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July 2022

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Making our Mark in Primary Care



Dear COM Team,

I am pleased to share a new video in our Spotlight on Excellence Series, an interview with **Dr. James Graham**, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, on our college's growing reputation as one of the nation's best medical schools for primary care. This year, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked UAMS 36th out of 192 medical schools for primary care education and generating much-needed primary care physicians to serve in rural areas and other locations where they are needed most. In our interview, Dr. Graham explains the significance of this impressive ranking, some of our key efforts relating to primary care, and how we are striving to do even better.

Many of you have been a part of this national accomplishment and will continue to be key to our efforts in the future. Thank you. And I encourage all COM team members to share this good news. An easy way is to download and add this [U.S. News graphic](#) to your email signature. For additional images, contact COMInternalCommunications@uams.edu.

Click on the video image above or here for the [Spotlight on Excellence video](#).

Susan

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



RANKED 36TH IN THE NATION FOR PRIMARY CARE

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High Honors



NEWLY INVESTED | **J. Paul Mounsey, BM BCh, Ph.D.**, was invested as the inaugural holder of the Don and Carolyn Kirkpatrick Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine on July 19. Dr. Mounsey has made strides in growing cardiovascular programs at UAMS since his recruitment as Professor and Director of the Division of **Cardiovascular Medicine** in 2019. He is a nationally recognized expert in managing complex heart rhythm disturbances.

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New Faculty

Please join us in welcoming these recent additions to the College of Medicine faculty – and watch for introductions of more faculty members who are joining us this summer in upcoming issues of the *COMmunication*!



Jonathan Aronson, M.D., has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.
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Ramya Bachu, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and hospitalist in the Division of **Hematology/ Oncology, Multiple Myeloma** Section.
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Anusha Jillella, M.B.B.S., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology/Oncology**.
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Tanvi Patel, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and hospitalist in the Division of **Hematology/ Oncology, Multiple Myeloma** Section.
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Cesar Gentile Sanchez, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology/Oncology**.
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Sunny Singh, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology/Oncology**.
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Chitra Nadagoundla, M.B.B.S., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hospital Medicine**.

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Venkata Manchala, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and transplant nephrologist in the Division of **Nephrology**.

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Emily Newsome, D.O., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Palliative Medicine**.

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Siddharthan Vaithilingam, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Instructor and Interventional Pulmonary Fellow in the Division of **Pulmonary and Critical Care**.

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Lana Abusalem, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Instructor and Chief Resident in the Division of **General Internal Medicine**.

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Husam Salah, M.B.B.S., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Instructor and Chief Resident in the Division of **General Internal Medicine**.

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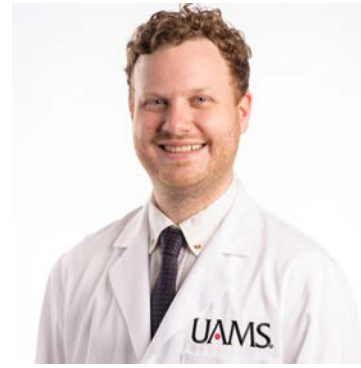
Thomas "Ples" Spradley, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Instructor and Chief Resident in the Division of **General Internal Medicine**.

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KyoungHyun Kim, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology** as an Assistant Professor.

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Payton Lea, M.D., has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor.

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Recent Grants



**Arkansas
Children's**
Research Institute



BIG DATA TO IMPROVE CARE FOR KIDS | The National Institutes of Health has awarded \$11.5 million in Phase II funding to the **Arkansas Children's Research Institute** based on the successes of the **Center for Translational Pediatric Research**, established five years ago under the leadership of **Alan Tackett, Ph.D.**, Professor of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**. The center applies a cutting-edge systems biology approach to understand how diseases like cancer form in children's developing bodies.

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DIGITAL HEALTH | The UAMS Institute for Digital Health & Innovation recently received a \$737,882 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to purchase equipment to support long-distance learning opportunities at 36 sites around the state, including six prisons.

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Additional Extramural Awards

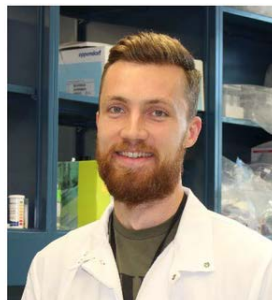
Congratulations to the College of Medicine faculty members who received new extramural grants in June. This list, courtesy of the Office of the Executive Associate Dean for Research, excludes clinical trials and awards under \$10,000, as well as grants we have previously reported and those highlighted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

Rohit Dhall, M.D., Department of **Neurology**, Parkinson's Foundation Award, Parkinson's Foundation, (7/1/2022-6/30/2023), \$40,000.

Susan Emmett, M.D., M.P.H., Department of **Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery**, North STAR Trial: Specialty Telemedicine Access for Referrals in Rural Alaska, NIH/NIDOD, (7/1/2022-6/30/2026), \$3,089,912.



Adam Price, MD



Daniel Sadler, PhD

POSTGRADUATE AWARDS | The Arkansas Children's Research Institute has announced **Adam Price, M.D.**, and **Daniel Sadler, Ph.D.**, as the 2022 recipients of the ACRI/ABI Postgraduate Research Awards.

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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:

Murat Aydin
Giulia Baldini
Beatrice Boateng
Jonathan Bona
Renee Bornemeier
Mathias Brochhausen
Vignesh Chidambaram
Tonia Cox
Mari Davidson
Carly Eastin
Susan Emmett
Emily Freeman
Thomas Harkey

Micah Hester
Susanne Jeffus
Donald Johann
Shashank Kraleti
Amudha Kumar
J.L. Mehta
Erick Messias
Paul Mounsey
Tresor Mukiza
Viktoras Palys
Kevin Phelan
Fred Prior
Reine Protacio

Kevin Raney
Veronica Raney
Gresham Richter
Husam Salah
Catherine Shoults
Ryan Strebeck
Wayne Wahls
Wes Watkins
Mike Wilson
Amanda Young
Vladimir Zharov

COM departments represented in Accolades this month:

Biomedical Informatics
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
Emergency Medicine
Family/Preventive Medicine
Internal Medicine
Medical Humanities/Bioethics
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences
Neurosurgery
Obstetrics/Gynecology

Orthopaedic Surgery
Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Pathology
Pediatrics
Pharmacology/Toxicology
Psychiatry
Physiology/Cell Biology
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*.

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

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