

COMmunication

February 2019

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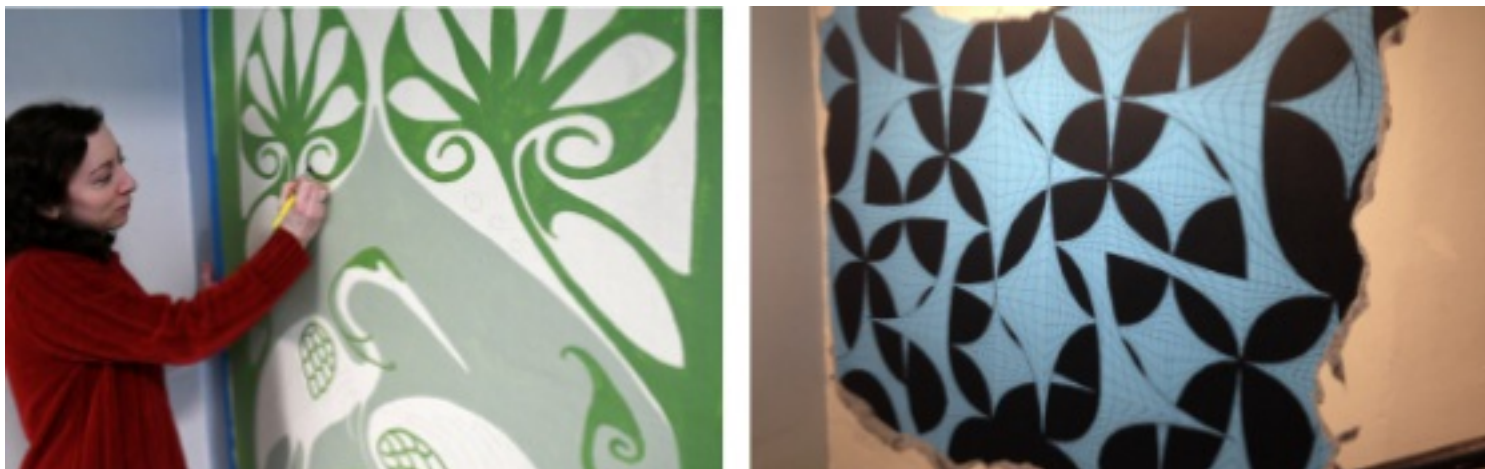
COM Students "Hang Out" During Medical School's Long Climb

There's no question that medical school is a long, hard climb. But a group of College of Medicine students has found that a *literal* climb is great for physical health and mental wellbeing - not to mention a lot of fun.

A dozen or so students have turned out for the appropriately dubbed "hangout" at the Little Rock Climbing Center on a Friday evening in early February. Harnessed to protective rope systems called belays, they scale the indoor facility's 27-foot walls, following routes of varying difficulty. They reach for nubby, stone-like handholds and seek footing on other protrusions. They check their balance and continue climbing.

"This is definitely a major stress reliever," freshman **Madison Crosby** said between climbs.

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"Step it Up" for Art!

If you take the stairs in the Central Building between the G level and first floor, you'll be rewarded with more than the benefits of getting a bit of exercise. The Get Healthy UAMS Committee recently selected three volunteer artists - two of whom are COM team members - to create murals to brighten the stairwell near the central elevators.

The talented COM artists are **Merideth Addicott, Ph.D.**, an Assistant Professor of **Psychiatry**, who is pictured above at work on her design, and **Shalese "Fitz" Fitzgerald, M.S.**, a biostatistician in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, whose work is on the right.

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Drive that Saves Lives

College of Medicine sophomores carried on the tradition of hosting a bone marrow registry drive for freshmen at the end of the final M1 hematology/oncology team-based learning session on Feb. 6. It's a great opportunity to expand on what they've learned - and potentially save someone's life.

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Following Her Dream

Freshman Class President **Paula McClain, M.A.**, was one of two UAMS students to tell their stories to the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees on Jan. 31. McClain, who is from Forrest City, always wanted to be a physician but didn't know where to start. Her path led first to work in research and teaching high school students. Now she is following her dream - and providing outstanding leadership for the M1 Class!



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New Faculty and Leaders



Larry Quang, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as Professor and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine.

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Mara Wood, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor at the Schmieding Developmental Center in Lowell in Northwest Arkansas.

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Veronica Raney, M.D., has rejoined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Medical Director of the Child Study Center at ACH.

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Have you read the latest **Accolades** from Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**? The weekly email highlights recent honors and accomplishments of COM faculty, staff, residents and students. You can also [read Accolades here](#). If you know someone who deserves a shout-out, send your ideas to Dr. Westfall via [COM Internal Communications](#)!

