

COMmunication

March 2019

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March Matchness!

Consecutive Fridays in March are unforgettable days for potential future physicians from across Arkansas as well as soon-to-be physicians contemplating the next phase of their journey as they near the end of medical school.

On March 15, the College of Medicine Class of 2019 celebrated Match Day at a [joyful ceremony](#) with the traditional opening of envelopes revealing where each senior will complete residency training. It was an exceptionally successful Match for the COM with the largest ever class of graduating seniors matching to residencies and every senior who wanted a position receiving one. [Read here](#) how the Match and new residency programs are great news for Arkansas.

A week earlier, the focus was on future medical students when the COM Medical Student Admissions team welcomed 120 premed students from colleges throughout Arkansas to campus for tours and information sessions. Almost 30 faculty and staff members, 14 UAMS clinical, research and education sites and 40-plus medical student volunteers participated in the annual effort to recruit the very best future medical students to UAMS. [Read more here](#).



*Pictured, top photo: Spouses **Allison Jackson** and **Mason Qualls** discover that they both matched to programs in psychiatry at Harvard University - Allison to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Mason to Harvard South Shore. Above, right: Medical students greet premed students and advisers for a tour of UAMS.*

Dean Westfall Discusses Match and More on "Arkansas Week"

Viewers of AETN's "Arkansas Week" learned more about the Match, the importance of residency education and the significance of UAMS' pursuit of National Cancer Institute designation in a March 22 interview with Executive Vice Chancellor and College of Medicine Dean **Christopher Westfall, M.D., FACS**. Click below to watch the 10-minute video.



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New Faculty and Leaders

Dr. Daniel Voth to Serve as Interim Chair of Microbiology and Immunology

Daniel Voth, Ph.D., has been appointed Interim Chair of the Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, effective following the July 31 retirement of current Chair **Kevin Young, Ph.D.**

“Dr. Voth will bring strong leadership skills, collegiality and dedication to our institution to this new role,” UAMS Executive Vice Chancellor and College of Medicine Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, said in a March 4 announcement to faculty.

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Gerry Dean Ezell, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Associate Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine.

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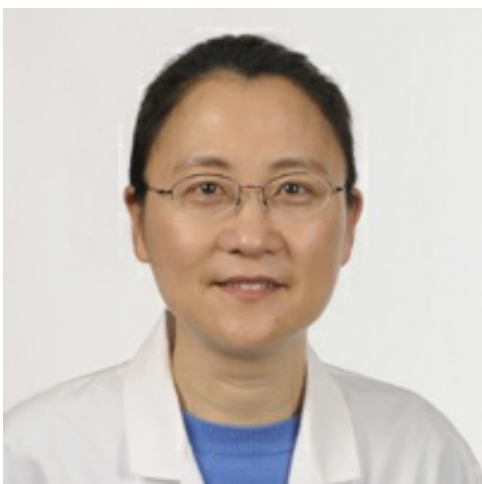
Asif Sewani, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology.

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Anand Venkata, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care.

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Fang Lu, M.D., has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pediatric Radiology.

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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 Feb. 17-March 20:

Iad Alhallak
 Konstantinos Arnaoutakis
 Azka Ashraf
 Leigh Austin
 Lucas Bider
 Barnes Bloom
 Mathias Brochhausen
 Mark Brown
 Letrese' Burton-Leonard
 Parimal Chowdhury
 Bobie Jo Cooper
 Romona Davis
 Alan Diekman
 Jennifer Dukes-Casey
 Brian Eble
 Courtney Edgar-Zarate
 Chris Edwards
 Leah Eisenberg
 Tyler Estes
 Jordan Fielding
 Rachael Freeze-Ramsey
 Elizabeth Gath
 Ahren Geilenfeldt
 Murat Gokden
 Santiago Gonzalez
 Sarah Greenberger
 Sarah Beth Harrington
 Curtis Hedberg
 Tammy Henson
 Moriah Hollaway
 Antonio Howard
 Tory Hunton
 Laura Hutchins
 David Jacks
 Mark Jansen

Stephen Johnson
 Mohamed Kamel
 Jason Kaushik
 Aaron Kemp
 Barbara Lacy
 Linda Larson-Prior
 Jonathan Laryea
 Zachary Lewis
 Brett Lile
 Rani Lindberg
 Curtin Lowery
 John Lytle
 Bruno Machado
 Nirvana Manning
 Ru Massey
 Jeanne McLachlin
 Andrea McMahon
 Kevin Means
 Simon Mears
 Priya Mendiratta
 Ann Marie Mercier
 Heather Moore
 Richard Morrison
 Corbin Norton
 Hugh Nymeyer
 Daniela Ochoa
 Eddie Ochoa
 Meryll Pampolina
 Cam Patterson
 Melody Penning
 John Pennington
 Kevin Phelan
 Amy Phillips
 Lauren Poindexter

Raymond Quilao
 Matt Quick
 Gabe Randall
 Sung Rhee
 Gloria Richard-Davis
 Sheldon Riklon
 Alex Rivas
 Amy Scurlock
 Casey Sevy
 Jan Shorey
 Vern Ann Shotts
 Frank Simmen
 Rosalia C.M. Simmen
 Olivia Sims
 Manisha Singh
 Tom South
 Natasha Sra
 Brendan Stack
 Jeff Stambough
 K. David Straub
 Lindsey Sward
 Alan Tackett
 Chad Taylor
 Puru Thapa
 Sarah Beth Theriot
 Mark Thomas
 Daniel Trinh
 Samidha Tripathi
 Rashmi Verma
 Jasna Vuk
 Jerry Ware
 Abeer Washington
 Alexis White
 Keith Wolter

