

Board of Trustees
October 8, 2019
President's Report

Honors and Awards to Members of the University Community

1. For the 10th consecutive year, University of Utah Health ranks in the top 10 of the prestigious 2019 Vizient Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Award. The award recognizes academic medical centers for demonstrating superior quality and safety performance as measured by the Vizient Quality and Accountability Study, which has been conducted annually since 2005. The award was presented on Thursday, September 19th. This year, hundreds of academic medical centers and community hospitals were included in the study, which measures superior performance based on the Institute of Medicine's six domains of care: safety, timeliness, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and patient-centeredness. In addition to its placement on the top 10 list, U of U Health also ranked 2nd in Vizient's Ambulatory Care Quality and Accountability Awards. This is the fifth year in a row the U has ranked in the top five in this category. This award recognizes excellence in delivering high-quality outpatient care in five ways: access to care, capacity management and throughput, quality and efficiency, a continuum of care, and equity. Those recognized as top performers have adopted world-class practices and solutions to optimize the patient experience.
2. The Pew Charitable Trusts announced today the six pairs of researchers including a team from the U make up its 2019 class of Innovation Fund investigators. These investigators—alumni of Pew's biomedical programs in the United States and Latin America—partner on interdisciplinary research to tackle some of the most complex questions in human biology and disease. Spanning the spectrum from virology to epigenetics and from microbiology to developmental biology, research teams combine multiple disciplines to advance scientific discovery and improve human health.

For nearly 35 years, Pew has encouraged collaboration among its diverse community of biomedical scientists, culminating in the launch of the Innovation Fund in 2017. The fund's award criteria were developed to promote synergy among program alumni, motivating researchers to collaborate on new proposals. All alumni holding assistant professor positions or higher are eligible to apply for the award, which is supported by the Kathryn W. Davis Peace by Pieces Fund.

The Innovation Fund team and research project from the U is:

Wesley Sundquist, Ph.D., Pew scholar adviser; University of Utah
Nels C. Elde, Ph.D., 2012 Pew biomedical scholar; University of Utah
Sundquist and Elde will evaluate a protein found in certain kinds of monkeys that is known to provide resistance against viral infections and determine whether it is able to do the same in other animals.

3. The National Institutes of Health has awarded a College of Health researcher and his team a five-year, \$3 million grant to study the long-term effects of aerobic exercise on slowing the progression of Parkinson's disease. The research will be conducted in Salt Lake City and Cleveland, Ohio. Dibble will collaborate with Cleveland Clinic researcher Jay Alberts, Ph.D. The project aims to determine if long-term, high-intensity aerobic exercise can slow the advancement of Parkinson's disease, a progressive neurological disease. To date, no surgical or pharmacological intervention has been effective in slowing disease progression. This project will be one of the first long-term investigations of the potential for aerobic exercise to alter disease progression.