PR for release 8/28/2015
2015-2016 Theodore H. Koff Graduate Scholarship

The Arizona Center on Aging is proud to announce that the 2015-2016 Theodore H. Koff Graduate Scholarship has been awarded to Pooja Rajguru, a second-year medical student at the University of Arizona, College of Medicine – Tucson.

This prestigious scholarship is awarded to outstanding graduate students who are pursuing studies in aging, health-care administration or gerontology, and health-professions students with interest in aging and gerontology.

Pooja Rajguru graduated from the University of Arizona with a BS in biomedical engineering, and minored in chemistry and chemical engineering. Her introduction to aging took place with the Biomedical Summer Immersion Program when she participated in research at the Arizona Center on Aging and iCAMP, using body worn sensors to measure frailty and fall risk in community dwelling elders. In 2015 she was awarded the Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) scholarship, administered by American Federation for Aging Research and the National Institute on Aging. Pooja spent the summer at Johns Hopkins, working with international frailty expert, Dr. Jeremy Walston, evaluating mitochondrial DNA in relation to frailty and inflammatory models. She hopes to become an internal medicine translational physician researcher.

The Theodore H. Koff Graduate Scholarship was established by the family and friends of Theodore H. Koff, PhD, late professor of public administration and policy at the UA Eller College of Management and founding co-director of the Arizona Center on Aging. In an illustrious career that spanned fifty years, Dr. Koff dedicated his life to improving care for elders.

Previous Koff Graduate Scholarship recipients include: Nilay Kavathia and Benjamin McDonald (2006); Leilani Burton and Emanuel Husu (2008); Danielle Cabral and Rhianon N. Iassogna-Roman (2009); Natasha Bhuyan (2010); Gia Leonetti and Daniel Butler (2011); and Hersh Goel (2012).

For further information, visit www.geriatrics.medicine.arizona.edu or email lvitkus@aging.arizona.edu