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The Monthly Newsletter for  
Faculty, Staff and Friends of the  
UAMS College of Medicine

UAMS  
College of Medicine

# COMmunication

June 2022

GO TO: Leadership Appointments | New Faculty | Recent Grants | Accolades

## Congratulations

TO ALL OF THE GRADUATING UAMS  
**RESIDENTS & FELLOWS!**



**WE COULDN'T BE PROUDER** of the 189 housestaff who graduated from College of Medicine GME programs this month, along with 54 physicians in Family Medicine residencies and the Sports Medicine fellowship at UAMS Regional Centers, and the 24 inaugural Family Medicine and Internal Medicine graduates of the Baptist Health-UAMS Medical Education Program. Congratulations and best wishes to all!

Some of our fantastic graduating residents and fellows are featured in the graphic above. From left: Orthopaedic Surgery Residency; Baptist-UAMS Family Medicine Residency ; Geriatrics Fellowship; Anesthesiology Residency.



**RESIDENCY CELEBRATIONS & HONORS** | We look forward to highlighting GME graduation celebrations and the honors and awards presented to exemplary graduates and educators in upcoming editions of *Accolades*. We invite Program Directors and Coordinators to share details of your year-end celebrations using this [template](#).

[Back to the Top](#)

**Leadership Appointments**

## COM Office of Research | Vice Dean for Research



**Jessica Snowden, M.D., M.S., MHPTT**, Professor and Chief of the Division of **Pediatric Infectious Diseases**, will begin serving as Vice Dean for Research on July 1. She succeeds **Nancy Rusch, Ph.D.**, who is stepping down from the post to focus on her critical leadership roles as Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology** and co-director of programs in the Translational Research Institute (TRI) in view of the upcoming CTSA renewal.

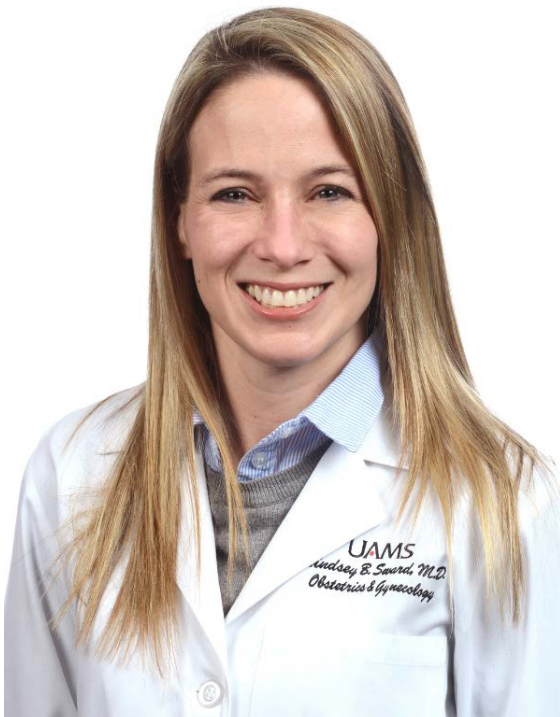
“Dr. Rusch has done an outstanding job as Vice Dean for Research, and

she will remain involved in the COM Office of Research,” Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean **Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.**, said in an announcement to faculty.

“Dr. Snowden brings stellar research experience to her new role,” Dr. Smyth said, noting that she is a nationally recognized expert in pediatric infectious diseases and pediatric clinical and translational research. Dr. Snowden has held numerous leadership roles at UAMS and Arkansas Children’s since her recruitment in 2018.

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## Assistant Dean for Clinical Education



**Lindsey Sward, M.D.**, Associate Professor of **Obstetrics and Gynecology**, has been appointed Assistant Dean for Clinical Education. In this newly created position, Dr. Sward will lead efforts to continue and improve the college’s work of producing highly skilled, compassionate physicians for Arkansas.

“With the recent expansion of the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus, the addition of a three-year accelerated M.D. track aimed at producing more primary care physicians, and our growth across the state, this position

will help us ensure that we provide consistent and excellent clinical instruction for all of our medical students,” said Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean **Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.**, and **James Graham, M.D.**, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. “Dr. Sward brings exceptional teaching skills and a strong commitment to our educational mission to her new post.”

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## Chief, Division of Gastroenterology



**Mauricio Garcia Saenz de Sicilia, M.D.**, has rejoined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Associate Professor and Chief of the Division of **Gastroenterology and Hepatology**. He served most recently on the faculty at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

“We are pleased to recruit Dr. Garcia back to UAMS to transform the delivery of gastroenterology service in Little Rock and the state of Arkansas,” said **Edward T.H. Yeh, M.D.**, Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine. “He will also play a pivotal role in strengthening the liver transplantation service at UAMS.”

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## Director, Center for Hearing Health Equity



**Susan Emmett, M.D., MPH**, has joined the Department of **Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery** as an Associate Professor and Director of the new UAMS Center for Hearing Health Equity. Dr. Emmett holds a secondary appointment in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health Department of Epidemiology.

“Dr. Emmett is a star in our field, with a national and international reputation,” said **John Dornhoffer, M.D.**, Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. “As one of the most successful NIH-funded ENT surgeons in the country, she will help

UAMS quickly become a leader in research involving hearing health disparities both in Arkansas and abroad. I am extremely excited to have been able to recruit a physician scientist of her caliber.”

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[Back to the Top](#)

## New Faculty



**Joonas Jamsen, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** as an Assistant Professor.

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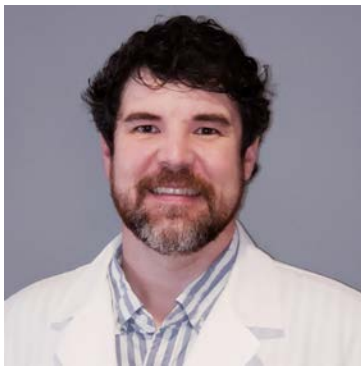
**Peter DeNero, Ph.D., MPH**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Community Health and Research**.

