

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.



October 2020

GO TO: In the Spotlight | Leadership Appointments | New Faculty | Recent Grants | Accolades | In Memoriam

Look for the Pin!

This academic year, watch for faculty members wearing our new Teaching Excellence lapel pin.

“These colleagues have been recognized by our learners as someone who has made a real difference in their education and career,” said **James Graham, M.D.**, Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.



Honorees are selected based on comments from students on course or clerkship evaluations, nominations from students through a new [online portal](#), and nominations from residents collected by the GME Office. The awards will be presented periodically throughout the year.

Please join us in congratulating the first group of faculty members to receive the lapel pins and award certificates!



Carly Eastin, MD
EMERGENCY MEDICINE



Brian Russ, DO
EMERGENCY MEDICINE



Bill Ventres, MD, MA
FAMILY MEDICINE



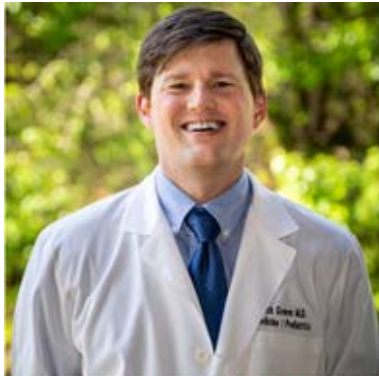
Gohar Azhar, MD
GERIATRICS



Syed Danish Hasan, MD
GERIATRICS



Priya Mendiratta, MD, MPH
GERIATRICS



Nick Gowen, MD
INTERNAL MEDICINE



Hakan Paydak, MD
INTERNAL MEDICINE



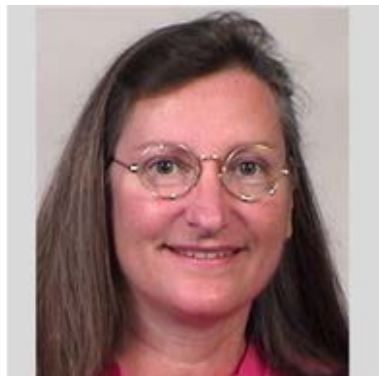
Noor Akhter, PHD
NEUROBIOLOGY/DEV SCI



David Davies, PHD
NEUROBIOLOGY/DEV SCI



Edgar Meyer, PHD, MAT
NEUROBIOLOGY/DEV SCI



Laura Stanley, PHD
NEUROBIOLOGY/DEV SCI



Dale Carter, MD
NEUROLOGY



Neil Masangkay, MD
NEUROLOGY



Carolyn Mehaffey, MD
NEUROLOGY



Lindsey Sward, MD
OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY



Christopher Westfall, MD
OPHTHALMOLOGY



Matt Quick, MD
PATHOLOGY



Carla Brown, MD
PEDIATRICS



Shelley Crary, MD, MS
PEDIATRICS



Suzanne Saccente, MD
PEDIATRICS



Sung Rhee, PHD
PHARMACOLOGY/TOXICOLOGY



Antonio Howard, MD
PHYSICAL MEDICINE/REHAB



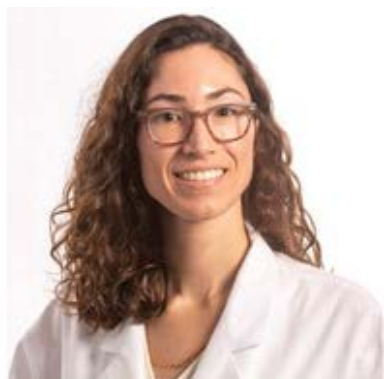
Jerry Ware, PHD
PHYSIOLOGY/BIPHYSICS



John Spollen, MD
PSYCHIATRY



Puru Thapa, MD, MPH
PSYCHIATRY



Melissa Kost, MD
SURGERY



Jason Mizell, MD
SURGERY



Keith Wolter, MD, PHD
SURGERY



James Yuen, MD
SURGERY

[Back to the Top](#)

In the Spotlight



Congratulations to **Ahmed A. Sallam, M.D., Ph.D.**, on his investiture as the John W. Nutt Chair in Ophthalmology. Dr. Sallam, Associate Professor of **Ophthalmology**, is a renowned eye inflammation and retinal specialist, Director of the Uveitis Service, and Director of the Ophthalmology Residency Program.

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

Leadership Appointments



Arkansas Children's has named **Frederick (Rick) Barr, M.D., M.B.A.**, to the newly created position of Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical and Academic Officer for the state's only pediatric health system. Dr. Barr, who has served as Chair of the Department of **Pediatrics** since 2017, will transition to his new role on November 16.

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

New Faculty



Katie Ryan, Ph.D., has joined the **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** faculty as an Assistant Professor.

[READ MORE](#)



Alicja Urbaniak, Ph.D., has been promoted to Instructor in the Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**.

[READ MORE](#)



Mark Manzano, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Microbiology and Immunology** as an Assistant Professor.

[READ MORE](#)



Steven Dahl, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Infectious Diseases**.

[READ MORE](#)



Matthew H. Merves, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Associate Professor in the Division of **Neonatology**.

[READ MORE](#)



Ming Hwei Yek, Psy.D., has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor.

