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Happy Thanksgiving from the College of Medicine!

November 2022

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GRATITUDE & REMEMBRANCE | The Freshman Class held a ceremony of remembrance on Nov. 14 to honor 37 individuals who contributed their bodies to UAMS and the Human Structure course that marked the start of their medical education. Above, members of the class sing a rendition of "Over the Rainbow." To commemorate each of the donors, a student representative placed a white carnation in a vase on stage. Watch for a story soon in the UAMS Newsroom.

In the Spotlight

[Endowed Chairs Honor Faculty, Philanthropic Partnerships](#)



AMS Distinguished Dean's Chair | Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Medicine, was invested in the Arkansas Medical Society Distinguished Dean's Chair on Nov. 9. The chair supports initiatives of the COM Dean and reflects the longstanding partnership and shared deep roots of the Arkansas Medical Society and UAMS. [READ MORE](#)



Mehta/Stebbins Chair in Cardiovascular Research | Andrew J. Morris, Ph.D., Professor of **Pharmacology and Toxicology**, was invested in the Mehta/Stebbins Chair in Cardiovascular Research on Nov. 9. Endowed in 2004, the chair was made possible by the late Howard and Elsie Stebbins. Distinguished Professor **J.L. Mehta, M.D., Ph.D.**, was the inaugural holder. [READ MORE](#)

2022 Dean's Distinguished Faculty Scholar Lecture

Dean's Distinguished Lectureship
2022 Faculty Scholar

"Novel Therapies for Food Allergy: A Model for Mentoring and Career Development"

4:00 p.m.
Thursday
December 8, 2022
Rahn 8240

Learning Objectives

- Expand understanding of food (peanut) allergy
- Define role of new and emerging therapies for food (peanut) allergy
- Discuss the role of science and discovery for mentoring toward academic career development

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Stacie M. Jones, M.D.

Professor of Pediatrics
Fellowship Program Director
Director, Arkansas Children's Food Allergy Program
Division of Allergy and Immunology
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

MARK YOUR CALENDAR | Stacie M. Jones, M.D., Professor of **Pediatrics** in the Division of **Allergy and Immunology**, will be honored as the 2022 Distinguished Faculty Scholar on **Thursday, Dec. 8**. Dr. Jones is internationally recognized for her research into life-threatening peanut allergies in children. She also is being honored nationally for her outstanding mentorship of students, residents, fellows and faculty. The Dean's Distinguished Faculty Scholar Lecture will be at 4:00 p.m. Dec. 8 in Rahn 8240. Click on the poster image on the left for a larger view and Dr. Jones' bio.

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Leadership Appointments

Assistant Dean for Health Services Research



Teresa Hudson, Pharm.D., Ph.D., has been named Assistant Dean for Health Services Research in the College of Medicine. Dr. Hudson joins Vice Dean for Research **Jessica Snowden, M.D., M.S., MHPTT**, and Assistant Dean **Paul Drew, Ph.D.**, on the COM research leadership team.

“The expansion of health services research is essential to our ability to improve health care and health outcomes in Arkansas, and Dr. Hudson brings extensive experience to her new role,” **Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.**, said in an announcement to faculty.

“We are excited to add Dr. Hudson to our research leadership team in College of Medicine,” said Dr. Snowden. “Health services researchers examine the access to care, health care costs and processes, and the outcomes of health services for individuals and populations. As such, this part of our research portfolio is critical to improving the health of all Arkansans and we’re looking forward to having Dr. Hudson’s expertise to help us build programs and research capacity across our college.” [READ MORE](#)

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New Faculty



Kenneth Ross, M.D., has joined the Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine** and **UAMS Southwest Regional Campus** in Texarkana as an Assistant Professor. [READ MORE](#)



Nazish Malik, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and hospitalist in the Division of **Hematology/Oncology**. [READ MORE](#)



Muhammad Nazir, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hospital Medicine**. [READ MORE](#)



Gaby K. Jabbour, M.D., has joined the Department of **Neurology** as an Assistant professor on the **Stroke and Neurocritical Care** team. [READ MORE](#)



