

“Eye on Science: 501 Podcast”

Associate Professor, Abdelrahman Fouda, and Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Rami Shahrer, were recently invited to participate in *Science 501*, a new science podcast hosted by Channel 7. The episode provided a fantastic platform for the researchers to translate their complex ocular studies into accessible language for fellow Arkansans. Both Dr. Fouda and Dr. Shahrer welcomed the opportunity to bridge the gap between the laboratory and the public, highlighting the cutting-edge scientific discovery happening right here in the state.

During the discussion, they focused on how the eye responds to injury and disease, specifically diving into the critical role that immune cells play in tissue repair. They also shared insights from their recent findings and publication, detailing how their work at UAMS is advancing the broader understanding of vision preservation. By breaking down these complex cellular mechanisms, they illustrated how targeted research can open doors to entirely new therapeutic approaches for preventing vision loss.

Ultimately, participating in the podcast served as a valuable way to highlight the real-world impact of the department's ongoing research efforts. The studies conducted by Dr. Fouda and Dr. Shahrer in the department go far beyond academic theory, holding the genuine potential to translate into tangible treatments that will directly benefit patients across Arkansas and beyond.



“A Morning Well Spent”

A huge thank you to the Mu and Liu labs for hosting a phenomenal department breakfast on June 18th! It was the perfect way to kickstart the day, bring everyone together to enjoy some good food. Between the fantastic turnout, the great conversation, and the top-tier menu, the morning was a massive success. Thank you again to our hosts for putting together such a wonderful event, and to everyone who stopped by to make it special!

Save the Date for July! The bar has been set high, but we are ready to do it all over again next month. Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 16th, when Dr. Fantegrossi and his minions take over hosting duties. Stay tuned for menu details!

“Retirement Reception - Dr. Rusch”

Faculty, residents, fellows, students, and staff are cordially invited to celebrate the incredible career and upcoming retirement of Nancy Rusch, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Please join us next Friday, June 26, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the 12th floor of the Jack T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute to honor her remarkable legacy and wish her well in her next chapter. Dr. Rusch is retiring after 20 years of visionary leadership, unwavering dedication, and outstanding service to UAMS and the College. Over the last two decades, her commitment to research excellence, mentorship, and academic growth has left an indelible mark on our institution, shaping the careers of countless students, trainees, and faculty members alike. We will have light refreshments available as we gather to express our deepest gratitude for her immense contributions to our campus community, and we hope you can join us for this well-deserved celebration and send-off!

“New Seminar Series Schedule”

Please take note of an important change regarding our upcoming department seminar series! Moving forward, the seminar will still be held on Tuesdays in the Rayford Auditorium, but we have updated our meeting times for the upcoming academic year to better accommodate schedules.

For the Fall 2026 semester, the seminar will begin at 10:45 AM. When we return for the Spring 2027 semester, the start time will shift to 9:30 AM.

Please update your calendars and note these changes from our previous schedule format. We look forward to sharing the official list of speakers for this upcoming seminar year very soon!