

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.



April 2021

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

## Distinguished Faculty Scholar



*College of Medicine Dean Christopher Westfall, M.D., (left) presents the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award to Charles O'Brien, Ph.D.*

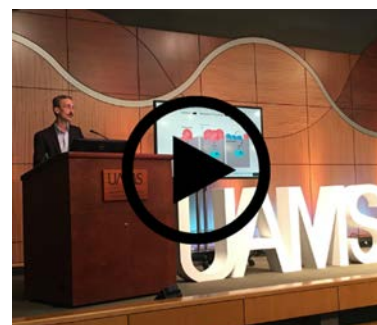
## "A Huge, Homegrown, UAMS Success Story and MVP"

Colleagues honored **Charles O'Brien, Ph.D.**, as the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Scholar on April 27. Dr. O'Brien, a Professor of **Internal Medicine (Endocrinology)** and **Orthopaedic Surgery**, is an internationally recognized authority in the molecular biology of bone and mineral metabolism whose research has focused on the two issues below.

### TWO KEY QUESTIONS ...

**WHY** do osteoclasts form where they do, when they do, and in the numbers that they do?

**CAN** we prevent pathological bone loss while preserving physiological bone resorption?



Click [here](#) or on the lecture image to view the Zoom recording of Dr. O'Brien's talk. | Read [Dr. O'Brien's bio](#).

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## In the Spotlight



### Best Medical Schools for Primary Care

UAMS is ranked 39th in primary care in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2022 Best Medical Schools list – up from 63rd the previous year. The list ranks 122 medical schools on the quality of education relating to primary care, with a key measure being the percentage of graduates who go into primary care.

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### Student Receives Prestigious Fellowship

Congratulations to second-year medical student **Mason Belue**, who has been selected to participate in a yearlong residential immersion program for aspiring clinician-scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

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## Leadership Appointments

### Department of Psychiatry: Interim Chair



**John Spollen, M.D.**, Professor and Vice Chair for Education in the Department of **Psychiatry**, has been appointed Interim Chair effective June 1, when current Chair **G. Richard Smith, M.D.**, retires. A faculty member since 1999, Dr. Spollen has held numerous leadership roles in the department and college and has received many honors for his work in education including the college's Master Teacher Award and the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence.

“As an outstanding clinician and award-winning educational leader, Dr. Spollen will ensure the continued success of psychiatric care, education and research at UAMS during the search for the next Chair and Director of the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute (PRI),” Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, said in an April 12 announcement to faculty.

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## Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute: Associate Director



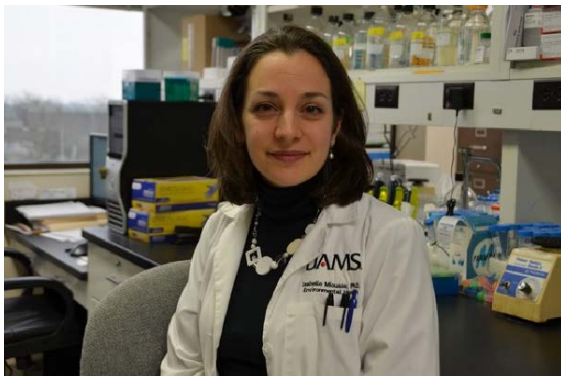
**Thomas J. Kelly Jr., Ph.D.**, has been named Associate Director for Cancer Research Training and Education in the **Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute**. Dr. Kelly is an Associate Professor of **Pathology** (full Professor effective July 1), whose many roles include directing the Graduate Program in Pathobiology in the UAMS Graduate School and serving as an advanced practice professional at Arkansas Children's.

“The education and training of our future researchers at all levels of their careers is an important component of all cancer centers and a critical element in the path to National Cancer Institute Designation,” said **Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D.**, Vice Chancellor and Cancer Institute director. “Tom is the perfect person to lead the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute effort as we move forward.”

