

# PharmTox Weekly Buzz

(A publication of the UAMS Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology)

## Week of June 21-25, 2021

### Marybeth Shepard Joins Leung Lab

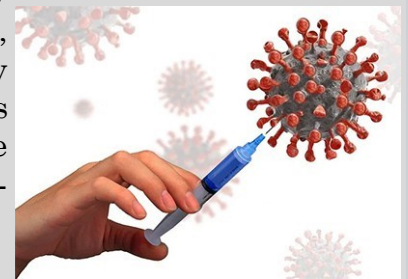


Welcome to Marybeth Shepard, who recently joined the department as research technician in associate professor Ricky Leung's laboratory. Marybeth grew up in Little Rock, and recently moved back from the Dallas/Fort Worth area where she lived for twenty years. She spent fifteen years in the apartment management business, starting as a leasing agent and working her way up to management for a large national company as part of their audit and risk management team and transition team for new acquisitions. Marybeth decided to return to school in 2013 to further her education and tried a variety of classes, including biology, and the rest is history!

Marybeth received her B.S. from the University of Texas at Arlington. There, she worked as a university teaching assistant in general chemistry, biology and plant science, and also worked at Tarrant County College. She is currently pursuing her master's degree at the University of Florida in microbiology and cell science with a concentration in medical microbiology and biochemistry. She is hoping to pursue the Ph.D. degree at UAMS in the future. While Marybeth hasn't completely narrowed down her research focus, she is particularly interested in epigenetics and cancer.

### Do Your Part! Get The Vaccine!

If you have not received the Pfizer vaccination, it still is available by appointment at UAMS Student and Employee Health. This week, Chancellor Cam Patterson spoke during a segment on NBC's Today Show on the increase in COVID-19 cases in our state. UAMS has more COVID positive patients in the hospital than at any time since February 2021, and younger patients are being admitted with severe disease.



With the new, more contagious and dangerous Delta variant gaining ground in the U.S., it is highly advisable to protect yourself and others around you. The good news is that the available vaccines in the U.S. are effective against this variant and they are easily accessible to UAMS employees and Arkansans. Please contact Student and Employee Health at 686-6565 or 686-6381 to schedule an appointment. Vaccines are also available by appointment at the UAMS Health Women's Center in midtown at 501-526-7425 or at the UAMS Vaccine Clinic on 12th Street (no appointment necessary).

Please help educate your friends, family and community about vaccines. These tips from the CDC for [talking to patients about the COVID-19 vaccine](#) and [answering questions about the vaccine](#) provide helpful information for these conversations. All of us want to get rid of our masks and have face-to-face meetings again. This only will happen if everyone is vaccinated. Do your part and get the vaccine.