



July 2019

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**On the Bus:** [Pediatric Interns Gain Insights on Tour of Little Rock](#)



Tourist attractions are the usual highlights on a bus tour, but **Becca Perin, M.D.**, had different sights on the itinerary for more than two dozen new UAMS pediatric interns this summer. Each stop was planned to help them provide the best possible care for some of Arkansas' most vulnerable children.

"The bus tour was a way to show our brand new interns, who are just beginning their training to become pediatricians, some of the many things that impact a child's health," said Dr. Perin, an Assistant Professor in the General Pediatrics Section of the Department of **Pediatrics** who serves as an Associate Director of the Pediatrics Residency Program.

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**"So much of patient care involves social elements that are not taught in textbooks in medical school, so getting out in the community and learning about those we care for was an invaluable experience."**

-- Sydney Middleton, M.D., Pediatric Intern



The College of Medicine warmly welcomes all of our new residents, fellows and faculty members!

**THUMBS UP!** Pictured above: The fabulous interns of the Department of **Emergency Medicine** get a thumbs up from new Assistant Professor **Dr. Meryll Pampolina Bouldin**.

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## New Faculty and Leaders



### Dr. James Graham Named Next Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

**James Graham, M.D.**, a longtime educational leader in the College of Medicine, has been named the next Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. He will begin serving in his new role following the retirement of **Richard P. Wheeler, M.D.**, on January 31, 2020.

“Those who have worked with Dr. Graham in his current post as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical education know that he brings great enthusiasm, collegiality and dedication to our educational mission, as well as extensive experience in medical education and strong institutional knowledge,” said Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., FACS**. “These strengths will serve Dr. Graham very well as he leads our academic mission in collaboration with our outstanding leaders in undergraduate medical education and student affairs.”

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### Dr. Amyleigh Overton-McCoy Appointed Centers on Aging Director

**Amyleigh Overton-McCoy, Ph.D., GNP-BC, APRN**, has joined the Department of **Geriatrics** as an Assistant Professor and Director of the UAMS Centers on Aging, overseeing diverse services for seniors at seven locations across the state for the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging.

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**Maneetha Kodali, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Geriatrics** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Erona Reza, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Geriatrics** as an Instructor.

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**Lakshmi Menon, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Endocrinology**.

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**Kristen Shealy, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **General Internal Medicine**.

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**Akash Mukherjee, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology**.

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**Sara Tasneem, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and hospitalist in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology**.

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**Mathew Kottarathara, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and hospitalist in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology, Myeloma Section**.

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**Richa Parikh, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and hospitalist in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology, Myeloma Section**.

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**Guido J.K. Tricot, M.D., Ph.D.**, has rejoined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as a Professor in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology, Myeloma Section**.

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**Nadia Alqurini, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hospital Medicine**.

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**Sara Mohammed, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hospital Medicine**.

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**Sagarika Sabbagh, D.O.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hospital Medicine**.

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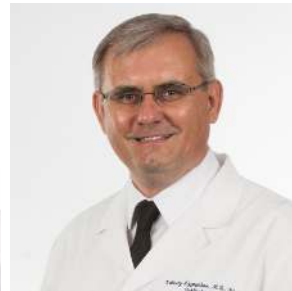
**Roshen Mathew, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Instructor and Interventional Pulmonary Fellow in the Division of **Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine**.

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**Syed Ali, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Neurology** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Valeriy Lyzogubov, M.D., Ph.D.**, has rejoined the Department of **Ophthalmology** as an Instructor focusing on vision research.

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**Kevin Wong, D.O.**, has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in the divisions of **Pediatric Radiology** and **Pediatric Interventional Radiology**.

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**Sagar T. Mehta, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Pediatric Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery**.

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*Editor's note: This issue features some of the faculty members who are joining us this summer and fall. We will continue to introduce new colleagues in the months ahead.*

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## Recent Grants

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



**Robert Eoff, Ph.D.**,  
Department of **Biochemistry  
and Molecular Biology**,  
Replication of G-quadruplex  
DNA by translesion  
polymerases, National  
Science Foundation  
(08/01/2019 – 07/31/2023),  
\$1,247,256



**Michael Mancino, M.D.**,  
Department of **Psychiatry**,  
Medication Assisted  
Treatment Services,  
Substance Abuse & Mental  
Health Services  
Administration (07/01/2019 –  
04/30/2020), \$230,000. Pass  
through from Arkansas  
Department of Human  
Services.