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## Recent Grants



A \$1.1 million NIH grant will allow **Isabelle Racine Miousse, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, to ramp up her study of a nutrient that may have a role in the effectiveness of immunotherapy for cancer patients. Dr. Miousse will serve as one of four project leaders at a new NIH-funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. [READ MORE](#)



The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has awarded \$1.7 million to **Roger Pechous, Ph.D.**, Assistant professor of **Microbiology and Immunology**, to study the pathogenesis of pulmonary infection and *Yersinia pestis*, one of the deadliest known pathogens. Dr. Pechous' work is aimed at expanding understanding of the progression of severe pneumonia. [READ MORE](#)

*Editor's Note: We plan to resume our monthly extramural 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.*

## Intramural Grants



Congratulations to **Divyaswathi Citla Sridhar, M.D.**, and **Deidre Wyrick, M.D.**, the 2021 recipients of the Marion B. Lyon Revocable Trust New Scientist Development Awards in the Arkansas Children's Research Institute. Dr. Citla Sridhar is an Assistant Professor in the **Hematology-Oncology** Section of the Department of **Pediatrics**. Dr. Wyrick is an Assistant Professor in the **Pediatric Surgery** Division of the Department of **Surgery**. [READ MORE](#)



# 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:**

Muhammad Abu-Rmaileh	Ebaa Jastaniah	Sydney Roper
Tomi Adegboyega	Donald Johann	Lance Runion
Noor Akhter	Sherry Johnson	Brian Russ
Zain Alfaneek	Alissa Kanaan	Troy Schmit
Braxton Anderson	Stan Kellar	Kelli Schmitz
Jason Arthur	Philip Kenney	Logan Scott-Kirchen
Gohar Azhar	Jennifer Kleiner	Sara Shalin
Gitanjali Bajaj	Justin Klucher	Rohan Sharma
Mason Belue	Anvesh Kompelli	Sen Sheng
Garrett Bethel	Michelle Krause	Vivian Shi
Anna Blach	Jonathan Laryea	Jan Shorey
Anna Blackshare	Becky Latch	Neil Simmons
Carla Brown	Dana Lawrence	Gideon Singleton
George Austin Brown	Brandon Leding	Rick Smith
David Bumpass	Jeannette Lee	Greg Snead
Stephen Canon	Spencer Lewis	Jessica Snowden
Ayoola Carleton	Zachary Lewis	Jordan Steele
Heejung Choi	Rani Lindberg	Ali Sumera
Jim Clardy	Mitesh Lotia	Lindsey Sward
Jessica Coker	Jeff Lynch	Mohsin Syed
Ryan Coleman	Michail Mavros	Alan Tackett
Jasmine Crane	Catey May	Shruti Tewar
Rohit Dhall	Celia McCaslin	Nicole Thomas
Shannon Doerhoff	James Meek	Cody Thompson
Carly Eastin	Jay Mehta	Merit Turner
Travis Eastin	Paulette Mehta	Susan Van Dusen
Hisham Elkhider	Priya Mendiratta	Aravindhan
Lauren Evans	Heidi Meredith	Veerapandiyan
Christopher Fowler	Erick Messias	Surjith Vattoth
Rachael Freeze-Ramsey	Lindsay Mohney	Donald Vickers
Chrystal Fullen	Mary Moore	Tuhin Virmani
J. Reed Gardner	Timothy Muren	Meredith Von Dohlen
Molly Gathright	Rosemary Nabaweesi	Chelsea Wakefield
Jennifer Gess	Charles O'Brien	Allyson Walker
Regina Gibson	Michae Orfanos	David Walker
Johnathan Goree	Gray Orman	Paige Walker
Sarah Greenberger	Meryll Pampolina	Wendy Ward
Ben Guise	Christopher Paul	Jackson Weaver
James Graham	Erika Petersen	Jeanne Wei
Sarah Green	Christian Pedroza Portillo	David Williams
Whit Hall	Kevin D. Phelan	Monica Williams
Daniel Harper	Paul Phillips	Kelsey Wilson
Skye Heckman	Lillie Pitts	Ryan Wycliffe
Aaron Henry	Erin Priddy	Melissa Yandell
Robert Hopkins	Abigail Richison	Edward Yeh
Morgan Howells	Gresham Richter	Amanda Young
Courtney Hunter		Razvan Zemianschi

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

Anesthesiology  
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology  
Biomedical Informatics  
Biostatistics  
Dermatology  
Emergency Medicine  
Geriatrics  
Internal Medicine  
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences  
Neurology  
Neurosurgery

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Ophthalmology  
Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Pediatrics  
Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation  
Psychiatry  
Radiology  
Surgery  
Urology

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## In Memoriam



**Howard Lane Lovett Jr.**, an Assistant Professor in the **Hospital Medicine** Division of the Department of **Internal Medicine**, died March 29, 2021, after a long battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Dr. Lovett graduated from the College of Medicine, completed his Internal Medicine Residency at UAMS, and joined the faculty in 2018. Colleagues remember Dr. Lovett for his compassionate care of patients, his love of teaching and the UAMS community, and for using his experiences as a patient to become a better physician and teacher of medical students and residents. [READ MORE](#)

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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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