



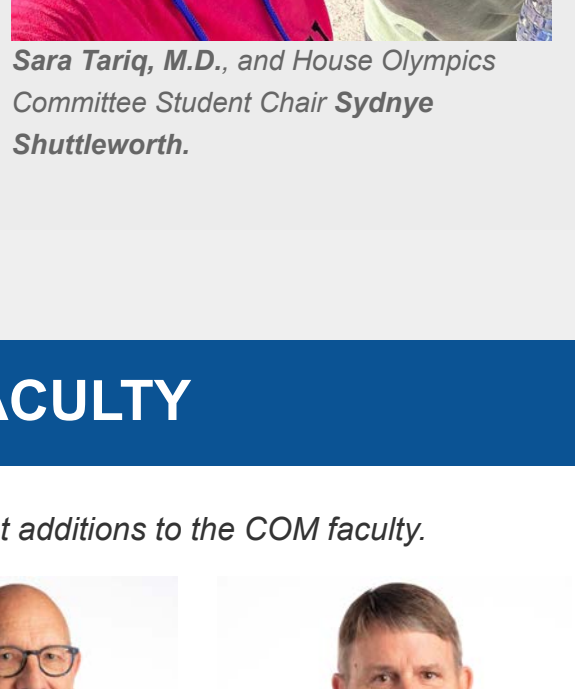
Competitors from the Abernathy House receive the Academic House Cup from Associate Dean for Students Sara Tariq, M.D. (in pink shirt and leis). Joining the students are House Advisor Tiffany Huit, Ph.D. (center front, kneeling), and two of her sons, Charlie (holding trophy) and Henry (far right).

Meet the New Champs!

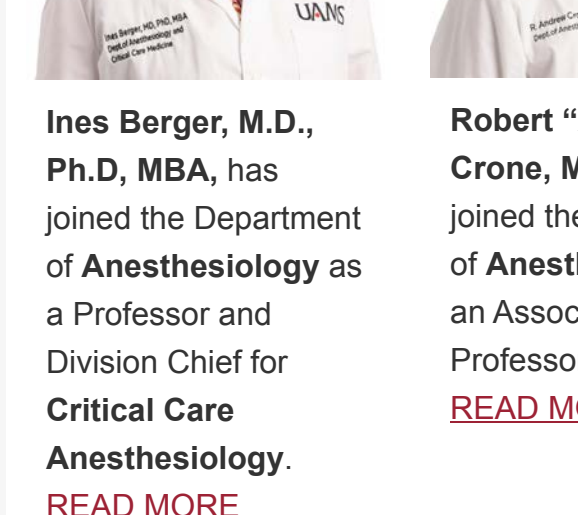
Medical students in the **Abernathy Academic House** won the coveted Academic House Cup at the 2023 Academic House Olympics, beating six other houses including previous three-time champs the **Compton House**. The Sept. 30 event drew students, faculty and family members to Murray Park for a Saturday filled with games, food and fun. The House Cup is earned by accumulating points throughout the year for volunteer activities, participation in house meetings and other activities, as well as for demonstrations of "house spirit" and winning games at the House Olympics.

The College of Medicine Academic House program was established in 2016 to help students connect with faculty and one another, to facilitate mentorship, and to support wellness. The Olympics debuted the following year and have been held annually except for two years during the pandemic.

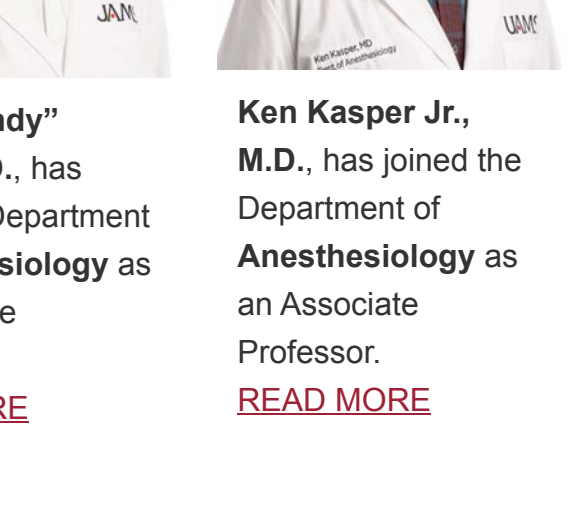
Kudos to the many Academic House faculty advisors, medical students and staff who made the House Olympics a great success. Lead organizers were Associate Dean for Students **Sara Tariq, M.D.**, second-year student **Sydnye Shuttleworth** and Academic Affairs Program Manager **Jennifer VanEcko**. The Pulaski County Medical Society and the COM Parents Club provided support for the event.



