

Editor's Note: This archived PDF version of the e-newsletter does not precisely match the layout of the email version. However, most of the links to external articles and other content remain active.

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## Season of Hope



Though the pandemic rages on, and social distancing, mask wearing and other precautions remain crucial, the arrival of the first doses of vaccine on campus is great news for our front-line heroes and a signal of hope for a better future.

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## Congratulations to our new MVPs!



The College of Medicine salutes 10 colleagues named as Most Valuable Players (MVPs) for Fall 2020! Visit our new [MVP WEBPAGE](#) to read about these honorees.

*Top row: Michael Blackburn, B.S.; Joana Mack, M.D.; Renee McGraw, M.D.; Priya Mendiratta, M.D., M.P.H.; Tamara Perry, M.D. Bottom row: Roopa Ram, M.D.; Denise Thomas, B.S.; Misty Virmani, M.D.; Keyur Vyas, M.D.; Jennifer White, B.S.N.*

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## Leadership Appointments



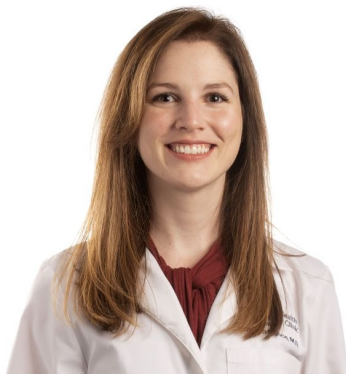
### Pediatric General Surgery

**M. Sidney "Sid" Dassinger III, M.D.**, a Professor in the Division of **Pediatric General Surgery**, has been named Division Chief. A faculty member since 2007, Dr. Dassinger succeeds **Samuel Smith, M.D.**, who retired at the end of November.

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## New Faculty



**Kathryn L. Nance, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as an Assistant Professor and primary care sports medicine specialist.

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**Richard Crownover, M.D., Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Radiation Oncology** as a Professor and specialist in gynecological cancers, breast cancer and sarcoma.

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## Recent Grants

*We hope to resume our monthly grants list, courtesy of the COM Office of Research, in upcoming issues of the COMmunication. Please pardon this delay as the transition to Muse, UAMS' new compliance and research management platform, continues.*

## From the Newsroom





**AI & 4D** | Cardiologist and researcher **Subhi J. Al'Aref, M.D.**, is developing methods that use artificial intelligence to analyze heart motion in 4-D (3-D plus time dimension), which could save doctors time and give them better information for more effective treatments of certain heart patients. A National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant of \$757,749 will support his research over the next five years. [READ MORE](#)



**GLOBAL EFFORT** | UAMS is a testing site for the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson's Phase 3 clinical research study, ENSEMBLE, to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Janssen's investigational COVID-19 vaccine candidate, JNJ-78436735, also known as Ad26.COV2.S. Enrollment was completed this week. **Kristine Patterson, M.D.**, is leading the clinical trial for UAMS with study coordination provided by the UAMS Translational Research Institute. [READ MORE](#)

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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:**

Kinza Ahmad	Tina Ipe	Roopa Ram
Daisy Alapat	Hanna Jensen	Rebecca Reif
Zain Alfaneek	Kyle Kalkwarf	Elizabeth Riley
Cash Arcement	Sarafina Kankam	Ron Robertson
John Arthur	Saleema Karim	Jose Romero
Steven Barger	Monica Kimbrell	Anapaula Rojas
Rick Barr	Katie Kimbrough	Hunter Rose
Vanessa Bastidas	Trina Kleiver	Samantha Rose
Judy Bennett	Laura James	Husam Salah
Avi Bhavaraju	Jeannette Lee	Mary Salassi-Scotter
Michael Blackburn	Riley Lipschitz	Ahmed Sallam
Kyle Brewer	Joana Mack	Tony Seupaul
Brannon Broadfoot	Spyridoula Maraka	Kevin Sexton
Lyle Burdine	Tommy Martin	Sara Shalin
Marie Burdine	Azin Mashayekhi	Greg Sharp
Denise Compton	Nicole Massoll	Zia Siddiqui
Tommy Christensen	Todd Maxson	Sam Smith
Sid Dassinger	Sasha McBain	Gregory Snead
Marcy Doderer	Renee McGraw	Matthew Spond
Helena Drolshagen	Jasmine McKissick	Ples Spradley
Richard Dunn	Simon Mears	Kandi Stallings-Archer
Lee Anne Eddy	Jay Mehta	Taren Swindle
Stanley Ellis	Priya Mendiratta	Lawrence Tarbox
Lauren Evans	Richard Morrison	Anna Tart
Kathy Fray	Sandra Morrison	Denise Thomas
Kim Gates	Conan Mustain	Sami Uwaydat
Molly Gathright	Rosemary Nabaweesi	Joey VanScoy
Manos Giorgakis	David Nagy	Surjith Vattoth
Duy Ha	David Nelsen	Aravindhan Veerapandiyam
Hoda Hagrass	Tracy Nolan	Misty Virmani
Hayden Hairston	Floyd Nutter	Emre Vural
Alyssa Higgins	Ericka Olgaard	Keyur Vyas
Liza Hill	Kalpana Padala	Dillon Wade
Laura Jean Hobart-Porter	Kristine Patterson	Jennifer White
Brian Hohertz	Ivette Perez	Megan White
Robert Hopkins	Tamara Perry	Sara Windsor
John House	Paul Phillips	
Michelle Huynh	Martin Radvany	

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

Anesthesiology  
Biomedical Informatics  
Biostatistics  
Emergency Medicine  
Family/Preventive Medicine  
Geriatrics  
Internal Medicine  
Microbiology/Immunology  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Ophthalmology

Orthopaedic Surgery  
Otolaryngology/Head-Neck Surgery  
Pathology  
Pediatrics  
Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation  
Psychiatry  
Radiation Oncology  
Radiology  
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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