



# Giving Opportunities



## A World-Class Thoracic Surgery Program Serving the Valley of the Sun

Lung cancer is the second-most common cancer and, by far, the leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Each year, some 155,000 people die from lung cancer—more than from colon, breast, prostate and pancreatic cancer combined.

At Banner Health, we find that statistic unacceptable. That's why in 2016, Banner hired one of the country's foremost thoracic surgeons, Elbert Kuo, MD, to build a world-class thoracic surgery program known for its state-of-the-art care and superior patient experience. As Chief of Thoracic Surgery for Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Gilbert, Ariz., Dr. Kuo is now affiliated with the No. 1 cancer center in the nation: the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*.

In the last two years, Dr. Kuo has recruited three other world-class thoracic surgeons: Dr. Brett Broussard, Dr. John Breard, and Dr. Ryan Macke, and an interventional pulmonologist, Dr. Archan Shah. These physicians bring expertise in minimally-invasive esophagectomy, tracheal resections, bronchoscopic diagnostic and therapeutic tools, complex airway management, and thoracic outlet syndrome surgery—procedures not previously available in the Phoenix metro area.

### LEADING A REVOLUTION

The key to reducing lung cancer deaths, in particular, is early detection through screening. The thoracic team at Banner MD Anderson aims to lead a national revolution in how lung cancer is treated.

### Banner Health Foundation

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 **Banner MD Anderson  
Cancer Center**  
Making Cancer History®

The combination of Dr. Kuo's expertise and Banner MD Anderson's best-in-class reputation will be life-altering for patients with lung cancer, esophageal cancer and other conditions requiring thoracic surgery.



### Best in Clinical Care

A lung cancer screening program for high-risk patients is underway in order to better detect cancer at an early stage when treatment is more likely to be more successful. During its first year, the program screened some 300 patients and is on pace to screen more than 600 patients this year. Banner MD Anderson leadership projects that some 1,000 patients will be screened annually in the very near future. Early detection of lung cancer can completely flip the survival statistics and cure patients of this disease.

The thoracic team is working on creating a "one-stop" care model for lung cancer in order to reduce the lengthy delay between diagnosis and treatment. The first few patients who have been cared for under this model have experienced a reduction—from an average of four months to just 27 days—between receiving their diagnosis and beginning treatment.

In addition to revolutionizing care for lung cancer patients, Dr. Kuo and his team have pioneered new approaches to treating other conditions via thoracic surgery. These include a new surgical technique to treat diaphragmatic paralysis that significantly reduces hospital stay and recovery time. Another innovation is providing an incentive spirometer to patients prior to, rather than after, thoracic surgery to help keep their lungs healthy post-operatively.

This innovative approach to improving treatment outcomes and patient care aligns with Banner's vision to be a national health care leader recognized for clinical excellence and innovation. Banner is well-known for its ability to standardize top-quality care throughout its system of 28 hospitals in six Western states.

### MAKING HEALTH CARE EASIER SO LIFE CAN BE BETTER

Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center envisions creating a comprehensive thoracic surgery program complete with local complex thoracic surgery clinics throughout the Valley, offering convenient access to pre- and post-operative care. This vision to create a state-of-the-art regional program to serve one of the largest metropolitan areas in the U.S. relies on philanthropic support.

**Will you partner with us to help make this vision a reality?**

### HOW TO GIVE

Support the continued growth and expansion of a world-class Thoracic Surgery program at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center with a tax-deductible gift to the Banner Health Foundation:

- ▶ **Check** payable to Banner Health Foundation – Thoracic Surgery Program, mailed to Banner Health Foundation, 2901 N. Central Ave., Suite 160, Phoenix, AZ 85012
- ▶ **Online Credit Card Donation** at [give.bannerhealth.com/cancer](https://give.bannerhealth.com/cancer) by selecting Thoracic Surgery Program from the "Gift Designation" drop-down menu.
- ▶ **Call** 512-751-7830 or 602-747-GIVE (4483)

Gifts of cash, pledges paid over multiple years, non-cash assets such as stock, and planned gifts are welcome. Gifts of \$25,000 or more will be recognized within the Cancer Center.

