Our logo is an incomplete puzzle, with a child in the center. The pieces to the puzzle represent everyone who is integral to improving children’s health: doctors, nurses, medical staff, researchers, families, volunteer groups, donors and others. We all can be a piece of the puzzle, working together to improve children’s health. The puzzle isn’t finished, because we can’t do it without YOU. Thank you for your support! To learn more about the Steele Center, please visit www.steelecenter.arizona.edu.
OUR JOURNEY
Joey, Courtney and Sicily Ingegneri
By Joey Ingegneri, III

We are grateful to Joey, Courtney and Sicily Ingegneri for being our cover models for this year’s annual review, and for sharing their story with us.

Our journey with the University of Arizona Medical Center actually began almost seventeen years ago. I was paralyzed in a roll-over car accident in 1997 and air-lifted to UAMC.

I was eighteen and Courtney was only sixteen, but even as teenagers we were in love and dreamed of having children one day. On a ventilator and unable to talk, I scribbled questions on a pad of paper. The first question I asked was if I would still be able to have children.

Seventeen years later, our dream of becoming parents became a reality in the same place where I first scribbled that question on a pad of paper.

After years of unsuccessful fertility treatments and multiple rounds of in-vitro fertilization, we finally learned we were pregnant in the spring of 2013! We were overjoyed.

The first few months of pregnancy went extremely well, until early August, when Courtney’s water broke. She was only 20 weeks pregnant. The doctors gave us grim odds and advised Courtney to stay on bed-rest at home. They said if by some chance she could make it until 23 weeks, there would be hope for our baby to be viable. At that point we could be admitted to UAMC. Remarkably, we made it to 23 weeks and were admitted.

From the very beginning, we were amazed by the exceptional level of care we received. The odds were still stacked against us, but with each passing week the outlook became a little better. Despite the lack of amniotic fluid, our precious baby continued to fight, continued to grow and continued to beat the odds. For two-and-a-half months, Courtney was an inpatient at UAMC.

On October 28, 2013, our precious daughter, Sicily Elisabeth, was born nine weeks early by emergency C-section.

On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being dead, her initial rating was only a 1, but Sicily continued to fight. In the hands of the amazing NICU team at Diamond Children’s, our daughter not only lived, but thrived. Throughout our nearly five-month stay at UAMC and in the Diamond Children’s NICU, we witnessed the incredible work the entire team does on a daily basis—from the doctors, nurses and medical staff, to the food service and housekeeping staff. Everyone was truly amazing.

We are beyond grateful for the loving care, personal touches and incredible friendships we made with everyone at UAMC and Diamond Children’s. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU.
Some of the complications Gracie has endured include pleural effusion (buildup of fluid in the lungs), and PLE (protein losing enteropathy) — an inability of the digestive tract to absorb proteins, causing an imbalance in her potassium, sodium and albumin levels. In addition, she was unable to feed well post-operatively and subsequently became malnourished, causing her immune system function and IgG (immunoglobulin G) production to decline. Gracie now has a feeding tube for supplemental calories to improve this condition.

To help resolve these complications, Gracie is taken care of by pediatric gastroenterologist Fayez K. Ghishan, MD, and pediatric allergist-immunologist Michael Daines, MD.

Gracie still has a long way to go on her journey to full health, but Lisa and her family are optimistic. “Even though this has been a very trying time for our family, I wouldn’t change anything,” said Lisa.

“Gracie is a firecracker and has the biggest heart of anyone I know. She truly is an inspiration.”

Unexpected Discovery Leads to Insight for Dry Eye Disease

Sometimes, research takes you down unexpected paths, leading to unexpected discoveries. UA Steele Center director Fayez K. Ghishan, MD, and researcher Hua Xu, PhD, associate professor of pediatrics, made yet another unexpected discovery into the role of NHE8—a sodium/hydrogen exchanger protein.

NHEs are a group of membrane proteins that function to exchange extracellular sodium (Na+) for intracellular hydrogen (H+). NHE proteins contribute to many physiological functions, such as intracellular (within cells), acid (pH) regulation, cell volume regulation, and sodium absorption. They play an important role by transporting sodium and electrolytes through the gastrointestinal tract.

Previously, Drs. Ghishan and Xu discovered that NHE8 plays a role in mucosal protection in the intestinal tract and in male reproduction. “When we removed NHE8 in mice, we observed that they developed gastric ulcers, became more susceptible to infections, and the male mice became sterile,” said Dr. Ghishan.

And now, we have discovered that mice lacking NHE8 expression also develop dry eye disease,” said Dr. Xu.

Dry eye disease (DED) is a very common eye disease, especially in Arizona, due to low humidity and high temperatures. Individuals with DED have symptoms of discomfort, visual disturbance and even loss of vision. DED affects millions of people and costs billions to treat.

Dr. Ghishan and Xu have been collaborating with physician-scientist Mingwu Wang, MD, PhD, associate professor, UA Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science. As an expert in treating dry-eye patients, Dr. Wang helped characterize dry-eye symptoms in NHE8-deficient mice.

“The cause for DED has remained largely unknown,” said Dr. Xu. “We believe this striking discovery will lead us to understand the mechanism that causes dry eye disease, and we hope to discover and develop new treatment strategies to treat this very common disease.”

The results of the research will be published in 2014.
The 2014 Diamond Children's/Steele Center "Magic Carpet Ride" Gala was such a wonderful way to start this new year!

The event took place Feb. 1 at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort. It was a beautiful, fun-filled and meaningful evening, with approximately 500 people attending.

