

The Monthly Newsletter for  
Faculty, Staff and Friends of the  
UAMS College of Medicine

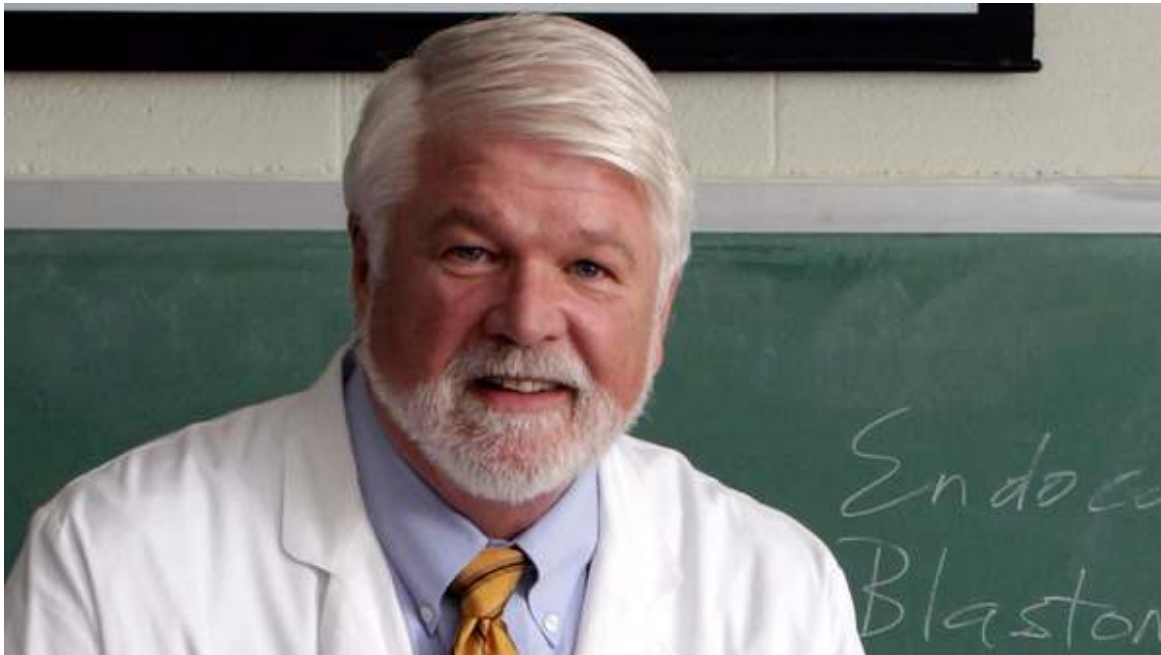
UAMS  
College of Medicine

# COMmunication

April 2020

Leadership Appointments | New Faculty | Recent Grants | Accolades | In Memoriam

## Congratulations to our 10th Annual College of Medicine Dean's Honor Award Winners!

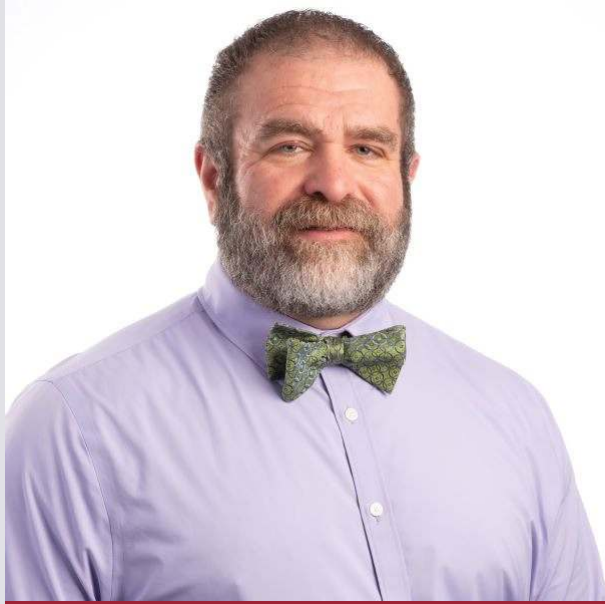


APRIL 30, 2020 | The UAMS College of Medicine today announced its 10th annual Dean's Honor Awards, recognizing exemplary faculty and staff for their work in education, research and clinical care as well as humanism and service to the college and its mission in Arkansas.