Compton House team members pull together in the tug-of-war contest.



Beall House student and House Olympics planning committee member Allison McFarland and House Advisor Kevin Phelan, Ph.D., display their house spirit.

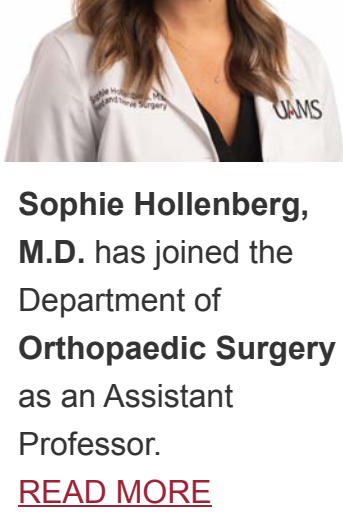
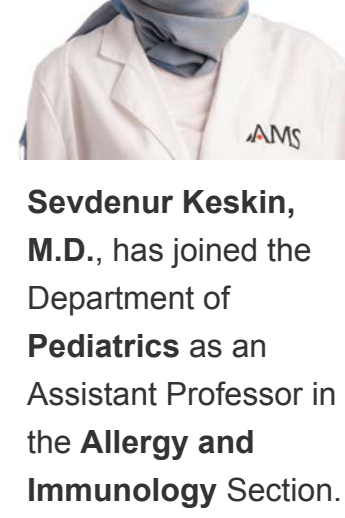
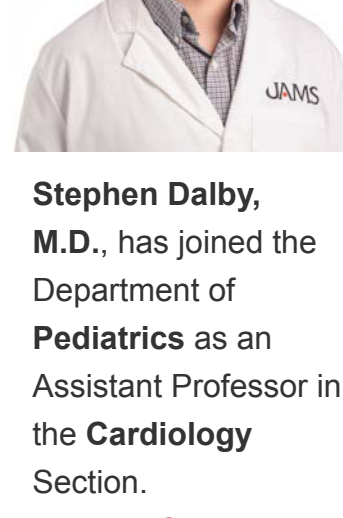

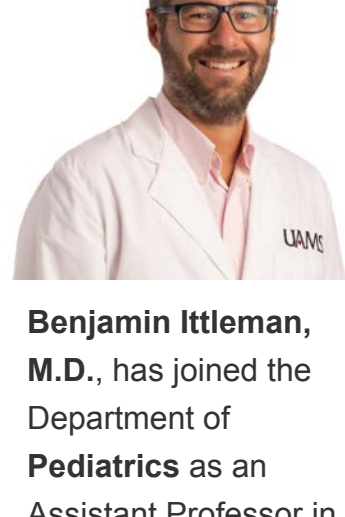
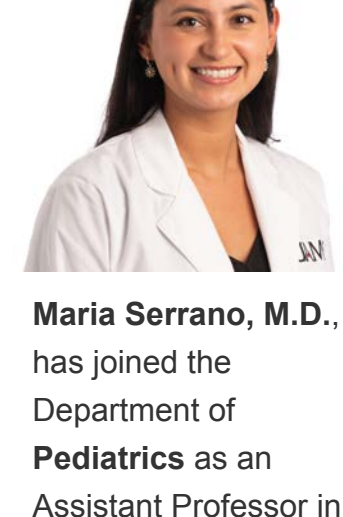







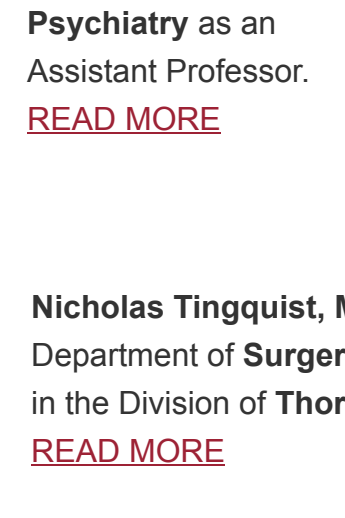
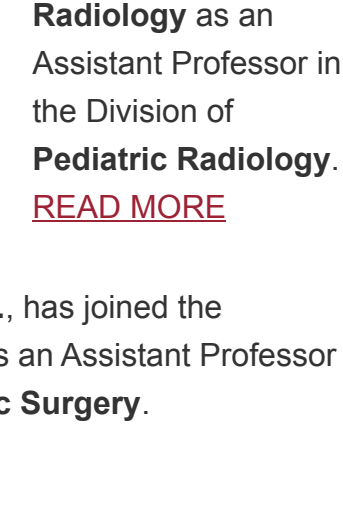
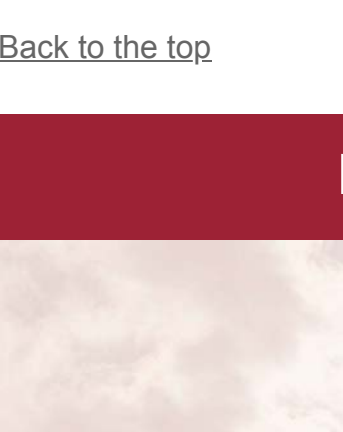