These UAMS team members and students were named in Accolades Jan. 30-Feb. 20:

Merideth Addicott
Noor Akhter
Elena Ambrogini
Mary Allison Andrews-Sizemore
R. Lee Archer
Timothy Atkinson
Gitanjali Bajaj
Berva Bentley
Avi Bhavaraju
Alicia Byrd
Stephanie Byrum
Thomas Cannon
Eugenia Carvalho
Jim Clardy
Karina Clemmons
Zoey Crystal
Ryan Dare
David Davies
Alan Diekman
Robert Eoff
Andrea Easom
Travis Eastin
Courtney Edgar-Zarate
J. Craig Forrest
Rachael Freeze-Ramsey
Edgar Garcia-Rill
Liz Gath
Molly Gathright

Peter Goulden
Jennifer Hankins
Larry Hartzell
Ronda Henry-Tillman
Teresa Hudson
Donald Johann
Marcie Johnson
Renee Joiner
Samantha Kendrick
Katie Kimbrough
Jennie Kirby
Bri LaFerney
Jennifer Laudadio
Irina Lendel
Jake Linna
Jia Liu
Francesca LoBianco
Curtis Lowery
Michael Mancino
Yuanjie Mao
Jason Mizell
Roy Morello
Wendy Nembhard
Sanjeeva Onteddu
Sowmya Patil
Hakan Paydak
Marc Phan
Kevin Phelan
Lillie Pitts

Zhiqiang Qin
Sung Rhee
Gresham Richter
Brittany Roses
Angela Scott
Sarah Sharp
Manisha Singh
Eli Smith
Greg Snead
Katie Stahler
Laura Stanley
James Suen
Taren Swindle
Mohsin Syed
Sara Tariq
Billy Thomas
Carol Thrush
Ozlem Tulunay-Ugur
David Ussery
Jennifer VanEcko
Jeanne Wei
Jennifer White
Erin Willis
Tip Wongsurawat
Bryce Woods
Yuri Zarate

These COM departments were represented in Accolades Jan. 30-Feb. 20:

Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
Biomedical Informatics
Emergency Medicine
Family and Preventive Medicine
Geriatrics
Internal Medicine
Microbiology/Immunology**
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences**
Neurology
Obstetrics/Gynecology

Ophthalmology
Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Pathology
Pediatrics
Pharmacology/Toxicology
Psychiatry
Physiology/Biophysics**
Radiology
Surgery

***These departments and their faculty were also the focus of recent special editions of Accolades that highlighted 2018 achievements. More departments will be highlighted in the future.*

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Recent Grants

External Grants

*Congratulations to the College of Medicine faculty members who received new **extramural grants** in January. This list, courtesy of the Office of the Executive Associate Dean for Research, excludes industry trials and awards under \$10,000.*



Merideth Addicott, Ph.D., Department of **Psychiatry**, Neural correlates of distress tolerance in tobacco addiction, NIH/Nat. Inst. on Drug Abuse (02/01/2019 - 01/31/2021), \$428,121.



J. Craig Forrest, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Defining the efficacy of replication-dead viruses as gammaherpesvirus vaccines, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (01/15/2019 - 12/31/2020), \$439,626.



Teresa Hudson, Pharm.D., Ph.D., Department of **Psychiatry**, Public Health Crisis Response, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (01/18/2019 - 09/30/2019), \$393,616. Pass through from Arkansas Department of Health.



Jia Liu, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Studies in Poxvirus Evasion of SAMD9 Pathway, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (01/01/2019-12/31/2023), \$1,861,102.



Michael Mancino, M.D., Department of **Psychiatry**, State Opioid Response, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, (02/01/2019 - 09/28/2019), \$106,546. Pass through from Arkansas Department of Human Services.



Roy Morello, Ph.D., Department of **Physiology and Biophysics**, Primary lung defects in mouse models of osteogenesis imperfecta, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Child Health & Human Development (01/11/2019 - 12/31/2020), \$150,750.



Taren Swindle, Ph.D., Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine**, De-Implementation of Detrimental Feeding Practices in Childcare, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases (01/03/2019 - 12/31/2020), \$228,473.



Jeanne Wei, MD., Ph.D., Department of **Geriatrics**, State Opioid Response Grant - UAMS subaward, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, (02/01/2019 - 09/29/2020), \$406,798. Pass through from Arkansas Department of Human Services.

Child Health Pilot Grants

*Congratulations to the faculty members who received **Research Scholar Pilot Grant Awards in Child Health** from the College of Medicine in January. The \$50,000 awards are for two years.*



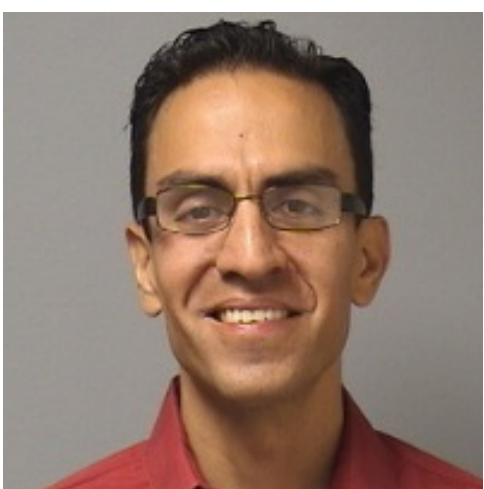
Eugenia Carvalho, Ph.D., Department of **Geriatrics**, MicroRNAs as markers of disturbed adipose tissue function and inflammation - a potential mechanism for diabetes development in obesity.



