

President's Report – February 2019

Honors and Awards to Members of the University Community

1. University of Utah Health's Department of Orthopaedic surgery was ranked number one in the nation by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research (BRIMR) rankings for 2018. This is the first time that a University of Utah Health department has received a top BRIMR ranking. BRIMR rankings are compiled annually to reflect funding received from the National Institute of Health (NIH). The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery secured the top spot, with more than 50% funding than the closest competitor, with \$12,428,561 in NIH funding. Overall, the University of Utah ranked 39th in the nation, and 18th among public institutions. Other individual University of Utah Health departments making it into the top 20 were Family and Preventive Medicine (3rd), Biochemistry (13th), Ophthalmology and Visual Science (13th), Pathology (20th), and Pediatrics (20th).
2. University of Utah Health is one of three sites in the nation to conduct a seven-year, multiple-million dollar, multi-disciplinary contract with the National Institute of Health. U of U Health investigators are partnering with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) internal group for a series of studies focusing on improving population health throughout the life-course surrounding fertility, pregnancy and the fetal origins of adult disease. The first study, led by C. Matthew Peterson, M.D., professor of obstetrics/gynecology, will assess if infertility is a general marker of health, and if there are subtle underlying health issues or environmental issues that increase a woman's inability to become pregnant or carry a child to term. The second study, led by obstetrics/gynecology professor Robert Silver, M.D., will start in about a year and will evaluate the effects of maternal and paternal mental health on pregnancy outcomes and childhood development.
3. Lee Raby, Assistant Professor, has been named Association for Psychological Science Rising Stars for 2018. The Rising Star designation recognizes outstanding psychological scientists in the earliest stages of their research career post-PhD whose innovative work has already advanced the field and signals great potential for their continued contributions.
4. The John R. Park Debate Society traveled to Seattle, WA on February 21-24, 2019 to participate in Western States Communication Association (WSCA) Invitational hosted by Bellevue College. At the tournament, the team closed-out the tournament (eliminating a final round by finishing as the top two debate partnerships in competition), earned the top two speaker awards in debate, won 10 final round finishes in public speaking events, and retained WSCA's "Best in the West" season-long award for a third year. Notably, no other team has defeated Utah in its effort to win this award since it was created three years ago. The team will begin its series of international and national championship tournaments to close out its season on March 6 by traveling to Berlin, Germany for the International Forensics Association Championships.