"Although we can't gather in an auditorium and applaud our colleagues in person this spring due to COVID-19, our gratitude could not be stronger," said Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., FACS**. "It is an honor and joy to work with these superb members of the College of Medicine team."

The college's signature annual awards include the Distinguished Faculty Service Award, which this year honors **Robert W. Bradsher Jr., M.D.**, a Professor of Internal Medicine who has held many leadership roles over the past four decades, including 32 years as director of the Division of Infectious Diseases.

[Read more about Dr. Bradsher and this year's other honorees here.](#) Or, click on any of the photos or award titles below to read about specific award winners!



**MASTER TEACHER**

Alan Diekman, Ph.D.

**EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION**

Nancy Rusch, Ph.D.



**RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**

Charles O'Brien, Ph.D.

ARNOLD P. GOLD  
FOUNDATION  
**LEONARD TOW HUMANISM**  
**IN MEDICINE**

William Ventres, M.D., M.A.



**RESIDENCY EDUCATOR**  
**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Erika Petersen, M.D.

**RESIDENCY EDUCATOR**  
**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Emily Stotts





**STAFF EXCELLENCE**

**EDUCATION**

Marcie Johnson

**STAFF EXCELLENCE**

**RESEARCH**

Debbie Hodges



**STAFF EXCELLENCE**

**CLINICAL**

JoAnn Conley Cooper



**STAFF EXCELLENCE**  
**ADMINISTRATION**

Debbie Holliman



We also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the recipients of the COM's inaugural ***Clinical Excellence Awards***, which were announced last December, and the many outstanding faculty members receiving ***Promotion and/or Tenure*** this year!

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## Leadership Appointments



**Fred Perkins, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as Associate Professor and chief of **Pediatric Neurology**. He comes to UAMS and Arkansas Children's from the University of Texas Dell Medical School and Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin, where he served as leader of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program and Medical Director of the magnetoencephalography and transcranial magnetic stimulation (MEG/TMS) laboratory.

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## New Faculty



**Nasir Khan, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an assistant professor and transplant nephrologist in the Division of **Nephrology**.  
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**Anuradha Kunthur, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology**.  
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**Janice Brooks, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Associate Professor in the Division of **Pediatric Radiology**.  
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**Harleen Kaur M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Nuclear Medicine**.  
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## Recent Grants

### Extramural Awards

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



**Christopher Long, Ph.D.**, Department of **Psychiatry**, Delivering Health: An Integrated Approach to Address Diabetes in the Context of Food Insecurity, US Department of Agriculture, (04/01/2020 – 03/31/2025), \$991,145.



**AmyLeigh Overton-McCoy, Ph.D., APRN**, Department of **Geriatrics**, King Foundation Grant – Program Support of Re-Establishing the UAMS Delta Center on Aging in Helena, Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, (01/01/2020 – 12/31/2020), \$35,000.



**Fen Xia, M.D., Ph.D.**, Department of **Radiation Oncology**, The novel role of Sirtuin 2 in regulation of transcription-associated DNA damage repair, NIH/Nat. Cancer Institute (04/01/2020 – 03/31/2025), \$1,861,109.



**Donghoon Yoon, Ph.D.**, Department of **Internal Medicine**, In Situ Imaging of Collagen Degradation Activity in Multiple Myeloma and Fibrosis Murine Models, NIH/Office of the Director (05/15/2019 – 07/31/2021), \$208,248.

