



August 2019

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### The Start of the Journey ...

The College of Medicine's 174 new freshmen donned their white coats for the first time before a crowd of family, friends and faculty at Robinson Auditorium on Aug. 9. **Neil Masangkay, M.D.**, Assistant Professor of **Neurology** and Director of the Neurology Clerkship, gave them advice for their journey ahead during his keynote address. Other speakers included Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, who spoke about the white coat as a symbol of knowledge, trust and care, which he recently experienced from a new perspective.

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### Looking Back ...

College of Medicine alumni from classes spanning six decades shared memories, learned about new educational technologies and more during UAMS Alumni Weekend Aug. 16-17. Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs **Erick Messias, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.**, and **Billy Thomas, M.D.**, were among those paying tribute to this year's Dean's Distinguished Alumnus, the late Edith Irby Jones, M.D. '52.

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## New Faculty and Leaders

## COM GME Leaders Take on New Roles

College of Medicine Graduate Medical Education (GME) leaders Jim Clardy, M.D., and Molly Gathright, M.D., have accepted new leadership roles as UAMS implements strategies to support the pipeline of educating and training physicians for Arkansas.

Dr. Clardy, who had served as Associate Dean for GME since 2004, was named Director of the newly established UAMS Center for Graduate Medical Education in the Office of the UAMS Provost.

Dr. Gathright, who had served as Assistant Dean for GME since 2016, was appointed Associate Dean for GME. She also assumed Dr. Clardy's former role as the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) for the college, overseeing its residency and fellowship programs and ensuring compliance with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

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



**Sarah Margaret "Maggie" Coffield, D.O.**, has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Pediatric Anesthesia**.

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**Matthew Williams, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Instructor and Fellow in **Obstetric Anesthesiology**.

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**Angel López-Candales, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as a Professor and non-invasive cardiologist in the Division of **Cardiology**.

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**Subodh Devabhaktuni, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and electrophysiologist in the Division of **Cardiology**.

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

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**Hazel Kathryn Liverett, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Infectious Disease**.

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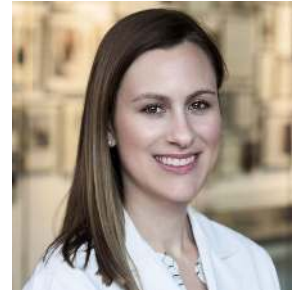
**Jose Caceres, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and interventional pulmonologist in the Division of **Pulmonary and Critical Care**.

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**Edgar Meyer, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Kathryn C. Stambough, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Obstetrics and Gynecology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology**.

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**David Walker, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Tina Ipe, M.D., M.P.H.**, has joined the Department of **Pathology** as an Associate Professor and Medical Director for the **UAMS Blood Bank and Transfusion Division**.

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**Luis F. Carrillo, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pathology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematopathology**.

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**Yuet-Kin "Ricky" Leung, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology** as an Associate Professor.

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**Faraz Kalantari, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Radiation Oncology** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Gary Lewis, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Radiation Oncology** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Katy A. Marino, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Thoracic Surgery**.

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The Senior Leadership of UAMS Presents the Annual

# NEW FACULTY RECEPTION

September 24, 2019

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m

12th floor, Jackson T. Stephens  
Spine & Neurosciences Institute

Dress: Business Casual



For more information or to RSVP, contact Faterra Herd at FSHerd@uams.edu or 501.526.5226

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## Recent Grants



### TRI Lands \$24.2 Million CTSA Grant

Congratulations to **Translational Research Institute** Director **Laura James, M.D.**, along with **W. Brooks Gentry, M.D.**, **Nancy Rusch, Ph.D.**, and colleagues on TRI's new \$24.2 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), which was announced in July. Read more in the [TRI Newsroom](#).

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



**Lisa Brents, Ph.D.**,  
Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology**, Use of precision deuteration to determine the contribution of norbuprenorphine to buprenorphine-associated neonatal abstinence syndrome, NIH/ National Institute on Drug Abuse (08/01/2019 – 07/31/2021)  
\$226,625.



