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

UAMS
College of Medicine

COMmunication

July 2023

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FROM THE DEAN

The start of a new academic year is always a wonderful time in our college. It is great to see so many new faces as we welcome incoming residents and fellows and sizable numbers of new faculty members. We are also excited to have 175 new freshmen medical students joining us the first week of August. The dreams, dedication and commitment of these aspiring physicians, and of all of our students, trainees and team members, fill us with a sense of hope.

If you're just joining us, know that we are delighted to have you here. And for all of you who will teach, support and work alongside our newcomers, thank you for making the College of Medicine and UAMS a great institution.



G. Richard Smith, M.D.

Interim Dean and Executive Vice Chancellor
Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry

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In the Spotlight

[Dr. Julie Riley Invested in Endowed Urology Chair](#)



Congratulations to **Julie Riley, M.D.**, Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of **Urology**, on her investiture in the Hal Reed Black, M.D., Chair in Urology at UAMS. Dr. Riley is an outstanding urological surgeon and educator. She has provided excellent leadership and service as Director of the Urology Residency Program since her recruitment to UAMS in 2021. Other leadership roles at UAMS include Quality Director for Surgical Services. Watch for a story soon on the UAMS Website.

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New Faculty

Please join us in welcoming these recent additions to the COM faculty – and watch for introductions of more faculty members who are joining us this summer and fall in upcoming issues of the *COMmunication!*



Aryana Eghbali, M.D., has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.

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Amanda Gillott, M.D., has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.

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Aparna Jindal, M.D., has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor in the **Chronic Pain** Division.

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Michelle Tenorio, M.D., has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.
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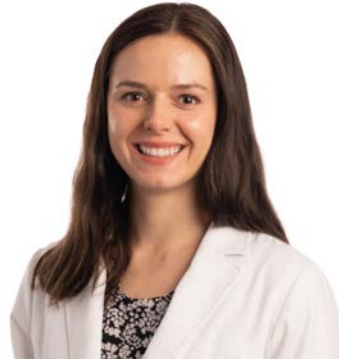
Dylan Trujillo, D.O., has joined the Department of **Anesthesiology** as an Assistant Professor.
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Thomas "Ples" Spradley, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **General Internal Medicine**.
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Farah Mazahreh, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Instructor and Chief Resident in the Division of **General Internal Medicine**.
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Tatsiana "Tanya" Savenka, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Instructor and Chief Resident in the Division of **General Internal Medicine**.
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Morgan Tripod, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Instructor and Chief Resident in the Division of **General Internal Medicine**.
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Hira Imad Cheema, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology**.

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Sindu Iska, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology**.

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Anusha Muddasani, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology**.

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Asis Shrestha, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology**.

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Anup Kumar Trikannad, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hematology and Oncology**.

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Omar Alqaisi, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hospital Medicine**.

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Yazan Bashtawi, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine.

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Fares Mashal, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Hospital Medicine**.

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Muthukumar Radhakrishnan, M.D., has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Instructor and Interventional Pulmonary Fellow in the Division of **Pulmonary Medicine**.

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Wayne Bruffett, M.D., has joined the Department of **Orthopaedic Surgery** as an Assistant Professor.

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

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Brent Harbaugh, D.O., has joined the Department of **Pathology** as an Assistant Professor in the **Hematopathology** Division.

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Maria Serrano, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Community Medicine Section.

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Conor Smith, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the **Hospital Medicine** Section.

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Nirbhay Parashar, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Instructor and **Advanced Imaging Cardiology** Fellow.

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Adam Berry, D.O., has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Instructor in the Division of **Interventional Radiology**.

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**NEW
FACULTY
RECEPTION**

UAMS Senior Leadership will host the annual New Faculty Reception on **Tuesday, September 26**, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on the 12th floor of the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute. The gathering will welcome faculty members who have joined UAMS over the past year (since July 1, 2022). To attend, [please register here](#) by Sept. 1. For more information, contact [Samantha Griffin](#) in the Center for Faculty Excellence.

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Recent Grants



[UAMS Awarded \\$1.6 million to Continue Research into Mechanisms Governing Intracellular Membrane Traffic in Human Cells](#)



[American Cancer Society Funds UAMS Study to Understand Treatment Resistance in Pancreatic Cancer](#)



[UAMS Receives \\$1 Million FCC Grant to Enroll Arkansans in Affordable Connectivity Program for Broadband Internet](#)



[UAMS Bone Research Center Secures Second NIH Grant of Over \\$11 Million](#)

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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:

Murad Almasri	Molly Gathright	Tiffany Miles
Jewel Banik	Lawrence Greiten	Mauricio Moreno
Shipra Bansal	Priya Gupta	Andrew Morris
Alexei Basnakian	Terry Harville	Robert Reis
Teresita Bellido	Ashley Herdman	Jessica Snowden
Ronald Brimberry	Shuk-Mei Ho	Jumin Sunde
Katie Bronson	Brian Kirkpatrick	Alan Tackett
Theodore Brown	Shruti Kumar	Abhilash Thatikala
Wayne Bryant Jr.	Yuet-Kin "Ricky" Leung	William Ventres
Indranil Chakraborty	Juchan Lim	George Vilanilam
Destiny Chau	Angus MacNicol	Emre Vural
Sheena CarlLee	Melanie MacNicol	Lindsey Wilbanks
Gwen Childs	Spyridoula Maraka	Dwana McKay Yarberry
Karen Dickinson	Neil Masangkay	Vladimir Zharov
Marcy Doderer	Pearl McElfish	Dala Zakaria
Patrick Fraley		Stacy Zimmerman

COM departments represented in *Accolades* this month:

Anesthesiology	Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	Pathology
Biomedical Informatics	Pediatrics
Emergency Medicine	Pharmacology/Toxicology
Family Medicine	Physiology/Cell Biology
Geriatrics	Psychiatry
Internal Medicine	Radiology
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences	Surgery
Neurology	Urology
Orthopaedic Surgery	

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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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