



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

## Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine

### NEWS RELEASE

#### **Stamets Gift to Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine at UArizona Will Support Medical Training for Native Healers**

*The gift will fund training for practitioners of Indigenous healing traditions and those working in underserved communities.*

TUCSON, Ariz. – The University of Arizona Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine has announced a gift from Paul Stamets, an internationally known mycologist and advocate of the medical benefits of mushrooms.

The gift – which brings Stamets' total pledged contributions to the center to \$300,000 – will provide funding to Indigenous and other medical practitioners for training in the Integrative Medicine Program. Through that training, the center hopes to advance integrative medicine by encouraging ties between local and Indigenous communities and practitioners with experience in mainstream biomedicine.



"These funds will help diversify access to the Integrative Medicine Program. We need integrative solutions to improve health outcomes and reduce health care costs," said Stamets, who received an honorary doctorate from the National College for Natural Medicine in 2012 for his academic achievements and for expanding the field of science. "I look forward to continuing to support this important program and seeing it flourish."

"Integrative medicine has long recognized the value of traditional methods of healing and I'm thrilled to have this generous donation from my longtime friend and colleague Paul Stamets, a leader in the field of mycology and foremost researcher of medicinal properties of mushrooms," said Dr. **Andrew Weil**, founder and director of the Weil Center.

Since its founding in 1994, the center has trained thousands of physicians and other health care professionals to make use of a broad range of effective therapies.

The flagship program at the Weil Center, the Fellowship in Integrative Medicine, is a 1,000-hour, two-year distance learning program. In addition to online training, fellows participate in three weeks of hands-on training in Tucson.

"We recognize the great importance of the peoples, cultures and histories that inform the practice of integrative medicine, and we are committed to diversity and inclusion," said Dr. **Victoria Maizes**, the center's executive director. "The center is delighted that this gift from Paul Stamets will increase our ability to train diverse health professionals who are passionate about integrative health and medicine."

"This initiative builds on the University of Arizona's commitment to recognizing the Indigenous peoples who have shaped the Wildcat community since our beginning in the 1800s," said University of Arizona President **Robert C. Robbins**. "In keeping with our land-grant mission, it also puts the incredible knowledge of the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine in conversation with medical practitioners familiar with Indigenous healing methods, which will benefit health care professionals and people across Arizona. We are so grateful to Dr. Stamets for this transformational gift and for his appreciation of diversity when it comes to health and wellness."

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### ***About the Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine***

*The Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine (AWCIM) at the University of Arizona is leading the transformation of health care by creating, educating and actively supporting a community that embodies the philosophy and practice of healing-oriented medicine. AWCIM is internationally recognized for its evidence-based clinical practice, innovative educational programs and research that substantiates the field of integrative medicine and influences public policy. Since its creation in 1994, AWCIM's vision of making integrative care available to all is being realized worldwide: AWCIM graduates are now guiding more than 10? million patients to take a greater role in their health and healing. For more information, visit: [awcim.arizona.edu](http://awcim.arizona.edu) (Follow us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)).*

### ***About the University of Arizona College of Medicine –Tucson***

*The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson is shaping the future of medicine through state-of-the-art medical education programs, groundbreaking research and advancements in patient care in Arizona and beyond. Founded in 1967, the college boasts more than 50 years of innovation, ranking among the top medical schools in the nation for research and primary care. Through the university's partnership with Banner Health, one of the largest nonprofit health care systems in the country, the college is leading the way in academic medicine. For more information, visit [medicine.arizona.edu](http://medicine.arizona.edu) (Follow us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)).*

### ***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 UArizona Health Sciences includes the Colleges of Medicine (Tucson and Phoenix), Nursing, Pharmacy, and the 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 Health Sciences reaches across the state of Arizona and the greater Southwest to provide cutting-edge health education, research and community outreach services. A major economic engine, the Health Sciences employs nearly 5,000 people, has approximately 4,000 students and 900 faculty members, and garners \$200 million in research grants and contracts annually. For more information: [uahs.arizona.edu](http://uahs.arizona.edu) (Follow us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#))*

### ***About the University of Arizona Foundation***

*Now in its 63rd year, the University of Arizona Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the University of Arizona through philanthropy. Since its inception, the foundation has helped generate more than \$3 billion in private funding to support and elevate the university's global leadership position in experiential and interdisciplinary education, research and entrepreneurial partnerships. The University of Arizona is ranked No. 92 on The Chronicle of Philanthropy's list of America's Favorite Charities, the 100 American organizations that raise the most money annually.*