Participants enjoyed silent and live auctions, wonderful food and drinks, dancers and live music by The Walkens. The evening was emceed by Amy Miller, mother of a patient and wife of UA men's basketball coach Sean Miller.

One of the evening’s highlights was the uplifting music video that featured rock band American Authors, patients, doctors, nurses, residents, hospital administrators and staff. The video can be viewed online at www.steelecenter.arizona.edu.

Another high point was the stirring speech delivered by 15-year-old patient, Austin Thacker, who is battling stage 4 non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Austin’s speech received a standing ovation.

Funds raised from the gala will fund autoimmune disorders research at the UA Steele Center and clinical programs at Diamond Children’s.

We are grateful for everyone who volunteered their time to make this event a huge success, and for those of you who attended to support Diamond Children’s and the UA Steele Center. Thank you!
IN MY OWN WORDS

Austin Thacker, 15

Excerpts from Austin’s speech given at the Diamond Children’s/Steele Center Gala

On April 10, 2013, my mom received a call from our doctor that they found a mass in my chest. She squeezed my hand so tight, you could just feel her worry. She squeezed my hand for dear life as if I was a precious jewel. I knew something was wrong before she told me. A thousand words were told in that single action.

On April 12, I was diagnosed with Stage 4, non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

When we arrived at Diamonds Children’s, my mom started tearing up. I told her, “Mom, it’s going to be alright.” Right then, my dad burst through the door and gave me a big hug. I met Dr. Kopp and she told me, “Mom, it’s going to be alright.” Right then, my mom started tearing up. I told her, “Mom, it’s going to be alright.” Right then, my mom started tearing up.

I had to begin chemotherapy but they couldn’t do it through an IV, and a port wasn’t an option since the tumor was next to my heart. The next best thing was a “PIC line.” I was awake for it, since it was a huge risk for anesthesia to be given to me because of the chance my lungs might collapse. The PIC line was the most pain I’ve ever endured. They first tried my right arm. I cried and cried. The doctor told me if I cried it would make my veins narrower. I tried as hard as I could. When it was all over, he had to pull it out and try again. He missed where it was supposed to go so he tried again. The PIC line simply wasn’t possible.

After about a month in the hospital, they believed it was safe enough for me to go home for a week or two. It only took a few days until I returned with C Diff (a GI bacterial infection) and extreme dehydration. I couldn’t sleep, I couldn’t eat and I was on morphine. After about three sleepless nights, I finally slept some, but began to hallucinate. One I remember, the walls yelled at me saying the word over and over again. “CANCER. CANCER.” The walls screamed at me to kill myself. I walked to the bathroom still hooked up to everything, my nose tubes, my midline and I fell to the floor. I woke up with nurses and my mom worried sick. The first thing I said was, “I’m ALIVE.” The dream felt so real.

I was sleep-deprived. My blood pressure couldn’t be controlled, so they sent me to the ICU. There were more hallucinations. The C Diff took me from 118 pounds to 88 pounds in a few weeks. I was too weak to walk. After the ICU, I began to recover. Because of the C Diff, my lower intestine became more sensitive to the chemo. I bent down in pain a lot, so when I walked I had an arch in my back. My stance and appearance were bad. I began to have panic attacks and anxiety constantly, followed by nights where I couldn’t sleep. The doctors said this is normal—“Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.” Some nights I would just sit in bed and burst into tears.

After cancer, you feel like a lot of things in society are pointless. Things society says you need, like being good-looking, having the best clothes, owning the newest and latest gadgets to make your life better. They just seem pointless. What I feel is most important is my family and my own bed to sleep in.

When I got the news, my older brother Matt said, “It’s going to be okay, we’ll take this day by day.” He walked to my room and called for help. My mom ran in and found Matt had passed out. When he woke up he told us, “I’m sorry, it’s just my brother!” I told Matt, “It’s going to be okay.”

When I got the news about having cancer, I had no reaction, no feeling or comments. It could have been strength or it could have been ignorance.

Dr. Kopp told me that the bumps on my head and the mass in my chest were all lymphoma, including some other growing tumors in my lungs, spine, ribs and kidneys. This meant stage 4 cancer. When we got the news, my older brother Matt said, “It’s going to be okay, we’ll take this day by day.” He walked to my room and called for help. My mom ran in and found Matt had passed out. When he woke up he told us, “I’m sorry, it’s just my brother!” I told Matt, “It’s going to be okay.”

When it was all over, he had to pull it out and try again. He missed where it was supposed to go so he tried again. The PIC line simply wasn’t possible.

Some people say the news of getting cancer is life-changing. With the experiences I've been through and all the wisdom I've gained, I'm pretty happy I got cancer because if I never had, I wouldn't have had the outlook on life that I do now. I believe wisdom is the most important. With the experiences I've been through and all the wisdom I've gained, I'm pretty happy I got cancer because if I never had, I wouldn't have had the outlook on life that I do now. I believe wisdom is the most important.

I'm Austin Thacker, and I'm going to fight the fight.

Dr. Fayez K. Ghishan
First Pediatric Gastroenterologist
AWARDED
‘Horace W. Davenport Distinguished Lectureship’

U A Steele Center director, Fayez K. Ghishan, MD, was the first pediatric gastroenterologist ever to be awarded the Horace W. Davenport Distinguished Lectureship. This honor is the most prestigious recognition by the Gastrointestinal & Liver Section of the American Physiological Society (APS).

