construction has begun for a high-tech medical simulation training laboratory at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center. Supported by the UA College of Medicine and a generous grant from founding industry partner Karl Storz Endoscopy, the Medical and Surgical Simulation Laboratory will provide medical students, resident and practicing physicians, and nurses hands-on training using the latest in virtual reality technology.

Under the leadership of Allan J. Hamilton, MD, who is leaving his position as chairman of the Department of Surgery to serve as director of the Arizona Surgical Technology and Education Center (ASTEC), the Medical and Surgical Simulation Laboratory will develop, validate and apply simulation-based tools and devices for use in medical and surgical training. The goal is to create and test new models of medical education, Dr. Hamilton says.

Located in renovated space on the fourth floor of AHSC, the lab will house a simulated operating room with state-of-the-art laparoscopic equipment, virtual reality trainers, computer-based mannequins, and telementoring conferencing capabilities to broadcast lectures and demonstrations to other sites. These tools will provide new training opportunities not only for surgeons, but also for anesthesiologists, cardiologists, pulmonologists, gastroenterologists and other medical specialists interested in perfecting and learning advanced techniques using new technologies.

The lab also will be a place where medical simulator companies can collaborate with the UA to develop and test new prototypes and software.

Advances in information technology have made simulated medical training not only possible, but a necessary “next-generation” step in education, says Dr. Hamilton. “Recent studies have shown that skills learned in the virtual reality environment are transferable to the operating room. The use of simulators will lead to more efficient and effective learning and has the potential to reduce errors, ultimately saving thousands of lives every year.”

The lab is scheduled to open by Sept. 1.
Chairman’s Message

It has been said that there is only one constant in the universe and that is change. I have had the honor of leading the UA Department of Surgery for five full and productive years, the longest tenure of any surgery chairman. As part of that job, I have had to forgo dedicating myself to some areas of surgical education and research for which I have a great deal of interest and passion. It is time for change, for me and for the department. Starting this July, Dr. Hugo Villar, department associate head, will serve as interim chairman while the UA College of Medicine Dean Keith Joiner launches a nationwide search for a new leader who will be charged with overseeing the next phase of growth and expansion of Surgery.

When I took over the helm, the department was losing $2 million dollars a year. Under Department Administrator Donna Cochran’s constant tending and tireless dedication, we now have a profitable department, with each section achieving financial profitability. We have together made enormous strides in guaranteeing both ethnic and gender diversity. More women now are serving as clinical faculty than ever before. The General Surgery Residency Program continues to prosper under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Jim Warneke. Dr. Villar’s efforts have ensured that the residency has expanded its mission and venue to include experiences in Phoenix and Tuba City. The research plan, nurtured and championed by Dr. Ron Heimark, is moving forward with an eye toward availing our surgeons of the great diversity of collaborators in the University and the State of Arizona. Jo Marie Gellerman has brought our department into the public eye and has demonstrated the enormous opportunities available to expand our philanthropic efforts to generate a new source of revenue. Under Dr. Mike Demeure, the clerkship has begun to become a center of teaching excellence that engages the whole faculty in the effort. Clerkship Coordinator LaRue Mirr’s efforts never have slackened for a second as a champion of the students. The greatest legacy that I can turn over to the next chairman is a very effective and dynamic department of empowered leaders. I am very proud of our team. It is rightly the envy of many here at the University of Arizona and elsewhere.

I am leaving my current position as department head to lead ASTEC, an exciting College-wide effort to harness animatronics and computer simulation to assist in medical training and education. This effort mandates that our vision expand beyond the department to the College of Medicine, and even to seeing ourselves as stewards of educational opportunity and innovation for the State of Arizona. I have vowed to take this mission, entrusted to me by Dean Joiner, and look forward to the great adventure ahead of us and, as Lord Tennyson wrote in his poem “Ulysses”:

“How dull it is to pause, to make an end,
To rust unburnish’d, not to shine in use!
As tho’ to breath were life. Life piled on life
Were all too little, and of one to me
Little remains: but every hour is saved
From that eternal silence, something more....”

God bless you all!

ALLAN J. HAMILTON, MD
Professor and Chairman
Department of Surgery

Cutting-Edge Research

Stopping the Spread of Prostate Cancer

Ronald Heimark, PhD, associate professor and chief of Surgical Research in the UA Department of Surgery, is looking for ways to prevent prostate cancer from spreading.