A five-year, \$765,789 grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities establishes the Arkansas Center for Health Disparities T32 Pre-doctoral Research Training Program. The program will be directed by the **College of Public Health's Mick Tilford, Ph.D.**, Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management, and **Jonathan Bona, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine Department of **Biomedical Informatics**.

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## Intramural Grants

## UAMS COVID-19 Awards



Congratulations to recipients of the UAMS Time-Sensitive COVID-19 funding awards. Six recipients, including five COM faculty members, received grants of up to \$50,000 in April. The funding will enable the recipients and their collaborators to launch research projects that advance understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic, contribute to better clinical practices, and improve public health preparedness and responses, said **Shuk-Mei Ho, Ph.D.**, UAMS Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation.

The COM awardees are: **John Arthur, M.D., Ph.D.**, Internal Medicine; **Craig Forrest, Ph.D.**, Microbiology and Immunology; **Joshua Kennedy, M.D.**, Pediatrics; **Kevin Raney, Ph.D.**, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; and **Xuming Zhang, D.V.M., Ph.D.**, Microbiology and Immunology.

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## ACRI COVID-19 Intramural Awards



The Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI) on April 16 announced grants for four intramural pediatric research projects focusing on the potential for the COVID-19 pandemic to affect pediatric health in many ways, including aspects well beyond the effects of an individual viral infection. The grants are for up to \$50,000 and up to 12 months.

Pediatrics faculty members on the four projects are: 1) **Aline Andres, Ph.D.**, and **Laxmi Yeruva, Ph.D.**, Developmental Pediatrics; 2) **James Hungerford, M.D.**, Critical Care; **Tara Johnson, M.D., Ph.D.**, Neurology; and **Amit Agarwal, M.D.**, Pulmonology; 3) **Richard Kurten, Ph.D.**, Allergy and Immunology; and 4) **Lawrence Quang, M.D.**, Emergency Medicine.

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## TRI Team Science Awards





Congratulations to recipients of the inaugural Team Science Voucher Program awards from the UAMS Translational Research Institute. The Team Science Program, led by **Carolyn Greene, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of **Psychiatry**, aims to increase the quantity, quality and effectiveness of cross-disciplinary research at UAMS. Awards of up to \$50,000 went to seven UAMS teams in April.

Many COM faculty members are members of the teams, including principal investigators/team leaders: **David Bumpass, M.D.**, Orthopaedic Surgery; **Corey Hayes, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**, Psychiatry; **Linda Larson-Prior, Ph.D.**, Psychiatry; and **Craig Porter, Ph.D.**, Pediatrics.

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## ACRI Lyon New Scientist Development Awards



The Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI) has announced the recipients of the 2020 Marion B. Lyon Revocable Trust New Scientist Awards. The two-year grants of up to \$50,000 were awarded to **Joana Mack, M.D.**, Assistant Professor in **Pediatric Hematology/Oncology**, and **Kimberly Stephens, Ph.D., R.N.**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics' **Center for Applied Research and Evaluation**.

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## UAMS Easy Win/Early Victory Grants

Congratulations to the faculty members who received Easy Win/Early Victory awards of up to \$15,000 from the UAMS Division of Research and Innovation in March. (Project period: 03/18/2020 – 02/28/2021)

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## UAMS Development Enhancement Award for Proposals

**Tiffany Weinkopff, Ph.D.**, Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Mechanisms of Tissue Remodeling in New World Leishmaniasis, (03/18/2020 – 03/17/2021), \$25,000.