The award recognizes distinguished lifetime achievement in gastrointestinal and liver physiological research, and accomplishments in teaching, training and activities within APS.

“Dr. Ghishan’s research has certainly done this,” said Pradeep K. Dudeja, G-liver section of the American Physiological Society. “There is so much appreciation for the influence Dr. Ghishan has had on the field through his teaching and training activities. Moreover, Dr. Ghishan has given the field a number of great scientists, and we are grateful for all he has accomplished.”
TRAVIS BOSWELL: Why I Joined the UA Steele Center Advisory Board

I joined the advisory board for one simple reason: to give back.

Having been a patient of Dr. Ghishan’s when I was a child, and having benefited from the UA Steele Center’s research, I can confidently say that the UA Steele Center has played a vital role in allowing me to become the driven, successful (so far) individual I am today.

If I could give one child the opportunity I was given, I would do it in a heartbeat. Because of the UA Steele Center, I have been given that opportunity and I hope to do with it as much as I can.

We WELCOME New Advisory Board Members and New Chair

The UA Steele Center welcomed nine new advisory board members in 2013:

- Travis Boswell: UA student, majoring in visual communication with an emphasis in illustration
- Mary Drachman: (previously) teacher, Tanque Verde School District; (currently) sales, Dishman Insurance Services
- Cathy Hutcheson: (previously) manufacturing management, Leoni Wiring Systems; (currently) community volunteer
- Czarina Lopez: secretary treasurer, HSL Properties, Inc.; community volunteer
- Susan Mahoney: gifted education, State Board of Education
- John Payne: president, chief investment officer, Sterling Investment Management, Inc.; owner, manager, Sentinel Pass Capital Management, LLC
- Nancy Quebedeaux-Faulkner, RN, BSN, CIC: Perioperative Services Quality Management Lead, Ascension Carondelet St. Joseph’s Hospital
- Jeff Ronstadt: president, Ronstadt Insurance
- Mick Rusing: trial lawyer, founding partner, Rusing, Lopez & Lizardi

In addition, long-time advisory board member Peggy Rowley was named new chair. “The energy radiating from this year’s advisory board is palpable,” said Rowley. “We want everyone to know about the UA Steele Center. Why? Because without research, we can’t cure children’s disease and illness.”

The purpose of the Steele Center advisory board is to actively support the center through creating community awareness, providing financial assistance and participating in fundraising events.

DISCOVERY Leads to New Understanding of Proteins’ Role in IBD-related Bone Mineral Density Loss

Each year, more than 30,000 children are diagnosed with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), a painful gastrointestinal disorder. IBD is a chronic inflammation of the intestinal tract that causes fatigue, diarrhea, abdominal pain and weight loss.

The two most common forms of IBD are Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. They usually strike children and young adults between the ages of 10-19.

A common complication of IBD is loss of bone mineral density. Consequently, individuals with IBD have been estimated to have a 40 percent higher risk than the general population of developing osteopenia or osteoporosis later in life.

Recently, UA Steele Center researchers discovered that two proteins play a key role in IBD-related inflammation and subsequent bone mineral loss.

The research was led by Steele Center director Fayez K. Ghishan, MD, professor and department head; Pawel Kiela, DVM, PhD, associate professor; and Vijayababu “Vijay” Marati Radhakrishnan, PhD, assistant scientist.

Their findings were published in the prestigious journal, Gastroenterology.

Other contributors to the study included Rajalakshmy “Raji” Ramalingam, PhD; Claire Larmoner, PhD; Daniel Laubitz, PhD; Vijay Radhakrishnan, PhD; Pawel Kiela, DVM, PhD; Monica Midura-Kiefa, MS; Rita-Marie T. McFadden, BS.

The paper, “Post-translational loss of renal TRPV5 calcium channel expression, Ca(2+) wasting, and bone loss in experimental colitis,” showed that the kidneys of patients with inflammatory bowel disease produce less of the protein Klotho, which in turn leads to reduced levels of the calcium-absorbing protein TRPV5 in the kidneys, causing calcium loss in urine.

This mechanism likely contributes to the imbalance of calcium and to IBD-associated loss of bone mineral density.

“This study is a paradigm shift in our understanding of bone calcium metabolism in IBD,” said Dr. Ghishan. “Whereas in the past, the belief was that the higher risk of bone fractures from osteopenia or osteoporosis was related to vitamin D deficiency, we now know that isn’t necessarily the case,” Dr. Ghishan explained. “We have discovered that it is the inflammatory mediators that cause calcium loss in the kidneys, which is connected to decreased amounts of Klotho and TRPV5 proteins produced in the kidneys.”

“Our bodies are designed to maintain a steady concentration of calcium in blood, and limited intestinal absorption and renal reabsorption creates an imbalance, which may lead to resorption of bone—the main calcium depot,” said Dr. Kiela. “Identifying Klotho and TRPV5 as key players in inflammation–induced calcium loss is of profound basic and clinical importance.”

The results of this study point to the possibility that the Klotho protein one day could be used as supplemental therapy to treat IBD patients with osteopenia and osteoporosis.

“Our findings increase our understanding of bone loss in IBD and will help advance the care for IBD patients, because we now know what causes it,” said Dr. Radhakrishnan.
Now in their third year, Kids of Steele continue to make a positive impact in our community. We’re grateful—and impressed!

In January, University of Arizona football Coach Rich Rodriguez and his family chose Kids of Steele as their personal charity of choice. “My family and I are excited to help children through Kids of Steele,” said Coach Rodriguez. They plan to participate in upcoming Kids of Steele fundraising activities and service events.

