

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

UAMS  
College of Medicine

# COMmunication

January 2021

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## Physiology & Cell Biology: New Name, Bright Future



A basic science department in the College of Medicine has adopted a new name to better represent the expertise of its faculty, research programs and long history of excellent teaching.

The name change for what is now the **Department of Physiology and Cell Biology** was one of the first initiatives of **Teresita Bellido, Ph.D.**, who began serving as Professor and Chair in July 2020. The department was previously known as the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

The change was unanimously supported by the department's faculty and was approved by **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, Executive Vice Chancellor of UAMS and Dean of the College of Medicine, in December.

"Our new name definitely better reflects the identity of our department and the research and teaching we do," said Dr. Bellido. "We are very actively recruiting new faculty members, and we wanted to have a name that truly represents our faculty. This is also important for recruiting graduate students."

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# Teaching Excellence

*Congratulations!*



The College of Medicine recently presented a new round of **Teaching Excellence Awards** to faculty and – for the first time – residents. These honorees have been recognized by students and/or residents as exemplary educators, and are entitled to wear a special Teaching Excellence lapel pin.

## **College of Medicine Honorees (Little Rock based)**

Alan Diekman, Ph.D., Biochemistry/Molecular Biology

Ryan Dare, M.D., Internal Medicine

Matt Deneke, M.D., Internal Medicine

Elizabeth Gath, M.D., Internal Medicine

Manisha Singh, M.D., Internal Medicine

Steven McKee, M.D., Medicine-Pediatrics

Mark Smeltzer, Ph.D., Microbiology/Immunology

Mohsin Syed, Ph.D., Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences

Georgia Gamble, M.D., Obstetrics/Gynecology (Resident)

Clara Tang, M.D., Obstetrics/Gynecology (Resident)

Kinza Ahmad, M.D., Ophthalmology (Resident)

Elijah Bolin, M.D., Pediatrics

Christopher Edwards, M.D., Pediatrics

Angela Scott, M.D., Ph.D., Pediatrics

Emily Smith, M.D., Pediatrics

Kimberly Hubbard, M.D., Pediatrics (Resident)

Thanh T Dai, M.D., Pediatrics (Resident)

Paul Drake, M.D., Pediatrics (Resident)

Lewis Krain, M.D., Psychiatry

Esther Teo, M.D., Surgery

John Pagteilan, M.D., Surgery (Resident)

Megan White, M.D., Surgery (Resident)

## **UAMS Northwest College of Medicine Honorees**

Eli Matthews, M.D., Anesthesiology  
Hunter Henry, M.D., Emergency Medicine  
Sam Turner, M.D., Emergency Medicine  
Jared Berry, M.D., Family Medicine (Resident)  
Ashley Lentine, M.D., Family Medicine (Resident)  
Falen Miles, M.D., Family Medicine (Resident)  
Daphnee Noel, M.D., Family Medicine (Resident)  
Christina Richardson, M.D., Family Medicine (Resident)  
Vance Sales, M.D., Family Medicine (Resident)  
John Stanton, M.D., Family Medicine (Resident)  
Sanee Del Rosario, M.D., Internal Medicine  
Christopher Finlay, M.D., Internal Medicine  
Sam Helm, M.D., Internal Medicine  
Stephen Johnson, M.D., Internal Medicine  
Raad Abbass, M.D., Internal Medicine (Resident)  
Makaila Calcagni, M.D., Internal Medicine (Resident)  
Ben Martin, M.D., Internal Medicine (Resident)  
Eric Peeler, M.D., Internal Medicine (Resident)  
James Tullis, M.D., Internal Medicine (Resident)  
Shari DeSilva, M.D., Neurology  
Alan Diamond, D.O., Neurology  
Jay Hinkle, M.D., Neurology  
Margaret Tremwel, M.D., PhD, Neurology  
Staci Allen, D.O., Pediatric Anesthesiology  
Kevin Hinkle, M.D., Pediatric Cardiology  
Tonya Balmakund, M.D., Pediatric Neurology  
Robert Saylor, M.D., Pediatric Oncology  
Nicholas Waanders, M.D., Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery  
Marcene McVay-Gillam, M.D., Pediatric Surgery  
Ashay Patel, D.O., Pediatric Urology  
Whitney Alexander, M.D., Pediatrics  
Julia Gregory, M.D., Pediatrics, Newborn Nursery  
Joy Hill, M.D., Pediatrics  
Craig Keever, M.D., Pediatrics  
Mark Lovell, M.D., Pediatrics  
Rachel MacLeod, M.D., Pediatrics  
Jeffrey Savage, M.D., Pediatrics  
George Schaefer, M.D., Pediatrics  
Julie Tate, M.D., Pediatrics  
Vikki Stefans, M.D., PM&R  
Brandy Kalami, D.O., Psychiatry  
Brian Mooney, M.D., Psychiatry  
Thomas Renaghan, M.D., Psychiatry  
Mark Worley M.D., PhD, Psychiatry  
James Counce, M.D., Cardiothoracic Surgery

Gareth Eck, M.D., Surgery  
Wayne Hudec, M.D., Surgery  
Jeff Kellar, M.D., Surgery  
Jay Mullis, M.D., Surgery  
Russell Wood, M.D., Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Steve Wood, M.D., Surgery  
Katie Beal, M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Emily Goucher, APRN, Community Clinic Women's Health  
Laura Largent, APRN, Community Clinic Women's Healthcare

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## New Faculty



**Rania Elkhateb, M.D., Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as a research faculty member and Instructor.

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**Jaleesa Jackson, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor in the **Chronic Pain** Division.

