



Jason Wertheim, MD, PhD, FACS
University of Arizona College of Medicine
Vice Dean for Research & Graduate Studies
Professor of Surgery (Transplantation)
Professor of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
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Dr. Wertheim is a surgeon-scientist, biomedical engineer, and Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He is also an abdominal transplant surgeon and additionally holds an appointment at the Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System. As Vice Dean, he directs the scientific enterprise, from basic to clinical research, and oversees graduate education in the College of Medicine, Tucson, which is located on the main campus of the University of Arizona and is the primary hub for biomedical research and academic healthcare at the university and its clinical partner, Banner Health.

As Vice Dean, he established the biomedical research and graduate education hub within the Dean's Office in the College of Medicine and oversaw an increase in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to the College of Medicine. To enhance medical education, the College received the first NIH Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) grant awarded to a medical school within the State of Arizona for physician-scientist education. Dr. Wertheim also was part of the leadership team that created a 4-year longitudinal Scholarly Projects Program in the College of Medicine to provide medical students a pathway for research and scholarly opportunities.

On a national level, Dr. Wertheim is a member of the Steering Committee for the AAMC Group on Research Advancement and Development (GRAND) and has been a member of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. He previously served as Chair of the Cellular Transplantation Committee of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and chair of the Transplantation Regenerative Medicine Community of Practice for the American Society of Transplantation.

Dr. Wertheim directs a federally funded laboratory in biomedical engineering and stem cell biology, studying the response of pluripotent stem cells to differentiate into mature liver, kidney and vascular tissue to study human disease. He has been a participating principal investigator in the NIH (Re)Building-a-Kidney Consortium. His research has been continuously funded by grants from the NIH, the Department of Defense (DoD), and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Dr. Wertheim was awarded the highly coveted Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor conferred by the US government on scientists and engineers at the start of their independent careers.

Dr. Wertheim holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He obtained a doctoral degree in bioengineering and a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed his clinical training in general surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital and a transplant surgery fellowship at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Dr. Wertheim joined the University of Arizona from the Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, where he was the Edward G. Elcock Professor of Surgical Research and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Surgery and associate director of the MD-PhD Program. As Vice Chair, he oversaw an increase in NIH research award funding by >20%, bringing the department into the top 10 in NIH funding among departments of surgery nationwide.