

Issue 4, November 2021



Edward T.H. Yeh, M.D.

Message from the Chairman

This issue features an interview with Dean Smyth, a world-renowned cardiologist and a faculty of the department. Dr. Smyth shared with us her vision to transform health across the state of Arkansas through the power of medicine and the strength of its partnerships with regional programs.

Our educational leaders and programs are also highlighted by interviews and links to the department's website.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank all of you for your dedication to carry out our missions in teaching, patient care, and research. Your contributions are particularly impressive as we stand up to the challenge of COVID-19 for almost two years.

Have a great Thanksgiving!



Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.

A Conversation with the Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Medicine - Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.

Earlier this year, Dr. Smyth joined the UAMS family as the Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Medicine, contributing her years of expertise in cardiology, research, and academic leadership to our mission of education, research, and clinical care.

As a product of public education, Dr. Smyth believes strongly in academic medicine and the mission of Vision 2029 resonated with her as it reflects her core values as a physician and as an academic leader.

The potential to achieve dramatic improvements in the health of Arkansans is what drew Dr. Smyth to UAMS. "As the only health sciences university in Arkansas, UAMS can leverage its position to work effectively with our partners, especially those in rural and under-served communities. We aim move the needle significantly on health metrics."

She doesn't interpret Vision 2029 as a lofty aspiration but as an attainable goal, because of the resources and the foundation of excellence at UAMS. "We are uniquely positioned to transform health across Arkansas by harnessing the power of academic medicine, leveraging our regional programs and through meaningful community partnerships."

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Alice P. Alexander, M.D.

A Conversation with the Vice Chair of Education - Alice P. Alexander, M.D.

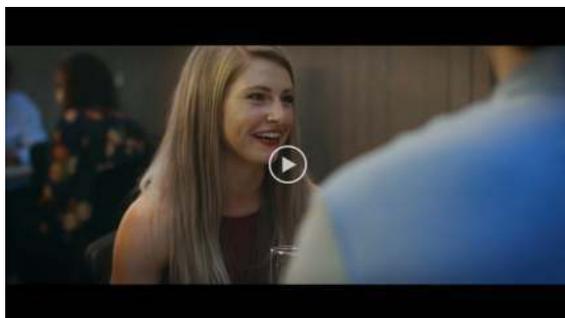
Naturally pedantic, Dr. Alexander works as the Program Director for the Internal Medicine and Medicine Pediatrics residencies. She also is involved with the resident clinic at UAMS as well as oversight roles for medical education efforts, both UME and GME.

As a liaison between the Dean's Office and the directors of these various educational programs, Dr. Alexander makes sure that UAMS meets the education requirements and abides by accreditation standards.

Her inclination for teaching has been present at every level of her career. As a resident and a physician, she's been focused on educating those who come after her.

She believes internal medicine is a cornerstone of medical education. "It's a foundational specialty, touching every aspect of medicine, especially physiology and patient presentation. And the teaching done in the clerkship informs the education of every medical student and resident here at UAMS."

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Internal Medicine Residency

A resident in our program receives a rigorous, first-rate clinical experience which centers upon a diverse population of patients at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Hospital and at the Central Arkansas Veterans Health Care System.

[Learn about the residency](#)

[Meet our program leadership](#)

[Get to know our residents](#)

[Get in touch with our staff](#)

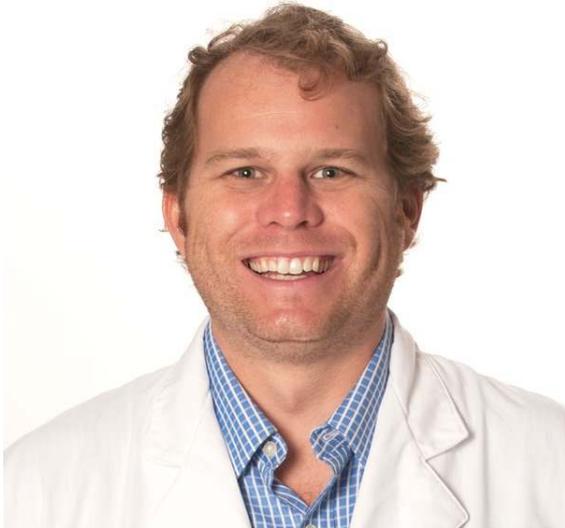


Medicine Pediatrics Residency

Our goal is to produce graduates who are capable of providing high-quality care to adults and children in the clinic or hospital setting. Many of our graduates choose careers in primary care, but others have used their training as a jumping-off point for a subspecialty or hospitalist career.