He and two Arizona Cancer Center researchers are part of the Prostate Cancer Team, which recently was awarded a five-year $4.86 million program project grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for the project “Prostate Carcinoma: Invasion and Metastasis Factors.”

The study’s principal investigator Raymond Nagle, MD, PhD, interim director of the Arizona Cancer Center, Anne Cress, PhD, professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, and Dr. Heimark will direct three basic research projects that combine the experiences and techniques of pathology, cell biology and molecular biology to tackle prostate cancer metastasis.

Prostate cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer and is the second-leading cause of death in men in the United States. Although most of the time the cancer is diagnosed and treated at early stages, some tumors prove aggressive and spread to the rest of the body. One of the biggest problems now facing doctors and their patients with prostate cancer is determining which cancers are likely to stay confined to the gland, and which are more likely to grow and spread (and therefore require treatment).

The ultimate goal of the grant’s three projects is to determine the critical events within the body that cause prostate cancer to spread so that the more aggressive tumors can be identified.

The research is designed to increase understanding of this cancer’s biology, to create the best approach possible in selecting therapies for individual patients and to discover new ways to prevent the spread of prostate cancer.

The project led by Dr. Heimark, who also holds appointments in the UA Departments of Pathology, and Cell
Testing & Treatment

The walnut-size prostate gland is located in the male pelvis just behind the pubic bone and in front of the rectum. The gland itself is involved in reproductive and sexual activity, since it produces substances that carry and nourish sperm. A blood test called a PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) looks for a prostate marker in the blood and, combined with a rectal examination, is a good method for prostate cancer diagnosis.

“All men should have both of these tests every year after age 50,” says Sanjay Ramakumar, MD, assistant professor and director of Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery in the Department of Surgery.

Localized prostate cancer can effectively be cured by surgically removing the prostate and surrounding tissue. Dr. Ramakumar is one of a few doctors to perform this procedure minimally invasively, with smaller incisions and fewer complications.

Experts agree that early detection is the key to managing and possibly curing prostate cancer.

Quality of Life after Surgery Study

Robert Krouse, MD, assistant professor of surgery, Section of Surgical Oncology, received a three-year, $1.3 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to study health-related quality-of-life issues in colorectal cancer survivors.

Specifically, Dr. Krouse’s research will focus on patients with intestinal stomas, or ostomies, which are the surgical exteriorization of the bowel to the anterior abdominal wall.

“Researchers and clinicians increasingly are recognizing the importance of assessing quality-of-life outcomes when evaluating the efficacy of medical therapies or procedures,” says Dr. Krouse. “A major focus is the quality of life of cancer survivors, since the treatment itself often has significant long-term effects.”

Dr. Krouse, who specializes in quality-of-life health care and palliative surgery, is a member of the American College of Surgeons Surgical Palliative Care Task Force.

EXPO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Perfecting surgical skills usually takes hundreds of operations and hours of work. With computer-based simulators, surgeons in training can “rehearse” a complex surgical procedure. Simulators add a way to brush up on the technique, experiment and be able to correct mistakes over and over.

The Department of Surgery plans to integrate the technology demonstrated at the Surgery Expo into the new Medical and Surgical Simulation Laboratory opening in September on the campus of the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center.
New Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery Now Available at UMC

For patients with debilitating chronic back pain, a new minimally invasive spinal fusion procedure is being offered at University Medical Center.

The technique incorporates new technology that allows lumbar decompressions and spinal instrumented fusions through small incisions, resulting in less retraction of healthy muscles, less pain and scarring, and shorter recovery time and hospital stays, says neurosurgeon Gabriel Gonzales-Portillo, MD, assistant professor, UA Department of Surgery.

The goal of spinal fusion surgery is to take the pressure off the nerve roots and fuse a section of the spine together using special screws, explains Dr. Gonzales-Portillo.

The traditional “open” approach involves the surgeon making a lengthy incision down the middle of the back. The muscles in the back are separated from the spine and retracted off to each side, allowing the surgeon easy access to the spine to decompress the nerve roots and for implantation of the screws. The downside is that the muscle retraction can cause considerable pain and muscle scarring.

