity and inclusiveness.

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.

The University



Established in 1885, the University of Arizona, the state's land-grant university with two medical schools, produces graduates who are "real-world ready" through its [100% Engagement initiative](#).

Recognized as a global leader, the university is also a powerhouse in research, with more than \$760 million in research expenditures each year, and ranking 20th among all public universities.

UArizona is advancing the frontiers of interdisciplinary scholarship and entrepreneurial partnerships and is a premier public research university. UArizona also is an economic engine, benefitting the entire state with an estimated economic impact of \$4.1 billion annually.

The National Science Foundation ranks UArizona 20th in research and development expenditures among U.S. public universities and 35th overall. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks UArizona among America's best colleges, and the *Princeton Review* lists UArizona as one of the nation's best universities. UArizona ranks No. 93 in the world and No. 48 nationally, according to the Center for University World Rankings, and UArizona is also one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright Scholars.

UArizona is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, one of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada, and the only AAU member in Arizona.

UArizona is a premier research institution. The National Science Foundation ranks the university 21st in research and development expenditures among U.S. public and private universities. The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research ranks UArizona 50 of 140 institutions for NIH funding in 2021. UArizona is home to the University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS), which includes The University of Arizona Cancer Center, the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center headquartered in the state of Arizona.

The University of Arizona Health Sciences

The University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS) is the statewide leader in biomedical research and health professions training. The UAHS includes the UArizona Colleges of Medicine (Tucson and Phoenix), Nursing, Pharmacy, and the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, with main campus locations in Tucson and the growing Phoenix Biomedical Campus in downtown Phoenix. From these vantage points, the UAHS reaches across the state of Arizona and the greater Southwest to provide cutting-edge health education, research, patient care, and community outreach services. A major economic engine, the UAHS employs almost 5,000 people, has nearly 1,000 faculty members, and garners more than \$126 million in research grants and contracts annually. For more information: <http://uahs.arizona.edu/>

UAHS Strategic Plan

UAHS is currently in the implementation phase of the strategic planning process. The key pillars of the plan include:

1. NEXT-GENERATION EDUCATION
Preparing students to build and lead the future of health care
2. PRECISION HEALTH CARE FOR ALL
Designing and developing precision treatments for all populations
3. MAKING WELLNESS AGELESS
Influencing the critical factors that affect the health of an aging population
4. CREATING DEFENSES AGAINST DISEASE
Unraveling the complexities of human biology to build better defenses against disease
5. NEW FRONTIERS FOR BETTER HEALTH
Expanding capabilities to identify innovative solutions to health care problems

See the full plan at <https://uahs.arizona.edu/strategic-initiatives>

BIO5

The University of Arizona BIO5 Institute launched in 2001 with financial support generated by the Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF), a special investment in higher education made possible by the passage of Proposition 301 by Arizona voters in November 2000. BIO5 harnesses the collaborative power of five core UArizona colleges – Agriculture, Engineering, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Science – to find bold solutions to complex, biology-based challenges affecting humanity: How do we prevent, treat, and cure diseases? How do we address the many environmental issues we face? How do we feed a hungry planet? Since 2001, this interdisciplinary approach has been an international model of how to conduct collaborative research and has resulted in improved food crops, innovative diagnostics and devices, and promising new therapies. For more information: www.BIO5.org.

College of Medicine – Tucson

Mission: Advancing health and wellness of our community and beyond, while embracing diversity in the pursuit of excellence through innovation in our tripartite mission: education, research, and patient care.

The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson provides state-of-the-art programs of medical education, groundbreaking research opportunities, and leading-edge patient care. From an initial class of just 32 students in 1967, the College today has graduated more than 4,000 physicians.