Lauren Appell, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the **Hematology/Oncology** Section. [READ MORE](#)



Lindsay Arthur, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the **Pediatric Cardiology** Section. [READ MORE](#)



Tyler Cunningham, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the **Pediatric Cardiology** Section. [READ MORE](#)



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



Wen Chien Hsi, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Radiation Oncology** and **Proton Center** as an Associate Professor and medical physicist. [READ MORE](#)



Robert Vandewalle, M.D., M.B.A., has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Pediatric Surgery**. [READ MORE](#)

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Recent Grants



TICK-BORNE RELAPSING FEVER | UAMS researchers led by **Jon Blevins, Ph.D.**, Professor of **Microbiology and Immunology**, will use a \$2.4 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study genetic systems of the bacterium that causes tick-borne relapsing fever. [READ MORE](#)



IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN | UAMS and Arkansas Children's will use more than \$2 million in federal grant money to equip and support primary care providers across the state to screen, diagnose, treat and refer children with behavioral health conditions. The Department of **Pediatrics** is leading the development of the Children of Arkansas Mental Health in Primary Care (CHAMP) program. [READ MORE](#)





ADDRESSING NEEDS OF ARKANSAS SENIORS | A UAMS partnership involving the **Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, Centers on Aging, College of Nursing, Arkansas Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence** and others has received \$550,000 in awards for programs that address food insecurity and suicide among older adults. [READ MORE](#)

NAVIGATORS FOR HEALTH | A UAMS research team in Northwest Arkansas led by **Britni Ayers, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor in the Division of **Community Health and Research**, will use a \$420,750 NIH grant to study a potential way to improve health outcomes of pregnant Marshallese women using group-based care and health care navigators. [READ MORE](#)



PURSuing BREAST CANCER BREAKTHROUGHS | The Arkansas Breast Cancer Research Program is celebrating its 25th year of funding breakthrough research by Arkansas scientists. Five recipients, including four UAMS scientists, have been selected to receive grants totaling \$450,000 for the 2022-23 grant year. They include the College of Medicine's **Martin Cannon, Ph.D. (Microbiology/ Immunology)**; **Horacio Gomez-Acevedo, Ph.D. (Biomedical Informatics)**; and **Katie Ryan, Ph.D. (Biochemistry/ Molecular Biology)**. [READ MORE](#)



Extramural Awards

Congratulations to College of Medicine faculty members who received new extramural grants in October. 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.

Gaurav Dhar, M.D., Department of **Internal Medicine**, Efficacy and Outcomes of Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion (LAAO) in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation with Elevated CHA2DS2-Vasc Score and End Stage Renal Disease, Boston Scientific, (10/24/2022-10/31/2024), \$188,000.

W. Brooks Gentry, M.D., Department of **Anesthesiology**, IND-enabling studies of a long-acting anti-methamphetamine monoclonal antibody for treating methamphetamine use disorder, NIH/NIDA, (9/30/2022-7/31/2025), \$540,630. Pass Through from Intervexion Therapeutics, LLC.

Melody Greer, Ph.D., Department of **Biomedical Informatics**, DC/LP: Smart curation and deep learning-based enhancement of social risk data, National Science Foundation, (10/12/2022-8/31/2024), \$111,170.

Erika Santos Horta, Ph.D., Department of **Neurology**, Adult NF Clinic Program Building Pilot Project, Children's Tumor Foundation, (10/18/2022-6/30/2024), \$446,610.

Intramural Grants

Congratulations to the Fall 2022 recipients of COM Intramural Awards!

Barton Awards | \$25,000 awards for pilot programs with high probability for extramural funding.

Michael Berquist, Ph.D., Department of **Pharmacology/Toxicology**

Cari Bogulski, Ph.D., Department of **Biomedical Informatics**

Ryan Porter, Ph.D., Department of **Internal Medicine**

Yasir Rahmatallah, Ph.D., Department of **Biomedical Informatics**

J.W. Amis Endowment Grants | \$25,000 awards for pilot programs with high probability for extramural funding (New this fall!)

