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September 2021

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## Faster Path to Practicing Primary Care



*Spencer Parnell and Caroline Geels, first-year students in the College of Medicine's new 3-year M.D. program, practice CPR on a training manikin at the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus in Fayetteville.*

The College of Medicine has launched an accelerated, three-year M.D. track at the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus specially tailored for outstanding students who want to practice primary care.

As part of a multi-pronged approach to produce more doctors for Arkansas, the initiative received a boost with \$4.75 million in supplemental grant funding for the ongoing Arkansas Medical Education Primary Care Partnerships Project. The new funding brings the four-year grant award from the Health Resources and Services Administration to over \$12 million.

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## Faculty Affairs and Development Team



Renee Bornemeier, M.D.



Theresa Wyrick, M.D.

**Renee Bornemeier, M.D.**, Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of **Pediatrics**, has been named Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Development for the College of Medicine. She will be joined by **Theresa Wyrick, M.D.**, Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Faculty Development in the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery**, who will serve as Assistant Dean.

“Dr. Bornemeier will bring great energy and expertise to initiatives to strengthen our faculty development programs and other services to support the success of our faculty, and Dr. Wyrick adds to that energy as a strong advocate for mentorship and development of colleagues,” said Executive Vice Chancellor and **Dean Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.**

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## New Faculty

*Welcome to these recent additions to the College of Medicine faculty! We will continue to introduce new colleagues in the months ahead.*



**Cynthia Chapman, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.  
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**Rami Diab, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.  
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**Sayem Miah, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** as an Assistant Professor.  
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**Mohammad Rahman, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** as an Assistant Professor.  
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**Tushar Tarun, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and invasive cardiologist in the Division of **Cardiology**.  
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**Zixue Jin, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and basic scientist in the **Endocrinology** Division.  
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**Felix Tellez-Avila, M.D., Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the **Gastroenterology** Division.

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**Hasan Rana, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and hospitalist in the **Hematology/Oncology** Division.

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**Michael Lowry, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Infectious Diseases**.

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**Jordan Gross, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as an Assistant Professor specializing in complex deformities of the spine.

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**Adrienne Koder, D.O.**, has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as an Assistant Professor and pediatric orthopaedic surgeon.

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**Lauren Poindexter, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as an Assistant Professor and primary care sports medicine physician.

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**Justin Rabinowitz, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as an Assistant Professor and shoulder/elbow specialist.

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**Scott Schoenleber, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as an Assistant Professor and pediatric orthopaedic surgeon.

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## Recent Grants



**CHILDHOOD OBESITY** | Led by **Judith Weber, Ph.D., RD**, scientists at Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI) and UAMS will continue studying the impacts of childhood obesity after the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded \$11.5 million in renewed funding to the ACRI Center for Childhood Obesity Prevention.

*"Our goal is a future where parents don't have to worry about their child developing any of the countless complications children face because of obesity. This center continues to be a prime example of how research translates into interventions, creating a brighter future for kids right here in Arkansas and around the nation."* - Dr. Judith Weber

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**BURN RESEARCH** | The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$1.9 million Maximizing Investigators Research Award (MIRA) for early stage investigators to **Craig Porter, Ph.D.** Dr. Porter will partner with clinicians in the Arkansas Children's Burn Unit to study the role of the mitochondrion in the metabolic stress response to burn trauma.

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**TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY** | The UAMS **Institute for Digital Health & Innovation** has received a grant to fund a \$1.5 million project to enhance clinical and educational resources for Arkansans living with a traumatic brain injury.

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## Extramural Awards

*Congratulations to College of Medicine faculty members who received new extramural grants in August. This list, courtesy of the Office of the Executive Associate Dean for Research, excludes clinical trials and awards under \$10,000, as well as grants we have previously reported and those highlighted above.*

**Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D., Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute**, NRG Oncology Network Group Operation Center, NIH/NCI, (8/31/2021-2/28/2022), \$15,000.