The College has 22 departments – five basic science and 17 clinical science – and nine centers dedicated to specific areas of research, clinical care and teaching: the UArizona Arthritis Center; the Arizona Center on Aging; the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine; the Arizona Emergency Medicine Research Center; the Arizona Telemedicine Program; the UArizona Steele Children’s Research Center; the UArizona Sarver Heart Center; the UArizona Thomas D. Boyer Liver Institute; and the Valley Fever Center for Excellence. The VIPER Institute (Venom Immunochemistry, Pharmacology, and Emergency Response), the Arizona Telemedicine Program, the AIDS Education and Training Center, and the Sonoran UCEDD Center for Excellence also are under the College’s umbrella.

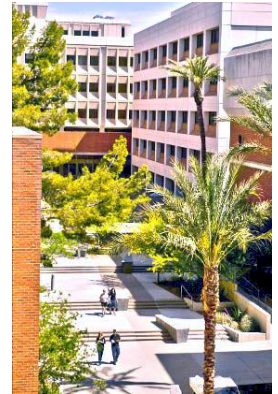
Research concentrations include biomedical imaging, aging, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and neuroscience. Total annual research funding for the College has grown from \$345,000 in 1967 to \$127.4 million in 2020.

Each year, the College admits 120 students, and the class of 2025 was selected from more than 8,600 applicants. The College currently has 514 medical students studying at the Tucson campus and offers three dual-degree programs: MD-PhD, MD-MPH and MD-MBA. The College also has 1,995 undergraduates (Physiology and Medical Sciences majors and minors offered through the Department of Physiology; Emergency Medical Sciences through the Department of Emergency Medicine; and in 2022 a Bachelor of Science in Medicine will be offered). A Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) has been awarded from the NIH and is designed to train students planning careers in academic medicine or biomedical research. Through the collaborative efforts of the College of Medicine and the Graduate College, research-intensive training is pursued through one of over 14 biomedical science departments and interdisciplinary programs. The University of Arizona College of Medicine Graduate Medical Education program oversees 65 ACGME-accredited residency programs in all major specialties and subspecialties. More than 730 residents and fellows receive training at more than 50 sites in Tucson and at various Indian Health Service locations. For more information: www.medicine.arizona.edu

College of Medicine - Tucson Strategic Plan

The [strategic plan](#) for the College of Medicine – Tucson is closely tied to the plans of the University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS), and to the strategic academic and business plan of the University of Arizona.

The premise of the strategic plan is to create a culture of alignment through a common set of strategic goals and objectives, and to foster a sense of shared purpose, shared responsibility and accountability towards a collective destiny, engendering a concerted pride of enterprise.



Banner Health

Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, Banner Health is one of the largest nonprofit health care systems in the country and the leading nonprofit provider of hospital services in all the communities it serves. With nearly 50,000 employees, Banner Health is the largest private employer in Arizona.

The system owns and operates 29 acute-care hospitals, including three academic medical centers, long-term care centers, outpatient surgery centers, and an array of other services, including family clinics, home care and hospice services, pharmacies, and a nursing registry. Banner Health is in six states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming.

In February 2015, Banner Health marked an historic moment in its long history, with the completion of its merger with the University of Arizona Health Network in Tucson, Arizona, to form Banner – University Medicine. This health system, anchored in Phoenix and Tucson, makes the highest level of care accessible to more Arizona residents. At the heart of this merger are academic medicine – research, teaching, and patient care – at the Tucson adult hospital, Tucson pediatric hospital, and South Campus hospital.

Banner's vision is to be "a national leader recognized for clinical excellence and innovation, preferred for a highly coordinated patient experience, and distinguished by the quality of our people." Banner has been nationally recognized for standardization of the electronic medical record, simulation education, and telemedicine. Banner is dedicated to strengthening patient care via a continuous focus on improving patient outcomes and service and implementing best practices across the system.

Innovation is a cornerstone of Banner's mission and vision. Innovation at Banner is defined as the rapid identification and deployment of strategies leveraging Banner's operating model and the science of care delivery to ensure an extraordinary patient experience, which is safe, efficient, and effective.