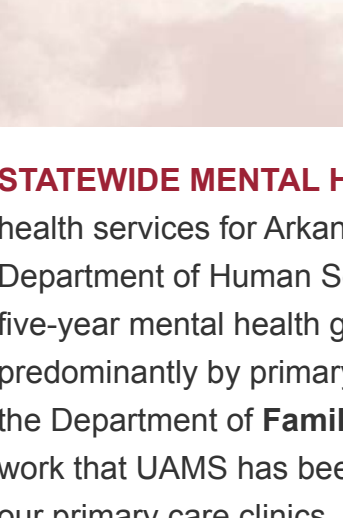


Sara Tariq, M.D., and House Olympics Committee Student Chair Sydnye Shuttleworth.

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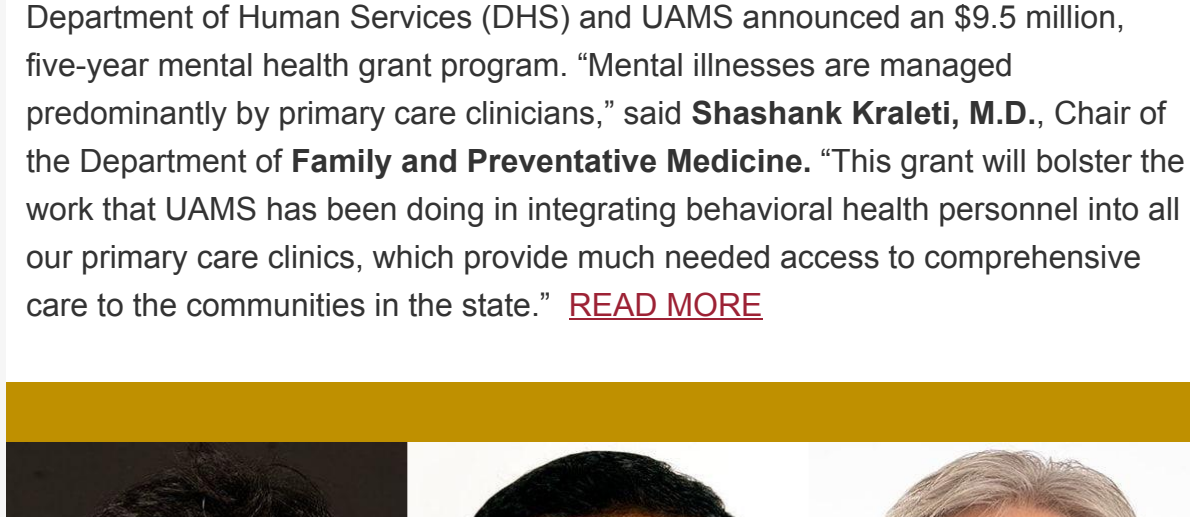
NEW FACULTY

Please join us in welcoming these recent additions to the COM faculty.