With the help of new instruments, Dr. Gonzales-Portillo is able to deliver screws and rods to the patient’s damaged spine through one small incision. “The technique can significantly reduce the patient’s pain, blood loss and recovery time because it results in less trauma to the muscle and surrounding tissue,” Dr. Gonzales-Portillo says.

According to the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, more than 65 million Americans suffer from low back pain each year. While only a small percentage of sufferers eventually need an operation, back pain is the third most frequent reason for surgery overall.

Nationwide, an estimated 190,000 lumbar spinal fusions will be performed this year to treat common spinal conditions such as degenerative disc disease and misaligned vertebrae.

Screening for Non-Cardiac Vascular Disease

Almost everyone knows about heart disease, but few people understand the seriousness of major non-cardiac vascular diseases. Vascular disease outside the heart, including stroke, peripheral arterial disease (PAD), carotid artery disease and aortic aneurysms, causes as much death and disability as heart disease and more than any cancer.

The Section of Vascular Surgery hosted a free vascular screening May 14 in the Fourth Floor Vascular Clinic at AHSC. The screening was held in conjunction with the American Vascular Association’s annual national screening program. The UA was one of 140 sites nationwide participating in the program.

People at high risk for non-cardiac vascular disease – 60 years old or older with a history of hypertension, diabetes, smoking, high cholesterol, or known cardiovascular disease – received a carotid artery scan to look for blockages, an abdominal ultrasound to detect aortic aneurysms and non-invasive pressure tests to detect peripheral artery disease.

“Screenings are designed to find vascular disease before it becomes a major problem,” says Joseph Mills, MD, professor and chief of vascular surgery at the University of Arizona. “Sudden death can occur if certain vascular conditions are not found and properly treated. The good news is that most of these conditions can be discovered by using simple, painless, non-invasive tests that take just minutes to complete.”

According to the AVA, an estimated 20 to 30 million Americans are at risk for various vascular diseases.
Congrats Chiefs, Welcome Interns

**General Surgery**

Of the six graduating general surgery chief residents, four are pursuing careers outside Arizona and two are remaining in the UA Department of Surgery. Kimberly Peck, MD, has accepted a one-year fellowship in trauma and critical care surgery at Shock Trauma in Baltimore. Christopher Abbot, MD, joins a vascular surgery fellowship at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center in New Brunswick, New Jersey. William Polito, MD, also is moving on to a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at the Texas Heart Institute in Houston. Erin Walling, MD, is entering into private general surgery practice at the Wenatchee Valley Medical Center in Wenatchee, Washington.

Staying at the UA are Kaoru Goshima, MD, and Jennifer Tittensor, MD. Dr. Goshima continues her training as a fellow in vascular surgery, and Dr. Tittensor joins the Division of General Surgery as an assistant professor of clinical surgery, operating primarily at Kino Community Hospital.

### Interns

As the class of 2004 leaves, the General Surgery Residency Program welcomes thirteen new interns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categorical Residents</th>
<th>George Washington University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cybil Cornig, MD</td>
<td>The University of Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layla Corral, MD</td>
<td>The University of Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa Jensen, MD</td>
<td>The University of Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick O’Herron, MD</td>
<td>The University of Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Reynoso, MD</td>
<td>Creighton University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Rough, MD</td>
<td>Temple University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preliminary Residents</th>
<th>Northwestern University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manas Jain, MD</td>
<td>The University of Arizona (Urology)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Linehan, MD</td>
<td>Latvian Medical Academy (Anesthesiology)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelena Safronova, MD</td>
<td>The University of Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maggie Villamana, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orthopedic Residents</th>
<th>Medical College of Wisconsin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Webber, MD</td>
<td>University of Hawaii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Enoki, MD</td>
<td>University of Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter Kiesau, MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Urology**

In the UA Department of Surgery Section of Urology, graduating residents are Peter M. Colegrove, MD, and Eugene L. Park, MD. Dr. Colegrove has been appointed by the Section of Urology as a clinical assistant professor of surgery, operating mainly at Kino Community Hospital and the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. Dr. Park is joining Urologic Associates of Southern Arizona, P.C., a private practice in Tucson.

**Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery**

Robert Pascotto, MD, is graduating from the UA Department of Surgery Section of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Residency Program and has accepted a position in the section as assistant professor of clinical surgery. Joining the program is Griffin Coates, MD. Dr. Coates completed his General Surgery residency at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. He was in private practice in Johnson City, Tenn., prior to accepting the CT residency.

**Neurosurgery**

The UA Department of Surgery Section of Neurosurgery welcomes Sergio Rivero, MD, and Juan Valdivia-Valdivia, MD, the recently accredited program’s first neurosurgery residents.
Surgery Expands to Kino Hospital

The Department of Surgery is expanding its surgical services to Kino Community Hospital beginning July 1.

Initially, surgery services will consist of general and urology outpatient clinics. Surgical procedures will include minimally invasive surgery, endocrine surgery, and diagnostic and therapeutic surgical oncology. The department also will provide 24-hour general surgery call coverage for patients that come through Kino’s Emergency Department.

Renovations have begun for two state-of-the-art operating rooms. New diagnostics equipment will be added, including a 16-slice helicoidal scanner and a new digital mammography unit.

In addition to several current Department faculty, three new faculty members have been appointed to practice at Kino:

- **Jennifer Tittensor, MD**, assistant professor of clinical surgery, Division of General Surgery
- **Amy Waer, MD**, assistant professor of clinical surgery, Division of General Surgery
- **Peter Colegrove, MD**, clinical assistant professor of surgery, Section of Urology

New faculty and services will be added to Kino as the practice grows, says Donna Cochran, Department of Surgery administrator. The department is planning to provide ENT services next year and vascular surgeons will collaborate with the UA Department of Neurology on a stroke clinic. The expansion will involve the placement of surgical residents as well.

“Our goal is to serve the community of patients that can be seen at Kino, provide quality, caring surgical care and to expand our teaching and clinical programs,” says Cochran.

**Hugo Villar, MD**, who has helped spearhead Surgery’s expansion to Kino, says the hospital provides the department much-needed space to increase its faculty and clinical services. “The Department will continue at Kino its long-standing commitment to providing exceptional surgical care and training new generations of surgeons.”

University Physicians Inc. (UPI), the medical practice group for University of Arizona physicians, signed a long-term lease in June with Pima County to manage and operate Kino.

---

Golf Tournament Raises $35,500 for Trauma

The Second Annual Golden Hour Golf Tournament benefiting the UMC/UA Trauma Program raised $35,500, almost three times more than last year’s event. Presented by HEALTHSOUTH and the Southern Arizona Trauma Network (SATNET), the event was held Nov. 21 at The Lodge at Ventana Canyon.

**A special thanks go to tournament sponsors:**

- **Lifesaver** – SCF (State Compensation Fund) of Arizona
- **Media Sponsors** – KOLD-TV and Citadel Broadcasting
- **Trauma Code Red Sponsors** – Lloyd Construction, HEALTHSOUTH and Wells Fargo
- **Trauma Code White Sponsors** – ARAMARK, Financial Directions, SAEMS, ScriptSave, Southwest Ambulance
- **Trauma Code Green Sponsors** – ACE Hardware, Chestnut Construction, Life Net, College of Medicine, Compass Bank, CBIZ-Gordon, Zucharelli & Handly, Flagstar Bank, Hangar Prosthetics, Health Equity, The Fountains, HEALTHSOUTH Southern, Karl Storz Endoscopy, HEALTHSOUTH Surgery Center, Lexus of Tucson, Southern Arizona Paving, Schilling Atkinson Team, Minkus Advertising Specialties, Sunrise Medical, Qualified Mechanical, UMC, Professional Hospital Supply, Southern Arizona Trauma Network
- **Trauma Caution Yellow Sponsors** – Aristocrat Printing, Carondelet Health Network, DM Federal Credit Union, DeVries, Carpenter & Associates, Gore Medical, Kindred Healthcare, Russo, Cox & Russo, Select Mortgage, Western Medical
- **Additional Sponsors** – Southwest Ambulance (golf balls), Lloyd Construction (shirts), Wells Fargo (lunch), HEALTHSOUTH (awards ceremony), Golden Eagle Distributors (prizes), US Expo (site design & set up), Lexus of Tucson (hole-in-one contest), US Surgical (golf support) and Commercial Printers (printing brochures and programs)
New Faculty

Charles Needham, MD, associate professor of clinical surgery, joined the UA Department of Surgery Section of Neurosurgery in January. Prior to his appointment and beginning his practice at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System, he was on the clinical faculty at Yale University School of Medicine.

