



Issue 21, April 2023



Edward T. Yeh, M.D.

Message from the Chairman

We have made significant progress in grant funding from the National Institute of Health according to the recently released report from the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research. We rank 78 among all the departments of medicine in the United States with a total funding of \$7,980,425. Our total NIH funding has doubled in the last two years and the ranking has improved from 85 to 78. In this month of Impact, two grants recently awarded to our faculty are recognized.

Dr. Charles O'Brien and the CMDR Receive COBRE Funding

Charles O'Brien, Ph.D., Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, has been awarded a Phase II Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant from the National Institutes of Health. Dr. O'Brien's grant will be a total of \$11,475,000 over a five year period.

This grant funds the Center for Musculoskeletal Disease Research (CMDR) led by Dr. O'Brien. CMDR serves as a multidisciplinary center to support junior investigators and establish the scientific foundation for excellence in musculoskeletal research in Arkansas.

The Center utilizes cutting edge technology alongside novel animal models to determine underlying causes of musculoskeletal diseases. These diseases include osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, developmental disorders, and malignancies affecting the skeleton. CMDR is comprised of an Administrative Core that coordinates all activities including a mentoring program and expanding membership through a pilot project program. The three research cores include the Genetic Models Core, the Bone Histology and Imaging Core, and the Bioinformatics Core. Lastly, the center operates three to four research projects that are led by junior researchers.

The COBRE grant award is another huge achievement for the Center for Musculoskeletal Disease Research. The center is able to continue pushing forward in their research and providing junior investigators an opportunity to develop their skills in these research areas. Congratulations, Dr. O'Brien!

To learn more about the Center for Musculoskeletal Disease Research at UAMS click [here](#).



Dr. Rushita Bagchi, Continuing the Legacy of Dean Susan Smyth with an AHA Grant

Rushita Bagchi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, has received a grant from the American Heart Association. The grant, "HDAC11 in Diabetic Cardiomyopathy," is awarded for three years at \$231,000.

Dr. Bagchi had the honor of working alongside the late College of Medicine Dean, Dr. Susan Smyth, in her laboratory. This grant is especially meaningful to her as it was one of the last things they worked on together. They worked along side Dr. Andrew Morris, Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology and

husband of Dean Smyth. This grant will be focused on investigating the mechanisms of diabetic cardiomyopathy.

Congratulations, Dr. Bagchi!

Standing Room Only Workshop Led by Our Chief Residents

Our chief residents, Lana Abusalem, Husam Salah, and Ples Spradley, recently traveled to Austin, Texas to present at Academic Internal Medicine Week. Their workshop on helping interns become successful upper-level residents was attended by over one-hundred rising chief residents from programs around the country. Our chief residents presented the main elements of our program's successful upper-level boot camp: in-situ mock codes, didactics on how to teach, a workshop on providing feedback, and a "switch week" where interns and upper-levels swap roles. Throughout the presentation, our chief residents used interactive cases and discussion to help the attendees develop their own transitional curricula for interns. One attendee wrote on Twitter that it was an "amazing workshop...[with] lots of insightful suggestions, ideas and discussions!"





Dr. Tobias Vancil, USMLE Committee

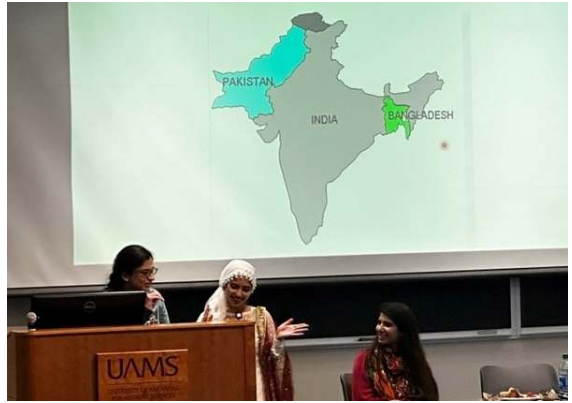
Member Recognition

Dr. Tobias Vancil, Associate Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, was recognized by the Chair of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) for his participation with the United States Medical Licensing Program (USMLE). Dr. Vancil served on the USMLE Test Material Development Committee (TMDC). This committee works to create and review test questions and cases that make up the USMLE.

Thank you, Dr. Vancil for providing your expertise to better the future of medicine!