Alison Oliveto, Ph.D., Department of **Psychiatry**

Hornick Endowment Grants | Up to \$50,000 awards for stroke-related research

Abdelrahman Fouda, Ph.D., Department of **Pharmacology/Toxicology**

Sturgis Endowment Grants | \$25,000 awards for diabetes-related research

Ryan Allen, Ph.D., Department of **Physiology/Cell Biology**

Angela Odle, Ph.D., Department of **Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences**

Brunson Endowment Grants | \$10,000 awards for cardiovascular research (New this fall!)

Rushita Bagchi, Ph.D., Department of **Internal Medicine**

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:

Archana Balamohan	Shona Ray Griffith	Gloria Richard-Davis
Alan Baltz	Whit Hall	Abigail Richison
Emily Barnes	Larry Hartzell	Gresham Richter
Lance Benson	Andrea Hooten	Brita Rook
Avi Bhavaraju	Laurence Howe	Husam Salah
Elisabet Børnheim	Adam Johnson	Ron Sanders
Carla Brown	John Jones	Sara Sanders
Jessica Cannon	Alissa Kanaan	Brad Schaefer
Rebecca Cantu	Noojan Kazemi	Connor Shewmake
Chris Cargile	Jeffrey Kirsch	Eric Siegel
Sheena CarlLee	Lewis Krain	Kirt Simmons
Kaethe Goodwin Chigumira	Shashank Kraleti	Jessica Snowden
Karina Clemmons	Colleen Lassiter	Olivia Speed
Jessica Coker	Rebecca Latch	Matt Spond
Marybeth Curtis	Joana Mack	Bryan Strong
David Davies	Issam Makhoul	Lindsey Sward
Courtney Donner	Hank Marcantoni	Ronald Thompson Jr.
Alysia Dubriske	Neil Masangkay	Carol Thrush
Margaret Ege-Woolley	David Matlock	Bill Ventres
Mario Ferruzzi	Taylor Maxwell	Dan Voth
Jacob Filipek	Jawahar "Jay" Mehta	Emre Vural
Charalene Fisher	Shengyu Mu	Angie Waliski
Patrick Fraley	Cindy Nguyen	Dustin Williford
Sarah Gammill	Amber Norris	Michael Wilson
Molly Gathright	Kevin Phelan	
Nicholas Gowen	Craig Porter	

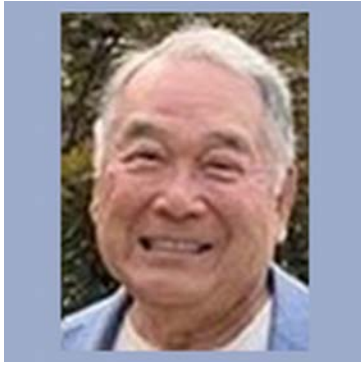
COM departments represented in Accolades this month:

Anesthesiology	Neurosurgery
Biostatistics	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Emergency Medicine	Ophthalmology
Family/Preventive Medicine	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Internal Medicine	Pediatric/Special Needs Dentistry
Medical Humanities/Bioethics	Pediatrics
Microbiology/Immunology	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences	Psychiatry
Neurology	Surgery

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In Memoriam

Terry Yamauchi, M.D.



Terry Yamauchi, M.D., a pioneering faculty member in the Department of **Pediatrics**, died Nov. 5. Dr. Yamauchi was recruited to UAMS in 1975 and after retiring in 2017 continued to serve as an Adjunct Faculty member. He served as the first Section Chief of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Clinical Pharmacology and was highly regarded for his teaching and mentoring of medical students and

residents. He was a prolific scholarly writer and national leader in infectious diseases and public health. Dr. Yamauchi worked with then Chair Robert Fiser, M.D., and other early faculty members to build the department and programs at Arkansas Children's Hospital. His long legacy of contributions and leadership roles included serving as an Interim Chair and Associate Dean for Child Health. During Gov. Bill Clinton's tenure, Dr. Yamauchi served as Director of the Arkansas Department of Human Services in 1990-1992.

[Read Dr. Yamauchi's obituary here.](#)

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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*.

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