

President's Report – October 2017

Honors and Awards to Members of the University Community

1. David Turok, MD, MPH, Associate Professor and Family Planning Division Director in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has been awarded a five-year Mid-Career Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research (K24) from the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). This competitive grant mechanism supports established mid-career investigators and provides funding for both continuation of patient-oriented research efforts and research mentoring for clinical residents, clinical fellows and junior clinical faculty. It is the only NIH grant mechanism that specifically funds career-development mentoring of future clinician-scholars. Dr. Turok's research will continue to focus on increasing access to highly effective methods of contraception. This grant specifically supports his effort on the HER Salt Lake Contraceptive Initiative, a program he and the family planning team at University of Utah Health created through their collaboration with the Planned Parenthood Association of Utah. Dr. Turok will continue to be a research mentor for students, OG/GYN residents, family planning fellows and junior faculty at the University through the KL2 program, which he co-directs.
2. The University of Utah has scored its first LEED gold certified athletics building. The Jon M. and Karen Huntsman Basketball Facility, home to both men's and women's basketball, is officially a leader in sustainable design and energy efficiency, reports *Utah Business*. It's the eighth building on campus to be certified gold or higher and represents a commitment to a sustainable future through design. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a building rating system created by the United States Green Building Council to evaluate quality and achievement based on sustainable design, green practices during construction, and environmental performance over a year after construction is complete. The 102,000-square-foot facility was manufactured using more than 23 percent of recycled materials and resources strategically selected from the Utah region to support local businesses and to reduce the environmental impacts associated with transportation. More than 12.5 percent of the total building materials include products that were manufactured and extracted within 500 miles of the site. During construction, the project diverted nearly 85 percent of the on-site generated construction waste away from landfills. The practice facility exceeds the LEED baseline energy performance rating by 38 percent, thanks to numerous strategies to make the building more efficient.
3. A University of Utah Health biomedical informatics researcher was named to the National Academy of Medicine this week. Wendy Chapman, who chairs the Department of Biomedical Informatics at the U., was elected as one of 80 members comprising the 2017 class of the Academy. Chapman is one of just five members of University of Utah Health ever to be elected to the National Academy of Medicine. The others are former CEO Vivian Lee, who was also dean of the medical school and senior vice president of Health Sciences at the U.; Nobel laureate and genetics professor Mario Capecchi; biology professor Baldomero Olivera; and Sun Wan Kim, pharmaceuticals professor and Huntsman Cancer Institute investigator. The National Academy of Medicine, a nonprofit comprised of medical experts from around the country, is one component of the larger National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine created by Congress during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. The National Academy of Medicine lends its expertise to a wide range of issues, including public health, advancing medical technology and the well-being of health care professionals.
4. The University of Utah's eSports Overwatch team is off to a good start in their inaugural season. They added two victories; one against UNLV, and the other against the University of British

Columbia, bringing their record to 6-0 in the Tespa Collegiate Overwatch Series. The Utah squad is ranked first out of 50 teams in the tournament's western region and are one of only two schools in the region who are still undefeated, the other team being the University of California, Irvine.

5. Lowell Miyagi will receive the 2017 Mineral and Rock Physics Early Career Award at the 2017 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, to be held December 11–15 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The award is given to an early-career scientist “in recognition of outstanding contributions in the broadly defined area of mineral and rock physics.” Lowell earned a B.A. at Oberlin College and his Ph.D. from Berkeley, working with Rudy Wenk. Following his Ph.D., Lowell moved to Yale University as a Bateman Postdoctoral Fellow, where he collaborated with Shun Karato and Kanani Lee. Lowell is currently an assistant professor at the University of Utah. Lowell's research on deformation and texture development in deep Earth mineral phases, and the consequences for seismic anisotropy and dynamics, is at the forefront of rock and mineral physics. In a series of papers, Lowell has produced important experimental results on the deformation of major mineral phases in Earth's transition zone, lower mantle, and core. In collaborations with seismologists and geodynamicists, he has contributed outstanding insights interpreting geophysical observations in the context of deformation mineral physics. Lowell's stellar research and service establish him as not just a leader among early-career scientists but also a leader throughout all of mineral and rock physics.
6. The ranking for the top colleges for online programs in Utah reveals the University of Utah earning the No. 1 spot, surpassing 18 other institutions in the rigorous analysis. All schools were scored on a 10-point scale against 14 different metrics using data from the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. Here are the top 10 colleges and universities that stood out in the statewide study:
 1. University of Utah
 2. Utah State University
 3. Weber State University
 4. Brigham Young University-Provo
 5. Independence University
 6. Western Governors University
 7. Utah Valley University
 8. Dixie State University
 9. Latter-day Saints Business College
 10. Westminster College