Dr. Jeannie Lee from UA College of Pharmacy Named Geriatrician of Year

TUCSON, Ariz. – **Jeannie K. Lee, PharmD**, assistant head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and an associate professor in the same department, has been named the **2015 Geriatrician of the Year** by the Arizona Geriatrics Society.

Each year, the AzGS recognizes and honors exemplary and outstanding health-care professionals who are passionate about caring for older adults and have made significant contributions in the field of geriatric medicine or gerontology. Nominees are evaluated based on their demonstration of exemplary interprofessional geriatric practice or education, their impact in the community or place of employment and their scope or length of service.

Dr. Lee is also a research associate and faculty member of the UA Center on Aging in the Arizona Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In nominating materials for the award, Dr. Lee is praised for working tirelessly to train and mentor pharmacists, student pharmacists and others, including medical, public health, social work and nursing students. She is described as “dedicated to providing as much as she can to each student in their clinical year. These experiences facilitate students’ learning, which results in pharmacists with a more robust geriatric knowledge-base.” The nomination continues, “Perhaps one of the qualities that make her so wonderful to work with is her inherent kindness; she genuinely values the input of each person she works with and the well-being of all patients.”

Dr. Lee attended the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists national conference in October to present her work on a geriatric curriculum guide for pharmacy schools and training programs, as well as posters on aging research. She has published numerous research articles in journals, including the *Journal of American Geriatrics Society, Medical Care* (a journal of the American Public Health Association), the *Journal of the American Medical Association,* and the *Journal of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.* Dr. Lee is working on the National Institutes of Health-funded project, “Chronic Disease Health Beliefs, Medication Adherence and Health Literacy,” with the UA Department of Anthropology, as well as another project, “National Center for Integrative Primary Healthcare,” funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the UA Center for Integrative Medicine.

A graduate of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, Dr. Lee completed residency training at the VA Medical Center in Washington, D.C. In addition to her faculty appointment in the UA College of Pharmacy, she...
has a cross-appointment in the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. She practices interprofessionally at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System and at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson.

**About the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy**

Established in 1947, the UA College of Pharmacy was the first health sciences college at the Tucson campus of the University of Arizona. Educating pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists, the college participates in many interdisciplinary and multi-institutional educational and research collaborations throughout Arizona and globally. It is ranked among the premier colleges of pharmacy in the United States and is routinely among the top 20 colleges of pharmacy in terms of external funding for research, including funding from the National Institutes of Health.

**About the University of Arizona Center on Aging**

The UA Center on Aging, an Arizona Board of Regents Center of Excellence at the UA Health Sciences, works closely with the UA Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health — as well as the College of Nursing & Health Innovation at Arizona State University and other statewide partners — to promote an interdisciplinary approach to its mission of enabling older adults to live healthy and functional lives through comprehensive programs in research, education and training and clinical care. It is affiliated with the Division of Geriatrics, General Internal Medicine and Palliative Medicine within the UA Department of Medicine. Students, residents and fellows also get clinical training primarily at Banner – University Medical Center and Banner – University Medical Group facilities in Tucson and Phoenix through their affiliation as the teaching hospitals and clinics for the UA. Both are part of Banner – University Medicine, the academic medicine division of Phoenix-based Banner Health, one of the largest nonprofit health care systems in the country, with operations in seven states. The Tucson hospital rated 39th of 5,000 hospitals surveyed for geriatric care in the most recent *U.S. News & World Report* “Best Hospital” rankings.

**About the University of Arizona Health Sciences**

The University of Arizona Health Sciences is the statewide leader in biomedical research and health professions training. The UA Health Sciences includes the UA Colleges of Medicine (Phoenix and Tucson), Nursing, Pharmacy and Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, with main campus locations in Tucson and the growing Phoenix Biomedical Campus in downtown Phoenix. From these vantage points, the UA Health Sciences reaches across the state of Arizona and the greater Southwest to provide cutting-edge health education, research, patient care and community outreach services. A major economic engine, the UA Health Sciences employs almost 5,000 people, has nearly 1,000 faculty members and garners more than $126 million in research grants and contracts annually. For more information: [http://ahsc.arizona.edu](http://ahsc.arizona.edu)