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**Benjamin Stronach, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as an Associate Professor specializing in hip and knee arthroplasty.

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## Recent Grants

### Intramural Grants

*Congratulations to the College of Medicine faculty members who received intramural grants from the college for 2021. These awards are administered by the [College of Medicine Office of Research](#).*

### Barton Pilot Awards

*The [Barton Pilot Grant](#) is a 12-month funding program designed to assist and encourage new and existing faculty to develop research programs that can successfully compete for extramural funding.*

**Hanna Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.**, Department of **Surgery**, Artificial Intelligence in Assessing Intracranial Hemorrhage, \$25,000

**Vladimir Lupashin, Ph.D.**, Department of **Physiology and Cell Biology**, Investigation of intracellular trafficking of SARS CoV-2 virus-like particles and their interactions with ERGIC/Golgi trafficking machinery, \$25,000

**Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow, Ph.D.**, and **Paul Prather Ph.D.**, Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology**, Characterization of Synthetic Cannabinoid-Induced Mitochondrial Dysfunction Leading to Renal Injury, \$25,000

**Nirmala Parajuli, Ph.D.**, Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology**, The role of Hsp72 chaperone in monocyte-derived macrophage activation and renal graft failure, \$25,000

**Jason Stumhofer, Ph.D.**, Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Defining differences in ICOS signaling in primary and reactivated CD4 T cells, \$25,000

**Alicja Urbaniak, Ph.D.**, Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, Novel Monensin Analogs for the Treatment of Metastatic Breast Cancer, \$25,000

**Kristin Zorn, M.D.**, Department of **Obstetrics and Gynecology**, Developing a Community-Based Screening Tool for Hereditary Cancer Risk \$17,019

### **Hornick Endowment Awards**

*Hornick Endowment Grants are designed to promote research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of stroke and related disorders.*

**Alicia Byrd, Ph.D.**, Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, The effect of rs75770066, a stroke associated single nucleotide polymorphism, on enzyme activity, \$25,000

**Nishank Jain, M.D.**, Department of **Internal Medicine**, Study of uremic toxins and levels of antiplatelet therapy to investigate mechanisms of excessive stroke in patients with chronic kidney disease, \$31,900

### **Sturgis Foundation Awards**

*Sturgis Foundation Grants are designed to promote research in diabetes and diabetes related conditions.*

**Giulia Baldini, Ph.D.**, Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, Cholesterol loss in diabetic hypothalamus and MC4R, \$31,444

**Sree Chintapalli, Ph.D.**, Department of **Pediatrics**, Structural basis for regulation of oxygen release from myoglobin by acylcarnitines and lactate: a novel link to

diabetes, \$31,443

**Lu Huang, Ph.D.**, Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Macrophage metabolism as the missing link between diabetes and tuberculosis, \$31,444

**Angus MacNicol, Ph.D.**, Department of **Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences**, Molecular Mechanisms underlying obesity and hyperglycemia-linked suppression of somatotrope function, \$46,516

**Keshari Thakali, Ph.D.**, Department of **Pediatrics**, Does dietary methionine restriction prevent high-fat-diet-induced perivascular adipose tissue dysfunction?, \$31,444

## Extramural Awards

*We hope to resume our monthly external 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.*

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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](#).

**UAMS team members and students named in Accolades this month:**

Iad Alhallak	Brian Gittens	Fred Prior
Lee Archer	James Graham	Charles Matthew Quick
Omar Atiq	Laura Guidry-Grimes	Martin Radvany
Gohar Azhar	Ashley Gregory	Renee Raines
Ahmad Baghal	Larry Hartzell	Connor Rayburn
Giulia Baldini	Robert Hopkins	Gloria Richard-Davis
C. Lowry Barnes	Adam Johnson	Gresham Richter
Jack Blackshear	Jerrilyn Jones	Tyler Rose
Kimberlyn Blann-Anderson	Alissa Kanaan	Ahmed Sallam
Amber Booth	Michelle Krause	Eric Siegel
Austin Brown	Gary Lewis	Frank Simmen
Dustin Brown	Shi Liu	Rosalia C.M. Simmen
Kesley Brown	Spyridoula Maraka	Jessica Snowden
Alexander Burnett	Sacha McBain	Tom South
Jessica Campbell	Jeanne McLachlin	Tony Seupaul
Joseph Chacko	Simon Mears	Olivia Speed
Karina Clemmons	Marie Mesidor	Sara Tariq
Olivia Daigle	Edgar Meyer	Billy Thomas
David Davies	Jason Mizell	Michael Wilson
John Dornhoffer	Maria Theresa Montales	Theresa Wyrick
Anna Evatt	Diana Munoz-Mendoza	Anand Venkata
Joseph Fong	John Mark Pabona	Jasna Vuk
Christopher Fowler	Viktoras Palys	Keyur Vyas
Emily Freeman	Erika Petersen	Amanda Young
Colin Fuller	Kevin Phelan	Xiaomin Zhang
J. Reed Gardner	Danele Poole	

### COM departments represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Ophthalmology
Biomedical Informatics	Orthopaedic Surgery
Biostatistics	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Emergency Medicine	Pediatrics
Geriatrics	Physiology/Cell Biology
Internal Medicine	Pathology
Medical Humanities	Psychiatry
Neurobiology/Dev. Sciences	Radiation Oncology
Neurology	Radiology
Neurosurgery	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 view past issues of the newsletter, 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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