And twice a month, Kids of Steele provided snacks for patients being treated at the Angel Wing for Children with Diabetes and the UAMC Pediatric Hematology-Oncology outpatient clinic.

Kids of Steele attended the UA football scrimmage game in the spring and coordinated a “meet and greet” with Coach Rodriguez and patient families.

In May, they held a toy drive at La Encantada and collected hundreds of toys and gift cards to donate to patients. Members of the UA football team volunteered along with Kids of Steele, and had a great time.

“The toy drive was a huge success that brought many of our member children to help other children,” said Adrienne Foust, executive board member of Kids of Steele. “It was heartwarming to see children bringing toys for kids in the hospital. Several children shopped inside Mildred & Dildrid, where they purchased items they thought other children might enjoy.”

The Kids of Steele Third Annual Miniature Golf Tournament took place in November and was a huge success. They raised the most ever—$36,000. The funds will be used for “greatest need” projects at the UA Steele Center and Kids of Steele service projects.

And in December, they organized a “Christmas Stocking” service project and stuffed 150 stockings for hospitalized patients at Diamond Children’s and outpatient clinics.

“Kids of Steele has become an important supporter of the Steele Center through our service projects and fundraising efforts—raising more than $100,000 in three short years,” said Ragan Edwards, chair of Kids of Steele. “We have a strong membership comprised of families who are teaching their children the value of giving to others in their time of need. It means so much to watch my own children in their development truly take this message to heart, and 2014 will only be bigger and better with the number of families we are able to reach!”

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**Kids of Steele Superhero Members ($500)**
- Deron and Cecie Davenport
- Jay and Adrienne Foust
- Eric and Shirley Geile
- Matthew and Jennifer Horn
- Justin and Wendy Hughes
- Anthony and Katherine Milo
- Gerald and Rebecca Sundt
- John and Kelly Wild

**Kids of Steele All-Star Members ($250)**
- Louis and Amber Breton
- Craig and Ragan Edwards
- Robert and Jessica Huber
- Albin and Kristen Littell
- Miguel and Lucinda Peralta
- Jeffrey and Tiana Ronstadt
- Christopher and Anne Rounds
- Joshua and Heather Walsh
- Kenneth Morris and Nicole Zuckerman-Morris
Father’s Day Council Tucson celebrated five outstanding Tucson fathers at its 19th annual “Father of the Year Awards Dinner and Gala,” June 14 at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort.

The event raised approximately $100,000 for type 1 diabetes research, clinical programs, faculty recruitment and the Father’s Day Council Tucson Endowed Chair for Type 1 Diabetes at the UA Steele Center.

“Father’s Day Council honors great fathers that make a difference in the lives of their families and the Tucson community,” said Lee Shaw, the group’s executive board chair for 2013. “This year, we had another inspiring selection of fantastic fathers and stewards of our community along with our first ‘Military Father of the Year.’”

This year’s honorees were:
- Tech Sgt. Chad Brady, U.S. Air Force, Davis-Monthan AFB
- Stephen G. Eggen, retired chief financial officer, Raytheon Missile Systems
- Tom Firth, co-owner, Zona 78; managing partner, Hacienda Del Sol
- Michael Hammond, president, managing shareholder, PICOR Commercial Real Estate Services
- Jon Volpe, chairman and chief executive officer, Nova Financial & Investment Corporation

Father’s Day Council of Tucson has raised nearly $3 million for the UA Steele Center over the years.

“My wife and I have seen many positive changes occur over the past 14 years with our daughter, Olivia, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when she was two,” said Shaw. “When you have a child with type 1 diabetes, you are able to fully appreciate the impact that Dr. Ghishan, his researchers at the Steele Center, and staff at The Angel Wing for Children with Diabetes have made on the thousands of patients and their families that they have so wonderfully cared for and educated.”

“We are so grateful for Father’s Day Council Tucson,” said Dr. Ghishan. “Their support enables us to advance our type 1 diabetes research, clinical programs and endowment.”
Research Aims to Improve Nutrition for Critically Ill Children

When infants and children are critically ill, maintaining their nutritional needs while hospitalized plays a vital role in their overall recovery and outcome.

And yet, there is no solid data exists regarding the best way to feed critically ill children. “There are significant gaps in knowledge regarding timing, route, dose and type of nutritional support needed for critically ill infants and children,” said pediatric intensivist Katri Typpo, MD, assistant professor, Division of Critical Care.

To bridge this gap, Dr. Typpo received a two-year NIH grant that seeks to discover the best way to feed children during critical illness.


It is the first randomized trial of IV nutrition (known as TPN, or total parenteral nutrition) for pediatric critical illness.

“Nutrition affects everything in critical care,” said Dr. Typpo. “It affects wound healing, the child’s ability to recover, his or her likelihood of getting another infection while in the ICU and even long-term neurological development.”

“Currently, nutrition for critically ill children involves feeding them through the GI tract, known as enteral nutrition,” said Dr. Typpo. “And then, late into their illness, if they fail to tolerate food and nutrition, we add IV nutrition.” This method is based on research that showed critically ill adults benefit from IV nutrition only late in the course of their illness.

“When do older infants and children who are critically ill fit into this?” Dr. Typpo asked.

“It’s problematic to apply adult data to children because children have ongoing neurologic growth and development,” she said. “It’s more likely that critically ill infants and children are more like premature infants who need early IV nutrition, because of their ongoing neurologic growth and development.”

