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

UAMS  
College of Medicine

# COMmunication

August 2022

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## Say Hello to the Class of 2026!

The College of Medicine welcomed the 188 members of the Class of 2026 this month, and the celebratory mood was all the more joyful with an in-person White Coat Ceremony after two years of virtual events due to the pandemic. In a historic first, freshmen donned their white coats on stage in Fayetteville as well as in Little Rock. During Freshman Orientation, class members paused for a group photo on Hooper Drive (above). Below are just a few of the moments from the White Coat Ceremony. [READ MORE](#)



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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 and fall in upcoming issues of the *COMmunication*!



**Tudor Moldoveanu, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** as an Associate Professor.  
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**Onna Lau, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Geriatrics** as an Assistant Professor.  
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**Emily Holthoff, M.D., Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **General Internal Medicine**.  
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**Trilok Shrivastava, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as a hospitalist and Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology/Oncology**.  
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**Rashi Krishnan, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Neurology** as an Assistant Professor on the Stroke and Neurocritical Care team.  
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**Joel Dickens, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Obstetrics and Gynecology** as an Associate Professor in the Division of **General OB/GYN**.  
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**Mohammad Pakravan, M.D., MBA**, has joined the Department of **Ophthalmology** as an Associate Professor specializing in neuro-ophthalmology and glaucoma.

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**Riley Sanders, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Ophthalmology** as an Assistant Professor and retina specialist.

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**Janine Amos, D.O.**, has joined the Department of **Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery** as an Assistant Professor at Arkansas Children's Northwest.

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**Samantha Kleindienst Robler, Au.D., Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery** as an Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Center for Hearing Health Equity.

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**Robert A. Saadi, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Linda Dawn Murphy, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the **Hospital Medicine** Division.

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**Daniel Liu, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the **Clinical Informatics** Division.  
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**Lee Isaac, Psy.D.**, has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor in the **Psychology** Division.  
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**Caiti Maskrey, D.O.**, has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor.  
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**Abigail Richison, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Assistant Professor.  
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**Suryakala Buddha, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Diagnostic Imaging**.  
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**Lauren Story-Hefta, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Vascular and Endovascular Surgery**.  
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**Sonia Orcutt, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Surgical Oncology**.  
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**Recent Grants**



### **ANTIFUNGAL THERAPY FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED KIDS | Bill**

**Steinbach, M.D.**, Professor and Chair of the Department of **Pediatrics**, is Co-Principal Investigator on a \$9.7 million R01 award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The grant will fund a seven-year, multicenter study into short-course versus standard-course antifungal therapy for pediatric candidemia, a leading killer in patients with lowered immune systems. Dr. Steinbach is the founder and Director of the International Pediatric Fungal Network, which is conducting the study. The network's coordinating center is now housed in the Arkansas Children's Research Institute.

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**REDUCING EFFECTS OF RADIATION INJURIES** | UAMS has received \$3.4 million in funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study acute and delayed injuries caused by full-body radiation exposure from a nuclear accident or bioterrorism. The five-year study, “Platelets in Radiation-induced Immune Dysregulation,” is led by **Rupak Pathak, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of **Pharmaceutical Sciences**, Division of Radiation Health in the UAMS College of Pharmacy; **Martin Cannon, Ph.D.**, Professor of **Microbiology and Immunology** in the College of Medicine; and **Jerry Ware, Ph.D.**, Professor of **Physiology and Cell Biology** in the College of Medicine.

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## Extramural Awards

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

**Alison Oliveto, Ph.D.**, Department of **Psychiatry**, Effects of Ketamine on Tobacco Use Disorder, NIH/NIDA, (9/1/2022-8/31/2023), \$39,380. Pass through from Wake Forest University.

**Ha-Neui Kim, Ph.D.**, Department of **Internal Medicine**, Role of Mitochondrial Quality Control in Bone Homeostasis and Disease, NIH/NIAMSD, (8/1/2022-7/31/2027), \$336,600.

**Neha Dole, Ph.D.**, Department of **Physiology and Cell Biology**, Unraveling the Role of Osteocytes in Metabolic Dysfunction Associated with Obesity, NIH/NIDDK, (8/1/2022-7/31/2026), \$563,596.

# 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:

Amit Agarwal	Larry Hartzell	Paula Roberson
Salim Aljabari	Melissa Hicks-Wittman	Kaitlin Rose
Felicia Allard	Moriah Hollaway	Brian Russ
Nabeel Alwan	Laura Hollenbach	Sara Sanders
Jason Arthur	Hannah Hubbard	Weijia Shi
Shipra Bansal	Katherine Irby	Kirt Simmons
Claudia Barone	Hanna Jensen	Brittany Slagle
Teresita Bellido	Se-Ran Jun	Gregory Snead
Alex Belote	Noojan Kazemi	Seth Sorensen
Erin Bennett	Jonathan Laryea	Divya Citla-Sridhar
Ariel Berlinski	Becky Latch	Vikki Stefans
Nicolle Boswell	Chris Leshner	Matthew Steliga
Chase Brazeal	Zachary Lewis	Blaire Taggart
Tiffany Boyd	Lin-Xi Li	Sara Tariq
Rebecca Cantu	Mollie Meek	Dana Thomas
Vignesh Chidambaram	J.L. Mehta	Zulema Udaondo
Megan Clark	Sagar Mehta	Sarah Valdez
Jessica Coker	Miguel Mercado	Aravindhan
Jasmin Cotoco	Grover P. Miller	Veerapandiyan
Shelley Crary	Wanda Mitchell	Manasa Veluvolu
Bill Culp	Peter Mourani	Dan Voth
Shannon Dare	Conan Mustain	Wesley White
Jordan Davis	James Newton	Sharanda Williams
Eric Enemark	Spencer Parnell	Michael Wilson
Kindann Fawcett	Smit Patel	André Wineland
Patricia Franklin	Hakan Paydak	Lori Wong
Molly Gathright	Matthew Quick	Linda Worley
Caroline Geels	Shona Ray-Griffith	Eric Yee

## COM departments represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology	Pathology
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Pediatric/Special Needs Dentistry
Biomedical Informatics	Pediatrics
Biostatistics	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Emergency Medicine	Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation
Internal Medicine	Physiology/Cell Biology
Microbiology/Immunology	Psychiatry
Neurology	Surgery
Neurosurgery	Radiology
Obstetrics/Gynecology	Urology
Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery	

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 | 4301 W. Markham, #550 | Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

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