



## Faculty

**Sara Shalin, M.D., Ph.D.**

Professor and Chair,  
Director of  
Dermatopathology

**Jay Kincannon, M.D.**

Professor  
Adult and Pediatric  
Dermatology

**Megan Evans, M.D.**

Associate Professor  
Program Director  
Pediatric Dermatology

**Patrick Carrington, M.D.**

Professor  
Adult Dermatology

**Patrick Phelan, M.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Adult Dermatology

**Justin McLawhorn, M.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Director of Dermatologic  
Surgery/Oncology

**Mugahed Hamza, M.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Dermatopathology

**Julie Youngs, M.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Dermatopathology

## Message from the Chair

Have any of you ever taken a course in improv acting? I'm currently reading *Bossypants* by Tina Fey, and in one chapter she describes the simple but powerful rules of improvisational comedy. They are humbling enough to confirm that I did not miss my calling on the stage, but compelling enough to make me wonder if I might be better at my current role by borrowing from them. At their core, these rules are straightforward:

- **there are no mistakes, only opportunities;**
- **start with agreement;**
- **and add something to keep the scene moving.**

I share them not as a directive, but as an invitation... and perhaps a way for you to hold me accountable as our department continues to grow and change.

In many ways, these principles feel especially relevant to the moment we find ourselves in. The pressures facing healthcare are real and persistent, asking us to rethink how we deliver excellent care, educate the next generation, and advance discovery- all while remaining financially responsible. It is easy, in this environment, to become anchored to constraints. Yet an “**improv mindset**” gently challenges us to begin with what is possible, to build on one another's ideas, and to keep moving forward even when the path is uncertain. It encourages a culture that favors solutions over barriers, progress over perfection, and collaboration over silos.

As a department, we have long been defined by our resilience, creativity, and commitment to our shared mission. If we can approach our work with a spirit of “yes, and”- grounded in respect for one another and openness to new ideas- I believe we will not only adapt to this changing landscape, but help shape it. Thank you for the energy, thoughtfulness, and dedication you bring each day to our patients, our learners, and our community.

# Southern Dermatology Consortium

Each year, participants from three institutions – UAMS, UTHSC (Memphis), and UMMC (Jackson, MS) – meet for the Southern Dermatology Consortium (SDC). Unlike previous years recently, this year’s meeting was held virtually on February 27.

Participants from UAMS gathered around the screen in our Goldstein library for the day’s events. The virtual meeting featured presentations from residents and med students, as well as a Kahoots board review with fast-paced dermatology questions competing against each other.

At the end of the day, Lizzie Stevens (M3) won 2nd place for best med student presentation, and Dr. Landon Hope (DRY2) won 3rd place for best resident presentation. Madison McClanahan (M3) won 3rd place for medical student presentation.



**Lizzie Stevens** (M3) won 2<sup>nd</sup> place best med student presentation, and **Dr. Landon Hope** (DRY2) won 3<sup>rd</sup> place best resident presentation.



Kahoots board review with fast-paced dermatology questions competing against each other



# American Academy of Dermatology 2026 Annual Meeting



Our department showed up in full force to represent UAMS well at the AAD conference this year. The conference took place on March 27-31 in Denver, CO, and everyone had a fantastic time at lectures, booths, and connecting with friends and colleagues, both old and new.

Those in attendance pictured above (L to R) were Drs. Clark, Hope, Nair, Stokes, McKinnon, Rinchuso, Dr. McLawhorn.



Dr Stokes and UAMS alumni Dr. Sandy Johnson



Drs. McKinnon, Stokes, and Hope at Empower Field for the Member Welcome Reception

# Alumni Highlight

This issue's Alumni Highlight features **Dr. Jennifer Jacks**, 2012 graduate from the UAMS Dermatology Residency Program. Just after completing her residency, Dr. Jacks opened her practice in Pine Bluff, which means that July 2026 will mark her 14th year!

She says that she enjoys practicing where she was raised, as she lives on a farm in Star City with her husband and 3 kids where they raise cattle and sheep,

Dr. Jacks also currently serves as the President of the Arkansas Dermatological Society.

Check out her responses to some questions we asked her!