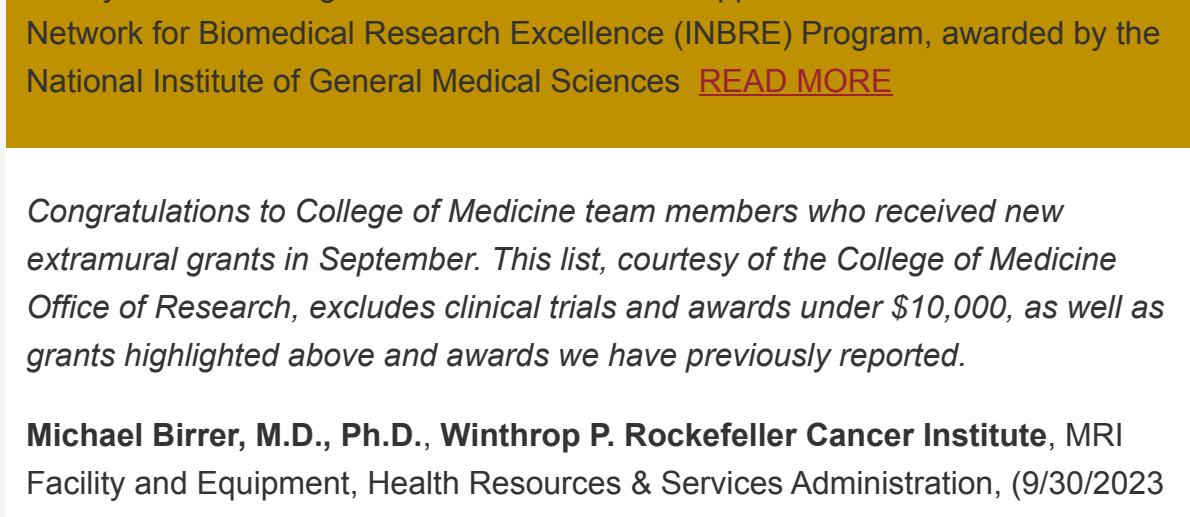
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Ines Berger, M.D., Ph.D, MBA , has joined the Department of Anesthesiology as a Professor and Division Chief for Critical Care Anesthesiology . READ MORE | 
Robert "Andy" Crone, M.D. , has joined the Department of Anesthesiology as an Associate Professor. READ MORE | 
Ken Kasper Jr., M.D. , has joined the Department of Anesthesiology as an Associate Professor. READ MORE |
| 
Vivek Yadala, M.D. , has joined the Department of Internal Medicine as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology . READ MORE | 
Kasa Cooper, M.D. , has joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery as an Assistant Professor. READ MORE | 
J. Ryan Hill, M.D. , has joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery as an Assistant Professor. READ MORE |
| 
Sophie Hollenberg, M.D. has joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery as an Assistant Professor. READ MORE | 
Sevdenur Keskin, M.D. , has joined the Department of Pediatrics as an Assistant Professor in the Allergy and Immunology Section. READ MORE | 
Stephen Dalby, M.D. , has joined the Department of Pediatrics as an Assistant Professor in the Cardiology Section. READ MORE |
| 
Daniel Fiedorek, M.D. , has joined the Department of Pediatrics as an Assistant Professor in the Cardiology Section. READ MORE | 
Benjamin Ittlesman, M.D. , has joined the Department of Pediatrics as an Assistant Professor in the Cardiology Section. READ MORE | 
Maria Serrano, M.D. , has joined the Department of Pediatrics as an Assistant Professor in the Community Medicine Section. READ MORE |
| 
Ashleigh Courtney, M.D., MSPH , has joined the Department of Pediatrics as an Assistant Professor in the Infectious Diseases Section. READ MORE | 
Joseph Alge, M.D., Ph.D. , has joined the Department of Pediatrics as an Assistant Professor in the Nephrology Section. READ MORE | 
Trenesha Hill, Ph.D. , has joined the Department of Pediatrics as an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Section. READ MORE |
| 
Andrea McMahon, M.D. , has joined the Department of Psychiatry as an Assistant Professor. READ MORE | 
Allison Smith, Ph.D. , has joined the Department of Psychiatry as an Assistant Professor. READ MORE | 
Malik Dawoud, M.D. , has joined the Department of Radiology as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pediatric Radiology . READ MORE |
| 
Nicholas Tingquist, M.D. , has joined the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Thoracic Surgery . READ MORE | | |

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RECENT GRANTS



STATEWIDE MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE | In an effort to increase mental health services for Arkansians, especially in rural parts of the state, the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) and UAMS announced an \$9.5 million, five-year mental health grant program. "Mental illnesses are managed predominantly by primary care clinicians," said **Shashank Kraleti, M.D.**, Chair of the Department of **Family and Preventative Medicine**. "This grant will bolster the work that UAMS has been doing in integrating behavioral health personnel into all our primary care clinics, which provide much needed access to comprehensive care to the communities in the state." [READ MORE](#)



