

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



November 2020

GO TO: [In the Spotlight](#) | [Leadership Appointments](#) | [New Faculty](#) | [Recent Grants](#) | [Accolades](#)



Dear College of Medicine Team,

In this season of thanks – and throughout the year – I am grateful for all that you do.
Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and healthy Thanksgiving!

Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., FACS
Executive Vice Chancellor, UAMS
Dean, College of Medicine

In the Spotlight

Congratulations to our newly invested faculty colleagues!

UAMS honored and recognized the investitures of two outstanding Department of **Geriatrics** faculty members in a November 18 virtual celebration.



Steven Barger, Ph.D., was invested in the Louise G. Hearn Chair in Dementia and Long-Term Care.

"Dr. Barger's research acumen is well-known at UAMS and his work has been invaluable to advancing our knowledge of aging."

- Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.

[READ MORE](#)



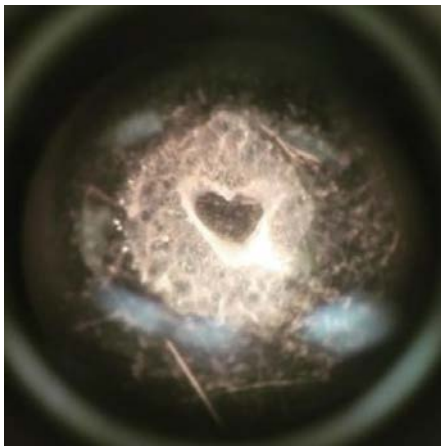
M. Denise Compton, Ph.D., was invested in the Magalene McKinnon Ingram Endowed Professorship in Geriatric Education.

"Dr. Compton is an outstanding member of our faculty whose dedication to our older Arkansans is second to none. She is very deserving of this honor and we are extremely proud of her."

- Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)



MEDICINE & MEANING

A UAMS Online Literary Journal

The new issue of *Medicine & Meaning* is now available! [Click here to check it out.](#)

"We at Medicine & Meaning hope these creative pieces will help remind us all of our powers of imagination, our eyes for beauty, and our sensitivity for deep emotions."

- Erick Messias, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief

[Back to the Top](#)

Leadership Appointments

Chair, Department of Internal Medicine



Edward T.H. Yeh, M.D., FACC, joined the faculty as Chair of the Department of **Internal Medicine** and the Nolan Family Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine on November 1. Dr. Yeh is a renowned cardiologist and leading expert in the field of oncocardiology.

"Dr. Yeh brings exceptional clinical, research and academic leadership experience to UAMS," said Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., FACS.

[READ MORE](#)

Interim Executive Associate Dean for Research



Nancy J. Rusch, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology**, has been appointed to serve as Interim Executive Associate Dean for Research following the retirement of Richard P. Morrison, Ph.D., at the end of this year.

"Dr. Rusch has been a stellar department leader, overseeing growth in research funding and the development of faculty who are nationally recognized in their fields of expertise, major contributors to research at UAMS, and leaders in medical student and graduate student education," said Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., FACS.

[READ MORE](#)

Interim Chair, Department of Pediatrics



Renee Bornemeier, M.D., Professor of **Pediatric Cardiology**, Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs in the Department of **Pediatrics**, and Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs in the College of Medicine, has been named Interim Chair of Pediatrics.

“Dr. Bornemeier has dedicated her career to UAMS and Arkansas Children’s, providing exceptional cardiology care for the children of Arkansas, outstanding teaching for medical students, residents and fellows, and excellent mentoring and faculty development for her colleagues,” said Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., FACS.

[READ MORE](#)

Chair, Department of Pathology



Jennifer Laudadio, M.D., FCAP, Professor of **Pathology** in the UAMS College of Medicine, has been named Chair of the Department of Pathology.

“Dr. Laudadio has excelled in a range of leadership roles since her recruitment to UAMS in 2013, and she has done an outstanding job as Interim Chair since August 1,” said Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., FACS. “Dr. Laudadio has earned praise for her commitment to quality and safety and her work in graduate medical education, and she will provide strong leadership for one of our most complex departments.”

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

New Faculty



Dustin Rumpel, M.D., has rejoined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.

[READ MORE](#)



Carina Torres Sanvicente, M.D., has joined the Department of **Ophthalmology** as an Assistant Professor.

[READ MORE](#)



Akilah Jefferson, M.D., M.Sc., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Allergy and Immunology**.

[READ MORE](#)



Sally Helton, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Emergency Medicine**.

[READ MORE](#)



Mark McManis, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Associate Professor in the Division of **Neurology**.

[READ MORE](#)



Satya Patro, M.D., has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in the divisions of **Neuroradiology** and **Interventional Neuroradiology**.

[READ MORE](#)



Michail Mavros, M.D., has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Surgical Oncology**.

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

Recent Grants

Additional grants received in October and November will be listed in the December COMmunication.