**Shona Ray-Griffith, M.D.**,  
Department of **Psychiatry**,  
State Opioid Response (SOR)  
Supplemental Award,  
Substance Abuse & Mental  
Health Services  
Administration (07/01/2019 –  
06/30/2020), \$230,275. Pass  
through from Arkansas  
Department of Human  
Services.



**Alan Tackett, Ph.D.**,  
Department of **Biochemistry  
and Molecular Biology**,  
Identification of Druggable  
Targets to Complement  
Melanoma Therapy, NIH/Nat.  
Cancer Institute (06/15/2019 –  
05/31/2024), \$1,750,222.



**Brian Walker, Ph.D.**,  
Department of **Internal  
Medicine**, SWOG- NCTN  
Network Group Operations  
Center, NIH/Nat. Inst. on Drug  
Abuse NIH/Nat. Cancer  
Institute (04/26/2019 –  
02/28/2025), \$64,821. Pass  
through from Oregon State  
University.



### UAMS Awards Interprofessional Grants

Congratulations to COM faculty members **Linda Worley, M.D.**, (**Psychiatry/OB/GYN**; Northwest Campus Regional Associate Dean); **Manisha Singh, M.D.**, (**Internal Medicine**); **Brendan Stack, M.D.**, (**Otolaryngology**); and **Riley Carpenter Lide, M.D.**, (**Anesthesiology**); who were among the UAMS team members receiving small grant awards from the Office of Interprofessional Education and the Office of Population Health.

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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 in July:**

Sean Adams	Stephanie Kierstead	Jill Ramsey
Mary Aitken	Mary Katherine Kimbrough	Brian Reemtsen
Greg Albert	Tyra Larkin	Ron Robertson
Melody Allensworth-James	Paul Lee	José Romero
Kevin Barkley	Riley Lide	Nancy Rusch
Jessica Bettis	Kristen Lienhart	Brant Sachleben
Daniel Bingham	Wan Lovichit	Debopam Samanta
Elizabeth Blankenship	Ryan MacLeod	Steve Schexnayder
Richard Blaszak	Robin McAtee	Amy Scurlock
Elisabet Borsheim	Will McSpadden	Paul Seib
Keisha Cawley	Astryd Menendez	Rachel Slotcavage
Indranil "Neil" Chakraborty	Azhar Merchant	Krista Stephenson
Gwen Childs	Jill Mhyre	Carol Thrush
Donald Crabtree	Tiffany Miles	Renee Tolly
Joan Cranmer	Jason Mizell	Samidha Tripathi
Shannon Dare	Charles Napolitano	Alex Vandiver
Marcy Doderer	Charles O'Brien	Jeanne Wei
Edgar Garcia-Rill	Eddie Ochoa	Tiffany Weinkopff
Brooks Gentry	Matt Palascak	Rashonda Williams
Ashley Gregory	Becca Perin	Benjamin Woodle
Mary Beth Gresham	Erika Petersen	Linda Worley
Whit Hall	Banks Peterson	Andrew Wright
Laura James	Blake Plyler	Jinhu Xiong
Diane Jarrett	Patricia Price	Kevin Young

**These COM departments were represented in Accolades in July:**

Anesthesiology	Neurosurgery
Family Medicine	Orthopaedic Surgery
Geriatrics	Pediatrics
Internal Medicine	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Microbiology/Immunology	Psychiatry
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences	Surgery

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## In Memoriam

### Edith Irby Jones, M.D.

**Edith Irby Jones, M.D.**, who became a pioneer when she enrolled at UAMS in 1948 as the first African American to enroll in an all-white medical school in the South, and who went on to a distinguished career as a doctor, educator and philanthropist, passed away on July 15. She was 91.

"Our beloved alumna was a courageous trailblazer, not only during her time as a student at UAMS, but in the decades since then as she dedicated her career to the underserved," said **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., FACS**, executive vice chancellor of UAMS and dean of the College of Medicine. "We are profoundly grateful for all that she gave and everything she accomplished throughout her lifetime."



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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*.

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