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

UAMS
College of Medicine

COMmunication

February 2023

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Surgery Chair Ron Robertson, M.D., and recently appointed Trauma Medical Director Kyle Kalkwarf, M.D., in a trauma bay in the UAMS Emergency Department.

Trauma Leadership Transition Follows Decade of Successes

The UAMS Trauma Program has flourished under the leadership of **Ron Robertson, M.D., FACS**, for the past decade. With an eye toward many more years of outstanding trauma care for Arkansans, Dr. Robertson, Professor and Chair of the Department of **Surgery**, has turned over the program's reins to **Kyle Kalkwarf, M.D., FACS**, Assistant Professor of Surgery.

“Dr. Kalkwarf will be an exceptional trauma medical director,” said Dr. Robertson, who also serves as Chief of Staff for UAMS Medical Center. “In addition to being an excellent trauma and general surgeon, Kyle brings a strong commitment to quality improvement initiatives that will help take our trauma program to the next level.”

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3-Minute Thesis Competition Showcases Student Research

Could you succinctly describe your latest research project in a mere three minutes? That was the challenge for nearly 70 students from the College of Medicine, Graduate School and College of Public Health competing in the 2023 semi-finals of the 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition this month. The 14 students judged as having the best presentations are now advancing to the finals at UAMS Student Research Day on Tuesday, March 7. The final round will start at 1:30 p.m. in the first floor auditorium of the I. Dodd Wilson Education Building. Congratulations to all of the [2023 finalists and their mentors!](#)

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Ahmed Sallam, M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology, checks the vision of a Marshallese patient who received cataract surgery in a volunteer-driven event at UAMS in February.

The Gift of Sight

Thanks to faculty and staff volunteers in the Department of **Ophthalmology** and **Jones Eye Institute**, six formerly blind Marshallese patients from Northwest Arkansas gained their eyesight this month in the third event of its kind at UAMS. Cataract surgeries were performed at no cost to the patients in the team effort, building on the successes of the [first event in 2021](#), when 21 patients received the gift of sight, and [2022](#), which transformed the lives of six more patients.

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The Letters are on the Way!

Applicants for the next freshman class of the College of Medicine will soon receive letters letting them know if they were accepted, not accepted, or put on the alternate list. Pictured above are **Sara Tariq, M.D.**, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, **Kimberlyn Blann**, Associate Director of Admissions and Outreach Programs, **Jeanne McLachlin, Ph.D.**, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, and **Tom South**, Assistant Dean for Medical Student Admissions, as they departed for campus mail room on Feb. 23. Check out the [COM Facebook page](#) over the next couple of weeks to see tagged posts from some of the future members of the Class of 2027!

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New Faculty



Deanna Sasaki-Adams, M.D., has joined the Department of **Neurosurgery** as a Professor.

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Colin D. Kay, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as a Professor in the **Developmental Nutrition** Section.

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Oleksiy Gudz, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Vascular and Endovascular Surgery**.

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Recent Grants

Extramural Awards

Congratulations to College of Medicine faculty members who received new extramural grants in January. This list, courtesy of the College of Medicine Research Office, excludes clinical trials and awards under \$10,000.

David Church, Ph.D., Department of **Geriatrics**, Protein Intake During Time-Restricted Feeding, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, (1/19/2023-09/30/2024), \$249,878.

Zhiqiang Qin, M.D., Ph.D., Department of **Pathology**, Development of O'PROTACs-based Novel EIF4G1 Degraders for Treatment of Non-small Cell Lung Cancer, US Department of Defense, (1/15/2023 – 1/14/2024), \$152,000.

COM Intramural Grants | Call for Proposals



The College of Medicine Research Office (COMRO) is accepting proposals for four intramural grant programs. Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on **Monday, March 13**. Funding will begin on July 1. Information and application forms are available on the [COMRO website](#) and in the grant-specific links below.

[Barton Pilot Study Grants](#)

These \$25,000 grants support new research projects.

[Hornick Endowment Grants](#)

These \$25,000 grants support research on the causes, prevention, and treatment of stroke and related disorders.

[Sturgis Foundation Grants](#)

These \$25,000 grants support research on diabetes and diabetes related conditions.

[Brunson Endowment Grants](#)

These \$10,000 grants support research on cardiovascular related conditions.

Please contact [Jessica Bulmanski](#), COM Research Program Manager, for questions related to the grant submission process. Other inquiries can be addressed to [Dr. Paul Drew](#), Assistant Dean for Research.

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Accolades



Have you read the latest *Accolades* from Interim Dean Dr. G. Richard Smith? 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:

Gregory Albert	Ann Jacob	Ramona Rhodes
William Atchley	Hanna Jensen	Gresham Richter
Gohar Azhar	Adam Johnson	Analiz Rodriguez
Anna Bareiss	Lauren Johnson	Nancy Rusch
Thaddeus Bartter	Marina Joseph	Robert Saadi
Bill Bennett	Manish Joshi	Nadia Safar
Lance Benson	Krishna Kakkera	Kathryn Stambough
John Bracey	David Kelley	Amanda Stolarz
Jose Caceres	Maneetha Kodali	Leslie Stone
Christina Clark	Shashank Kraleti	Rawle "Tony" Seupaul
David Davies	Michelle Krause	James Suen
Scott Dickson	Savana Kuhn	Mark Tait
John Dornhoffer	Yuet-Kin "Ricky" Leung	Abhilash Thatikala
Gina Drobena	Scott Lucchese	Billy Thomas
Stephen Foster	Monroe McKay	Carol Thrush
Brett Frazier	Shengyu Mu	Brittany Tian
Stephanie Gardner	Abby Nolder	Anand Venkata
Elizabeth Gath	Brooke Nunn	Bill Ventres
Brett Glenn	Soumiya Pal	Ambika Verma
Sarah Greenberger	Viktoras Palys	Jasna Vuk
Kristie Hadden	Cam Patterson	Jeanne Wei
Melissa Halverson	Erika Petersen	André Wineland
Larkin Harris	Fred Prior	Aaron Wyble
Lu Huang	Marc Reed	

COM departments represented in Accolades this month:

Biomedical Informatics
Emergency Medicine
Family/Preventive Medicine
Geriatrics
Internal Medicine
Medical Humanities/Bioethics
Microbiology/Immunology
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences
Neurology

Neurosurgery
Obstetrics/Gynecology
Orthopaedic Surgery
Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Pathology
Pediatrics
Pharmacology/Toxicology
Surgery

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In Memoriam



HONORING A LEADER | Colleagues, family and friends from UAMS and around the country paid tribute to the late **Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.**, during a Feb. 9 memorial celebration. Dr. Smyth served as Executive Vice Chancellor of UAMS and Dean of the College of Medicine from June 2021 until her Dec. 31, 2022, death following a battle with cancer. Dr. Smyth was a nationally respected cardiologist, researcher and leader in academic medicine. [Read more here.](#) [Watch the ceremony here.](#)

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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