Dr. Typpo’s research hypothesizes that optimized early protein and calorie delivery will improve a child’s nutritional and long-term neuro-developmental outcomes after critical illness.

“We expect to improve our understanding of optimal timing for TPN support during pediatric critical illness,” said Dr. Typpo. “An improved understanding of the best delivery of nutritional support and the interaction between route and dose of TPN and enteral nutrition potentially can reduce morbidity due to pediatric critical illness, an outcome with lifelong impact.”

The study randomizes critically ill children hospitalized in the PICU at Diamond Children’s.

Children enrolled in the study will receive early IV nutrition (within 24 hours of being admitted) or late IV nutrition, which is added to supplemental enteral nutrition after five days, which is the current standard of care.

A metabolic cart measures the exact caloric needs of each child. “Calorie requirements vary widely with children,” said Dr. Typpo. “By using the metabolic cart, we can determine how many calories each child uses. It’s as important to avoid too much nutrition as it is to avoid malnutrition,” she explained.

The study will enroll approximately 40 patients over the next two years. “Our goal is to expand the study to children’s hospitals throughout the U.S.,” said Dr. Typpo.

“We believe the data will show that even a brief lack of nutrition may significantly impact a child’s neurological development,” explained Dr. Typpo. “Based on our findings, our hope is to develop evidence-based best practices to supply critically ill infants and children with the correct amount of nutrition they need, ensuring the best outcomes.”

Dr. Typpo uses a metabolic cart to measure a patient’s caloric expenditure and needs.

Angel Charity Funding Supports Pediatric Cancer Research and Clinical Trials

The UA Steele Center was named a 2013 beneficiary of Angel Charity for Children, Inc.

The UA Steele Center received $537,230 at the annual Angel Ball held Dec. 14 at the Westin La Paloma.

This funding will enable the UA Steele Center to increase the number of clinical trials for pediatric cancer patients and expand its basic science pediatric cancer research.

“We are profoundly grateful to Angel Charity for this gift,” said Dr. Ghishan, “We will be able to significantly increase the number of clinical trials available to our children suffering from cancer.”

Each year, approximately 65 children with cancer and blood disorders are cared for by UA Steele Center physician-scientists at Diamond Children’s and its affiliated outpatient pediatric cancer clinic. In addition to children in active treatment, long-term care and follow up is provided for hundreds more.

“When our son, Andres, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, we were fortunate to live in Tucson, where we had top-notch care,” said Andres’ mom, Lucinda Peralta. “We know that research led to a cure for our son. The support that Angel Charity brings to the Steele Center will help other families achieve a cancer-free future as well.”

One of the most promising research projects under way at the UA Steele Center is a pediatric cancer vaccine. Given in doses created from a child’s own cancer cells, this vaccine is predicted to prevent cancer recurrence.

“Most cancers, we can induce cancer remission. If the cancer returns, the chance of survival decreases exponentially,” said pediatric oncologist Emmanuel Katsanis, MD, professor and division chief of pediatric hematology/oncology/BMT and director of the Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program at the UA Cancer Center. “Angel Charity’s grant will propel pediatric cancer research forward. We are all excited to move basic and translational cancer research at the Steele Center to the highest level.”

Pictured above: Dr. Katsanis with members from Angel Charity for Children, Inc.
In May, the men’s Scottsdale Active 20/30 Club awarded a $10,000 grant to the PANDAs to support the “PANDA Share a Hug” program. This program enabled PANDA to purchase more than 1,000 stuffed panda bears to be given to pediatric patients.

“Children love stuffed animals, and these pandas will make patients feel better and put a smile on their faces,” said Lori Stratton, director of development for the UA Steele Center. “We are so grateful to the men’s Scottsdale Active 20/30 Club for this very generous donation,” said Emily Calihan, president of PANDA.

The 14th annual PANDA “Children Helping Children” Fashion Show and Luncheon held at The Phoenician in Scottsdale on May 11, raised $475,000 for the UA Steele Center. The event is organized by PANDA (People Acting Now Discover Answers)—the Phoenix Women’s Board of the Steele Center. The board’s mission is to support discovery processes that lead to improved treatments and cures for devastating childhood diseases.

The proceeds will fund the PANDA Children’s Autoimmune Disorders Project at the UA Steele Center, enabling researchers to expand basic science research in autoimmune diseases like type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn’s disease and celiac disease, to name a few.

“Prevalence and incidence of autoimmune diseases like type 1 diabetes and Crohn’s disease are on the rise, and the mechanism underlying this increase is not well known,” said Dr. Ghishan. “We suspect that both genetic and environmental factors contribute to the cause of autoimmune diseases. With PANDA’s support, we hope to make new discoveries that will lead to the development of novel therapies for these complex and perplexing disorders.”

“As president, it was an honor to work with the dedicated PANDA board members in creating our own “circus,”” said Emily Calihan, PANDA president. “Our event was a huge success with more than 900 guests and 64 young models that shined on the runway—all to support the Steele Center and the PANDA Autoimmune Disorders Project.”
The 15th annual Tee Up For Tots golf tournament raised approximately $90,000 for its “Family Support Program” and pediatric cancer research at the UA Steele Center.

The event took place at the Omni Tucson National Resort & Spa and included breakfast, a 19th hole luncheon and an awards ceremony.

A special tribute was held for Dave Sitton, who was the master of ceremonies for the fundraiser every year since its beginning. Sitton died unexpectedly on August 12.

