

Joyful to *finally* be able to work with patients each day, rising M3 students marked

Ready for Rotations

the beginning of their next phase of medical school in a June 7 Oath Ceremony that capped the new Transition to Clerkships course. The three-week capstone course provided students with targeted education about

working in a clinical environment, with an emphasis on professionalism, communicating with patients, and how to be an effective member of the health care team, said **Becky Latch, M.D.**, Associate Dean for Student Affairs. At the end, students re-stated the Medical Student Oath, which they had first recited as incoming freshmen, alongside clerkship and college leaders. "This was such an exciting and

meaningful way to celebrate our students' move into clinical roles," Dr. Latch said. "We are grateful to **Drs.** Elizabeth Kim, Angie Scott, Lindsey Sward and Heather Young, and to team members Micah Bolin and **Jennifer VanEcko**, for their work and innovation in developing this course." M3 student Bilal Momand said the course helped to reassure students and



address any questions and concerns. "Additionally, getting to interact with a variety of faculty and M4s to hear their wisdom was so beneficial for preparing us for what the next year might bring." "The Oath Ceremony was the perfect way to end the course, as it made us reflect on how far we've come as medical students," said Momand. "The excitement to

was a sentiment we all shared." M3s are now ensconced in their first clerkships. Momand said he is "enjoying the thrill of early morning rounds and labor/delivery" and more on his OB/GYN

finally see patients and put into practice the previous two years of medical school



Dr. Brian Kirkpatrick Invested in Endowed Chair

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

M.D., MSPH, Professor of Psychiatry,



The College of Medicine presented

on his investiture in the Dr. John **Emmett Peters Endowed Chair in** Psychiatry on June 13. As an internationally renowned expert in schizophrenia and related diseases, Dr. Kirkpatrick provides world-class care and leadership for the Odyssey Clinic in the Psychiatric Research Institute. READ MORE COM Honors '80 Alumnus at Alumni Weekend 2024

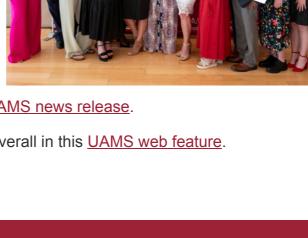
2024 DEAN'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Congratulations to Brian Kirkpatrick,

the 2024 Dean's Distinguished Alumnus Award to A. Wesley

Burks, M.D., a 1980 graduate who currently serves as Dean of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and CEO of UNC Health. Dr. Burks served on the **UAMS** Department of **Pediatrics** faculty from 1985 to 2003 and continues to collaborate with UAMS colleagues on internationally recognized research into peanut and other food allergies. Dr. Burks was honored during the Dean's Luncheon at Alumni Weekend on June 1. Learn more about Dr. Burks in this **UAMS** news release. Read more about Alumni Weekend overall in this UAMS web feature. Back to the top





RECENT GRANTS



extramural grants in May. 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 or which are highlighted above. **UAMS:** Robert Eoff, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,

(05/01/2024 - 04/30/2028), \$1,100,000. Ronda Henry-Tillman, M.D., Department of Surgery, FY25 ADH ACPI Health

Initiatives, Arkansas Department of Health, (07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025), \$377,337.

Matthew Jorgenson, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Manipulating undecaprenyl phosphate levels to deci, NIH/Nat. Inst. of General

Replication of G-quadruplex DNA by translesion, National Science Foundation,

Medical Sciences, (06/10/2024 - 04/30/2029), \$1,883,980. Lin-Xi Li, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Exploring early protective immune responses to ChI - Resubmission - 1, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Allergy

& Infectious Diseases, (05/10/2024 – 03/31/2026), \$408,116. Pearl McElfish, Ph.D., Internal Medicine/Institute for Community Health Innovation, Home Food Delivery-YR 5 Continuation, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Nursing

Research, (07/01/2024 - 6/30/2025), \$468,476. Kevin Phelan, Ph.D., Department of Neurobiology and Developmental **Sciences**, AR Tech-DaSH: Arkansas Technology and Data Science, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, (05/02/2024 – 03/31/2029), \$1,208,275.

Nancy Rusch, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology/College of Medicine, Connect Arkansas Research Scholars (CARS) Program, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, (07/01/2023- 6/17/2024), \$102,500.

ACRI: Josh Kennedy, M.D., Department of Pediatrics, An Integrated Host-Microbe Gene Classifier to Predict SARS-CoV-2 and Severe Disease in Children with Respiratory Viral Coinfections, NIH, (06/01/2024 – 02/28/2029), \$3,314,250.

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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.