He received his medical degree at Albany Medical College in New York and completed his residency training in neurosurgery at Albany Medical Center Hospital and Montreal Neurological Institute.

Dr. Needham has been featured in *Who’s Who in Connecticut, America, the World, Medicine and Healthcare*, and *Science and Engineering*. He also received the Outstanding Clinical Instruction Award from Yale University School of Medicine and served as president to the Connecticut State Neurological Society.

Dr. Needham has authored or coauthored more than 75 publications and presentations and is working on a textbook of neurosurgical diagnosis. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and belongs to several other medical societies, including American Association for Advancement of Science and the International Association for Study of Pain.

Jennifer Tittensor, MD, has been appointed assistant professor of clinical surgery by the UA Department of Surgery Section of Plastic Surgery. Dr. Jackson received her medical degree from the University of Arizona. She completed training in general surgery and plastic surgery at the University of California, Davis Medical Center, and a recent hand surgery fellowship at Oklahoma University.

Dr. Jackson’s current research focuses on avulsion fractures of the harnate hook, thumb MCP fusion and ultrasonic diagnosis of congenital hand. She has participated in the Rotoplast Vietnam Medical Mission for cleft lip/palate and is a candidate member of the American Society of the Hand.

Amy Waer, MD, a private general surgery physician in Virginia Beach, Va., is returning to the University of Arizona where she completed both her medical degree and residency in general surgery. During her residency, Dr. Waer received the Charles W. Putnam Teaching Award for Surgical Chief Resident of the Year. As assistant professor of clinical surgery in the UA Department of Surgery Division of General Surgery, Dr. Waer primarily will be practicing at Kino Community Hospital. Her clinical interests are breast and laparoscopic surgery.

A member of the American College of Surgeons, Virginia Medical Society and the Tidewater Medical Women’s Association, Dr. Waer also was on the Southside Hampton Roads Medical Advisory Committee for the American Cancer Society.

Jennifer Tittensor, MD, has been appointed by the UA Department of Surgery Division of General Surgery as assistant professor of clinical surgery. She received her medical degree from the University of Utah and recently completed the UA Department of Surgery General Surgery Residency Program.

The recipient of the Exceptional Resident Educator Award for the UA Surgery Clerkship, Dr. Tittensor will participate in student and residency didactic sessions. In addition to teaching, she will practice primarily at Kino Community Hospital.

Peter M. Colegrove, MD, is joining the UA Department of Surgery Section of Urology as clinical assistant professor of surgery. He received his medical degree from the University of Iowa and recently completed his residency training in urology from the University of Arizona. Dr. Colegrove was awarded the Outstanding Resident Teaching Award and the AUA/Praecis Pharmaceuticals Gerald P. Murphy Scholar.

Dr. Colegrove’s clinical interests include general urology, urologic oncology, female urology, minimally invasive surgery, endoscopy and treatment of erectile dysfunction. His research will concentrate on urethral stricture disease, the use of prosthetics and biologically compatible materials in the treatment of urologic disease and medical education.

The UA Department of Surgery Section of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery has appointed Robert Pascotto, Jr., MD, assistant professor of clinical surgery. He received his medical degree from Creighton University in Omaha and was a resident in general surgery at Albany Medical College in New York. Dr. Pascotto recently completed his residency in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Arizona.

Dr. Pascotto will continue to work with colleagues at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System on research of internal mammary artery coronary bypass grafts and saphenous vein grafts, radial artery bypass grafts and artificial heart transplantation. He is a member of the American Medical Association and American College of Surgeons.
Best Doctors
Six UA Department of Surgery faculty members are listed as 2003-2004 Best Doctors in America:

**Neurological Surgery**
- Allan J. Hamilton, MD
- Michael J. Demeure, MD

**Thoracic Surgery**
- Jack G. Copeland, MD
- Joseph L. Mills, MD

**Surgical Oncology**
- Gulshan K. Sethi, MD
- F. Hugo Villar-Valdes, MD

- Craig Comiter, MD, associate professor and chief, Urology, won the first annual American Urological Association Leadership Council Award.

