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May 2023

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## Regalia, Recognition & Remembrance



*Above: Chynna Denham (center) celebrates receiving her doctoral hood at Honors Convocation. Associate Dean for Student Affairs Sara Tariq, M.D., (left) and Alan Diekman, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (right) were selected by the class to help students don the hoods on stage.*

The **College of Medicine Class of 2023** donned their doctoral hoods and were honored for their accomplishments in medical school during the Honors Convocation ceremony on May 19, the evening before receiving the title of "Doctor" at UAMS Commencement.

The class selected **Lindsey Sward, M.D.**, Associate Professor of **Obstetrics and Gynecology**, to deliver the Faculty Charge to the class. The class chose **Ethan Clement** to give the "Response from the Class." In a twist on tradition, she presented a video in which fellow graduating seniors told stories about their experiences in medical school. Through poignant, emotional and even funny accounts, students relayed their anxieties as incoming freshmen in the gross anatomy lab, the emergence and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and other hurdles on the way to becoming physicians with great hopes for the future.

View a [recording of Honors Convocation here](#).

Learn about awards that were presented in the [Honors Convocation program](#).

*Pictured below: Top row: Ethan Clement delivers the Response from the Class, which included video interviews such as the one on the right. Bottom row from left: Molly Gathright, M.D., Executive Associate Dean for GME, presents the student-selected Resident of the Year Award to Internal Medicine resident Ples Spradley, M.D.; Lindsey Sward, M.D., delivers the Faculty Charge; students recite the Hippocratic Oath.*



## Golden Apple, Gold Sash & Red Sash Winners

Outstanding teaching also was in the spotlight at Honors Convocation with recognition of faculty members selected by students as exemplary educators. Pictured is **Hanna Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.**, who picked up her first Golden Apple, from the M2 class. Her hat is part of the ceremonial regalia for Ph.D.s in her native Finland.



Also receiving the Golden Apple this year were: M1 - **Alan Diekman, Ph.D.**; M3 - **Nick Gowen, M.D.**; and M4 - **Lindsey Sward, M.D.** Check out the full list of [2023 Golden Apple, Gold Sash and Red Sash honorees!](#)

## Remembering a Leader | Susan S. Smyth, 1965-2022



The late **Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.**, who served as Executive Vice Chancellor of UAMS and Dean of the College of Medicine from June 2021 until her untimely death on Dec. 31, 2022, was remembered and honored at both the COM Honors Convocation and UAMS Commencement ceremonies. At Honors Convocation, graduating senior **Rebekah Langston** received the inaugural Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D. Award for outstanding promise as a physician-scientist. At Commencement, Dr. Smyth's husband and COM faculty member **Andrew Morris, Ph.D.**, and their beloved therapy dogs Selah and Carmine participated in the stage processional, and UAMS Chancellor **Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA**, talked about Dr. Smyth's legacy.

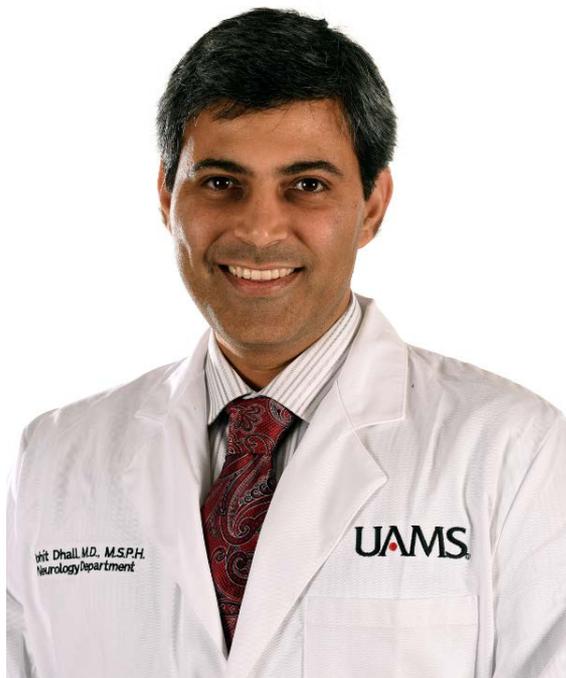
*Pictured above, left: M.D./Ph.D. Program Director Sara Shalin, M.D., Ph.D., presents the inaugural Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D. Award to Rebekah Langston. Right: Andrew Morris, Ph.D., and therapy dogs are escorted by seniors Micah Bowling and Ethan Clement.*

*Honors Convocation photos by Johnpaul Jones. Commencement photography by Bryan Clifton and Evan Lewis.*

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## Leadership & Faculty Appointments

**Dr. Rohit Dhall to Chair Department of Neurology**



**Rohit Dhall, M.D., MSPH**, Professor, Vice Chair for Clinical Research and Director of Neurodegenerative Disorders in the Department of **Neurology**, has been appointed to lead the department as Chair, effective July 1. He succeeds **Robert "Lee" Archer, M.D.**, who last year announced his plans to step down from the role.