Jerry Zillman and Kathy Zillman founded Tee Up For Tots in 1999, to honor their daughter, Courtney Page Zillman, who passed away from neuroblastoma on November 25, 1999. She was only four years old. Neuroblastoma is a cancer that develops in the nerve tissue. It most commonly affects children five or younger.

Since the devastating loss of their daughter, the Zillmans have supported the UA Steele Center and created the “Courtney Page Zillman Fellowship,” which supports a promising young graduate student for two years to conduct pediatric cancer research at the UA Steele Center. They have raised more than $1 million for pediatric cancer research conducted by UA Steele Center researchers over the past 15 years.

One area of research that has been supported by Tee Up For Tots is the development of cancer immunotherapies—treatment utilizing one’s immune system to help fight cancer. Led by UA Steele Center researcher Emmanuel Katsanis, MD, professor and director of the Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program at the UA Cancer Center, Dr. Katsanis and his team have worked for more than 15 years developing promising new therapies that are nearing clinical trials.

“We’re so grateful to Tee Up For Tots for their continuing support of our pediatric cancer research,” said Dr. Katsanis. “Their support enables us to move research forward, which is the only way we can develop new treatments for cancer.”

In Memory of Our Friend

DAVE SITTON

On August 12, 2013, we were saddened to learn that Dave Sitton passed away from an apparent heart attack at age 58.

Dave was well-known throughout Tucson as the upbeat and award-winning “Voice of the Wildcats” for UA baseball, basketball and football games. He was a UA rugby coach, congressional candidate and cancer survivor, to name just a few of his many accomplishments.

To us, Dave was our beloved friend and a passionate supporter of the UA Steele Center’s research aimed to improve children’s health. He knew the importance of research and loved talking about the work we do to help kids.

For years, Dave participated in the Tee Up For Tots Golf Tournament and the Father’s Day Council Tucson “Father of the Year Awards” that benefited pediatric cancer and type 1 diabetes research at the UA Steele Center.

“Dave was one of the most wonderful human beings I’ve ever met,” said Dr. Ghishan. “He was so devoted to this community and to improving the lives of children. We miss him dearly.”

A Commitment to Giving:

ARIZONA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS

Donate $125,000 to the UA Steele Center

At the December advisory board meeting, Al Skorupski, executive director of the Arizona Elks Major Projects, presented a check for $125,000 to UA Steele Center Director Fayez K. Ghishan, MD.

This was their second $125,000 gift of the year, totaling $250,000.

This donation is part of the Elks’ commitment to raise $2.5 million for the UA Steele Center over the next 10 years. Since 1991, the Elks have raised more than $5 million for the UA Steele Center. They have supported basic science research, education and clinical programs.

“We are so grateful for the Elks’ continued support,” said Dr. Ghishan. “They are truly our partners in improving children’s health, and we could not move forward without them.”

The Elks have committed to supporting the following research areas and programs:

• Basic science research in autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease and celiac disease

• Establishing the UA Steele Center in Phoenix

• Establishing the Arizona Elks Endowed Chair in Statewide Pediatric Research

“The 30,000 individuals who are members of the Arizona Elks Association are proud to support the Steele Center’s efforts to improve children’s health,” said Skorupski. “Establishing the Steele Center in Phoenix, supporting research and creating a new endowed chair are important steps to help children in Arizona who are struggling with illness and disease.”

Since 1991, the Elks have raised more than $5 million for the UA Steele Center. They have supported basic science research, education and clinical programs.

“We are so grateful for the Elks’ continued support,” said Dr. Ghishan. “They are truly our partners in improving children’s health, and we could not move forward without them.”

The Elks have committed to supporting the following research areas and programs:

• Basic science research in autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease and celiac disease

• Establishing the UA Steele Center in Phoenix

• Establishing the Arizona Elks Endowed Chair in Statewide Pediatric Research

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UA Steele Center Director Fayez K. Ghishan, MD, holds check donated by AEMP; also pictured are Peggy Rowley, UA Steele Center advisory board chair; and Al Skorupski, Arizona Elks Major Projects executive director.
More than 2,600 Optimist Clubs around the world are dedicated to “Bringing Out the Best in Kids.” This is accomplished by adult volunteers who participate in a variety of service projects in their communities aimed at helping children.

And the Rincon Optimist Club of Tucson is no exception.

For the past two years, the Rincon Optimists have committed to helping children with cancer by supporting the pediatric cancer research at the UA Steele Center.

In 2013, the Steele Center received $2,000 from the Rincon Optimist Club and an additional matching donation of $1,000 from Optimist International for a total donation of $3,000. On Nov. 3, Mick Gent, president of the Rincon Optimists, presented the check to Dr. Ghishan and Laura Hopkins, coordinator of annual giving.

“We are so thankful for the Optimists’ support,” said Dr. Ghishan. “Every single donation is appreciated and furthers our ability to conduct life-saving research.”

“Our goal is to continue raising funds for the Steele Center’s pediatric cancer research program,” said Gent. “We are now working to find a major sponsor and increase our contributions to the Steele Center in future years.”

They raised the funds through their second annual “Casino Night” event, held at the 4thier’s Golf and Country Club.

“We were inspired by the Rincon Optimist’s positive commitment to helping our children with cancer. Thank you, Rincon Optimist Club of Tucson!”

Larry, with his donation at the Kids of Steele toy drive, is joined by members of the UA football team who volunteered that day. Team members, from left: Jake Fischer, Shaquille Richardson, Richard Morrison (white shirt), Jake Smith, BJ Denker, Fabbians Ebbele.

