

President's Report – August/September 2017

Honors and Awards to Members of the University Community

1. U.S. News & World Report has released its 2017-2018 Best Hospital Rankings. For the fourth consecutive year, University of Utah Hospital was ranked No. 1 in Utah and in the Salt Lake City metro area. University of Utah's Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) was also ranked number 38 in the country for cancer care, while the University's Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) specialty was ranked 18th nationwide. Additionally, University of Utah Health was recognized as "high-performing" in the following specialties: nephrology, neurology & neurosurgery, ophthalmology, orthopedics, pulmonology, and urology. For the 2017-18 rankings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 medical centers nationwide in 25 specialties, procedures and conditions. In the 16 specialty areas, 152 hospitals were ranked in at least one specialty. In rankings by state and metro area, U.S. News recognized hospitals as high performing across multiple areas of care. The rankings for all hospitals and specialties are available at www.usnews.com/besthospitals.
2. The University of Utah ranked 19th in the world on the Nature Index, a list of top institutions that produce the high-quality research behind commercialized goods and services. Measuring the impact of basic research on innovation, the list was commissioned by Nature Research, publisher of the top-tier scientific journal *Nature* and other publications. The Nature Index ranks international institutions by calculating the number of research citations listed on patents owned by third parties, rather than those owned by institutions themselves.
3. Kensaku Kawamoto, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Chief Medical Information Officer and assistant professor of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Utah Health, has been appointed to a 3-year term on the U.S. Health Information Technology (HIT) Advisory Committee, announced the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in an August 3, 2017, press release.
4. The University of Utah was recently ranked No. 6 in affordability for online Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs by Best Colleges Online. The website considered 255 programs at accredited colleges and universities when compiling the list. The online degree program, ranked No. 42 all-around by U.S. News, was launched just over three years ago on Jan. 15, 2014. This degree format is intended to allow students to pursue their studies in a more convenient and interactive format. The U's goal was to keep the high standards of the on-campus MBA program while making it a more accessible option for students. The program demands the same level of work and aims to provide the same quality of instruction as the U's other business school programs. It is expected to attract non-traditional students, like those returning to school to further their education after many years, parents and those who already work full-time and don't want to abandon their careers.
5. The L'Oréal USA For Women in Science program announced on September 19, 2017, the 10 winners of its Changing the Face of STEM (CTFS) mentoring grants. The projects awarded exemplify a broad range of activities and partnerships focused on mentoring and engaging girls and women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), from preschool to graduate school. The grants will help fund STEM programs throughout the country including in California, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Texas and Utah. Now in its second year, the CTFS program supports former L'Oréal USA For Women in Science (FWIS) fellows in their efforts to inspire the next generation of girls in STEM. Members of the L'Oréal USA FWIS alumni network

were invited to apply for \$2,500 grants to help fund new or existing mentoring projects in their communities. The awards will be administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), L'Oréal USA's official FWIS partner.

Dr. Luisa Whittaker-Brooks, Assistant Professor at the University of Utah and 2013 L'Oréal USA FWIS Fellow has been awarded the grant to support Young & WISE (Women in Science and Engineering), an outreach program for young female students at Kearns High School in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Whittaker research group recently started the program to mentor economically disadvantaged students and provide them with research activities for further engagement into science. This grant will sponsor 50 girls for a one-day visit on March 9, 2018 to the Utah Nanofab research facilities where participants will have the opportunity to "play" and utilize several of the instruments to perform research activities. Through the funding of the CTFS grant, American Chemical Society Project SEED scholarship will match funds to host a high school female in Dr. Whittaker-Brooks' lab in the summer of 2018.