**Isis Martel, M.S.**, Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine**, Rural Health Initiative FY 2021: Madison County, Arkansas Department of Health, (8/12/2021-6/30/2022), \$88,953.

**Joseph Sanford, M.D., Institute for Digital Health and Innovation**, FCC Round II COVID Telehealth Consortium, Federal Communications Commission, (8/26/2021-5/31/2022), \$982,589.

**Mark Smeltzer, Ph.D.**, Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Shared Resource to Investigate Cellular Metabolism, NIH, (8/19/2021-4/30/2022), \$185,572.

**Brian Storrie, Ph.D.**, Department of **Physiology and Cell Biology**, Structure/Function Determinants of Puncture Wound, NIH/NHLBI, (8/26/2021–5/30/2025), \$2,483,280.

## Intramural Grants



**ACRI/ABI AWARDS** | The Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI) recently announced the recipients of the 2021 ACRI/ABI Investigator-Initiated Research Awards. Congratulations to **Sree V. Chintapalli, Ph.D.**, **Mark McManis, Ph.D.**, and **Sarah Sobik, M.D.**

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## Accolades



Have you read the latest *Accolades* from Dean Smyth? 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 [COM Internal Communications](#).

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

|                     |                        |                       |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ahmed Abuabdou      | Kikko Haydar           | Shana Owens           |
| Shivkumar Agarwal   | Mariella Hernandez     | Kalpna Padala         |
| Malek Al-Hawwas     | Christian Herzog       | Prasad Padala         |
| John Arthur         | Travis Hill            | Sara Peeples          |
| Danish Abbasi       | Stacy Hoyle            | Amy Phillips          |
| Anas Attasi         | Kimberly Jackman       | Luann Racher          |
| Jennifer Andersen   | Nishank Jain           | Connor Rayburn        |
| Michael Angtuaco    | Mitchell Jenkins       | Ramona Rhodes         |
| Mahesh Bavineni     | Samia "Sam" Johnston   | Gloria Richard-Davis  |
| Ariel Berlinski     | Amrita Khakurel        | Sheldon Riklon        |
| Karl Boehme         | Josh Kennedy           | Paul Seib             |
| Clare Brown         | Tetyana Kudlyk         | Sanjay Shah           |
| Lyle Burdine        | Sara Landes            | Tom South             |
| Karina Clemmons     | Tim Langford           | Crystal Sparks        |
| Gaurav Dhar         | Luke Lefler            | Lorraine Stigar       |
| Karen Dickinson     | Erica Liebelt          | Shravan Turaga        |
| John Dornhoffer     | Juan Liu               | Barry Uretsky         |
| Carly Eastin        | Vladimir Lupashin      | Srikanth Vallurupalli |
| Travis Eastin       | Kristin Lyle           | Jenna Valovich        |
| Nahed El-Hassan     | Randy Maddox           | Jennifer Vincenzo     |
| Holly Felix         | Renita Pushparajah Mak | Kirby Von Edwins      |
| Terry Harville      | Katy Marino            | Dinesh Voruganti      |
| Rose Farquhar       | Theresa McCallie       | Renisha Ward          |
| Craig Forrest       | Pearl McElfish         | Jamie Watson          |
| Michael Grassi      | Conan Mustain          | Don Willis            |
| Laura Guidry-Grimes | Abby Nolder            | Jack Xu               |

### COM departments represented in Accolades this month:

Biochemistry/Molecular Biology  
Biomedical Informatics  
Biostatistics  
Emergency Medicine  
Family/Preventive Medicine  
Geriatrics  
Internal Medicine  
Medical Humanities/Bioethics  
Microbiology/Immunology  
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery  
Pathology  
Pediatrics  
Pharmacology/Toxicology  
Physiology/Cell Biology  
Psychiatry  
Radiology  
Surgery  
Urology

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The *COMmunication* is published monthly to highlight key events, initiatives and developments in the COM, introduce new faculty members and leaders, and shine a spotlight on our work in education, research, clinical care and service to Arkansas. To 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*.

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