

# MESSAGE FROM THE Dean

Greetings, College of Medicine team! Starting with this issue of the *COMMunication*, I would like to share a few words each month about positive developments in our college.

First up is a special welcome to our new residents and fellows. We are thrilled to have you at UAMS. At GME Orientation last month, I noted that while there will be occasional hurdles as you build your knowledge and skills, it's important to remember that our faculty and staff, along with your peers, are here for you. We're in this together.

A shout-out as well to the many new faculty colleagues joining us this time of year. Some are featured in the New Faculty section below, and we will introduce more in upcoming issues of the *COMMunication*. If you joined our faculty in the past year, I hope to see you at the annual [New Faculty Reception](#) on Sept. 26. New faculty and department leaders who plan to attend are asked to [RSVP by Sept. 1](#).

One of the brightest developments in recent weeks was the official word from the National Institutes of Health of the [\\$31.7 million renewal](#) of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) supporting the UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI). **Dr. Laura James** and the TRI team are doing excellent work to cultivate and support clinical and translational researchers at UAMS. Kudos for a job very well done.

Finally, I want to mention how much I have enjoyed getting to know many of you during my first five months at UAMS. Thank you for the warm welcome. I hope to meet many more of you soon. If you see me in the corridors of UAMS or around town, please stop and say "Hi!"

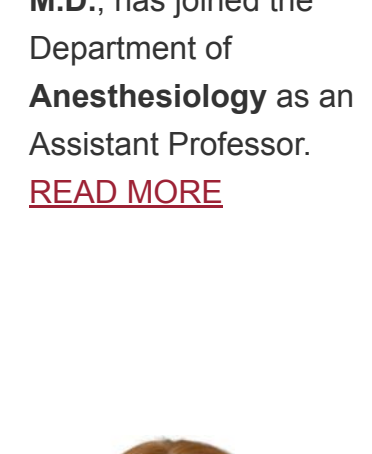
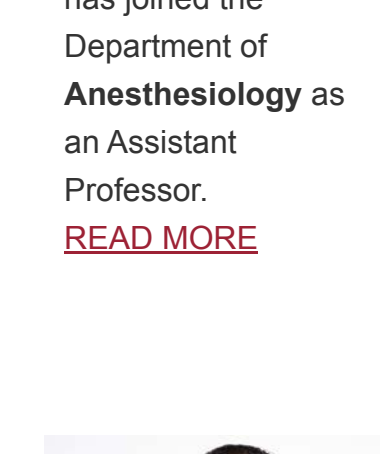
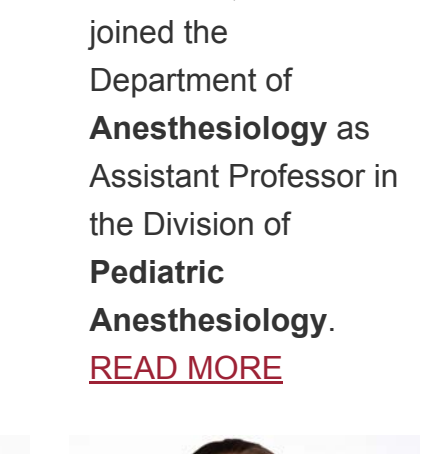

