

*Editor's Note: This archived PDF version of the e-newsletter does not precisely match the layout of the original email version. However, most of the links to articles and other content remain active.*



February 2022

**GO TO:** [In the Spotlight](#) | [Leadership Appointments](#) | [New Faculty](#) | [Recent Grants](#) | [Accolades](#) | [Comments for the Dean](#)

## Good News is on the Way!



Life-changing letters for the future Class of 2026 went out Friday, Feb. 25. The annual trek to the UAMS mailroom follows many months of hard work by the Admissions Team and Admissions Committee, along with 224 faculty members and 47 senior medical students who participated in applicant interviews. Of more than 2,700 initial AMCAS applications, the Admissions Committee considered over 1,300, and 405 of those applicants were interviewed.

Kudos to Assistant Dean for Admissions **Tom South** (pictured above, right); **Jeanne McLachlin, Ph.D.**, Director of Admissions and Recruitment (center); and team members **Kimberlyn Blann** (left) and **Tammy Henson** (not pictured).

Special thanks to our Admissions Committee members:

**Bobby McGehee, Ph.D. (Chair)**  
**Amy Cahill, M.D.**  
**Romona Davis, M.D.**  
**Johnathan Goree, M.D.**  
**Sarah Beth Harrington, M.D.**  
**Rebecca Latch, M.D.**  
**Corey Montgomery, M.D.**

**David Ratcliff, M.D.**  
**Sheldon Riklon, M.D.**  
**Analiz Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D.**  
**Richard Turnage, M.D.**  
**Susan Ward-Jones, M.D.**  
**Richard Wheeler, M.D.**  
**Alan Wilson, M.D.**

[Back to the Top](#)

## In the Spotlight

### Ensuring Good Health for All



Dean **Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.**, and **Omar Atiq, M.D.**, Professor of **Internal Medicine** and **Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery**, discussed why it is so important to strive to eliminate health disparities in Dr. Smyth's latest "Spotlight on Excellence" interview.

Dr. Atiq has just been [voted President-Elect](#) of the American College of Physicians (ACP) and has been a leader in ACP initiatives to address disparities. You can [watch the video here](#), and check out previous videos on the [Spotlight on Excellence webpage](#).

[Back to the Top](#)

## Leadership Appointments

**Psychiatry Chair & Psychiatric Research Institute Director**



**Laura B. Dunn, M.D.**, began serving as Professor and Chair of the Department of **Psychiatry** and Director of the **Psychiatric Research Institute** on Feb. 1. She served most recently as Professor and Section Chief for Geriatric Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Dunn join UAMS as we continue to enhance our excellent clinical, research and education programs in psychiatry," said Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean **Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.** "In addition

to her leadership experience across these mission areas, Dr. Dunn brings extensive clinical and research expertise in geriatric psychiatry and psycho-oncology." Dr. Dunn's appointment was [announced last November](#).

[Back to the Top](#)

## New Faculty



**Rushita Bagchi, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and researcher in the Division of **Cardiovascular Medicine**.

[READ MORE](#)



**Justin Hire, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon at Arkansas Children's Northwest in Springdale.

[READ MORE](#)



**Felicia Allard, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pathology** as an Associate Professor in the **GI** and **Cytopathology** divisions.

[READ MORE](#)



**Aaron Carson, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor. [READ MORE](#)



**Brian Kirkpatrick, M.D., MSPH**, has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as a Professor. [READ MORE](#)



**Brian Mooney, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor. [READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

## Recent Grants



**BUILDING VACCINE CONFIDENCE** | UAMS has been awarded a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund COVID-19 outreach efforts aimed at strengthening vaccine confidence in medically underserved and vulnerable communities across the state.

[READ MORE](#)

*Congratulations to COM faculty who received new extramural grants in January. This monthly 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.*

**Larry Johnson, M.D.**, Department of **Internal Medicine**, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Therapeutics Development, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, (4/1/2022-3/1/2023), \$131,510.



# 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](#).

## Team members and students named in Accolades this month:

Sumera Ali	Charles James	Joanna Seibert
Jennifer Andersen	Sufna John	James Selig
Aline Andres	Larry Johnson	Taren Swindle
Muhammad Athar	Kirsten Johnston	Alan Tackett
Omar Atiq	Joyce Joseph	Billy Thomas
Keneshia Bryant-Moore	Brandon Leding	Richard Turnage
Indranil "Neil" Chakraborty	Spencer Lewis	George Vilanilam
Jim Clardy	Christopher Long	Tuhin Virmani
Megan Clark	Joana Mack	Jasna Vuk
Geoffrey Curran	Everett "Pat" Magann	Renisha Ward
J.D. Day	Todd Maxson	Amy Wenger
Marcy Doderer	Pearl McElfish	Alexis White
Kathy Dyck	J.L. Mehta	Julie Whittington
Nicola Edge	Isabelle Racine Miousse	Sharanda Williams
Nadir El Sharawi	J. Paul Mounsey	Don Willis
Holly Felix	Lauren "Clai" Morehead	Deidre Wyrick
Molly Gathright	Kevin Raney	Laxmi Yeruva
Hoda Hagrass	Gloria Richard-Davis	Razvan Zemianschi
Curran Henson	Analiz Rodriguez	Melissa Zielinski

## COM departments represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Pathology
Family/Preventive Medicine	Pediatrics
Geriatrics	Physiology/Cell Biology
Internal Medicine	Psychiatry
Neurology	Radiology
Neurosurgery	Surgery

# Comments for the Dean

**Comments for the Dean** is an online portal for UAMS College of Medicine faculty, staff, trainees, and students to share suggestions, concerns or questions with Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean Dr. Susan Smyth. You can submit your comment anonymously if you choose, or provide your name and email so that Dr. Smyth can respond to you. Your submission will go directly to Dr. Smyth's inbox. Thank you for sharing your insights!

[SEND DR. SMYTH A COMMENT](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

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!](#)

**UAMS** | College of Medicine



UAMS College of Medicine | 4301 W. Markham, #550 | Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

[Back to the Top](#)