

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

UAMS
College of Medicine

COMmunication

July 2020

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Art from the Heart



Twenty creative artists from across UAMS contributed works for the second "Art from the Heart," a virtual exhibit and discussion on July 9. The Department of **Emergency Medicine's Jennifer Steck** is the artist behind "Painting with Wool," shown above. Read more about the event, access a video, and check out the paintings, sculpture, poetry and jewelry by faculty, staff and students in the [UAMS Newsroom](#).

"Art can be a balm to the troubled soul, whether one is creating it or enjoying it. During this stressful time, we thought Team UAMS members needed art now more than ever."

- Wendy Ward, Ph.D.

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Leadership Appointments



Teresita Bellido, Ph.D., has joined the faculty as Professor and Chair of the Department of **Physiology and Biophysics**.

“Dr. Bellido is a superb scientist and highly respected, internationally known leader in bone research,” said **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, Executive Vice Chancellor of UAMS and Dean of the College of Medicine. “She will bring great energy and a strong commitment to mentorship and faculty development to her new role at UAMS.”

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Jessica Snowden, M.D., has been named Chief of the Division of **Infectious Diseases** in the Department of **Pediatrics**.

Dr. Snowden, who joined the faculty in 2018, is a nationally recognized expert in pediatric infectious diseases and pediatric clinical and translational research. She is Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Pediatrics and Associate Director of Clinical and Translational Research in the Arkansas Children's Research Institute.

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New Faculty

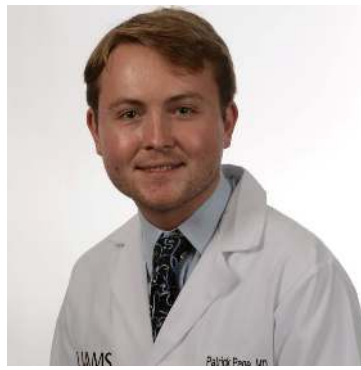
Please welcome these recent additions to the College of Medicine faculty!

Editor's note: These are some the many faculty members joining us this summer and fall. We will continue to introduce new faculty colleagues in the months ahead.



Muhammad Athar, M.D., has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.

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Patrick Page, M.D., has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.

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Matthew Williams, M.D., has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.

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Aaron Storey, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** faculty as an Assistant Professor.

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Vivian Shi, M.D., has joined the Department of **Dermatology** as an Associate Professor.

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Michael Gann, M.D., M.P.H., has joined the Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine** as an Assistant Professor.

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Lauren Gibson-Oliver M.D., M.B.A., has joined the Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine** as an Assistant Professor.

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Obioma Nwaiwu, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Geriatrics** as an Assistant Professor.

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Yusuf Hassan, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Associate Professor in the Division of **Cardiology**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Lakshmi Sravani Yarlagadda, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hospital Medicine**.

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Mitchell Jenkins, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Infectious Diseases**.

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Jim Zhongning Chen, M.D., is joining the **Internal Medicine** faculty as a Chief Resident.

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Michael Cross Jr., M.D., is joining the **Internal Medicine** faculty as a Chief Resident.

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Anna N. Witt, M.D., is joining the **Internal Medicine** faculty as a Chief Resident.

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Vijay Patel, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pathology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematopathology**.

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Divya Citla Sridhar, M.D., will join the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology** in August. [READ MORE](#)



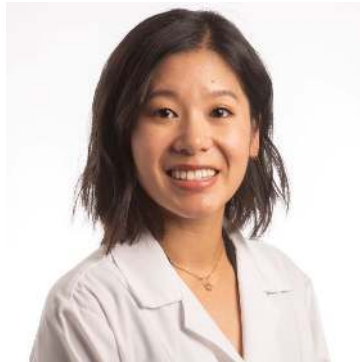
Saumya Joshi, M.D., will join the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Rheumatology** in August. [READ MORE](#)



Jesús Delgado-Calle, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Physiology and Biophysics** as an Assistant Professor. [READ MORE](#)



Toby Belknap, M.D., has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor. [READ MORE](#)



San Bui, M.D., has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor. [READ MORE](#)



James Scott Steele, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor. [READ MORE](#)



Hanna Jensen, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Trauma and Critical Care Surgery. [READ MORE](#)

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Recent Grants

Extramural Awards

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



Alysia Dubriske, M.Ed., Family and Preventive Medicine, Partnerships in Colorectal Screening-UAMS AR (PICS-UAR!), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, (06/30/2020-06/29/2025), \$2,500,000.

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Curtis Lowery, M.D., Institute for Digital Health and Innovation, COVID-19 Telehealth Program, Federal Communications Commission, (03/14/2020-09/30/2020), \$940,693.