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# Accolades

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 this month:**

Sean Adams	Melodee Harris	Sowmya Patil
Nadia Alqurini	Ronda Henry-Tillman	Cam Patterson
Lee Archer	Shuk-Mei Ho	Joni Pharis
Emily Askew	Jennifer Hunt	Austin Porter
Tim Atkinson	Michelle Huynh	Steven Post
Joni Barker	Micah Hester	Arpan Prabhu
Lowry Barnes	Deb Hutts	Luann Racher
Alexei Basnakian	Laura James	Sreelakshmi Ravula
Greg Bledsoe	Jerrilyn Jones	Paula Roberson
Beatrice Boateng	Stacie Jones	Analiz Rodriguez
Janina Bonwich	Scott Kaczinski	Jose Romero
Jessica Boswell	Harriet Kayanja	Brita Rook
Charles Bower	Karalyn Kerby	Arya Roy
John Bracey	Katie Kimbrough	Nancy Rusch
Aliza Brown	Thomas Kiser	Husam Salah
David Bumpass	Gayathri Krishnan	Ahmed Sallam
Marie Burdine	Charles Lavender	Emily Sanders
Barrett Burger	Jacob Leffert	Riley Sanders
Samuel Byrd	Ricky Leung	Kevin Sexton
Rebecca Cantu	Gary Lewis	Rohan Sharma
John Carroll	Maya Lopez	Tanya Sharma
Joseph Chacko	Erin Mannen	John Sherrill
Timothy Chambers	James Marsh	Jan Shorey
John Chancellor	Alexa Martin	Lovepreet Singh
Yingni Che	Patti Martin	Robert Skinner
Jim Chen	Sacha McBain	Dora Smith
Jin-Ran Chen	Barbara McDonald	Nate Smith
Karina Clemmons	Kelley Means	Rick Smith
Jessica Coker	J.L. Mehta	Jessica Snowden
Kellie Coleman	Priya Mendiratta	Stephen Sorsby
Larry Cornett	Erick Messias	Susan Steelman
Ian Crane	Steppe Mette	Patty Summons
Michael Cross	Jill Mhyre	Suzy sun
Bill Culp	Amir Mian	Mark Tait
Abdallah Dalabih	Meera Mohan	Lawrence Tarbox
Emilie Darrigues	Sean Morell	Chad Taylor
Bharat Dhanireddy	Roy Morello	Carol Thrush
Jennifer Dillaha	Michele Moss	Sami Uwaydat
Robert Eoff	Megan Mueller	Kirby Von Edwins
James Fletcher	Conan Mustain	Jamie Carlin Watson
Joseph Fong	Mayumi Nakagawa	Zachary Waldrip
Craig Forrest	Krishna Nalleballe	Jerry Ware
Thomas Frazier	Mary Nance	Jeanne Wei
Julea Garner	Adam Neuhouser	Aaron Wenger
Brooks Gentry	Edita Newton	Anna Witt
Brian Gittens	Jon Oden	Taylor Witt
Akshay Goel	Sanjeeva Onteddu	Theresa Wyrick-Glover
Santiago Gonzalez	Tamara Osborn	Kaleb Wolfe
Johnathan Goree	Shana Owens	James Yuen
John Gray	Yadav Pandey	Maurizio Zangari
Nancy Gray	Nirmala Parajuli	Kristin Zorn
Sam Greenfield	Sean Parham	
Laura Guidry-Grimes	Naveen Patil	

**These COM departments were represented in Accolades this month:**

Anesthesiology  
Biomedical Informatics  
Biostatistics  
Dermatology  
Emergency Medicine  
Family/Preventive Medicine  
Geriatrics  
Internal Medicine  
Medical Humanities/Bioethics  
Microbiology/Immunology  
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences  
Neurology  
Neurosurgery

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Ophthalmology  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery  
Pathology  
Pediatrics  
Pharmacology/Toxicology  
Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation  
Physiology/Biophysics  
Psychiatry  
Radiation Oncology  
Radiology  
Surgery

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## In Memoriam



**Judith McClain**, who served as Executive Director of the College of Medicine Medical Alumni Association from 2005 to 2013 and then for two years as Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Special Events in UAMS Institutional Advancement, died April 19, 2020. She was 76. McClain expanded and enhanced communications with alumni during her time in the college, overseeing numerous initiatives to engage graduates with current students, faculty and departments. She also coordinated activities for the philanthropic Dean's Society and Founders Society to help advance the college's work in education, research and clinical care.

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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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