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October 2021

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Medical student volunteers were on hand as Dr. Susan Smyth received her COVID booster and flu shot in the SEHS Hospital Lobby Gallery Vaccine Clinic on Oct. 1.

Giving it our Best Shot

As UAMS approaches 100,000 COVID vaccinations administered at our clinics across the state, I want to take a moment to thank our team members, students, volunteers and all others who have been a part of this monumental effort to keep UAMS – and Arkansas – safe. Very special thanks to **Dr. Michelle Krause**, **Dr. Robert Hopkins** and the entire **Integrated Medicine Service Line** for their leadership, dedication and hard work.

And **kudos to all of you** who have gotten your COVID vaccine, FDA-recommended booster and UAMS-required seasonal flu shot! These simple steps truly are a way to “give it our best shot” in this unprecedented time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan'.

Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean



Above left: Dr. Michelle Krause, Director of the Integrated Medicine Service Line and Vice Chair for Clinical Operations, Quality and Efficiency in the Department of Internal Medicine, (standing, center) has been integral to UAMS' vaccine clinic operations since vaccines became available in December 2020. Above right: Medical student volunteers and Dr. Robert Hopkins, Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine, at the SEHS Hospital Lobby Gallery Vaccine Clinic in late September.



GET YOUR FLU SHOT! Wednesday, Nov. 17, is the deadline for this year's mandatory flu shot for all UAMS employees and students. Visit the [SEHS Flu Season website](#) for detailed information. Click [here to complete the flu shot consent form](#) up to 48 hours prior to getting the shot. This week's [UAMS COVID Update](#) has lots of information about where and when you can conveniently get your COVID booster and flu shot.

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Leadership Appointments

Associate Dean for Analysis, Planning and Strategic Program Development

Beatrice Boateng, Ph.D., will help ensure implementation of the college's strategic goals in the newly established post of Associate Dean for Analysis, Planning and Strategic Program Development. Dr. Boateng, a Professor of **Pediatrics**, previously served in a number of leadership positions, including Assistant dean for Faculty Affairs.

“Dr. Boateng has provided expert assessment and evaluation for programs at the department, institute and college level at UAMS for more than a decade,” said Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean **Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.** “We have seen the impact of what she brings to the table at every level.”

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Beatrice Boateng, Ph.D.

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New Faculty



Kyle Stoner, M.D., has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.

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Eric Enemark, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** as an Associate Professor.

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Ashim Bagchi, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Instructor and researcher in the Division of **Cardiology**.

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Munawwar Hussain, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and hospitalist in the **Hematology/Oncology** Division.
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Jaskirat Sethi, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and hospitalist in the **Hematology/Oncology** Division.
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Shirisha Ale, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hospital Medicine**.
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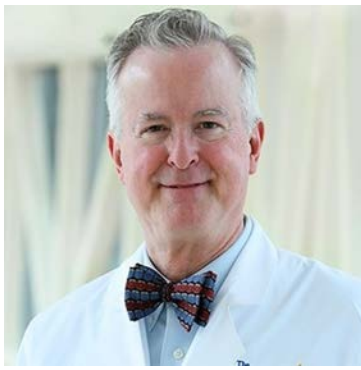
Sindhu Malapati, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Medical Oncology**.
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Krishna Kakkera, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor specializing in critical care in the **Pulmonary Division**.
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Tarek Bakdash, M.D., has joined the Department of **Neurology** as an Assistant Professor and neurohospitalist.
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Paul Darden, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as a Professor in the Division of **Community Pediatrics** and Director of Population Health for Arkansas Children's. [READ MORE](#)



Samrat Roy Choudhury, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology/Oncology**. [READ MORE](#)



Andrew Morris, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology** as a Professor. [READ MORE](#)



Adam Wolfe, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Radiation Oncology** as an Assistant Professor. [READ MORE](#)



Lindsey Wolf, M.D., MPH, has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Pediatric Surgery**. [READ MORE](#)



Julie Riley, M.D., has joined the Department of **Urology** as an Associate Professor and Residency Program Director. [READ MORE](#)

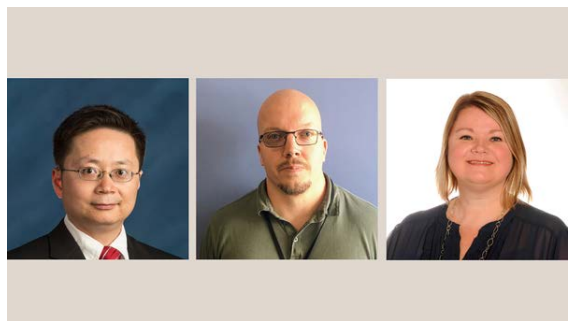
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Recent Grants & Research



UAMS and its affiliate research institutions saw research funding grow by 12.2% this past year, with \$177.4 million in grants by the end of the fiscal year on June 30. It is the second consecutive year with double-digit increases in research funding that comes from outside the institution.

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ACRI and UAMS have received \$7.2 million in funding over five years from NIH to continue their participation in the nationwide HEALthy Brain and Child Development (HBCD) Study. Lead Arkansas investigators are **Xiawei Ou, Ph.D.**, **Ashley Acheson, Ph.D.**, and **Lorraine McKelvey, Ph.D.**

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Brian Koss, Ph.D., a researcher with the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute and Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is the state's first recipient of the prestigious NIH Director's Early Independence Award.