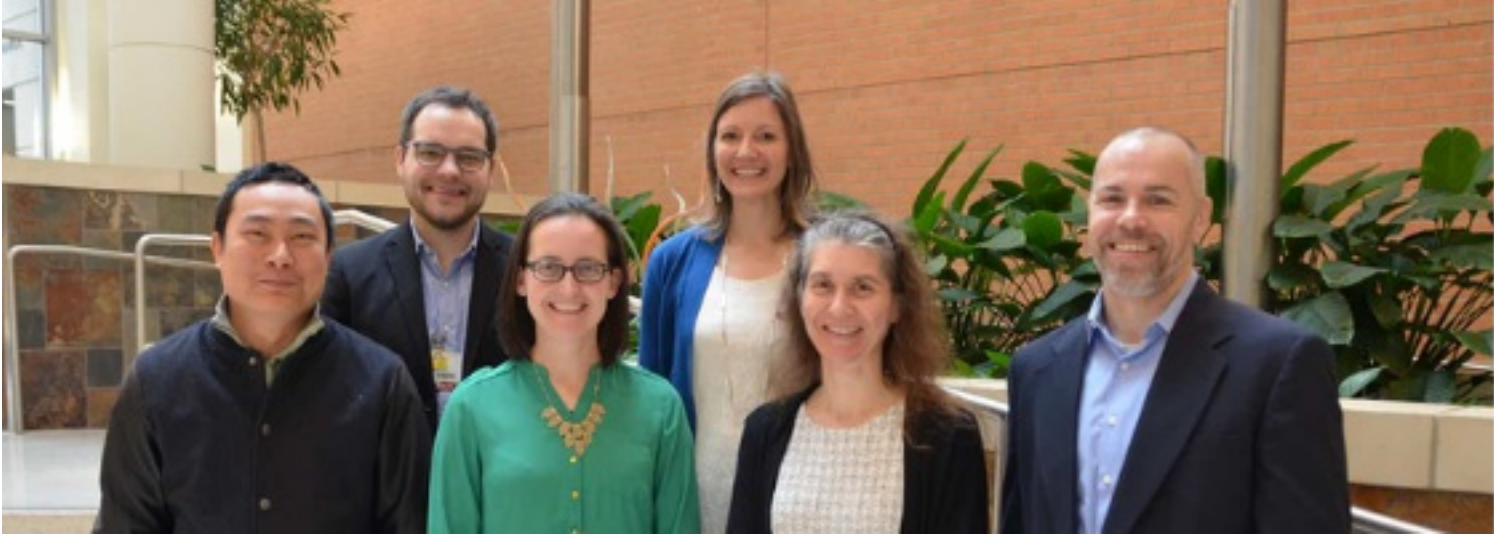
Roy Morello, Ph.D., Department of **Physiology and Biophysics**, Respiratory Function in Animal Models of Skeletal Dysplasias.



Wendy Nembhard, Ph.D., M.P.H., Department of **Pediatrics**, Neurodevelopmental Outcomes in Children with Congenital Heart Defects.



Yuri Zarate, M.D., Department of **Pediatrics**, Induced pluripotent stem cell generation for precision medicine in SATB2-associated syndrome (SAS).



Seeds of Science

Congratulations to **Drs. Samantha Kendrick, Alicia Byrd, Stephanie Byrum** and **Robert Eoff** of the Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** along with **Dr. Zhiqiang Qin** of the Department of **Pathology** on their recent “Seeds of Science” grants from Arkansas volunteer groups for diverse projects in cancer research.

Dr. Kendrick was a co-recipient with the College of Pharmacy’s Dr. Brendan Frett on a \$50,000 grant funded by proceeds from the annual Village Walk for Cancer Research in Hot Springs Village. Dr. Byrd and Dr. Byrum were co-recipients of a \$15,000 pilot award funded by proceeds from the annual RockStar Lounge fundraiser hosted by the Envoys. Dr. Eoff and Dr. Qin each received separate pilot awards of \$15,000, also made possible by the RockStar Lounge.

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Let us know how we're doing!

Please rate the *COMmunication* on a scale of 1-5 (5 being most favorable).

You will be invited to share optional comments.

Thank you!



All feedback is collected anonymously.

The *COMmunication* is published monthly to highlight key initiatives and developments in the COM, to introduce new faculty members and leaders, and to celebrate major professional honors and awards. The Dean’s Office works in partnership with designated newsletter liaisons throughout the COM. To find your department’s contact, read our submission guidelines or view past issues, visit the [COMmunication webpage](#).

Comments, questions and suggestions for improvements are always welcome. Call Tamara Robinson, Senior Communications Writer, at 526-5163, or click the red button below to email the *COMmunication*.

[Comments? Ideas? Email Us!](#)

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UAMS College of Medicine | 4301 W. Markham, #550 | Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

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