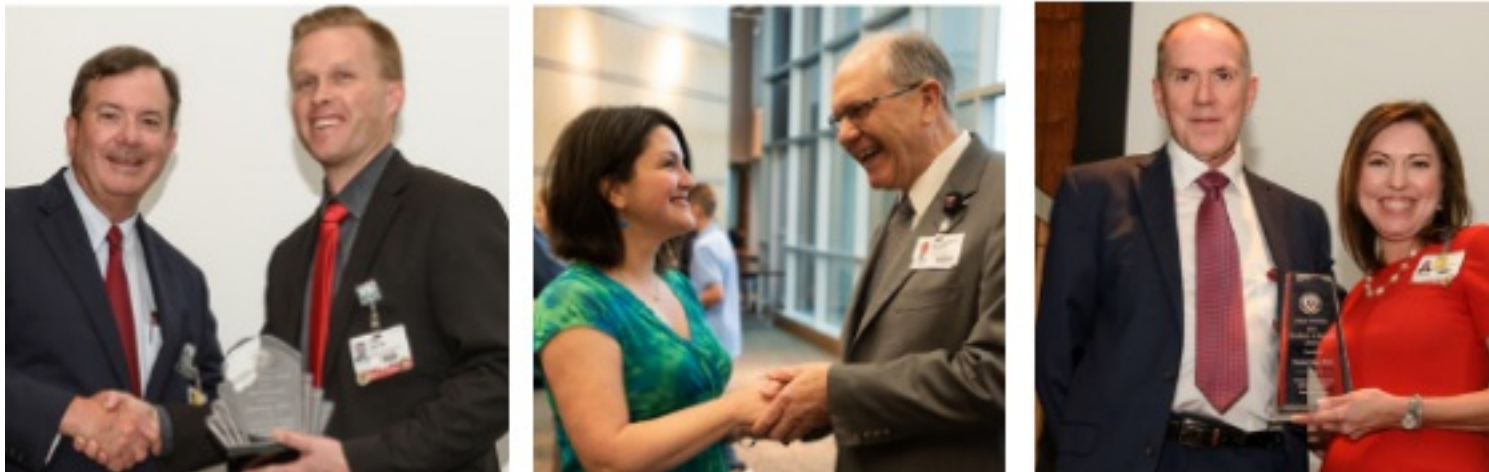


# COMmunication

April 2019

**GO TO:** [Leadership Appointments](#) | [In the Spotlight](#) | [Accolades](#) | [Recent Grants](#)



## COM Celebrates Faculty and Staff Excellence at Dean's Honor Day

Service. Innovation. Selflessness. Gratitude. These were some of the words used as the UAMS College of Medicine honored faculty and staff members for exemplary service and accomplishments in education, research and clinical care at the ninth annual Dean's Honor Day ceremony on April 24.

The ceremony included 12 individual awards for faculty and staff; recognition of 58 faculty members receiving promotion in rank or both promotion and tenure; recognition of six faculty members who were named Emeritus Professors; and the investiture of the sixth Lutterloh Professor for Medical Education Excellence.

**G. Richard Smith, M.D.**, was presented the Distinguished Faculty Service Award for his decades of leadership in psychiatry and dedicated service in many other roles, including Dean of the College of Medicine in 2013-2015.

[For more about Dr. Smith and an overview of other awards, click here.](#)

[Read more about individual \*\*faculty award recipients\*\* here.](#)

[Read more about individual \*\*staff award honorees\*\* here.](#)

[View a list of faculty members receiving \*\*promotion or promotion and tenure\*\*.](#)

**[Back to the Top](#)**

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## Leadership Appointments

## Dr. Ronald Robertson Named Chair of Surgery

**Ronald Robertson, M.D.**, a faculty member since 1996 and Chief of the Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery since 2013, has been appointed Chair of the Department of **Surgery**.

“Dr. Robertson is a fine colleague, superb trauma surgeon and a proven leader who has dedicated his career to UAMS and improving surgical and trauma care in Arkansas,” said **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, Dean of the College of Medicine and Executive Vice Chancellor of UAMS. “Dr. Robertson’s many prior leadership roles, dedication to our institution and those we serve, and remarkable collegiality will all help him to be an exceptional chair of surgery.”



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## Dr. Sara Tariq Appointed Associate Dean for Student Affairs

**Sara Tariq, M.D.**, a Professor of **Internal Medicine** and nationally recognized leader in medical education, has been named to the newly established position of Associate Dean for Student Affairs in the College of Medicine.

“Dr. Tariq has been integral to many educational initiatives in the College of Medicine, including development of our clinical skills education programs, integration of clinical experiences in the first two years of the curriculum, creation of our Academic Houses, and teaching-focused faculty development,” said UAMS Executive Vice Chancellor and College of Medicine Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D. “She is devoted to patients and students alike and brings her remarkable energy to her role as associate dean for student affairs.”

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

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## In the Spotlight



### UAMS Medical Center, COM Faculty Honored as Healthcare Heroes

UAMS and College of Medicine faculty members received top honors at the fourth annual Healthcare Heroes awards luncheon sponsored by Arkansas Business Publishing Group. **Ronda Henry-Tillman, M.D.**, was named Physician of the Year; **Puru Thapa, M.D.**, was named Workplace Wellness Hero; and **C. Lowry Barnes, M.D.**, was named Healthcare Administrator of the Year. UAMS Medical Center was honored as Large Hospital of the Year. The COM’s **J.D. Day, M.D.**, **Gloria Richard-Davis, M.D.**, and **Hari Eswaran, Ph.D.**, were all honored as finalists.