Internal Medicine Residency Cultural Day - Bangladesh

The Internal Medicine residents celebrated Bangladesh for this month's cultural day. The presentation was given by Dr. Sinthia Alam (PGY-2) and supported by Dr. Jagdeep Kaur (PGY-3) who is from India and Dr. Maham Bakhtyar (PGY-1) from Pakistan. Dr. Alam discussed the climate, history, professions, language and national animals, fruits, and flowers of her home country. She also spoke on the on the pathway to medical school in Bangladesh. The day included a meal of chicken curry, paneer curry, biryani, and naan from local restaurant Saffron.



President of the National Academy of Medicine Visits UAMS

It was an honor to host Dr. Victor Dzau, President of the National Academy of Medicine, last month. Dr. Dzau gave the inaugural Richard and Ellen Sandor Lecture as well as the third Drs. Jay and Paulette Mehta Lectureship in Internal Medicine.

Click [here](#) to watch Dr. Dzau's Mehta Lecture with the following passcode: w=3w*SR2



Join the Internal Medicine Residents for the Annual Research Symposium!

INTERNAL MEDICINE ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute

Walton Auditorium

10th floor

10:30a-12p	Poster Presentation/Catering Provided
12p-1p	Quality Improvement Project Oral Presentations
1p-2p	Research Oral Presentations

UAMS
College of Medicine



Teaching Awards

We are pleased to share that several of our faculty members have received teaching awards as voted on by our medical students. Congratulations to all!

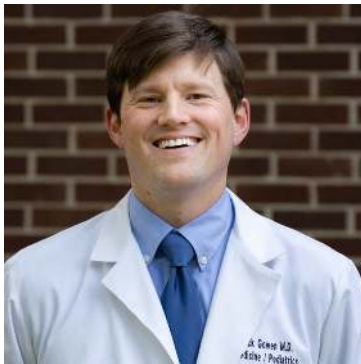
M3 Golden Apple

The Golden Apple Award is voted on by the students of each medical class for the faculty member they consider the best of the year. Dr. Nicholas Gowen was voted on by the M3 class for his services at the VA and his teaching sessions on the Internal Medicine Clerkship.



Nicholas Gowen, M.D.
General Internal Medicine

Gold Sash



Nicholas Gowen, M.D.
General Internal Medicine



Hakan Paydak, M.D.
Cardiology

Red Sash



Ahmed Abuabdou, M.D.
Hospital Medicine



Alice Alexander, M.D.
General Internal Medicine



Ramez Awad, M.D.
Hospital Medicine



Robert Bradsher, M.D.
Infectious Diseases



Jose Caceres, M.D.
Pulmonary and Critical Care



Sheena CarlLee, M.D.
General Internal Medicine -
Northwest



Ryan Dare, M.D.
Infectious Diseases



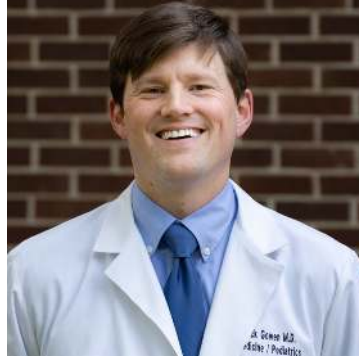
Steven Deas, M.D.
Pulmonary and Critical Care



Matthew Deneke, M.D.
Gastroenterology



Harmeem Goraya, M.D.
Pulmonary and Critical Care



Nicholas Gowen, M.D.
General Internal Medicine



Yusuf Hassan, M.D.
Cardiology



Robert Hopkins, M.D.
General Internal Medicine



Sumant Inamdar, M.D.
Gastroenterology



Krishna Kakkera, M.D.
Pulmonary and Critical Care



Robert Lavender, M.D.
General Internal Medicine



Riley Lipschitz, M.D.
General Internal Medicine



Michael Lowry, M.D.
Infectious Diseases



Caroline Miles, M.D.
General Internal Medicine -
VA



Juan Carlos Rico, M.D.
Infectious Diseases



Michael Saccente, M.D.
Infectious Diseases



Kristen Shealy, M.D.
General Internal Medicine



Manisha Singh, M.D.
Nephrology



Kalaivani Sivakumar, M.D.
Cardiology



Ples Spradley, M.D.
Chief Resident



Sara Tariq, M.D.
General Internal Medicine



**Ramakrishna Thotakura,
M.D.**
Hospital Medicine



Tobias Vancil, M.D.
General Internal Medicine



Taylor Washburn, M.D.
General Internal Medicine -
VA

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 Shelby Shields at SMS Shields@uams.edu or Natalie Moore at NMoore@uams.edu.

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