

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

UAMS
College of Medicine

COMmunication

JUNE 2020

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John Pagteilan, M.D., center, receives the inaugural COM MVP Award (plus some fun swag) from Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., and Molly Gathright, M.D., Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education.

COM Launches MVP Award

The College of Medicine [announced our first-ever Most Valuable Player \(MVP\)](#) this month. Fourth-year General Surgery resident **John Pagteilan, M.D.**, is known for showing up early and staying late to help others, including hard-working interns and younger residents. He embodies the spirit of the MVP Award!



Who Will Be Our Next MVP?

You can help us shine a spotlight on some of our most amazing team members. Do you know a COM faculty member, staff, resident or fellow who always goes the extra mile? Someone who loves what they do, inspires others, and helps push your entire team to the finish line? **Click below to nominate them for MVP!**

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

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Leadership Appointments

Jennifer Laudadio, M.D., to Serve as Interim Chair of Pathology

Jennifer Laudadio, M.D., FCAP, has been named Interim Chair of the Department of **Pathology** in the UAMS College of Medicine. She will begin serving in the role following the previously announced departure of **Jennifer Hunt, M.D., M.Ed.**, on July 31.

“Dr. Laudadio has done a superb job in numerous leadership positions since joining our faculty as Associate Professor and Medical Director of Molecular Pathology in 2013,” **Christopher Westfall, M.D., FACS**, said in an announcement to College of Medicine faculty and staff.

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Wendy L. Ward, Ph.D., Named UAMS Associate Provost for Faculty



Wendy L. Ward, Ph.D., ABPP, FAPA, a Professor in the Department of **Pediatrics** and leader in faculty affairs and development, wellness and interprofessional collaborative practice at UAMS, has been appointed Associate Provost for Faculty in the UAMS Division of Academic Affairs.

“Throughout her tenure, she has demonstrated a commitment to and focus on faculty excellence,” UAMS Provost and Chief Strategy Officer **Stephanie Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D.**, said of Dr. Ward in an announcement to UAMS faculty and staff.

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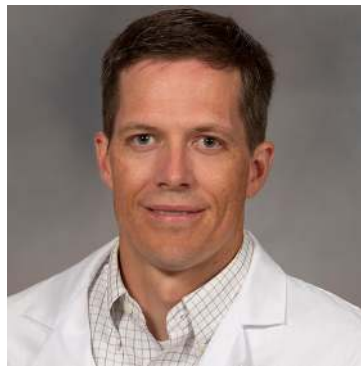
New Faculty

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



Vinisha Reddy Kota, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Rheumatology**.

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Jumin Sunde, M.D., will join the Department of **Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery** as an Assistant Professor on July 1.

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Harrison Cobb, M.D., will join the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in **Pediatric Cardiology** at Arkansas Children's Northwest on July 1.

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Emily Beckett, D.O., will join the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Community Pediatrics** on July 1.

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April Clawson, M.D., will join the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Emergency Medicine** on July 1.

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Hannah Baer Wilkins, M.D., will join the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Emergency Medicine** on July 1.

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Jessica Cunningham, M.D., will join the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **General Pediatrics** on July 1. [READ MORE](#)



Laura Carr, M.D., will join the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Neonatology** on July 1. [READ MORE](#)



Christian Simmons, M.D., Ph.D., will join the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Vascular and Endovascular Surgery** on July 1. [READ MORE](#)

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Recent Grants



UAMS-Developed High-Accuracy COVID-19 Antibody Testing Begins in Arkansas

UAMS has developed and begun using high-accuracy antibody testing to determine the magnitude of COVID-19 infection in Arkansas and inform the decisions of policymakers. The effort is supported by \$3.3 million in federal coronavirus aid that was then allocated by the Arkansas Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act Steering Committee created by Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

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Extramural Awards

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



William Gentry, M.D.,
Department of **Anesthesiology**,
Optimization and testing of
anti-methamphetamine
antibody therapy to
support, NIH/ National
Institute on Drug Abuse,
(05/01/2020-02/08/2023),
\$1,038,752. Pass through
from InterveXion
Therapeutics, LLC.



Robin McAtee, Ph.D.,
Department of **Geriatrics**,
Arkansas Geriatric
Education Collaborative
COVID-19, Health
Resources & Services
Administration,
(05/01/2020-04/30/2021),
\$90,625.



