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September 2020

GO TO: Leadership Appointments | New Faculty | Recent Grants | Accolades

Who Remembers?



A new exhibit curated by the **UAMS Historical Research Center** aims to provide smiles at a time when they may be in short supply – or at least hidden by face masks. The exhibit of toys with health professions themes is located in the Central Building in the corridor outside of the College of Medicine administrative offices and will be on display through next July. The exhibit is brimming with whimsy and nostalgia – and much more, as it explores real-world issues including the depiction of diversity and gender roles in the medical professions.

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[Back to the Top](#)

Leadership Appointments



Pete Mourani, M.D., has been named President of **Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI)** and Senior Vice President and Chief Research Officer for **Arkansas Children's**. He will also serve as a Professor in the **Pediatric Critical Care** Section of the Department of **Pediatrics**. Dr. Mourani will join Arkansas Children's and UAMS in early December.

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Joe A. Olivi, M.D., FACS, has joined the Department of **Surgery** as Professor and Director of the Division of **Burn Surgery**. He will lead the Burn program at **Arkansas Children's Hospital**.

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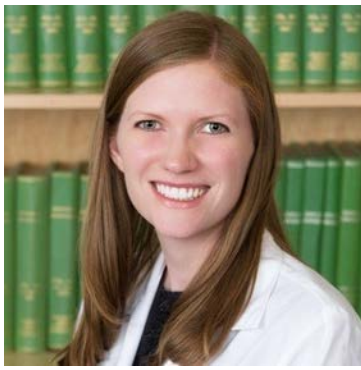


Mary Luann Racher, M.D., Assistant professor in the Department of **Obstetrics and Gynecology**, has been named Medical Director of the **Women and Infants Service Line** at UAMS. She will join Service Line Director **Nirvana Manning, M.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology, on the service line leadership team on Oct. 1.

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[Back to the Top](#)

New Faculty



Megan Evans, M.D., has joined the Department of **Dermatology** as an Assistant Professor.

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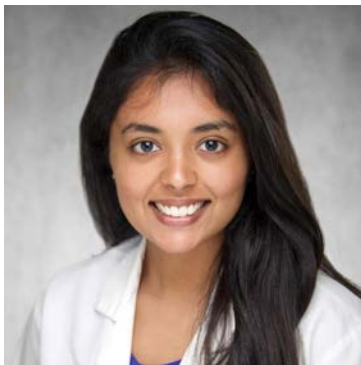
Rodrigo Valdes-Rodriguez, M.D., has joined the departments of **Dermatology** and **Pathology** as an Assistant Professor.

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

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Sheena W. CarlLee, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor at the **UAMS Northwest Regional Campus**.

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Heather R. Williams, M.D., has joined the Department of **Obstetrics and Gynecology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Gynecologic Oncology**.

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Chelsea Sullivan Mathews, M.D., has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as an Assistant Professor.

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Katelynn Campbell, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pathology** as an Assistant Professor in the **Dermatopathology** Division.

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Susan E. Harley, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pathology** as an Assistant Professor in the **Molecular Genetic and Hematopathology** divisions.

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Camila C. Simoes, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pathology** as an Assistant Professor in the **Gastroenterology/Liver Pathology and Surgical Pathology** divisions.

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Sarah Victoria "Tory" Hunton, M.D., has joined the Department of **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation** as an Assistant Professor.

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Deidre Wyrick, M.D., has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Pediatric Surgery**.

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Raj B. Patel, M.D., has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Solid Organ Transplant Surgery**.

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Nolan Bruce, M.D., has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Trauma and Critical Care Surgery**.

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Joseph Margolick, M.D., has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Trauma and Critical Care Surgery**.

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Matthew L. Roberts, M.D., has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Trauma and Critical Care Surgery**.

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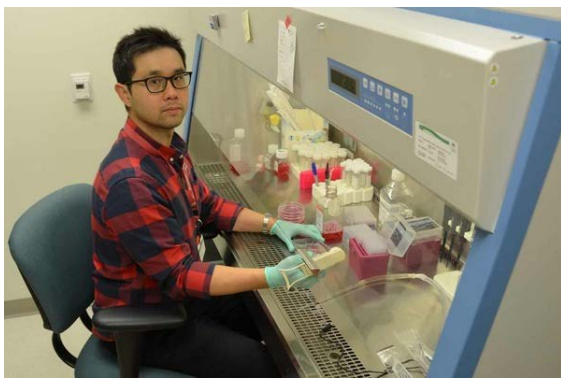
[Back to the Top](#)

Recent Grants



The UAMS **Institute for Digital Health & Innovation** has received a \$3.8 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish a national research center to study the effectiveness of digital health in delivering health care in rural areas and hospitals.

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Justin Leung, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of **Radiation Oncology**, has received a \$1.9 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Studies to continue his research into DNA damage response in cancer and genetic disorders.

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Jesus Delgado-Calle, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of **Physiology and Biophysics**, has received a \$1.7 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to study how bone therapy might repair damaged bone and prevent or delay relapse in myeloma patients.

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



Teresita Bellido, Ph.D., Department of **Physiology and Biophysics**, Contribution of Osteocytes to the Musculoskeletal Effects of Multiple Myeloma, NIH/National Cancer Institute (03/15/2017-02/28/2022), \$349,622.