**C. Renee Joiner, RN, BSN**,  
**Institute for Digital Health and Innovation**, Trauma Rehabilitation, Arkansas Department of Health (07/01/2019 – 06/30/2020),  
\$500,000.



**Sharp Malak, M.D., M.P.H.**,  
Department of **Radiology**, UAMS Mobile Mammography Program 2019-2020, Arkansas Department of Health (07/01/2019 – 06/30/2020),  
\$440,000.



**Michael Mancino, M.D.**, Department of **Psychiatry**, State Opioid Response (SOR) Vendor (CAST Methadone), Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (07/01/2019 – 09/29/2020), \$83,333. Pass through from Arkansas Department of Human Services.



**Sung Rhee, Ph.D.**, Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology**, Impaired Cerebral Dilation in Hypertension: Implications for Stroke Damage and Antihypertensive Therapy, American Heart Association (07/01/2019 – 06/30/2022), \$300,000.



**Mark Smeltzer, Ph.D.**, Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Evaluation of NuCress™ Bone regeneration platform for bone formation and ability to fight infections, Arkansas Research Alliance (03/01/2019 – 01/31/2020), \$28,040. Pass through from University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

*Congratulations to COM faculty members who received **UAMS/Arkansas Biosciences Institute Tobacco Funding** awards in July. These grants provide support to start new research projects, purchase scientific equipment, fund core facilities and recruit new faculty. (07/01/2019 – 06/30/2020)*



**Alicia Byrd, Ph.D.**, Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, \$150,000.



**Donald Johann Jr., M.D., M.Sc.**, Department of **Biomedical Informatics**, \$220,000.



**Mayumi Nakagawa, M.D., Ph.D.**, Department of **Pathology**, \$195,097.



**Ryan Porter, Ph.D.**, Department of **Internal Medicine**, \$73,570.



**Steven Post, Ph.D.**, Department of **Pathology**, \$50,000.



**Isabelle Racine-Miousse, Ph.D.**, Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, \$150,000.



**Fen Xia, M.D., Ph.D.**, Department of **Radiation Oncology**, \$300,710.



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 July 31-August 21:**

Duah Alkam	Susanne Jeffus	Viktoras Palys
Travis Ayers	Stephen Johnson	Glenda Patterson
Bonnie Baker	Tara Johnson	Hakan Paydak
Rick Barr	Se-Ran Jun	Erika Petersen
Elijah Bolin	Noojan Kazemi	Brian Piccolo
Katie Bosanko	Jennifer Laudadio	Matt Quick
Aliza Brown	Jia Liu	Paula Roberson
David Bumpass	Richard McCarthy	Analiz Rodriguez
Katelynn Campbell	Spyridoula Maraka	Rohan Sharma
Bill Culp	James Marsh	Shobhit Sharma
J.D. Day	Kelley Means	Robert Skinner
Shivang Desai	Priya Mendiratta	Rosalia C.M. Simmen
John Dornhoffer	Memoona Mian	Kirt Simmons
Joshua Eichhorn	Isabelle Racine Miousse	James Sorensen
Lisa Evans	Thomas Morris	Harika Tirumani
Jerad Gardner	Krishna Nalleballe	Vibhor Wadhwa
Fuad Habash	Sanjeeva Onteddu	Taylor Witt
Terry Harville	M.J. Orellano	Karen Young
Wayne Hudec	Samuel Overlay	Yuri Zarate
Blake Jacks	T. Glenn Pait	

**These COM departments were represented in Accolades July 31-August 21:**

Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Orthopaedic Surgery
Biomedical Informatics	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Biostatistics	Pathology
Dermatology	Pediatric/Special Needs Dentistry
Geriatrics	Pediatrics
Internal Medicine	Psychiatry
Microbiology/Immunology	Physiology/Biophysics
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences	Radiology
Neurology	Surgery
Neurosurgery	

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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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