In May, Kids of Steele held a drive at La Encantada to collect toys and gift cards to give to children hospitalized at Diamond Children’s and those receiving treatments at the University of Arizona Medical Cancer pediatric outpatient clinics.

Larry Ronstadt knows from experience how receiving toys while hospitalized can brighten one’s day.

Diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), in December 2011, Larry has been hospitalized numerous times at Diamond Children’s and has received ongoing outpatient care at the pediatric hematology-oncology clinic.

As Larry’s 9th birthday approached, he and his mom, Tiana Ronstadt, talked about all he has and how much he’s received.

“Larry told me, ‘For my birthday, I want my friends to bring gifts for the kids at Diamond Children’s. I loved getting something when I was there and would like to do that for someone else.’ So, Larry asked his friends to bring gifts to give to children coping with illness,” said Tiana.

Tiana and Larry explored options for donating his birthday gifts, and Larry chose Kids of Steele because they were holding a toy drive the same day as his birthday, May 18, and the Ronstadt family had participated in other events that supported Kids of Steele in the past.

After his birthday party, Tiana and Larry drove the gifts to the toy drive. When they arrived, Larry was greeted by players from the UA football team who were volunteering. They thanked Larry for his generous donation. “The players were friendly and gracious,” said Tiana. “Larry had fun interacting with them.”

“At first I was nervous to deliver the gifts,” said Larry. “But then I felt great and happy.”

We feel happy, too, for Larry’s act of generosity!
Dr. Wayne Morgan
Receives the Richard C. Talamo Distinguished Clinical ACHIEVEMENT AWARD from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Wayne Morgan, MD, professor of pediatrics and physiology, division chief of Pediatric Pulmonary, Allergy and Immunology, UA Department of Pediatrics, received the prestigious “Richard C. Talamo Distinguished Clinical Achievement Award,” at the 27th Annual North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference on Oct. 17, in Salt Lake City.

This award is given to individuals who have spent their careers in the research and care of patients with cystic fibrosis and whose contributions have had significant influence on the course of the disease.

“This is the most prestigious award given by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to a clinician,” said Michele Murphy, executive director of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Southern Arizona. “We are very proud and grateful for the care provided by Dr. Morgan and his team.”

For more than 35 years, Dr. Morgan has provided clinical care to children with cystic fibrosis and other pulmonary diseases. He is also a faculty member of the UA Pediatric Pulmonary Center (PPC)—a program funded by a grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

An internationally-acclaimed physician-scientist with the UA Steele Center, Dr. Morgan’s research interests include asthma, cystic fibrosis and sleep medicine.

He has chaired the Epidemiologic Study of Cystic Fibrosis (ESCF), and has made major contributions to our understanding of cystic fibrosis and its care. Dr. Morgan is also the Chair of the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Data Safety Monitoring board, which oversees safety and quality.

In recognition of Dr. Morgan’s clinical accomplishments and contributions to the field of cystic fibrosis, he was awarded the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s Richard C. Talamo Distinguished Clinical Achievement Award.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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COMING SOON:
UA Steele Children’s Research Center in Phoenix

We are officially in the renovation stage at our new Phoenix office, 4455 E. Camelback Road, Suite E-135.

“We anticipate renovations being completed sometime in the Spring of 2014,” said Heather Walsh, associate director of development, Phoenix.

“We’re excited to expand to Phoenix, where we will begin conducting clinical research studies in collaboration with children’s hospitals in Maricopa County,” said Dr. Ghishan. “We are especially grateful to our PANDAs and the Arizona Elks for their support, which has made this expansion possible.”

The first UA Steele Center clinical research projects will be in the areas of necrotizing enterocolitis, autism, and type 1 diabetes.

Types of Donations:
- Donations raised from events: 49%
- Direct donations: 51%

Types of Donors:
- Individual: 40%
- Foundations: 42%
- Corporations: 18%

FY 12-13
Where Philanthropy Funds were directed
- Research: 42%
- Endowment: 32%
- Recruitment: 12%
- Clinical support: 3%
- Annual fund/greatest need: 11%

FY 11-12
How Philanthropy Funds were Used
- Teaching, healing, discovering: 89%
- Administrative and fundraising: 11%

FY 2012-13
FACTS & FIGURES
Total amount raised: $1,635,131
We appreciate every gift made to the UA Steele Children’s Research Center. It is the kindness and generosity of our donors that allow us to provide today’s care and tomorrow’s cures to children throughout Arizona. We want to give special thanks to the following donors who gave $1,000 or more from January through December 2013.

THANK YOU!

NEW FACULTY

The Department of Pediatrics Welcomed these Faculty in 2013

PKD3R Commercial Real Estate Services
Jan and Peggy Reilly
Frank and Lisa Searls
Larry and Ruth K. Thain
Jas and Tannzy Underwood
Greg and Julie Vogt
Christopher and Helen Young