These COM departments were represented in Accolades Feb. 27-March 20:

Anesthesiology
 Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
 Biomedical Informatics
 Dermatology
 Emergency Medicine
 Internal Medicine
 Family/Preventive Medicine
 Geriatrics
 Medical Humanities/Bioethics
 Microbiology/Immunology
 Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences

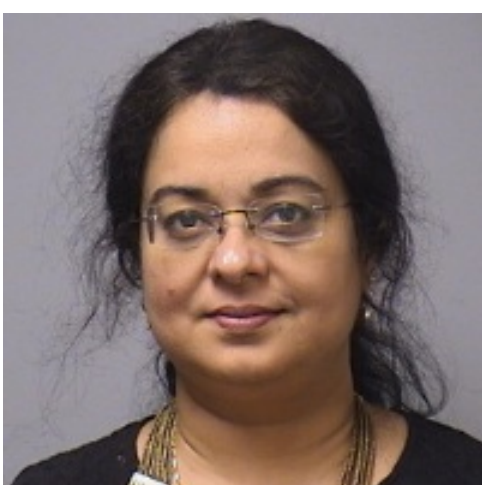
Obstetrics/Gynecology
 Orthopaedic Surgery
 Otolaryngology/Head-Neck Surgery
 Pathology
 Pediatrics
 Pharmacology/Toxicology
 Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation
 Physiology/Biophysics
 Psychiatry
 Surgery
 Urology

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Recent Grants

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

Extramural Grants



Sudeepa Bhattacharyya, PhD.,
 Department of **Biomedical Informatics,**
 Metabolomic Signatures Predictive of Outcomes to Treatments for Major Depression, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Mental Health (07/01/2018 - 03/31/2020), \$120,000. Pass through from Duke University.



Karl Boehme, PhD.,
 Department of **Microbiology and Immunology,** Functions of the Reovirus Capsid, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (02/01/2019 - 01/30/2024), \$158,741. Pass through from Indiana University.



John Dornhoffer, MD.,
 Department of **Otolaryngology,** Immuno-Targeted Photodynamic Therapy as an Adjuvant in Cholesteatoma Surgery, University of Chicago (01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019), \$30,000.



Brian Koss, BA.,
Department of
**Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology,**
Epigenetic regulation of
metabolic stress pathways
in melanoma infiltrating
lymphocytes, NIH/Nat.
Cancer Institute
(03/01/2019 -
02/28/2021), \$110,604.



Melissa Zielinski, PhD.,
Department of
Psychiatry, An Early
Evaluation of the Pulaski
County Regional Crisis
Stabilization Unit:
Economics and
Outcomes, NIH/Nat. Inst.
on Drug Abuse
(01/01/2019 -
12/31/2019), \$10,000.
Pass through from Miriam
Hospital.

Also for **Dr. Zielinski:** A
Preliminary Economic
Evaluation of the Pulaski
County Regional Crisis
Stabilization Unit
(PCRCU), NIH/Nat. Inst.
on Drug Abuse
(05/01/2018 -
04/30/2019), \$10,000.
Pass through from Weill
Medical College of Cornell
University.

Meredith Zozus, PhD., Department of
Biomedical Informatics, Development,
Demonstration and Evaluation of IRB Data and
Document Exchange Standards Supporting
Implementation of Central and Single Institutional
Review Boards for Multi-site Research, NIH/National
Center for Advancing Translational Sciences
(09/15/2018 - 04/30/2019), \$556,478. Pass through
from Duke University.



Intramural Grants



Robert Eoff, PhD.,
Department of
**Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology,** DNA
polymerase kappa
regulation and activity in
gliomas, UAMS COM
Barton Bridging Award
(02/01/2019 -
01/31/2020), \$45,000.



Steven Post, PhD.,
Department of
Pathology, Role of SR-A
Binding to Tumor-
Associated Glycans in
Breast Cancer, UAMS
Executive Breast
Committee (02/01/2019 -
01/31/2020), \$233,328.



**Analiz Rodriguez, MD.,
PhD.,** Department of
Neurosurgery, FY 18
Seeds of Science Pilot
award, UAMS Internal
Research Awards
(03/01/2019 -
02/29/2020), \$10,000.



Mark Smeltzer, PhD.,
 Department of
**Microbiology and
 Immunology**, Antibiotic
 Delivery Platform for
 Prevention and treatment
 of Bone Infections while
 enabling Accelerated
 Bone Regeneration, UAMS
 Tobacco (07/01/18 -
 06/30/2019), \$24,965.



**Valentina Todorova,
 PhD.,** Department of
Internal Medicine,
 Exosomes as Biomarkers
 and Therapeutic Targets in
 Early Breast Cancer,
 UAMS Executive Breast
 Committee (02/01/2019 -
 01/31/2020), \$53,730.



David Ussery, PhD.,
 Department of
**Biomedical
 Informatics**, Gut
 Microbiome Changes in
 Obstructive Sleep Apnea
 Patients, UAMS Tobacco
 (07/01/18 - 06/30/2019),
 \$10,145.

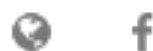
Also for **Dr. Ussery:**
 Identification of
 Staphylococcus Aureus
 that Contribute to the
 Pathogenesis of
 Osteomyelitis, UAMS
 Tobacco (07/01/18 -
 06/30/2019), \$25,000.

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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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