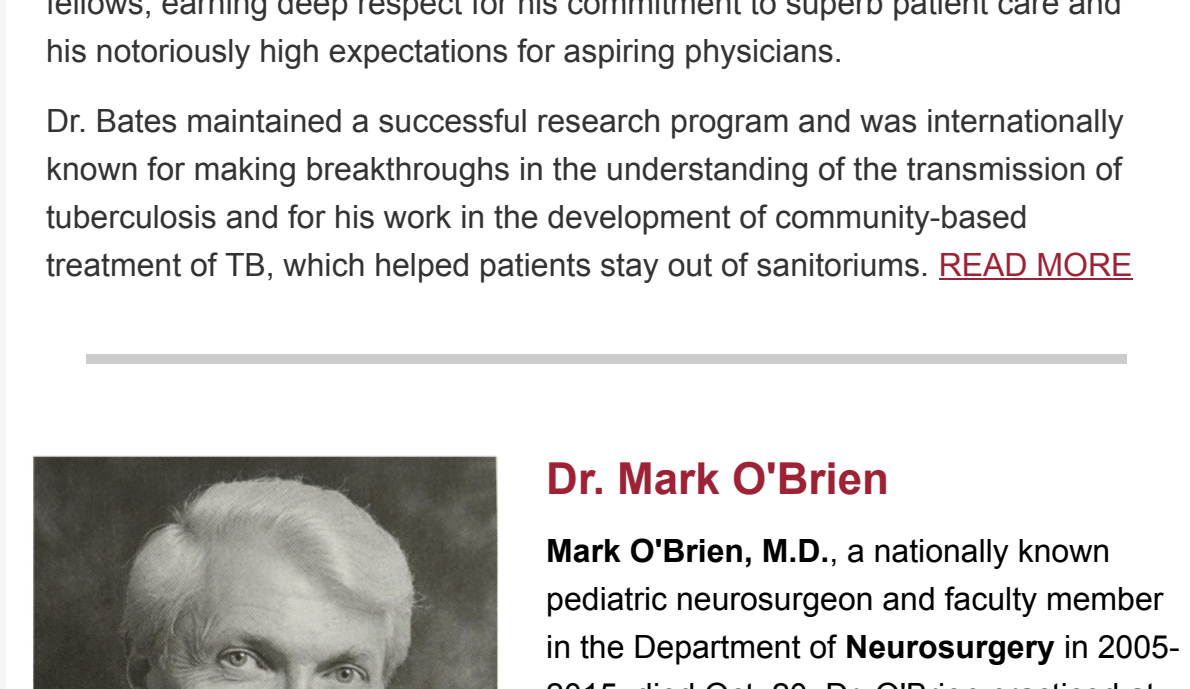
CARDIOVASCULAR RISKS FROM KIDNEY DISEASE | Three UAMS researchers will use a \$606,274 grant from the NIH to investigate how the body's natural defense mechanisms contribute to cardiovascular risks for patients with kidney disease. The grant is an administrative supplement to the Arkansas iDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Program, awarded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. [READ MORE](#)

- Congratulations to College of Medicine team members who received new extramural grants in September. This list, courtesy of the College of Medicine Office of Research, excludes clinical trials and awards under \$10,000, as well as grants highlighted above and awards we have previously reported.*
- Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D.**, **Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute**, MRI Facility and Equipment, Health Resources & Services Administration, (9/30/2023 – 9/29/2026), \$1,750,000.
- Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D.**, **Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute**, Cancer Care Mobile Van, Health Resources & Services Administration, (9/30/2023 – 9/29/2026), \$1,750,000.
- Jennifer Callaghan-Koru, Ph.D.**, Department of **Internal Medicine**, HRSA (AIM) Capacity, Health Resources and Services Administration, (9/01/2023 – 8/31/2027), \$199,978.
- Krista Langston, M.B.A.**, Department of **Internal Medicine**, Reach Out and Connect (ROaC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (9/01/2023 – 8/31/2028), \$1,021,899.
- Roy Morello, Ph.D.**, Department of **Physiology and Cell Biology**, Lung developmental defects caused by type I collagen mutations in mouse models of osteogenesis imperfecta, National Institutes of Health | Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, (9/01/2023 – 7/31/2027), \$1,536,059.
- Fred Prior, Ph.D.**, Department of **Biomedical Informatics**, Robust and Trusted Data Analytics, National Science Foundation, (7/01/2023 – 6/30/2024), \$308,873.
- Wendy Ross, B.A.**, **Institute for Digital Health and Innovation/SCTRC**, Conference Funding, Health Resources and Services Administration, (9/30/2022 – 9/29/2024), \$29,526.
- Alan Tackett, Ph.D.**, Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**; **Josh Kennedy, M.D.**, Department of **Pediatrics** (Project Leader), Center for Translational Pediatric Research – CTPR Team Science Supplement: Pediatric Acute Respiratory Infection Study (PARIS) (P20 Supplement), National Institutes of Health, (9/15/2023 – 7/01/2024), \$955,666.
- Richard Turnage, M.D.**, **VC Regional Programs/Executive Associate Dean**, HRSA Medical Student Education, Health Resources and Services Administration, (9/30/2023 – 9/29/2027), \$4,400,000.
- Melissa Zielinski, Ph.D.**, Department of **Psychiatry**, Developing and testing Innovative Care Pathways, National Institute on Drug Abuse, (9/30/2023 – 8/31/2025), \$915,611.

