

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

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College of Medicine

# COMmunication

May 2020

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## Tradition, Technology ... and Hope



*Selected by the Class of 2020, Sara Tariq, M.D., Associate Dean for Students, and Jason Mizell, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery, announced each student as they donned their doctoral hood distantly.*

The College of Medicine celebrated the Class of 2020 in the first-ever virtual Honors Convocation on May 15. Visit our [Honors Convocation webpage](#) for complete coverage, lists of student, faculty and resident honorees, and video of the ceremony!



"Although our ceremony this year is different than usual, we gather tonight with the same sense of pride in the accomplishments of these students, the same sense of celebration with them and for them and their friends and families; and we gather together with profound hope for the future."

**James Graham, M.D.**

Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs



Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., leads the Class of 2020 in reciting the Hippocratic Oath.

“You applied to medical school because you want to serve others. Like generations of physicians behind you, you felt a call to serve humanity. And remember that past generations have faced incredible challenges, too, things like polio and HIV.

So now it is your time to step up to the task.

You are part of the reason we will prevail in this health crisis.”

**Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**  
College of Medicine Dean



“Always do the right thing; be humble; remember that your patients are people too; and surround yourself with people who believe in you. Our society needs honest, caring, humble physicians now more than ever.”

**Lindsey Sward, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
*Faculty Charge to the Class, sharing the life lessons she has learned since her own graduation in 2009*

## Faculty Honorees



**Golden Apple Awards:** Congratulations to this year's Golden Apple winners! These educators were voted by each class as the most outstanding teacher of the year. Pictured below, from left, are the recipients for M4: **Lindsey Sward, M.D.**; M3: **Steven McKee, M.D.**; M2: **Sung Rhee, Ph.D.**; and M1: **Alan Diekman, Ph.D.**



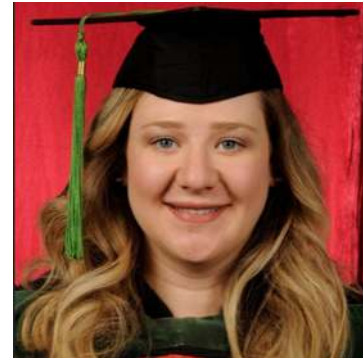


**Gold and Red Sash:** Check out this year's faculty recipients of the [Red Sash and Gold Sash](#). The honorees made a mark on the Class of 2020 during the graduates' four years in medical school.

## Student Honorees

Graduating seniors were recognized for academic accomplishments, humanism in medicine and more.

**Hannah McCarthy, M.D.**, (pictured here) was chosen by her classmates to receive the Senior Buchanan Key for superior academic achievement, and she and 33 other students received the Roberts Key with a perfect 4.0 grade point average throughout medical school! View lists of this year's [student award winners](#), [Alpha Omega Alpha](#) and [other honors recognitions here](#).



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## New Faculty



**Geoffrey Muller, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.

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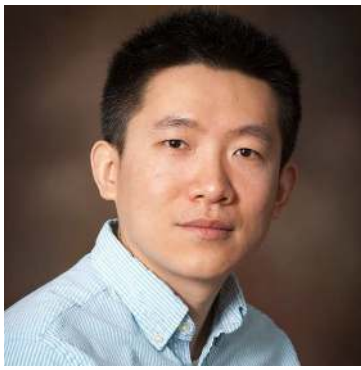
**Oksana Redko, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Subhi J. Al'Aref, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Cardiology**.

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**Lu Huang, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Microbiology and Immunology** as an Assistant Professor.  
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**Larry Balle II, M.D., M.P.H.**, has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as a primary care sports medicine specialist with the **Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine** team in Fayetteville.  
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**Navin Kilambi, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as an Assistant Professor with the **Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine** team in Fayetteville.  
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## Recent Grants

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



**Sarah Blossom, Ph.D.**, Department of **Pediatrics**, The Impacts of exposure to the industrial solvent and common environmental pollutant trichloroethylene (TCE), NIH, (03/01/2020-12/31/2024), \$1,273,725.



**Lawrence Cornett, Ph.D.**, Department of **Physiology and Biophysics**, Partnerships for Biomedical Research in Arkansas, NIH, (05/01/2020-04/30/2025), \$18,353,009.  
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**Fenghuang Zhan, M.D., Ph.D.**, Department of **Internal Medicine**, CD24 Tumor-Initiating Cell as a Novel Therapeutic Target in Myeloma, US Department of Defense (04/15/2020-11/14/2023), \$1,263,997.45.

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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:

Ashley Acheson	Brittany Holland	Mary Price
Britt Allman	Blake Hollowoa	Reine Protacio
Aline Andres	Amy James	Zhiqiang Qin
Lee Archer	Sabeeda Kadavath	Kevin Raney
Britni Ayers	Noojan Kazemi	Gloria Richard-Davis
Jure Baloh	Zach Keller	Matthew Roberts
Laura Barganier	Malan Kern	Brita Rook
Lindsey Barrett	Faiza Khan	Brian Russ
Avi Bhavaraju	April Kilgore	Negar Salehi
Kevin Bielamowicz	Kim Lamb	Riley Sanders
Elisabet Borsheim	Robert Lavender	Adam Sandlin
Meryll Bouldin	Brian Lee	Aakash Shah
Chuck Bower	Gary Lewis	Nadir Sharawi
Barrett Burger	Ricardo Lopez-Castellanos	Greg Sharp
Jungang Chen	Lindsay Malatesta	Megan Shirey
Tung-chin Chiang	Nirvana Manning	Arthur Slaton
Jennifer Cobb	John Martindale	Dora Smith
Conor Coogan	Caroline Martinello	Rick Smith
Larry Cornett	Michelle McFail	Brittany Solis
Lu Dai	Camryn McGowan	Kimberly Stephens
Christina Dalton	Erick Messias	Melony Stokes
Mari Davidson	Juan Mejia-Otero	Aaron Storey
Ben Davis	Priya Mendiratta	Joseph Su
Coleman Dennis	Jill Mhyre	Patty Summons
Gina Drobena	Jason Mizell	Alan Tackett
Carly Eastin	Shengyu Mu	Sami Uwaydat
Stanley Ellis	J.B. Norton	Wayne Wahls
Hari Eswaran	Eduardo Ochoa	Hsin-Ping Wang
Lauren Evans	Quinton Palmer	Jeanne Wei
Rachael Freeze-Ramsey	Margaret Pauly	Danny Wilkerson
Jerad Gardner	Hakan Paydak	Matt Williams
Brooks Gentry	Brooke Peebles	Robert Williams
Yohei Harada	Tamara Perry	Linda Worley
Atif Hassan	Joni Pharis	Laxmi Yeruva
Fu'ad Habash	Christian Ponder	Heather Young

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

Anesthesiology	Ophthalmology
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Dermatology	Pathology
Emergency Medicine	Pediatrics
Geriatrics	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Internal Medicine	Physiology/Biophysics
Neurology	Psychiatry
Neurosurgery	Radiation Oncology
Obstetrics/Gynecology	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*.

Comments? Ideas? Email Us!



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