

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

UAMS
College of Medicine

COMmunication

March 2020

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Unforgettable Joy, Unforgettable Match Day



COVID-19 was no match for Match Day. UAMS College of Medicine seniors learned where they will complete their residency training during a virtual online ceremony on March 20 that had all the suspense, exuberance and tears of joy of the traditional in-person event. [READ MORE](#)

For more than three decades, Dr. Richard P. Wheeler had a message for College of Medicine freshmen on their first day of medical school. Dr. Wheeler, who retired from his post as Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in January, famously told students, "It's not about you anymore." Like her classmates and so many before her, the Class of 2020's Hannah Blakely took those word to heart.

*"Today is bittersweet.
Today I found out I matched.
Today the reality that all the Match
ceremonies that I had looked forward to
for years are really not going to happen.
Today more people are sick.
And ultimately, as much as I want it to be
about myself,
today is not about me."*

- Hannah Blakely
via Twitter, Monday, March 16, 2020

Leadership Appointments



Sara Shalin, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of **Pathology** and **Dermatology**, has been named **Interim Chair of the Department of Dermatology**.

“Dr. Shalin has done an outstanding job leading our MD/PHD degree program since 2017 and serving as Director of Anatomic Pathology Operations since 2018,” said **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., FACS**, Executive Vice Chancellor of UAMS and Dean of the College of Medicine. “She also brings valuable experience as Associate Program Director of the UAMS Dermatopathology Fellowship to her new role.” [READ MORE](#)

New Faculty



Jarrett Lea, M.D., has joined the Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine** as an Assistant Professor.

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Manuel E. Gonzalez, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Nephrology**.

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Recent Grants

Extramural Awards

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



Jon Blevins, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Developing a system for genetic manipulation of the Old World tick-borne relapsing fever spirochete, *Borrelia duttonii*, NIH/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (02/10/2020-01/31/2022), \$75,792.



Jason Farrar, M.D., Department of **Pediatrics**, Mechanisms of Erythroid Remission in Diamond Blackfan Anemia, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (02/15/2020-01/31/2023), \$306,000.



Corey Hayes, Pharm.D., Ph.D., Department of **Psychiatry**, Piloting an Inter-Professional, Telemedicine Clinic for the Treatment of Chronic Pain: AR-IMPACT (Arkansas Improving Multidisciplinary Pain Care and Treatment), Blue & You Foundation (01/01/2020-12/31/2020), \$147,002. Pass through from University of Arkansas Foundation.



Taren Swindle, Ph.D., Department of **Family and Preventative Medicine**, Sustainability of Nutrition and Physical Activity Interventions in Childcare, NIH/National Cancer Institute (02/21/2020-02/27/2022), \$403,550.

Intramural Awards

Seeds of Science: Congratulations to the 2020 Seeds of Science grant recipients in the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute: (from left) **Michael Bauer, Ph.D. (Biomedical Informatics)**; **Carolina Schinke, M.D. (Internal Medicine)**; **Kimberly Stephens, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N. (Pediatrics)**; and **Analiz Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D. (Neurosurgery)**.

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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 colleagues were named in Accolades this month:

Muhammad Abu-Rmaileh	Laura Hollenbach	Fred Prior
Latha Achanta	Laura Huffman	Luann Racher
Aline Andres	Leslie Humphries	Jill Ramsey
Jonathan Aronson	Jennifer Hunt	Kevin Raney
Bardia Azar	Diane Jarrett	Emily Ray
Ernie Bailey	Mike Jennings	Megan Reed
Lowry Barnes	Hanna Jensen	Blake Richardson
William Bennett	Donald Johann	Michael Robeson
Daniel Bingham	Marcie Johnson	Jose Romero
Karl Boehme	Dina Jones	Nancy Rusch
Steve Boone	Stacie Jones	Emily Sanders
Keith Bush	Nikhil Kamath	Joseph Sanford
Kathy Carlson	Ashleigh Kathiresan	Allison Schneider
Gwen Childs	Noojan Kazemi	Kevin Sexton
April Clawson	Tom Kelly	Takeo Shibata
Micah Clay	Josh Kennedy	Carl Shipp
Melissa Clemens	Katie Kimbrough	Rosalia Simmen
Karina Clemmons	Jed Kinnick	Mariah Small
Lawrence Cornett	Brianna Klucher	Kirk Smith
Courtney Cox	Shashank Kraleti	Jessica Snowden
Karen Crowell	Richard Kurten	Jordan Spencer
Sidhant Dalal	Jeannette Lee	Kathryn Stambough
Shannon Dare	Chris Leshner	Corbin Stinnett
David Davies	Justin Leung	Allison Streepey
Clayton Davis	Cassandra Louis	Lindsey Sward
Alan Diekman	Mireille Liboiron	Mohsin Syed
Katrina Dupins	Riley Lide	Marinna Tadros
Tricia Edstrom	Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow	Clara Tang
Donna Elrod	Bobby McGehee	Lawrence Tarbox
Michaela Edwards	Nicole McGehee	Sara Tariq
Robert Eoff	Mitch McGill	Chad Taylor
Pebbles Fagan	Renee McGraw	Puru Thapa
Kindann Fawcett	Ann Marie Mercier	Morgan Treece
Bryce Ferry	Mark Mennemeier	John Vander Schilden
Kevin Fialkowski	Erick Messias	Jennifer VanEcko
Victoria Flynn	Jill Mhyre	Manasa Veluvolu
Blake Frazier	Isabelle Racine Miousse	Bill Ventres
Georgia Gamble	Corey Montgomery	Dan Voth
Eizabeth Gath	Angie Moore	Jasna Vuk
Molly Gathright	Austin Morgan	Jerry Ware
Fred Goad	Richard Morrison	Paul Wendel
AlleaBelle Gongola	Caitlan Murphy	Kirk West
James Graham	David Nelsen	Jessica Whyte
Loren Guzman	Wendy Nembhard	Amy Widner
Hayden Hairston	Tracy Nolan	Linda Williams
Whit Hall	Danica Ordonez	Sharanda Williams
Corey Hayes	Patrick Page	David Wessinger
Melissa Helmich	Viktoras Palys	Margaret Woods
David Henry	Meryll Pampolina	Andrew Wright
Ronda Henry-Tillman	Cam Patterson	Courtney Wright
Liza Hill	Hakan Paydak	Sisira Yadala
Shuk-Mei Ho	Kevin Phelan	Shannon Petrus Zehtaban
Angel Holland	Adam Price	
Jim Holland	Latrina Prince	

These COM departments were represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology	Neurosurgery
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Biomedical Informatics	Orthopaedic Surgery
Biostatistics	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Emergency Medicine	Pathology
Family/Preventive Medicine	Pediatrics
Internal Medicine	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Medical Humanities/Bioethics	Psychiatry
Microbiology/Immunology	Physiology/Biophysics
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences	Radiation Oncology
Neurology	Surgery

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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