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

Recent Grants

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



J. Craig Forrest, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Defining mechanisms of KSHV pathogenesis using MHV68-KSHV chimeric viruses- Resubmission, NIH/ National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, (09/14/2020 – 08/31/2021), \$525,786.



Samantha Kendrick, Ph.D., Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, Targeting Oncogenic Regulation Through Unique DNA Structures in Lymphoma, NIH/ National Institute of General Medical Sciences, (07/01/2020 – 06/30/2022), \$513,098. Pass through from Arkansas Children's Research Institute.



Christopher Long, Ph.D., Department of **Psychiatry**, Home Food Delivery for Diabetes Management in Patients of Rural Clinics, NIH/ National Institute of Nursing Research, (09/08/2020 – 06/30/2025), \$2,524,514.

[READ MORE](#)



Mark Manzano, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Oncogenic Roles and Therapeutic Potential of MCL1 Addiction in Primary Effusion Lymphoma, NIH/ National Cancer Institute, (09/04/2020 – 08/31/2023), \$500,501.



Roger Pechous, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Defining the Role of the Plasminogen Activator Protease in the Early Events that Establish Primary Pneumonic Plague, NIH/ National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, (09/04/2020 – 08/31/2021), \$374,653.



Fred Prior, Ph.D., Department of **Biomedical Informatics**:

Robust and Trusted Data Analytics: From Smart Curation to Socially Aware Decision Making (Area 1, Coordinated Data Science Cyber Infrastructure), National Science Foundation, (07/01/2020-06/30/2021), \$202,564. Pass through from Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

Tools for data curation, quality control and data interoperability, European Commission, (10/01/2020-09/30/2024), \$950,465. Pass through from Universitat de Barcelona.

[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:

Teresita Angtuaco	Kevin Hollins	Rangarajan Purushothaman
Lee Archer	Tina Ipe	Matt Quick
James Arledge	Laura James	Surbhi Raichandani
Jonathan Aronson	Marcie Johnson	Praveen Ramani
Ernie Bailey	Nikhil Kamath	Robert Reis
Rick Barr	Noojan Kazemi	Marcus Renno
Tamanna Basri	Kenneth Knecht	Sung Rhee
Ariel Berlinski	Jeannette Lee	Gloria Richard-Davis
Amanda Blagg	Mitesh Lotia	Blake Richardson
Richard Blaszak	Sophia Ly	Maurice Rigsby
Elijah Bolin	Anusha Majagi	Samantha Rose
Meryll Pampolina Bouldin	Fathima Fijula Palot Manzil	Husam Salah
Robert Bradsher Jr.	Spyridoula Maraka	Ahmed Sallam
Dawn Brown	James Marsh	Steve Schexnayder
David Bumpass	Richard McCarthy	Paul Seib
JoAnn Conley Cooper	Bobby McGehee	Rohan Sharma
Lawrence Cornett	Kent McKelvey	Vivian Shi
Courtney Cox	Alyson McKinnon	Jessica Snowden
Lee Crawford	Jeanne McLachlin	Tom South
David Davies	Nikhil Meena	Jumin Sunde
Zachary Dawes	J.L. (Jay) Mehta	Ryland Walt Steele
Alan Diekman	Edgar Meyer	Marcus Stephens
Paul Drake	Amir Mian	Emily Stotts
Amanda Ederle	Franscesca Miquel-Verges	Michael Stroud
Nathan Epps	Corey Montgomery	Mohsin Syed
Megan Evans	Ronald Mora	Sara Tariq
Bryce Ferry	Mauricio Moreno	Linda Teal
Allen Finne	Charles Napolitano	Keshari Thakali
James Graham	Dmitry Nedosekin	Rodrigo Valdes-Rodriguez
Natalie Guley	Hugh Nymeyer	George Vilanilam
Terry Harville	Wyvonne Ora	Michael Wilson
Matthew Helton	T. Glenn Pait	Henry Wong
Tammy Henson	Angela Palmer	Dwana McKay Yarberry
Debbie Hodges	Patrick Paullus	
Debbie Holliman	Parthak Prodhan	

These COM departments were represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Ophthalmology
Biostatistics	Orthopaedic Surgery
Dermatology	Otolaryngology
Emergency Medicine	Pathology
Family/Preventive Medicine	Pediatrics
Genetics	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Geriatrics	Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation
Internal Medicine	Physiology/Biophysics
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences	Psychiatry
Neurology	Radiology
Neurosurgery	Surgery

[Back to the Top](#)

In Memoriam



Joseph Jensen, M.D., M.H.A., M.B.A., Associate Professor in the Division of **Trauma and Critical Care Surgery**, died September 25. A gifted surgeon, Dr. Jensen helped to shape trauma care in Arkansas while training hundreds of surgical residents during his 24 years on the Department of Surgery faculty.



Edathara Abraham, Ph.D., died September 19. Dr. Abraham served as a Professor in the Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** for 15 years until his retirement in 2015. He conducted extensive research into the molecular mechanisms underlying diabetic cataracts.

Read more about Dr. Jensen and Dr. Abraham on the Inside UAMS [In Memoriam](#) page.

[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



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

[Back to the Top](#)