- Jack Copeland, MD, professor and chief, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, presented the national study of the CardioWest Total Artificial Heart to the FDA Devices Panel. The panel approved it with a vote of 10 to 1. This is the first artificial heart to ever be approved by the FDA. Dr. Copeland authored an article on the UA experience with the CardioWest TAH to be published in the Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation. He also authored a report of a multi-institutional study of the CardioWest TAH that has been accepted by the New England Journal of Medicine.

- Gabriel Gonzales-Portillo, MD, assistant professor, Neurosurgery, coauthored “Surgical results of posterior fossa decompression for patients with Chiari I Malformation,” published in the March 12 issue of Child's Nervous System. He presented the poster “De novo Aneurysms: Case Report and Review of Literature” at the 7th Annual Joint Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section of Cerebrovascular Surgery & ASITN in San Diego in February.

- Rifat Latifi, MD, associate professor, Trauma and Critical Care, has been appointed to serve on the Telemedicine Advisory Group of the European Space Agency (ESA) to study the current status and recommend new applications of satellites in telemedicine in developing countries and rural regions of developed countries. Dr. Latifi is the only American in this group.

Dr. Latifi also was a keynote speaker and moderator at the International Telehealth Conference in March hosted in Anchorage. His new book, Establishing Telemedicine in Developing Countries: From Inception to Implementation, to be published by IOS Publishing Company, is due this July.


- Dr. Mills and John Hughes, MD, associate professor, Vascular Surgery, recently completed participation as principal and co-investigators in the CAMPER Trial of clopidogrel versus aspirin for patients following iliac and femoral angioplasty and stenting, the first such randomized trial in the United States using clopidogrel for non-coronary artery percutaneous interventions.

- Charles W. Putnam, MD, professor, General Surgery, was selected as one of 18 international participants in the International Workshop for Integrated Yeast Sciences at Okinawa in March. Dr. Putnam’s presentation was “Integration of G2/M Checkpoint, Spindle Assembly Checkpoint and Ran Cycle Regulators in the S. Cerevisiae DNA Damage Mitotic Arrest Response.”

- Robert Krouse, MD, assistant professor, Surgical Oncology, published a commentary on “Advances in Palliative Surgery for Cancer Patients” in the Jan./Feb. issue of The Journal of Supportive Oncology. He was invited to be on the faculty at the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC)/International Society for Oral Oncology (ISOO) 16th International Symposium in June to present a session on palliative surgery.

**Christopher T. Maloney, Jr., MD**, assistant professor, Plastic Surgery, coauthored a research paper demonstrating hope for patients with pain and numbness due to chemotherapy-induced neuropathy. The results of the treatment of the first nine patients will appear in the August 2004 issue of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

**Abhay Sanan, MD**, assistant professor, Neurosurgery, is co-author of the paper, “Appropriate Selection of Brain Tumor Patients with the Gliasite Radiation Therapy System,” published in May by the Hermelin Brain Tumor Center Symposium.


**Martin Schiff, MD**, professor, Urology, received the National Kidney Foundation Pioneer in Transplantation Award in April in Connecticut.

At the OVER or Open Versus Endovascular Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms annual meeting held in Cleveland last September, principal investigator **Alex Westerband, MD**, associate professor, Vascular Surgery, and Nancy Day, RN, study coordinator for the OVER trial at the Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care Systems (SAVAHCS), received awards and certificates of recognition following their presentation for having the highest enrolling site among 40 participating VA medical centers, positions they have held since June of last year.

**Sanjay Ramakumar, MD**, assistant professor, Urology, was elected as alternate to the executive committee, Western Section of the American Urologic Association.

Surgery is published semi-annually by the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center Office of Public Affairs, P.O. Box 245095 Tucson, AZ 85724-5095 • (520) 626-7219

Editor: Jo Marie Gellerman
Contributing Writer: Jamie Olson
Production: AHSC Biomedical Communications
Visit us online: www.surgery.arizona.edu
© 2004 Arizona Board of Regents on behalf of The University of Arizona. All rights reserved. The UA is an EEO/AA M/W/D/V Employer.