Fred Prior, Ph.D.,
Department of **Biomedical
Informatics**, TO4
Moonshot BioBank –
Support to IROC, NIH/
National Cancer Institute,
(05/22/2020-08/30/2022),
\$185,941. Pass through
from Leidos.



Donghoon Yoon, Ph.D.,
Department of **Internal
Medicine**, Study of Sigma
Anti-Bonding Calcium
(SAC) Role(s) in Multiple
Myeloma and
Erythropoietin-Induced
Osteoporosis, Calcium &
Bone Health Institute,
(05/21/2020-05/20/2022),
\$320,250.



Fang Zheng, Ph.D.,
Department of
**Pharmacology and
Toxicology**, The Role of
Endothelial TRPC3
Channels in Neurovascular
Coupling, NIH/ National
Institute of Neurological
Disorders and Stroke
(05/01/2020-10/31/2021),
\$141,071.

Intramural Grants



The **UAMS Translational Research Institute** recently announced four recipients, all in the College of Medicine, for its biomedical informatics-focused pilot awards program. Congratulations to **Hari Eswaran, Ph.D., Se-Ran Jun, Ph.D., Sacha McBain, Ph.D.,** and **Tuhin Virmani, M.D., Ph.D.**

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The **Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI)** recently announced the recipients of the 2020 ACRI/ABI Postgraduate Research Awards. Congratulations to **Lauren Appell, M.D., Joshua Hudson, Ph.D., Praveen Ramani, M.B.B.S.,** and **Sarah Perez, M.D.**

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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 were named in Accolades this month:

Zachary Anderson	Jenny Janisko	Arpan Prabhu
Avi Bhavaraju	Piroon Jenjaroenpun	Erin Puryear
Terrell Bibb	Bhawna Jha	Zhiqiang Qin
Amber Booth-McCoy	Kimberly Jones	Charles Matthew Quick
Elisabet Borsheim	Kyle Kalkwarf	Manish Raisingani
Debbie Brady	Saleema Karim	Mandana Rezaeiahari
Becky Bregy	Jessica Kelliher	Matthew Roberts
Zachary Brodrick	Maryalice Kelly	Ronald Robertson
Clare Brown	Anvesh Kompelli	Analiz Rodriguez
Mary Catherine Brown	Igor Koturbash	Jose Romero
Jungang Chen	Riley Lipschitz	Shep Russell
Melissa Clark	Hazel Liverett	Kevin Ryan
Matt Cotter	Justin Leung	Ashley Sanders
Erin Creighton	Everett "Pat" Magann	Thomas Schulz
Allison Curtis	Stavros Manolagas	Kevin Sexton
Lu Dai	Todd Maxson	Gregory Sharp
Olivia Daigle	J.L. Mehta	Charles Skinner
Abdallah Dalabih	Paulette Mehta	Mariah Small
Zufeng Ding	Priya Mendiratta	Jessica Snowden
Marcy Doderer	Tyler Merrill	Graham Strub
John Dornhoffer	Erick Messias	Dana Thomas
Quinn Dunlap	Sriram Navuluri	Kevin Thomas
Stanley Ellis	Abby Nolder	Joe Thompson
Ahmed Elolimy	Intawat Nookaew	Tonya Thompson
Laura Ewing	Obioma Nwaiwu	Mick Tilford
Jerad Gardner	Eylem Ocal	Stephanie Trotter
Elizabeth Gath	Jon Oden	Ozlem Tulunay-Ugur
Molly Gathright	Tamara Osborn	Don Vickers
Victoria Gau	Cody Page	Wendy Ward
Grace Gephardt	John Pagteilan	Kirk West
Emmanouil Giorgakis	Matthew Parke	Julie Whittington
Johnathan Goree	Dia Partlow	André Wineland
Carolyn Greene	Margaret Pauly	Robert Wolfe
Kristie Hadden	Nalin Payakachat	Thidathip Wongsurawat
Tiffany Haynes	Brian Piccolo	Eric Yee
Laura Hobart-Porter	Austin Porter	Laxmi Yeruva
Blake Hollowoa	Steven Post	Namvar Zohoori
Jennifer Hunt	Thomas Powell	

These COM departments were represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Biomedical Informatics	Pathology
Geriatrics	Pediatrics
Emergency Medicine	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Internal Medicine	Physiology/Biophysics
Medical Humanities	Psychiatry
Neurology	Radiation Oncology
Neurosurgery	Surgery
Obstetrics/Gynecology	Urology
Orthopaedic Surgery	

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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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