[Learn about the residency](#)

[Meet our housestaff](#)



Tobias J. Vancil, M.D.

A Conversation with the Director of Clerkship - Tobias J. Vancil, M.D.

Since 2009, Dr. Vancil has worked as a Clerkship Director for third-year medical students. He is embedded with them in the educational process and he witnesses firsthand the influence of the hospital's teaching on future physicians.

The value of face-to-face time with the students is substantial. As a clerkship director, Dr. Vancil is able to participate in the teaching process and directly observe the efficacy of the medical school curriculum in action. He can identify what's working and what's not, as well as coordinating with other faculty and staff to make adjustments.

He also operates as a direct resource for students who need a point of contact within the academic sphere. And that's unique for academic positions, but it's a facet of the clerkship that Dr. Vancil feels is essential to provide the best education for the medical students at UAMS.

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Administrative Spotlight



Jennifer Cushing

Jennifer Cushing is the program manager for the Internal Medicine residency. She works with Brooke Reese and Sarah Levart, who are both administrative coordinators in the education program.

They are currently in the midst of interview season, hard at work scheduling over 200 interviews that will help to fill the 21 residency positions for the next year. Internal Medicine is one of the biggest residencies at the hospital, with housestaff all over UAMS and the VA hospital, as well as rotating residents from other programs.

Jennifer notes, "One of the strengths of the Internal Medicine residency is the fantastic support from the faculty, who incorporate their own teaching styles, skills, and knowledge whenever they work with our residents. It's such a pleasure working with all of them."



Brooke Reese



Sarah Levart

 William T. Atchley, M.D.

William T. Atchley, M.D., Ph.D.

Barton Pilot Grant for Will Atchley, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Atchley has been awarded the Barton Pilot grant for his proposed study of immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced pneumonitis.

The Barton Pilot grant is a 12-month funding program designed to assist and encourage new and existing faculty to develop research programs that can successfully compete for extramural funding.

Congratulations to Dr. Atchley for securing the grant and we look forward to seeing the results of your study!



Subhi J. Al'Aref, M.D.

Fellows of the Southern Society of Clinical Investigation - Subhi J. Al'Aref, M.D. and Nishank Jain, M.D.

Congratulations to Dr. Al'Aref and Dr. Jain on their confirmation as fellows of the Southern Society of Clinical Investigation!

The Southern Society for Clinical Investigation is dedicated to the advancement of medical research and the exchange of knowledge, information and ideas. Its members are committed to mentoring future generations of medical investigators and promoting careers in academic medicine.



Nishank Jain, M.D.

Read Dr. Al'Aref's latest paper in *The International Journal of Cardiovascular Imaging*

Read Dr. Jain's latest paper in *The American Journal of Cardiology*

The Endocrine "Little Squad" Fall Fun





2020-2021 New Faculty

General Medicine



Jason M. Petitjean, M.D.



Charles Lavendar, M.D.



Lauren Taylor, M.D.



Zachary Tilley, M.D.

Join us in welcoming these members of the IM family!

The Department of Internal Medicine is the largest department in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The department is home to approximately 150 full-time faculty members, 81 residents, and 68 fellows serving two residency programs and twelve fellowship programs. Dr. Edward T.H. Yeh, a cardiologist and physician/scientist, is a pioneer in the field of onco-cardiology.

Questions, comments, or suggestions for future newsletters? Email Devon Norris at DLNorris2@uams.edu or Natalie Moore at NMoore@uams.edu.

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