$2,500 - $4,999
Baskin & Partners, Inc.
BBVA Compass
Wendy Bernardo
Michael and Roger Bell
Mark and Shauna Cornett
Russell and Emily Davis
Bjoern Dyck
Ali Farhang
Kathlynn National Title Agency
Marc and Debra Fleischman
Ging and Katie Gale
Herbert Goldberg
Karen Hielten
Greggory and Christy Hesky
Jodi and Barry Darby
Chris and Jennifer Karas
Jonathan and Jennifer Kaja
Sage and Wendy Limetz
Daryl and Amy Mahoney
Mid First Bank
David and Tressi Mosier
John and Caroline Mose
Phoenix Suns Charities, Inc.
State of Kentucky Power
Riverton Optometry Clinic of Tucson
Larry and Susan Ring
Therha Roper and Glynis Clements
Toni and Kelly Ross
William and Sarah Slomian
Leslie and Suzanne Small
Stewart Title & Trust
Students Supporting
Bridal Run Tuxedo
Mark Spragg
E. Thomas and Laura Thlimen
Benjamin and Caryn Thomas
Touchstone Foundation
Turcan Electric, Power
Michael and Susan Wiklas
Charles and Shannon Win
Anthony and Eileen Young
Richard and Victoria York

$1,000 - $2,499
Ben and Christine Aquilina
Sara Arrick
Alaskana Orthodontics LLC
Anonymous 16
Amy Arponen
Medical Research Foundation
Walter and Leo Ammer
Joseph and Tiffany Barry
Thomas and Charlotte Bell
Righteous Creative Group, LLC
Anthony and Jayne Boggi
Todd and Lisa Borenowsky
Lara and Amaret glitter
Mark Brown
Donald and Leslie Budinger
Daniel and Emily Callahan
Peter and Mary Callahan
Molly Carden
Gaisby’s Children
DBE
Casey and Lauren Chappie
Todd and Katherine Chester
Bettina Chese
Casey and Kyle Christiansen
Thomas and Muffie Churchill
John and Carol Clements
Lisa and Gena Connolly
Aureen and Carisse Cook
Paula Coss
Ax Communications, Inc
Denny and Cecie Davant
Jami Deardorff
Della Della/Tucson Alumnae Chapter
Dollar Underwood
Michael and Josephine Dickens
Sharon Dorn
Robert and Amy Draper
Gary and Susan Elkins
Charles and Jennifer Elms
10 Rio Santa Cruz
Neighborhood Health Center, Inc.
Bruce and Michelle Ely
Court and Megan Faile
Father’s Day/Mother’s Day Council
Jason Paul and Dawn Pechon
Richard and Nancy Frey
Peter and Ann Firth
Lisa Foster
John and Lewis Frazescore
Nerima Mckenna
John and Teresa Frova
David and Jennifer Galvin
Benedict and Anello Glasscock
Golden Eagle Distributors
Maurice R. & Meta G.
Grass Foundation
John and Melanie Guzik
Larry and Penny Gunning
Ralph and Maren Hirscht
Tom and Sandy Hobb
Aron Heyer
Aron Nisho

$5,000 - $9,999
Kam Ayal
Lawrence and Wendy Aldrich
Arizona Community Foundation
Mark and Jennifer DeGuara
Bennett and Jacques Dorn
DBW Associates
John and Sus Lan
Pay Street Investments, LLC
Thomas and Susan Firth
Larry Fitzgerald Jr.
Deshawn Glidden
Lisa Hilt
Matthew and Jennifer Herr
Thomas and Ruth Ann Hensley
William and Kimberly Jacobson
Linda Kaptel
D. Roger Matus
Wilton and Ingrid Nabnoff
Mridula Aggarwal, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Division of Hospital Medicine
Sofia Khera, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Hospital Medicine
Marie Olson, MD, FACP
Assistant Professor
Division of Hospital Medicine
John D. Feerrick, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition
Claire Larmenier, PhD
Assistant Professor
Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition
Jeffrey Rein, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Division of Hospital Medicine
Andrea Hobson, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Division of Neonatology
Janet Lau, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Hospital Medicine
Michael Seckeler, MD, MSc
Assistant Professor
Division of Cardiology
Ann Judakis, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Division of Hospital Medicine
Stephen Metz, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Division of Hospital Medicine
Lesla Whalen, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Critical Care
Faculty HIGHLIGHTS

Alan Bedrick, MD, professor, Division of Neonatology; received the “Distinguished Alumnus Award” from Penn State University—the highest award bestowed by Penn State upon an outstanding alumna or alumnus. Serves on the Board of NeoReviewPlus, a publication of the American Academy of Pediatrics; serves on Board of Directors for the Arizona Perinatal Trust.


Sean Elliott, MD, associate professor, Division of Infectious Diseases; received the “Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award” from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation; inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. University of Arizona nominee for Alpha Omega Alpha. Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teaching Award; featured on PBS Frontline, “Hunting the Nightmare Bacteria”; featured panelist on “Consider This” moderated by Antonio Mora, Al Jazeera America.


Scott Kiewer, MD, professor and division chief, Division of Cardiovascular; named to the Peggy M. Barrett Endowed Chair for Congenital Heart Disease, appointed Division Chief of Pediatric Cardiology, and was appointed to the national medical advisory board for the Adult Congenital Heart Association (ACHA).


Yi Zeng, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Division of Hematology, Oncology and BMT; Grants: University of Arizona Foundation Faculty Seed Grant, “Improving the Outcome of Haploidentical BMT with Activated T-history cells” ($10,000); American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant, “Targeting p21 Activated Kinases for Lymphoma” ($15,000); NIH University of Rochester, “Spore in Lymphoma Administrative CORE Career Development” ($35,000); Arizona Cancer Center RIG Pilot Award, “P21 activated kinase 2 (Pak 2)” ($7,000). Publication: Normal hematopoiesis and neurofibromin-deficient myeloproliferative disease require Erk. Journal of Clinical Investigation. 2013 Jan 2;123(1): 329-34.