At Banner Health, the organization believes fully engaged employees are the foundation of providing excellent patient care. The enterprise values diversity and offers excellent career opportunities with great benefits for those looking to make a difference in the communities they serve.

Banner Health Leadership:

- Named a Top 5 Large Health System three out of five years by Truven Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters).
- Twenty-one of Banner's hospitals are at the highest level of electronic medical records.
- At Banner's 55-bed simulation medical center – the largest "virtual hospital" of its kind – Banner health care providers can enhance their skills and training.
- Banner Health is the first health care provider in Arizona and Colorado to use technology to monitor patients from hundreds of miles away using [Banner Telehealth](#).
- Research in the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease conducted by the Banner Alzheimer's Institute (BAI) and the Banner Sun Health Research Institute has resulted in two grants of nearly \$50 million to support BAI's innovative approach and leadership in the field of Alzheimer's disease prevention and treatment.

Banner Telehealth Overview

Banner Health is nationally recognized for its innovative telehealth programs, which include:

- Critical Care, including TeleICU (27 sites, 747 beds), Virtual ED Triage, and Virtual Nursing
- Home Based Care, including COVID @ Home for 40 patients
- Specialty Acute Consults, 35,000 encounters delivered in over 28 hospitals
- Ambulatory Virtual Telehealth Visits, including urgent care, primary care and specialist care, delivered by over 2500 providers
- Emergent Stroke and Behavioral Health Care, including 3200 teleStroke consults delivered at over 25 sites; and 5700 ED teleCrisis behavioral health assessments delivered at 14 sites.

Banner - University Medicine in Tucson

Banner - University Medicine's presence in Tucson includes Banner - University Medical Center Tucson, Banner - University Medical Center South, Diamond Children's Medical Center, and more than 40 physician offices and clinics across Southern Arizona.

More than 700 physicians provide primary care services as well as specialty care on an inpatient and outpatient basis in more than 70 medical specialties.

Banner - University Medical Center Tucson

479-bed, full-service hospital and outpatient treatment center with net patient revenue of over \$710 million.

- Operates Southern Arizona's only Level I trauma center, one of the most highly-rated trauma programs in the nation.
- Received "Magnet" designation in 2003 and re-designation in 2008 from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and was the first hospital in Arizona to receive such designation. Magnet status is achieved by less than two percent of the nation's acute-care hospitals.
- The institution was recognized by *US News & World Report* as among the top 50 hospitals in the nation in four specialties including Cancer, Geriatrics, Gynecology, and Pulmonology. Diabetes & Endocrinology, Gastroenterology and GI Surgery, Nephrology, and Neurology and Neurosurgery were also acknowledged as high-performing specialties. University Medical Center Tucson was recognized as the No. 2 regionally ranked hospital in Arizona.
- Received the Joint Commission's Certificate of Distinction for primary stroke centers in 2009 and became an accredited chest pain center in 2012.

Diamond Children's Medical Center

Located on the Banner - University Medical Center Tucson campus, Diamond Children's Medical Center is designed to provide the most advanced health care possible while maintaining a comfortable, healing atmosphere for children and their families.

- Diamond Children's Medical Center combines the exceptional quality of care and expertise of Banner - University Medical Center and University of Arizona College of Medicine Steele

Children's Research Center, making it Arizona's first children's medical center associated with an academic research facility.

- With 119 beds, Diamond Children's is recognized for its superior capabilities in neonatal and pediatric intensive care, pediatric emergency care, and other specialized services such as pediatric cancer care.
- Diamond Children's Medical Center is a member of the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions ("NACHRI"), an organization of children's hospitals with 218 members throughout the world.

Banner - University Medical Center South

245-bed, full-service hospital and outpatient treatment center.

- The Behavioral Health Pavilion, in partnership with the Crisis Response Center, offers an integrated approach and a continuum of care for patients experiencing behavioral health crises.
- Recently was designated by the Arizona Department of Health Services as a provisional Level IV trauma center. Its emergency department and cardiac catheterization lab were recently renovated and expanded.
- Designated as a NICHE-certified hospital (Nurse Improving Care for Health system Elders), demonstrating the organization's commitment and continued progress in improving quality and enhancing the care of older adults.