For the 26th year during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Arkansas Breast Cancer Research Program (ABCRP) has awarded funding to kick-start promising breast cancer research projects. Five UAMS researchers have been awarded grants under the program overseen by the **Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute**. [READ MORE](#)

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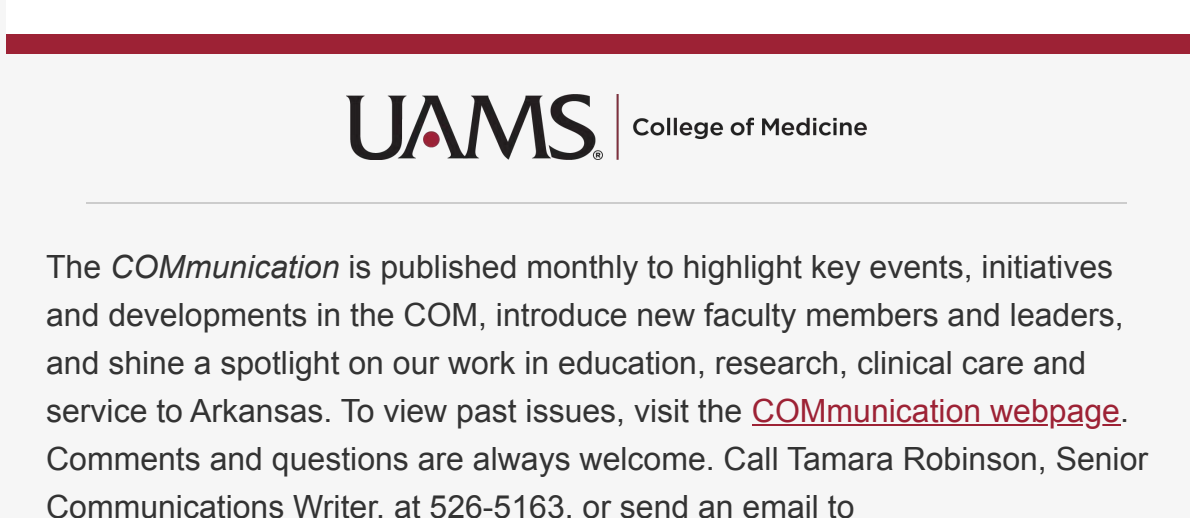
IN MEMORIAM



Dr. Joseph Bates
Joseph Bates, M.D., M.S., a 1957 alumnus who served on the College of Medicine faculty and at the VA for over three decades, including 21 years as Vice Chair of **Internal Medicine**, died Sept. 29. Dr. Bates went on to make remarkable contributions as a leader at the Arkansas Department of Health and in the UAMS College of Public Health over the next 25 years.

Dr. Bates joined the COM faculty in 1963. He was Chief of the Pulmonary Disease Section at the McClellan Veterans Medical Center from 1965 until his appointment as Chief of the Medical Service at the VA in 1968. Over the next 30 years, Dr. Bates taught and mentored medical students, residents and fellows, earning deep respect for his commitment to superb patient care and his notoriously high expectations for aspiring physicians.

Dr. Bates maintained a successful research program and was internationally known for making breakthroughs in the understanding of the transmission of tuberculosis and for his work in the development of community-based treatment of TB, which helped patients stay out of sanitariums. [READ MORE](#)



Dr. Mark O'Brien
Mark O'Brien, M.D., a nationally known pediatric neurosurgeon and faculty member in the Department of **Neurosurgery** in 2005-2015, died Oct. 20. Dr. O'Brien practiced at Arkansas Children's and served as Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery. Following his retirement in 2015, he continued to participate in conferences and serve on the resident interview committee. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at Christ Episcopal Church, 509 Scott Street, Little Rock. [READ MORE](#)

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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 and questions are always welcome. Call Tamara Robinson, Senior Communications Writer, at 526-5163, or send an email to COMInternalCommunications@uams.edu.