## **1. Do you have any funny memories from residency?**

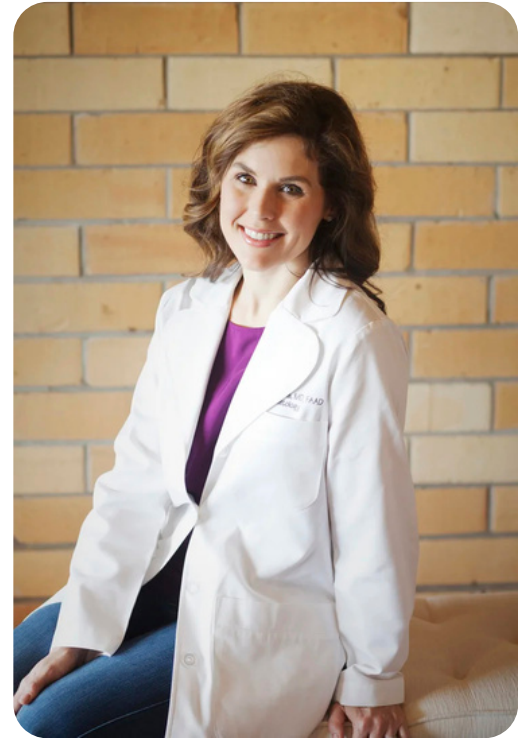
The first day of my PGY2 year was VA surgery clinic. Dr. Cates threw us straight into the schedule. I was given a HUGE basal cell of the ala. I was so nervous, but I knew I had to go for it. Well, about midway through I fainted!!! The patient was running down the hall screaming, "I need help, the doctor fainted." I was mortified. I know the VA nurses were all thinking "Man this will be a long 3 years," Luckily, it never happened again.

## **2. What hobby or activity helps you unwind after a long day in clinic?**

Through all parts of my training, exercise has been my biggest stress reliever. I also enjoy cooking for my family. Sitting down for dinner and listening to my children tell me about their days is my favorite way to unwind.

## **3. What's a book, podcast, or show you've recently enjoyed and would recommend?**

I love to travel, so I currently have the podcast "Point Me to First Class" on most of the time these days. I have always been someone who loves a good deal, and this podcast teaches you how to maximize expenses for credit card point redemptions. As from my reading, it is primarily saved from reading to my kiddos. We are currently reading the "Once Upon a Time" series which I highly recommend.



**Jennifer L. Jacks, MD, FAAD**

## **4. Do you have any advice to residents starting their dermatology journey?**

My main piece of advice to residents would be to view every patient interaction in residency, whether good or bad, as something that will make you a better doctor. I know some moments feel frustrating and tedious, but every chance your mentor can give you a little pearl is more valuable than you know. And please know, you really are about to have the best job you could imagine!



# Staff Highlight



**Amanda Blagg,  
Department Business  
Administrator**

For years now, Amanda Blagg has been a steady presence in our department, helping all the department's operations run smoothly.

After beginning in 2019 as an Executive Assistant, Amanda eventually moved into her current role of Department Business Administrator.

This April marks 7 years that Amanda has been with the department, and as such she has worked with numerous faculty members and assisted many classes of residents behind the scenes as they work their way through our program. She has done this work for years with a spirit of diligence and kindness that is felt by all. Thanks for all you do for our department!

We've asked Amanda a few questions below about herself and experience at UAMS.

## Through the changes throughout the years, what has stayed the same in the department?

It's easy to focus on what has changed; I arrived just before the pandemic started, and it has felt like a whirlwind of change ever since then. But I can say that there is a consistent thread that runs through not only my tenure here, but the department's history itself, going back to Dr. Calvin Dillaha whenever he founded the department, and was compensated a few dollars for his time, essentially starting the department on a volunteer basis. Perseverance, resilience, and commitment, through highs and lows, is in the DNA of the department and the people who serve in it. We keep going, we keep moving forward, whether things are going well or not. I think that's the key not only to survival, but to growing in wisdom and success, though you may discover new definitions of success and a successful life over time.

## What is a fun fact not everyone knows about you?

I performed as a violinist in my public high school orchestra. We had the opportunity to perform alongside Mark Wood of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, and later Jonathan Carney, former leader of the Royal Philharmonic. I also enjoyed character acting, and performed multiple roles in Gilbert and Sullivan operas at Wildwood Park for the Arts and the Chotard Institute of Music. The primary outlet for my theatricality and creativity nowadays is through collaborative tabletop roleplaying games.

## Do you have a personal hero or someone you look up to (and why)?

Not so much a personal hero per se, but I aspire to be like Aunt Frances from *Practical Magic*, and to live up to her most famous quote from the movie: "My darling girl, when are you going to realize that being normal is not necessarily a virtue? It rather denotes a lack of courage!" People deserve to have (or claim) permission to live fully and authentically. In the people I adore most, it is not their perfection, but their flaws and foibles that endear them to me. Being an Aunt Frances in someone's life would be a top tier success for me.

# Get to know our faculty!

We asked several faculty members to respond to different questions, and we loved their responses! Check them out below



Dr. Patrick Phelan

## What particular clinical or research interests do you have in dermatology?

I get a lot of satisfaction and fulfillment diagnosing and treating inflammatory diseases, including hidradenitis suppurativa, autoimmune blistering diseases, and others such as the classic neutrophilic dermatoses. I feel like I am able to make a significant and clear impact on my patients' suffering, and I find the art and science of using immunomodulators and immunosuppressants stimulating.



## Why did you choose to go into dermatopathology?

"The challenge of having to have a deep fund of medical knowledge in both pathology and clinical dermatology and then be able to integrate that knowledge was appealing to me. I like that dermatopathology relies predominantly on H&E patterns rather than ancillary testing, and that you can predict the clinical morphology based on what you see under the microscope."