The UAMS **Institute for Digital Health & Innovation** has received a two-year grant of \$999,993 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the digital health training of health care professionals, students, business and community leaders, consumers and patients in the Arkansas Delta. **Hari Eswaran, Ph.D.**, is the Principal Investigator. [READ MORE](#)

Dr. Eswaran is also leading research to test telehealth as a way to improve Arkansas' death rate among pregnant women. The research is supported with a \$228,000 supplement to UAMS' NCATS-funded Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). [READ MORE](#)



COVID-19 hit as **Pearl McElfish, Ph.D., MBA**, and her research team were starting a major study comparing diabetes education interventions with diverse populations. The five-year, \$3.73 million Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) award was to support in-person type 2 diabetes prevention education in rural UAMS Regional Campus Family Medical Centers. Given social distancing restrictions due to the coronavirus, Dr. McElfish, vice chancellor for the **UAMS Northwest Campus**, applied for and recently received an additional \$400,000, which will allow the study to continue using interactive video.

[READ MORE](#)



A million people in Arkansas are living with heart disease, putting them at risk for health complications and early death. Exactly why this is the case and how it can be addressed in a holistic way long before these Arkansans end up in an emergency room – that's the focus of the [UAMS Lincoln Project](#). The Lincoln Project has received \$70,000 from the U.S. Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for year one (with the option to renew) of an intervention pilot study in Chicot, Desha and Phillips counties in Southeast Arkansas. **Cardiology Research Director Irion "Chip" Pursell, M.P.H., RN, B.S.N.**, and Research Operations Manager **Laura Boudrie** are leading the initiative. [READ MORE](#)



The UAMS **Arkansas Medical Education Primary Care Partnership** program has received \$2.83 million in additional funding from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to improve access to quality health care in rural Arkansas by expanding efforts to train and retain primary care physicians. The program aims to increase the number of primary care physicians practicing in rural areas and other medically underserved parts of the state. It also includes specific efforts to create pipelines to medical education for minority students. The project is a partnership among the UAMS College of Medicine, UAMS Regional Campuses and the Department of Family & Preventive Medicine. **Richard Turnage, M.D., FACS**, Executive Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, serves as Program Director. Co-Directors are **Marcia Byers, Ph.D., RN**, **Daniel Knight, M.D.**, and **Leslie Stone, M.D., M.P.H.**

[READ MORE](#)



Five UAMS scientists were awarded \$15,000 each to fund research projects in the coming year, thanks to the **UAMS Medical Research Endowment Fund**, an endowment created by generous donors nearly four decades ago. Awardees included **Alicia Byrd, Ph.D. (Biochemistry/Molecular Biology)**; **Rupak Pathak, Ph.D. (College of Pharmacy)**; **Youssef Aachoui, Ph.D. (Microbiology/Immunology)**; **Behjatolah Karbassi, Ph.D. (Pathology)**; and **Merideth Addicott (Psychiatry)**.

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

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:

Gregory Albert	Hanna Jensen	Paul Phillips
Kapil Arya	Kyle Kalkwarf	Fred Prior
Lance Benson	Saleema Karim	Parthak Proadhan
Avi Bhavaraju	Katie Kimbrough	Ron Robertson
Renee Bornemeier	Garrett Klutts	Mitra Rocca
Jace Bradshaw	Michelle Krause	Jose Romero
Lisa Brents	Nihit Kumar	Angie Scott
Bobby Boyanton	Spyridoula Maraka	Tony Seupaul
Heather Broyles	Annemarie McGahagan	Kevin Sexton
E. Robert Burns	Bobby McGehee	Vishank Shah
Marybeth Curtis	Erick Messias	Casey Smolarz
Abdallah Dalabih	Matt Mitchell	Jessica Snowden
Romona Davis	Shengyu Mu	Michael Stroud
Alysia Dubriske	Abby Nolder	Sara Tariq
Chris Fowler	Melda Onal	Puru Thapa
Leesa Freasier	Viktoras Palys	Valentina Todorova
Emily Freeman	Soumya Pandey	Sami Uwaydat
Chrystal Fullen	Sowmya Patil	Keyur Vyas
Molly Gathright	Brian Parks	Wendy Ward
Terry Harville	Cam Patterson	Sisira Yadala
Andrea Hooten	Freedom Perkins	Amanda Young
Ping-Ching Hsu	Tamara Perry	

These COM departments were represented in Accolades this month:

Biomedical Informatics	Ophthalmology
Emergency Medicine	Otolaryngology/Head-Neck Surgery
Family/Preventive Medicine	Pathology
Internal Medicine	Pediatrics
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Neurology	Physiology/Biophysics
Neurosurgery	Psychiatry
Obstetrics/Gynecology	Surgery

[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!](#)



UAMS College of Medicine | 4301 W. Markham, #550 | Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

[Back to the Top](#)