Jon Blevins, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Virulence Mechanisms of Multifunctional Borrelial Proteins, NIH/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (08/1/2020-07/31/2025), \$380,685. Pass through from East Carolina University.



Lawrence Cornett, Ph.D., Department of **Physiology and Biophysics**, Partnerships for Biomedical Research in Arkansas-Admin Supplement, NIH/National Institute of General Medical Sciences, (08/01/2020-04/30/2021), \$165,326.



Jesus Delgado-Calle, Ph.D., Department of **Physiology and Biophysics**, Manipulating the N-end Rule Protein Degradation Pathway to Build Bone and Decrease Tumor Growth in Multiple Myeloma Bone Disease, NIH/ National Cancer Institute (07/01/2020-02/28/2025), \$117,760. Pass through from Indiana University.



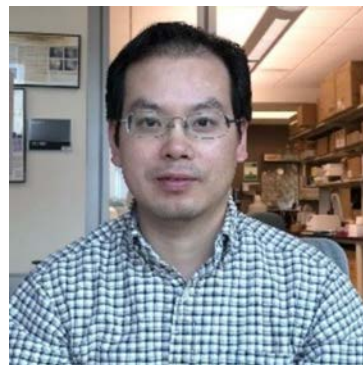
William Fantegrossi, Ph.D., Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology**, Evaluation of Hallucinogenic Substances using the Drug Discrimination Assay, U.S. Department of Justice (08/17/2020-06/16/2021), \$182,676.



David Ussery, Ph.D., Department of **Biomedical Informatics**, DART GRA, Arkansas Economic Development Commission (07/01/2020-06/30/2021), \$172,350.



Daniel Voth, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Coxiella burnetii Subversion of Host Nrf2 Antioxidant Signaling-Resubmission, NIH/National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (09/01/2020-08/31/2022), \$410,024.



Jinhu Xiong, M.D., Ph.D., Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery**, The role of Piezo 1 in bone homeostasis and mechanotransduction, NIH/National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases (08/17/2020-06/30/2025), \$1,669,800.



Fenghuang Zhan, M.D., Ph.D., Department of **Internal Medicine**, Myeloma Crowd Research Initiative Award, Myeloma Crowd Research Initiative (09/01/2020-08/31/2021), \$40,000.

[Back to the Top](#)

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:

Muhammad Abu-Rmaileh	Faiza Khan	Mildred Randolph
Oluwatomi "Tomi"	Jed Kinnick	Trenda Ray
Adegboyega	Justin Klucher	Sung Rhee
Antino Allen	Shashank Kraleti	Gloria Richard-Davis
Brittany Allman	Brianna Laferney	Michael Richardson
Aline Andres	Tyra Larkin	Jose Romero
Jason Arthur	Riley Lide	Thea Rosenbaum
Rick Barr	Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow	Jennifer Saccente
Michael Birrer	Allison Martin	Riley Sanders
Gregory Bledsoe	Jay Mehta	Troy Schmit
Sarah Blossom	Paulette Mehta	Angela Scott
Elisabet Borsheim	Priya Mendiratta	Tony Seupaul
Clare Brown	Erick Messias	Arthur Shaw
Kristy Caldwell	Jill Mhyre	Allison Shaw-Devine
Karina Clemmons	Memoona Mian	Emily Smith
Rodney Davis	Grover Miller	Jessica Snowden
Marisha DiCarlo	Franscesca Miquel-Verges	Matthew Spond
Alan Diekman	Brandi Mize	Leslie Stone
Marcy Doderer	Corey Montgomery	Puru Thapa
Amanda Catherine Ederle	Morgan Moore	Billy Thomas
Shannon Dare	L. Clai Morehead	Merit Jennings Turner
Nikki Edge	Austin Morgan	Sami Uwaydat
Nahed El-Hassan	Sofie Morgan	Srikanth Vallurupalli
Pebbles Fagan	Madison Brooks Morris	Toby Vancil
Jill Fussell	Charles Napolitano	Rudy Van Hemert
Stephanie Gardner	Clare Campbell Nesmith	Frits van Rhee
Morgan Alleabelle Gongola	Eddie Ochoa	Meredith Von Dohlen
Jared T. Gowen	Ericka Olgaard	Renisha Ward
Katie Guess	Patrick Page	Mark Williams
Hoda Hagrass	John Pagteilan	Sharanda Williams
Nikita Heard	Angela Palmer	Tremaine Williams
Ronda Henry-Tillman	Cam Patterson	Connor Wilson
Timothy Hereford	Erika Petersen	Andre Wineland
Sumant Inamdar	Heather Pinckard-Dover	Taylor Winn
Tina Ipe	Arpan Prabhu	Anna Nanigian Witt
Donald Johann	Matt Quick	Courtney Wright
Sufna John	Katelyn Ragland	Zijing Zhang
Jerry Johnston	Jill Ramsey	
Arlo Kahn		

These COM departments were represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
Biomedical Informatics
Emergency Medicine
Family/Preventive Medicine
Geriatrics
Internal Medicine
Medical Humanities/Bioethics
Neurosurgery
Obstetrics/Gynecology
Ophthalmology

Orthopaedic Surgery
Otolaryngology
Pathology
Pediatrics
Pharmacology/Toxicology
Physiology/Biophysics
Psychiatry
Radiation Oncology
Radiology
Surgery
Urology

[Back to the Top](#)

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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[Back to the Top](#)