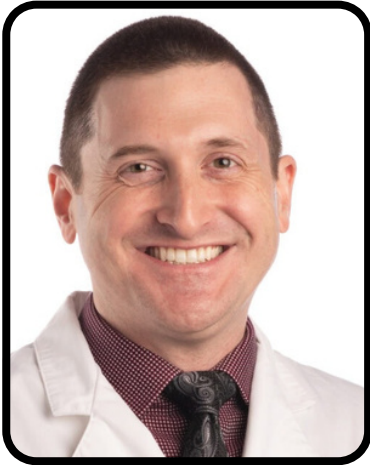


Dr. Sara Shalin

To see more responses from our faculty, follow us on Instagram!



# Get to know our faculty!



Dr. Justin McLawhorn

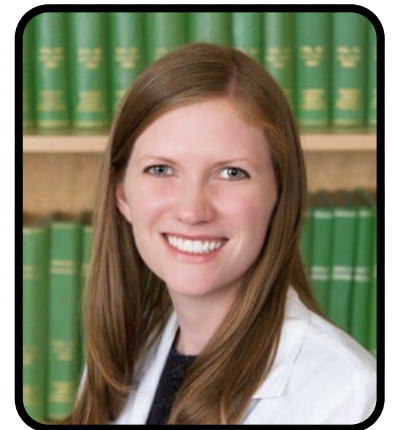
## What particular clinical or research interests do you have in dermatology?

I have a particular interest in pain control after surgery. The opioid epidemic has had far reaching consequences, even for dermatologic surgeons. As our understanding of our role in the crisis evolves, we can and should place emphasis on preventing diversion while mitigating post operative pain.



## Do you have a personal hero or someone you look up to (and why)?

Dr. Dean Morrell, who was my Pediatric Dermatology Fellowship Director at UNC, because he always approaches each day with a positive attitude and each patient with a genuine smile. I think of him as the Ted Lasso of Pediatric Dermatology!



Dr. Megan Evans



Dr. Patrick Carrington

## What is a fun fact not everyone knows about you?

I am a Certified Apple Support Professional though I've let it lapse, having started on Macintosh in 1985 in my private practice with a Mac SE. I actually worked at the Apple Store in Park Meadows in Denver and had my own computer business, MacOvation Inc. helping folks at their homes or places of business repairing or keeping their Macs in tune.

**Save the date!**

**Colonel William "Randy"  
Holland Memorial Lecture**

**Date: Thursday, May 28, 2026**

**Time: 4:00 p.m.**

**Featured Speaker: Jennifer Gill, M.D., Ph.D.**

**Lecture Title: "Precision and Personalization: How  
Melanoma Is Transforming Cancer Therapy"**

For more information, visit:  
[medicine.uams.edu/dermatology](https://medicine.uams.edu/dermatology)

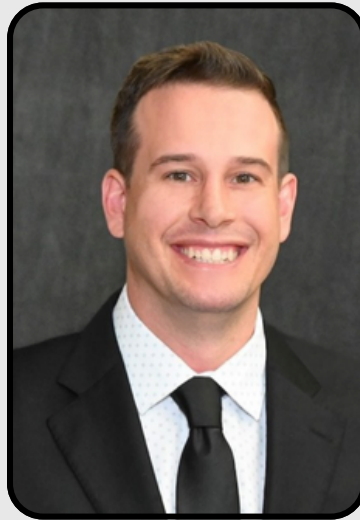


# Match Day 2026

## UAMS Dermatology



Mary Addison Phillips  
UAMS



Christian Potter  
University of  
Queensland



Brynne Tynes  
LSU Shreveport

# Congratulations!

Congrats to our newly matched residents! After their intern year, they will start in our department in July 2027.

# Candid Work Shots

Enjoy a few photos from around the offices, clinic, and other department-related events!



Both “Patrick” in our department (Dr. Carrington and Dr. Phelan) smile for a picture on a Friday in the UAMS clinic. Patrick squared!



Dr. Shalin, Carla Williams, and Dr. Evans. We said farewell to Carla Williams on her last day with the department recently. Carla has been our GME Program Coordinator since 2024 and we're so grateful for her hard work and contributions to the department. We all wish her the best in the next chapter of her career at UAMS!



UAMS residents and faculty enjoy a meal together during the AAD Conference.



Dr. Youngs at the dermpath scope with residents

# Candid Work Shots



(L to R) Dr. Sandy Johnson, Dr. Alyson McKinnon, Dr. Madison Stokes, and Dr. Landon Hope take a quick pic between sessions at the AAD.



UAMS faculty and residents enjoy some time at an arcade in Denver while at the AAD conference

# Recent Publications

**Stokes M**, McClanahan M, **Shalin S**, **Evans MS**. Generalized Petechial-Purpuric Eruption in a Child: A Rare Presentation of Parvovirus B19 Infection. *Pediatr Dermatol*. 2026 Mar 9. doi: 10.1111/pde.70152. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41802841.

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