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Researchers at UAMS and the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement have been awarded a \$1.3 million NIH grant to study medical marijuana utilization in Arkansas. **Teresa Hudson, Ph.D., Pharm.D.**, and **Joe Thompson, M.D.**, are Co-PIs.

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A UAMS research team led by **Ruud P.M. Dings, Ph.D., M.Sc.**, will use a nearly \$2 million National Cancer Institute grant to study promising new ways to improve the effectiveness of a common cancer treatment for patients lacking beneficial gut bacteria.

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Kevin D. Phelan, Ph.D., and **Tiffany W. Huitt, Ph.D.**, received "DART" seed grants from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission's Division of Science and Technology for a project to increase Arkansas students' knowledge about data science.

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Recent grants to the **Institute for Digital Health and Innovation**, led by **Joseph Sanford, M.D.**, include [\\$982,589 from the FCC](#) to facilitate digital health services for 34 hospitals and clinics in rural communities, and [\\$975,000 from HRSA](#) to support the South Central Telehealth Resource Center, led by **Hari Eswaran, Ph.D.**, in its ongoing efforts to expand digital health services in rural communities.



The Arkansas Breast Cancer Research Program (ABCRP) awarded grants totaling \$400,000 to four researchers at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute: **Samantha Kendrick, Ph.D.**, **Jesus Delgado-Calle, Ph.D.**, **Ruud Dings, Ph.D., M.Sc.**, and **Yong-Moon "Mark" Park, M.D., Ph.D.**

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Congratulations to the following 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, as well as grants we have previously reported and those highlighted above.

Sufna Gheyara John, Ph.D., Department of **Psychiatry**, VOCA: ARBEST 2021, US Department of Justice, (9/21/2021 – 9/30/2022), \$226,868.

Pearl McElfish, Ph.D., **Northwest Regional Campus**, Ajjmuur Baamle Family DSMES, DHHS – Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, (9/21/2021 – 9/29/2022), \$1,498,560.

Mark Smeltzer, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Defining the role of post-translational regulation, NIH/NIAID, (9/23/2021 – 8/31/2026), \$2,259,366.

Ashley Acheson, Ph.D., Department of **Psychiatry**, PRELUDE, NIH/NIDA, (9/28/2021 – 6/30/2026), \$334,771. Pass through from ACRI.

Hari Eswaran, Ph.D., Department of **Obstetrics and Gynecology**, Magnetoencephalography diabetic pregnancies, NIH, (9/7/2021 – 8/31/2025), \$1,520,000.

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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:

Lana Abusalem	Diane Jarrett	Erika Petersen
Maria Almeida	Adam Johnson	Emily Phelps
Muhammad Athar	Alissa Kanaan	Christian Ponder
Omar Atiq	Katie Kimbrough	Michael Powell
Lowry Barnes	Deanne King	Arpan Prabhu
Kimberlyn Blann	Shashank Kraleti	Emily Ray
Sheena CarlLee	Molly Kyle	Sharon Reece
Harrison Cobb	Anvesh Kompelli	Gresham Richter
Carolina Coleman	Brian Koss	Juan Carlos Rico
Herschel Conaway	Tim Langford	José Romero
Joan Cranmer	Jeannette Lee	Tariq Salem
Paige Dailey	Chris Lesher	Adam Sandlin
Jason Dare	Xuehua Li	Angela Scott
Ryan Dare	Rani Lindberg	Sarah Sobik
Kyle Davis	Bruno Machado	Tony Seupaul
Rodney Davis	Michael Mancino	Allen C. Sherman
Erica Dewey	Erin Mannen	Gregory Snead
Gerald Diemel	Nirvana Manning	Thomas Soehner
John Dornhoffer	Swapna Manyam	Jeffrey Stambough
Andrea Easom	Brad Martin	Jumin Sunde
Travis Eastin	Tommy Martin	Morgan Sweere
Chris Fettes	J.L. Mehta	Mary Timbang
Vicki Flynn	Paulette Mehta	Ozlem Tulunay-Ugur
J. Reed Gardner	Tyler Merrill	Bill Ventres
Stephanie Gardner	Erick Messias	Frits van Rhee
Brian Gittens	Skye Miner	Karthika Veerapaneni
Johnathan Goree	Samantha Mohler	Dinesh Voruganti
Sarah Greenberger	Eric Moorehead	Emre Vural
Laura Guidry-Grimes	Mauricio Moreno	Jamie Watson
Li Han	Lucas Nalley	Andre Wineland
Larry Hartzell	Sriram Navuluri	Cole Wood
Corey Hayes	Intawat Nookaew	Theresa Wyrick
Kayla Heidbrink	Eduardo Ochoa	Jinhu Xiong
Ronda Henry-Tillman	Jon Oden	
Micah Hester	Yetunde Ogunesan	
Blake Hollowoa	Metu Osele	

COM departments represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology	Ophthalmology
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Orthopaedic Surgery
Biomedical Informatics	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Biostatistics	Pediatrics
Emergency Medicine	Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation
Family/Preventive Medicine	Physiology/Cell Biology
Internal Medicine	Psychiatry
Medical Humanities/Bioethics	Radiation Oncology
Neurology	Surgery
Neurosurgery	Urology
Obstetrics/Gynecology	

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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*.

[Comments? Ideas? Email Us!](#)



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