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Season's Greetings!

With gratitude to all of you who are going the extra mile to make someone's holidays a little brighter



*Pictured: Some of the many preschoolers who received toys, clothes and other items because of the generosity of UAMS team members. **Sharanda Williams**, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity, has led House of Delegates projects like this for 15 years. Kudos to all of you who give so generously during the holidays and throughout the year.*

Congratulations to our New Distinguished Professors!



Four leaders in research and education in the College of Medicine have been promoted to the esteemed faculty rank of Distinguished Professor by the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees:

Gwen V. Childs, Ph.D., who has served as Chair of the Department of **Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences** since 2000 and is internationally recognized for her work in endocrine and pituitary gland regulation and cytophysiology.

Lawrence E. Cornett, Ph.D., who has advanced the research enterprise at UAMS and in Arkansas through numerous leadership roles during his 41 years on the faculty and continues to serve in the Department of **Physiology and Cell Biology**.

Fred W. Prior, Ph.D., who has chaired the Department of **Biomedical Informatics** since 2015 and is internationally recognized for his expertise in cancer imaging, including his leadership in the development of a National Cancer Institute-funded public database.

Nancy J. Rusch, Ph.D., who has chaired the Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology** since 2005 and has served as Executive Associate Dean for Research since January 2021, in addition to leading many scientific training initiatives.

“We are exceptionally fortunate to have these leaders on our faculty,” said **Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.**, Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean. “Dr. Childs, Dr. Cornett, Dr. Prior and Dr. Rusch hail from different fields of biomedical research and education, but they all share a strong commitment to rigorous, high-quality science and ensuring the best possible training for the next generation of physicians and researchers.”

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New Emeritus Professors

The College of Medicine also congratulates our retired faculty members who were awarded Professor Emeritus status by the Board of Trustees!

Patrick H. Casey, M.D. (Pediatrics)

Timothy C. Chambers, Ph.D. (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)

James E. McDonald, M.D. (Former Chair, Radiology)

Richard W. Nicholas, M.D. (Orthopaedic Surgery)

Christopher T. Westfall, M.D. (Former Chair, Ophthalmology; Director, Jones Eye Institute; Dean, College of Medicine)

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Leadership Appointments

Chair, Department of Pediatric and Special Needs Dentistry

Kirt Simmons, D.D.S., Ph.D., has been appointed Chair of the Department of **Pediatric and Special Needs Dentistry**. Dr. Simmons previously was Interim Chair since August 2020, after serving UAMS and Arkansas Children's for many years. He is nationally recognized for his expertise.

"I am delighted that Dr. Simmons has agreed to take on this role," said **Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.**, UAMS Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Medicine. "A longtime leader at UAMS and Arkansas Children's, he has done a wonderful job as Interim Chair."

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Kirt Simmons, D.D.S., Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor for Regional Campuses



Richard Turnage, M.D.

Richard Turnage, M.D., Executive Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs in the College of Medicine, has been named UAMS Vice Chancellor for Regional Campuses. Dr. Turnage, a Professor in the Department of **Surgery**, also will also continue to serve as Interim Chair of the Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine**.

"Richard is a proven leader here at UAMS," said **Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA**, UAMS Chancellor and CEO of UAMS Health. "I know he will do great things as Vice Chancellor for Regional Campuses."

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New Faculty



Kalaivani Sivakumar, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Cardiovascular Medicine**.

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Shani Worrell, Ed.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Community Health and Research**.

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Bhavana Sharma, M.D., has joined the Department of **Neurology** as an Assistant Professor.

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Recent Grants



MATERNAL DIABETES & NEURODEVELOPMENT | With funding from a \$1.5 million NIH grant, researchers led by **Hari Eswaran, Ph.D.**, are working to gain insights about the impact of maternal diabetes on fetal neurodevelopment.

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TELEHEALTH TRAINING | The South Central Telehealth Resource Center at UAMS is opening five satellite training centers with support from grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

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OPIOID TREATMENT | UAMS has received \$3 million from the Arkansas Department of Human Services to compensate facilities for providing opioid use disorder patients with medication-assisted treatment.

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

Jason Stumhofer, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, Design of a B cell tetramer to track PfMSP2, NIH/NIAID, (11/1/2021-10/31/2023), \$152,000.

Tiffany Miles, Ph.D., Department of **Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences**, The Role of Musashi, a Leptin Target, in Neonatal, Arkansas Children's Hospital, (7/1/2022-6/30/2023), \$30,000.

Grants Support Mental Health Professionals Training



UAMS has received grants from Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield and the Blue & You Foundation to help meet the need for additional qualified mental health providers and improve access to behavioral health services across Arkansas.

A \$62,000 grant will support the creation of a behavioral health training curriculum for social workers, psychologists and other mental health professionals integrated into UAMS Primary Care. (**Tisha Deen, Ph.D.**, Department of **Psychiatry/Integrated Medicine Service Line**, project lead)

A \$147,791 grant will train UAMS family medicine residents in Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), making it more widely available for rural and underserved populations. (**Bill Ventres, M.D., M.A.**, and **Isis Martel, M.S.**, Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine**, project leads)

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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:

Noor Akhter	Ronda Henry-Tillman	Connor Purvis
Subhi Al'Aref	Thomas Heye	Lisa Richardson
Duah Alkam	Kayln Holloway	Gresham Richter
Kapil Arya	Madison Howe	Ron Robertson
Julius Balogh	Tiffany Huit	Analiz Rodriguez
Lowry Barnes	Kelsey Hundley	Husam Salah
Vanessa Bastidas	Tina Ipe	Ahmed Sallam
Steve Boone	Kyle Jackson	James Sellars
J.D. Bridgforth	Nishank Jain	Tony Seupaul
Mary Brown	Hanna Jensen	Aryan Shay
Heather Broyles	Jerrilyn Jones	Vivian Shi
Hui-Ming Chang	Sangam Kandel	Jacob Siebenmorgen
Gwen Childs	Josh Kennedy	Gideon Singleton
Thomas Cannon	Anvesh Kompelli	Mark Smeltzer
Sid Dassinger	Chrystal Lau	Jessica Snowden
David Davies	Ricardo Lopez Castellanos	Crystal Sparks
Alanna Davis	Randy Maddox	Olivia Speed
Kyle Davis	Victor Mandoff	Jeffrey Stambough
J.D. Day	Todd Maxson	Krista Stephenson
Philip Dockery	Sacha McBain	Mohsin Syed
Gina Drobena	Pearl McElfish	Alan Tackett
Carly Eastin	Simon Mears	Sara Tariq
Travis Eastin	Edgar Meyer	Mary Timbang
Abdel Elhousseiny	Samantha Mohler	Vi Tran
James Reed Gardner	Elise Moix	Merit Turner
Stephanie Gardner	Calie Morrison	David Ussery
Molly Gathright	Kayla Nevala	Keyur Vyas
Celeste Gibson	T. Glenn Pait	John "Nick" Wary
Johnathan Goree	Cam Patterson	Megan White
Kristie Hadden	Erika Petersen	John Wilson
Hoda Hagrass	Kevin Phelan	Andre Wineland
Timothy Hardaway	Paul Phillips	Deidre Wyrick
Caitlin Harty	Rebecca Philpott	Edward Yeh
Lana Hasan		

COM departments represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology	Neurosurgery
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Ophthalmology
Biomedical Informatics	Orthopaedic Surgery
Dermatology	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Emergency Medicine	Pathology
Internal Medicine	Pediatrics
Medical Humanities/Bioethics	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Microbiology/Immunology	Psychiatry
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences	Surgery
Neurology	

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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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