



UAMS Host-a-Hive Initiative is the “Bee’s Knees” for Students and Community

On the south edge of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Little Rock campus, a community is thriving with the help of College of Medicine faculty and medical students.

A community of *honeybees*.

UAMS is home to two healthy hives through a “host-a-hive” partnership with a local apiary initiative that benefits both bees and people. The hives give the local bee population a boost, and educational activities raise awareness in the human community about the crucial work of bees.

The project was initiated by **Andrew Morris, Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology** who holds the Mehta/Stebbins Chair in Cardiovascular Research and is a Research Career Scientist at the Central Arkansas Veterans Affairs Healthcare System (CAVHS). Dr. Morris connected UAMS with the local beekeeping community and Calm+Confidence founder and apiary manager Lauren Anderson. Medical students in the College of Medicine’s **Tank Academic House** were the first to get involved with the beekeeping endeavor as a community service project. [READ MORE](#)



PHOTOS | *Top of story:* Medical student **Blaire Taggart** (center) lifts a frame of honeycomb during an inspection of a beehive at UAMS. The bees are subdued using smoke and are being gently brushed from the frame by Professor **Andrew Morris, Ph.D.** (far left), **Justin Stanley** (behind Dr. Morris) and **Liam Alderson** (right). *Above, left:* Tank House students and faculty hold frames of honeycomb produced by bees at UAMS. From left: **Liam Alderson, Rachel Lance, Lindsey Sward, M.D., Jacob Siebenmorgen, Manit Munshi, Justin Stanley** and **Blaire Taggart**. *Above, right:* **Justin Stanley** (center) turns a crank on a honey extractor to release honey from a honeycomb while talking with visitors at an educational event at the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library & Learning Center.

Photos by Bryan Clifton

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NEW FACULTY



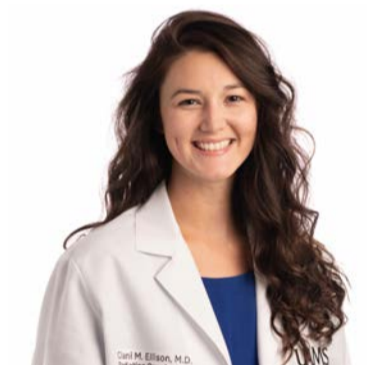
Nathan Probst, M.D., has joined the Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine** and **UAMS South Central Regional Campus** in Pine Bluff as an Assistant Professor. [READ MORE](#)



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



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



Ciani Ellison, M.D., has joined the Department of **Radiation Oncology** as an Assistant Professor. [READ MORE](#)



Aslan Efendizade, D.O., has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in **Emergency Radiology**, a new division providing overnight coverage. [READ MORE](#)



Sumit Shah, M.D., has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of **Diagnostic Imaging**. [READ MORE](#)

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Medical Student’s Two-Year Detour through NIH Reinforces Career Path

Two years after taking a break from medical school to participate in the prestigious Medical Research Scholars Program (MSRP) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), **Mason Belue** is more excited than ever about their future as a clinician-scientist.

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RECENT GRANTS

Congratulations to College of Medicine team members who received new extramural grants in August. This list, courtesy of the College of Medicine Office of Research, excludes clinical trials and awards under \$10,000, as well as grants we have previously reported.

Youssef Aachoui, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology & Immunology**, Pyroptotic Macrophages Traps Against Shigella Infection, NIH | National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Disease, (8/25/2023 – 7/31/2025), \$420,750.

Lu Huang, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology & Immunology**, Macrophage metabolism in diabetes and tuberculosis comorbidity, NIH | National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Disease, (8/21/2023 – 7/31/2025) \$489,468.

Krista Langston, M.B.A., Department of **Internal Medicine/UAMS Northwest Campus**, CHWTAP: Training and Apprenticeship Program, Health Resource & Services Administration, (9/15/2022 – 9/14/2025), \$3,000,000.

Mark Manzano, Ph.D., Department of **Microbiology & Immunology**, Role of a latent OriLyt RNA in KSHV latency in primary effusion lymphoma, NIH | National Institutes of Health, (8/1/2023 – 7/31/2025) \$429,166.



Arkansas Children’s Research Institute (ACRI) awarded 2023 ACRI/ABI Postgraduate Research Awards to two fellows in training at UAMS and Arkansas Children’s. The awards provide up to \$15,000 annually over a two-year period and will go to **Neonatal-Perinatal** fellow **Sarah Diamond, M.D.**, and **Allergy/Immunology** fellow **Dieu Doan, M.D.** [READ MORE](#)

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