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**Mina Nguyen-Driver, Psy.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as a Professor in the Division of **Pediatric Psychology** at the Schmieding Developmental Center.

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**Ryan Allen, Ph.D.**, will join the Department of **Physiology and Cell Biology** on July as an Assistant Professor.

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**Neha Dole, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Physiology and Cell Biology** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Amy Sato, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Physiology and Cell Biology** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Sabina M. DeMarco Siddiqui, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Associate Professor in the Division of **Pediatric Surgery** practicing at Arkansas Children's Northwest.

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[Back to the Top](#)

## Recent Grants



**SHEDDING LIGHT ON EFFECTS OF BURN PITS** | More than 300 Arkansas veterans will become part of a new study conducted by UAMS and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System to determine if exposure to open-pit burning and molecular level changes are associated with chronic health conditions. The four-year, \$2.9 million Department of Defense-funded study is being led by **Shuk-Mei Ho, Ph.D.**, and **Kalpana Padala, M.D.**

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**ARSENIC EXPOSURE & INFERTILITY** | **Shuk-Mei Ho, Ph.D.**, and **Yuet-Kin "Ricky" Leung, Ph.D.**, are leading a first-of-its-kind study that will test when exposure to inorganic arsenic, a common, harmful environmental toxin, is most likely to lead to infertility traits that may last for generations. The study is supported with a five-year, \$2.54 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

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**CONNECTING THE DOTS** | A possible link between gammaherpesviruses and lymphomas will receive further study at UAMS with a five-year, \$1.25 million grant renewal from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) awarded to **Craig Forrest, Ph.D.**, Professor of **Microbiology and Immunology**.

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**DNA SEQUENCE CODES** | **Wayne Wahls, Ph.D.**, Professor of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, has received a \$1.69 million, four-year grant from the NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), "Systematic elucidation of DNA sequence codes."



**RAPID INFO TO FIGHT INFECTION** | **Se-Ran Jun, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of **Biomedical Informatics**, is developing real-time and accurate genomic methods that can be used to deliver life-saving information to doctors treating antibiotic-resistant infections, with support from a \$418,000 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

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[Back to the Top](#)

**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	Joseph Henske	Jon Oden
Greg Albert	Kerri Hill	Angela Odle
Bader Alkharisi	Laura Hobart-Porter	Matthew Osburn
Maria Almeida	Laura Hollenbach	Kalpana Padala
Anil Anandam	Tiffany Huitt	Amanda Pangle
Julie Atkins	Srividhya Iyer	Lina Patel
Gohar Azhar	Sakiru Isa	Fred Perkins
David Becton	Lee Isaac	Joni Pharis
Teresita Bellido	Jaleesa Jackson	Paula Podrazik
R. Dale Blasier	Akilah Jefferson-Shah	Filipa Ponte
Richard Blaszak	Hanna Jensen	Steven Post
Elisabet Borsheim	Onna Lau	Caitlin Price
Theodore Brown	Gary Lewis	Roopa Ram
Samuel Byrd	Morten Olgaard Jensen	Brian Reemtsen
Stephen Canon	Bhawna Jha	Samantha Kleindienst
John Carroll	Stan Kellar	Robler
Stormie Carter	Thomas Kelly	Lori Salibury
Steve Cherney	Ha-Neui Kim	Ronald Sanders Jr.
Gwen Childs	Jeannette Lee	Troy Schmit
Karina Clemmons	Win Lubana	Thomas Schulz
Catherine Corless	Nathan Lucas	Paul Seib
Lawrence Cornett	Lee Ann MacMillan-	Manisha Singh
Ann Creel	Crowe	Melissa Slater
Allison Curtis	Angus MacNicol	Candy Snellgrove
Jesús Delgado-Calle	Melanie MacNicol	Kathryn Stambough
Karen Dickinson	Erin Mannen	Alison Stangeby
Ruofei Du	Nirvana Manning	Ben Stronach
Laura Dunn	Stavros Manolagas	Emir Tas
Dinesh Edem	Brad Martin	Michael Thomsen
Amy Eisenberg	Mollie Meek	Richard Turnage
Carla Elmore	J.L. Mehta	Carol Thrush
Susan Emmett	Paulette Mehta	David Ussery
Taylor Farnan	Priya Mendiratta	Muthu Veeraputhiran
Scott Fleck	Astryd A. Menendez	Jerry Ware
Eva Diaz Fuentes	Ann Marie Mercier	Aaron Warren
Stephanie Gardner	Jill Mhyre	Becky Watkins-Bregy
Julea Garner	Tiffany Miles	Monica Watson
Horacio Gomez-Acevedo	Jason Mizell	Jeanne Wei
Johnathan Goree	Ben Muse	Chris Westfall
Nicholas Gowen	Ganesh Narayanasamy	Kari White
Li Han	Stephen Nix	Fen Xia
Elizabeth Hanson	Intawat Nookaew	Melissa Yandell
Danish Hasan	Eylem Öcal	Sheryl Young

**COM departments represented in Accolades this month:**



Anesthesiology  
Biomedical Informatics  
Biostatistics  
Emergency Medicine  
Family Medicine  
Geriatrics  
Internal Medicine  
Medical Humanities/Bioethics  
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences  
Neurology  
Neurosurgery

Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery  
Pathology  
Pediatrics  
Physiology/Cell Biology  
Psychiatry  
Radiation Oncology  
Radiology  
Surgery

[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!](#)



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[Back to the Top](#)