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Isis Martel, M.S., Family and Preventive Medicine, Washington/ Madison Adult Treatment Drug Court Technical Assistance Evaluation Contract, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, (07/30/2020-07/29/2025), \$400,000. Pass through from Washington/Madison County Adult Drug Court.



Richard Morrison, Ph.D., Microbiology and Immunology, Genetic Analysis of Mechanisms of Chlamydial Immune Evasion, NIH/ Nat. Inst. Of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, (4/1/2020 – 3/31/2024), \$499,352. Pass through from Indiana University.



Alison Oliveto, Ph.D., Psychiatry, Clinical Trials Network: The Big South/West Node, NIH/National Institute on Drug Abuse, (6/1/2020-02/28/2025), \$132,805. Pass through from University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center – Dallas.



Fred Prior, Ph.D., Biomedical Informatics, TO5-20X023F-MIDI-The Medical Imaging De-Identification Initiative, NIH/ National Cancer Institute, (06/05/2020-08/30/2020), \$99,172. Pass through from Leidos.



Richard Smith, M.D.,
Psychiatry, COVID-19
Behavioral Health Call
Center, Substance Abuse
& Mental Health Services
Administration,
(06/26/2020-09/30/2021),
\$1,839,731.76. Pass
through from Arkansas
Department of Human
Services.

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Fenghuang Zhan, M.D.,
Ph.D., Internal
Medicine/Myeloma,
Biological Validation of
Candidate Myeloma Driver
Genes, NIH/ National
Cancer Institute,
(01/01/2020-06/30/2023),
\$45,173. Pass through
from Medical College of
Wisconsin.

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MVP



Who Will Be the Next COM Most Valuable Player?

You can help us shine a spotlight on some of the most amazing College of Medicine team members. Do you know a COM staff member, faculty member, resident or fellow who always goes the extra mile? Someone who loves what they do, inspires others, and helps push your entire team over the finish line?

Click the button below to nominate a colleague for MVP!

Please send nominations by Friday, July 31

[Yes, I know someone amazing!](#)

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:

Duah Alkam	James Graham	Jucelle Occidental
Suzanne Alstadt	Mike Greer	Eddie Ochoa
Jesus Apuya	Robert Griffin	Tamara Osborn
Omar Atiq	Sue Griffin	Rachel Ott
Srijon Banerjee	Ben Guise	Xiawei Ou
Lowry Barnes	Josh Heimburg	Prasad Padala
Rick Barr	Alyssa Higgins	Paul Parcon
Camilo Barreto-Andrade	Shuk-Mei Ho	Erika Petersen
Debbie Becton	Aubrey Hough	Analiz Rodriguez
George Belew	Lu Huang	Kris Rush
Jon Blevins	Jenny Janisko	Joseph Sanford
Karl Boehme	Piroon Jenjaroenpun	Kevin Sexton
Jeff Burton	Stacie Jones	Kassia Sherrill
Marcia Byers	Jason Kimbel	Mark Smeltzer
Martin Cannon	Stephen King	Emily Smith
Laura Carr	Rudolf Klima	Kaleb Smithson
Michael Cassat	Daniel Knight	Christopher Sonntag
Steve Cherney	Nihit Kumar	Alvin Stewart
Christopher Clark	Cheryl Lane	Leslie Stone
Karina Clemmons	Meredith Lavallais	Jake Stover
Wes Cox	Riley Lipschitz	Paul Stover
Samantha Crane	Clay Jackson-Litteken	Jason Stumhofer
Katie Cushmanick	Ricky Leung	Sara Tariq
Dyann Daley	Curtis Lowery	Vildan Tas
Ryan Dare	Michael Macechko	David Ussery
J.D. Day	Everett "Pat" Magann	Jennifer VanEcko
Annick De Loose	Matt Malone	Aravindhan Veerapandiyan
Amanda Dragan	Victor Mandoff	Gopinath Venugopal
Chris Edwards	Nirvana Manning	Dan Voth
Lauren Edwards	Paula McClain	David Walker
Ben Elberson	Bobby McGehee	Renisha Ward
Hari Eswaran	Renee McGraw	Tiffany Weinkopff
Susan Ferguson	Steven McKee	Thidathip Wongsurawat
Blake Frazier	Amir Mian	Edward Yang
Scott Furrh	Rachel Millner	Laxmi Yeruva
Michael Gann	Sandra Morrison	James Yuen
Kristin Garner	Caroline Nardi	David Stewart Zimmerman
Amanda George	Intawat Nookaew	

These COM departments were represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology	Orthopaedic Surgery
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Biomedical Informatics	Pathology
Family/Preventive Medicine	Pediatrics
Geriatrics	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Internal Medicine	Psychiatry
Medical Humanities/Bioethics	Radiation Oncology
Microbiology/Immunology	Radiology
Neurosurgery	Surgery
Obstetrics/Gynecology	

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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