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## Dr. Larry Hartzell Invested in Waner Endowed Chair at ACH

**Larry Hartzell, M.D.**, an associate professor in the Department of **Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery**, was invested in the Benjamin and Milton Waner, M.D., Endowed Chair in Pediatric Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH) on April 24.

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## COM Faculty, Teams Receive ACH's Signature Awards

Arkansas Children's honored community leaders, physicians and researchers who have advanced children's health care at the annual Ruth Olive Beall Awards on April 25. Honorees included the College of Medicine's **Ashley Ross, M.D.**, who received the Ruth Olive Beall Award; **Richard Kurten, Ph.D.**, who received the Dr. Robert H. Fiser, Jr., Research Achievement Award; and the entire teams of the ACH Allergy & Immunology Clinic (led by **Stacie Jones, M.D.**) and the ACH Emergency Department (led by Interim Chief **Rhonda Dick, M.D.**, last year and Section Chief **Larry Quang, M.D.**, since January).

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)



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, residents and students were named in Accolades March 27-April 17:

Sean Adams	James Graham	Sung Rhee
Noor Akhter	Nathan Green	Gloria Richard-Davis
Lowry Barnes	William "Sam" Greenfield	Kim Richardson
Avi Bhavaraju	Tracy Haselow	Thea Rosenbaum
Michael Blackburn	John Henley	Suzanne Saccente
Janina Bonwich	Laura Hollenbach	Benjamin Schurhamer
Elisabet Borsheim	Robyn Horn	Kelsey Shnaekel
Gwendolyn Bryant-Smith	Jennifer Hunt	Jan Shorey
Kala Burgener	Yasthil Jaganath	Greg Sketas
Mary Burgess	Laura James	Rachel Slotcavage
Jason Chang	Donald Johann	Mark Smeltzer
Gwen Childs	Daniel Knight	G. Richard Smith
Karina Clemmons	Curtis Lowery	Kyle Spencer
Sarah Cobb	Erin Mannen	Matt Spond
Denise Compton	James Marsh	Ryan Stuckey
Shelley Crary	Neil Masangkay	James Suen
Erin Creighton	James McDonald	Patty Summons
Ryan Dare	Renee McGraw	Lindsey Sward
David Davies	Lorraine McKelvey	Mohsin Syed
Rodney Davis	Gregory Mehaffey	Julie Tate
J.D. Day	Jason Mizell	Samidha Tripathi
Tony DeJarnatt	Kayla Mohr	David Ussery
Linda Deloney	Fred Murphy	Toby Vancil
Alan Diekman	Eddie Ochoa	Jasna Vuk
John Dornhoffer	Kikumi Ono-Moore	Visanu Wanchai
Andrea Easom	Mohammed Orloff	Jerry Ware
Edgar Garcia-Rill	Matthew Palascak	Jeanne Wei
Elizabeth Gath	Zachery Pettis	Lindsey Wilbanks
Amy Gonzales	Kevin Phelan	Henry Wong
Santiago Gonzalez	Matt Quick	Theresa Wyrick-Glover
Nick Gowen		

### These COM departments were represented in Accolades March 27-April 17:

Anesthesiology	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Orthopaedic Surgery
Biomedical Informatics	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Dermatology	Pathology
Emergency Medicine	Pediatrics
Family/Preventive Medicine	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Geriatrics	Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation
Internal Medicine	Physiology/Biophysics
Microbiology/Immunology	Psychiatry
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences	Radiology
Neurology	Surgery
Neurosurgery	Urology

[Back to the Top](#)

## Recent Grants

*Congratulations to the College of Medicine faculty members who received new extramural and intramural grants in March. This list, courtesy of the Office of the*



**Donald Johann, Jr., MD.,** Department of **Biomedical Informatics**, Scientific and methodological advancement in liquid biopsies to further the development of lung cancer-based precision medicine (Bio 3), Food & Drug Administration (09/30/2018 - 09/29/2019), \$990,393. Pass through from Arkansas Research Alliance.



**Robin McAtee, PhD., RN., FACHE,** Department of **Geriatrics**, Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Program, US Department of Health & Human Services - Administration for Community Living (03/01/2019 - 08/31/2021), \$40,000. Pass through from Arkansas Department of Human Services.



**Shengyu Mu, PhD.,** Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology**, T cell homing to the kidney contributes to salt retention and blood pressure regulation, NIH/Nat. Heart, Lung & Blood Institute (04/01/2019 - 03/31/2024), \$1,893,750.



**Patricia Wight, PhD.,** Department of **Physiology and Biophysics**, Elucidation of Mechanisms Controlling Human and Mouse Myelin PLP1 Gene Expression, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Neurological Disorders & Stroke (04/01/2019 - 03/31/2024), \$1,614,478.



**Melissa Zielinski, PhD.,** Department of **Psychiatry**, Leveraging Implementation Science to Increase Access to Trauma Treatment for Incarcerated Drug Users, NIH/Nat. Inst. on Drug Abuse (04/01/2019 - 03/31/2024), \$735,445.



**Alan Tackett, PhD.,** Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, Discovery Phase Mass Spectrometer for the Proteomics Core Facility, UAMS Tobacco (07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019), \$131,990. (Internal)

## Back to the Top

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*.

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## Back to the Top