“Dr. Dhall brings extensive leadership experience to his new role as well as a deep commitment to ensuring exceptional neurological care for

Arkansans today and in the years ahead through research, education and clinical innovation,” said **G. Richard Smith, M.D.**, interim dean of the College of Medicine and UAMS executive vice chancellor. [READ MORE](#)



**Shaymaa Al-Shukri, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Biomedical Informatics (DBMI)** as an Instructor. [READ MORE](#)



**Michael Rutherford, M.S.**, has joined the Department of **Biomedical Informatics (DBMI)** as an Instructor. [READ MORE](#)



**Zulema Udaondo Dominguez, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Biomedical Informatics (DBMI)** as an Instructor. [READ MORE](#)



**Monique Spillman, M.D., Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Obstetrics and Gynecology** as Professor and Chief of the Division of **Gynecologic Oncology**.

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**Oriaku Kas-Osoka, M.D., M.Ed.**, has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Associate Professor in the **Adolescent Medicine** Section and **Pediatrics Residency Program** Director.

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**Tracy Haselow, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Psychiatry** as an Associate Professor and Director of the **UAMS Student, Resident and Faculty Wellness Programs**.

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**Jeremy Sabado, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Pediatric Radiology** and Chief of **Pediatric Interventional Radiology**.

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## In the Spotlight



[UAMS Receives \\$5.5 Million Supplemental Award for Programs in Rural, Underserved Communities](#)



[UAMS Surgeons Implant Innovative Device Developed by I3R Researchers to Restore Sense of Touch after Amputation](#)



[UAMS-TRI Training Program Helps Postdocs Develop Entrepreneurial Spirit, Form Competition-Winning Pharmaceutical Startup](#)



[Research Team Looking for Connection Between Isolation, Mental Illness in Older Adults](#)



[UAMS Celebrates Life of Edith Irby Jones and the Philanthropy She Inspires](#)



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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:**

Stephen Aguilar	Amy Grooms	Song Ounpraseuth
Neha Anand	Larry Hartzell	Samuel Overley
John Arthur	Terry Harville	Quentin Parker
Ana Azevedo-Pouly	Micah Hester	Hakan Paydak
Jack Barnes	Laura Hobart-Porter	Paul Phillips
Lowry Barnes	Andrea Hooten	Collin Pilkington
Melanie Beehler	Zhuopei Hu	Jordan Pilkington
Teresita Bellido	Laura James	Analiz Rodriguez
Kimberlyn Blann	Hanna Jensen	Jonathan Ross
Claire Gist Bradberry	Sufna John	Brook Scalzo
Clare Brown	Jerrilyn Jones	Sara Shalin
Olivia Brown	Manish Joshi	Haylee Shull
David Bumpass	Delice Kayishunge	Payton Smith
Jose Caceres	Tom Kelly	Jessica Snowden
Andrew Campbell	Samantha Kendrick	Jeffrey Stambough
Morgan Campbell	Colleen Lassiter	Vikki Stefans
Graham Cate	Jennifer Laudadio	Leslie Stone
Stephen Cherney	Jeannette Lee	Bailey Sutliff
Jeffrey Clothier	Sophia Ly	Sara Tariq
Seana Corbin	Philomena Mackean	Billy Thomas
Joan Cranmer	Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow	Daniel Trinh
Marybeth Curtis	John Marecki	Ozlem Tulunay-Ugur
Romona Davis	Robert McGehee Jr.	Richard Turnage
Alexandra Diaz-Cruz	Renee McGraw	John Ukadike
Karen Dickinson	Shatericka McKenzie	Aravindhan Veerapandiyan
John Dornhoffer	Kevin Means	Meredith Von Dohlen
Alysia Dubriske	Nikhil Meena	Wayne Wahls
Megan Evans	Jay Mehta	Jordan Walters
Leonard Ferdman	Paulette Mehta	Henry Wong
Aaron Gaul	Shae Merves	Aaron Wyble
Masil George	Lindsay Mohney	Eric Yee
Celeste Gibson	Mauricio Moreno	Reade Zodrow
Lawrence Greiten	Mary Nance	

### COM departments represented in Accolades this month:

Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Orthopaedic Surgery
Biostatistics	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Dermatology	Pathology
Emergency Medicine	Pediatrics
Family/Preventive Medicine	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Geriatrics	Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation
Internal Medicine	Physiology/Cell Biology
Medical Humanities/Bioethics	Psychiatry
Neurosurgery	Radiology
Obstetrics/Gynecology	Surgery
Ophthalmology	

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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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