New Construction

Banner Health recently invested over \$500 million in capital improvements in the Tucson area. This included a \$400 million, nine-story tower at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson that opened in April 2019. The tower is equipped with modern medical equipment and state-of-the-art operating rooms. The tower features 228 private rooms, 20 new operating rooms, new diagnostic imaging and cardiac catheterization labs, a new cafeteria, and stunning views of Tucson and the Santa Catalina mountains. Banner also built a 250,000-square-foot multidisciplinary clinic next to the Arizona Cancer Center, which opened in December 2017.

Banner - University Medical Group (BUMG)

BUMG is the practice plan of the faculty-physicians of the University of Arizona for both the Colleges of Medicine (Tucson and Phoenix) as well as Banner – University Medicine. More than 900 physicians currently practice in the group. The physicians serve as faculty for the Colleges of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix, treat patients in inpatient facilities and outpatient settings, and conduct research through the Colleges of Medicine and Banner Health. Faculty are dedicated to the three-part mission of clinical care, teaching, and research.

For additional information visit www.bannerhealth.com

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System

The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) serves over 58,000 unique Veterans located in eight counties in southern Arizona and one county in western New Mexico. SAVAHCS is a 295-bed hospital providing primary care and sub-specialty health care in numerous medical areas for eligible Veterans. SAVAHCS also provides our Veterans with quality care at our seven Community Based Outpatient Clinics located in Safford, Casa Grande, Sierra Vista, Yuma, Green Valley, Northwest and Southeast Tucson.

Every year, nearly 1,000 physician and associated health trainees participate in health care training programs. The SAVAHCS supports clinical training and staff development through its VA certified advanced tier simulation center. Utilizing high-fidelity simulation equipment, the simulation center supports the clinical and non-clinical training needs of the organization in an environment that fosters learning and patient safety. SAVAHCS employs over 3,000 health care professionals and administrative staff.

SAVAHCS offers a robust Telehealth program, allowing Veterans a choice in how they receive their care. The latest in secure digital technology is used to set up remote visits with our health care providers. Video conferencing, home telehealth services, and store-and-forward telehealth lets Veterans securely send health information to experts at VA facilities. The programs encompass asynchronous and synchronous Telehealth, as well as Home Telehealth, providing mental health, specialty care, and primary care services to Veterans in rural areas. It also hosts a secure messaging platform that allows patients to view appointments, request refills, and review recent reports and results from the electronic health record.

Tucson, Arizona



Tucson is the second-largest city in Arizona after the state capital, Phoenix. It is the county seat of Pima County, which also includes the towns of Marana, Oro Valley, Catalina, South Tucson, Sahuarita, Vail, and Green Valley. Metropolitan Tucson's population is more than 1 million, which includes roughly 62,000 students and employees at the University of Arizona, which was founded in 1885 as Arizona's first university.

Boasting an average 340 sunny days a year and warm, dry air, Tucson's climate is ideal for year-round outdoor recreation. Tucson is set in a Sonoran Desert valley surrounded by five mountain ranges. A 60-minute trip along the Catalina Highway-Sky Island National Scenic Byway from Tucson's valley floor, at 2,398 feet in elevation, to the 9,157-foot Mt. Lemmon summit, traverses seven of the world's nine life zones – similar to what one would see driving from Mexico to Canada. Tucson is bordered on all sides by natural areas, including Coronado National Forest, Catalina

State Park, Ironwood Forest National Monument, and Saguaro National Park (land of the rare, giant saguaro cactus). One can get to a nature trail within a 15-minute drive.

Besides Banner facilities, there are two other large health systems in Tucson, the Carondelet Health Network and Tucson Medical Center.

For more information visit www.tucsonaz.gov, www.visittucson.org.

The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from University of Arizona College of Medicine documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.

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