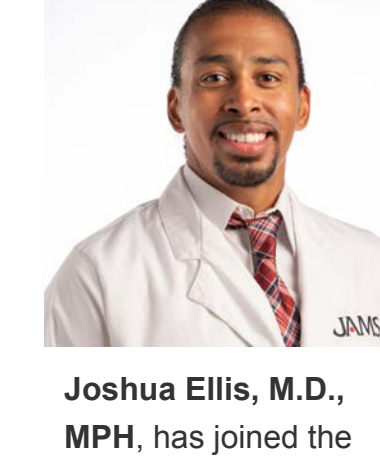
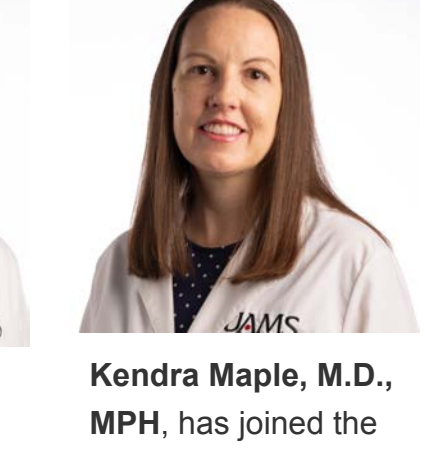
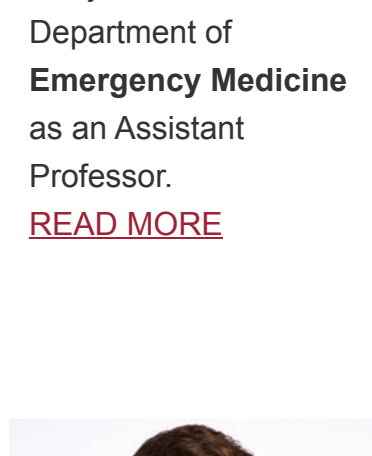
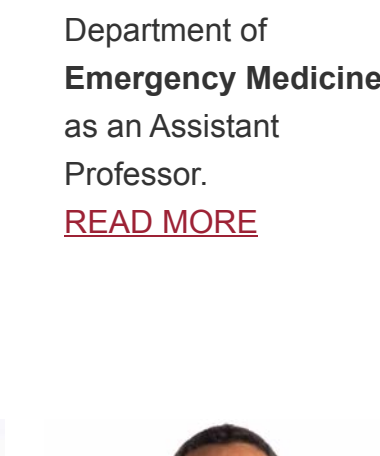
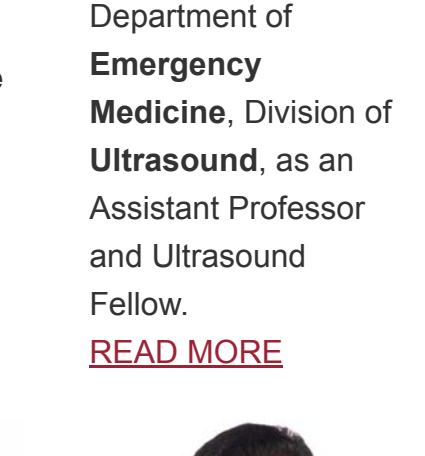
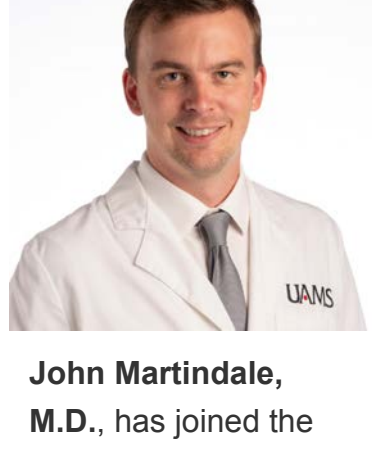
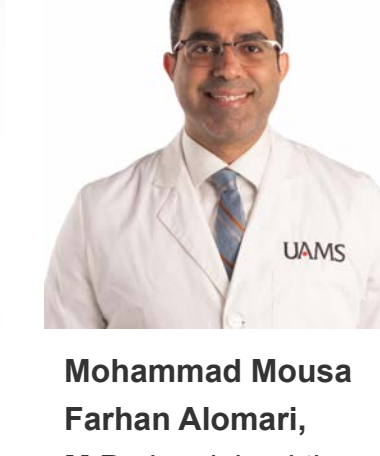
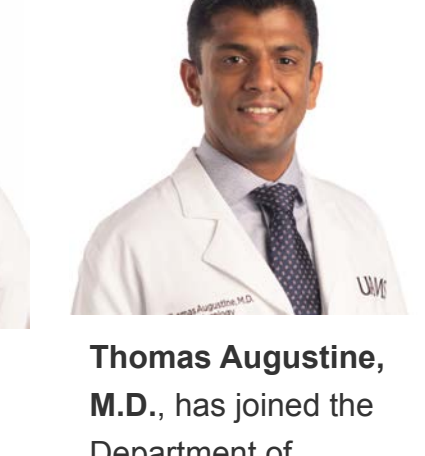
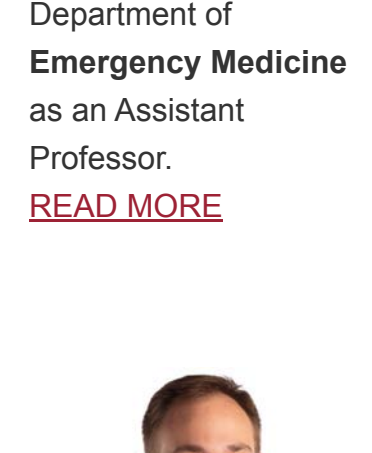
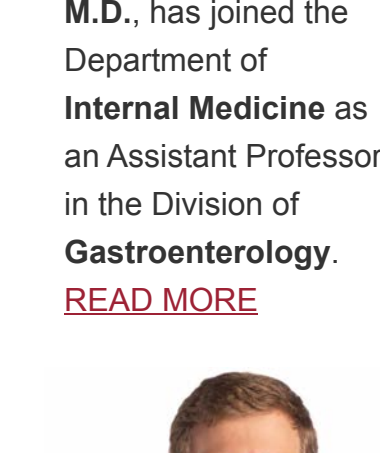
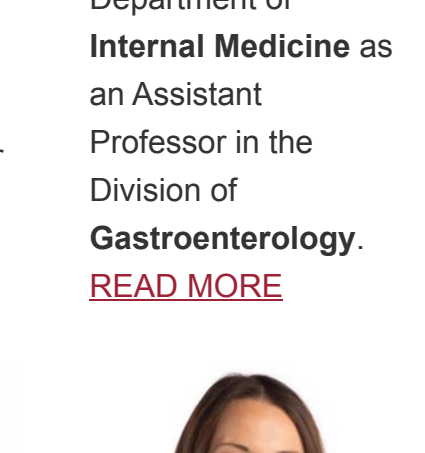
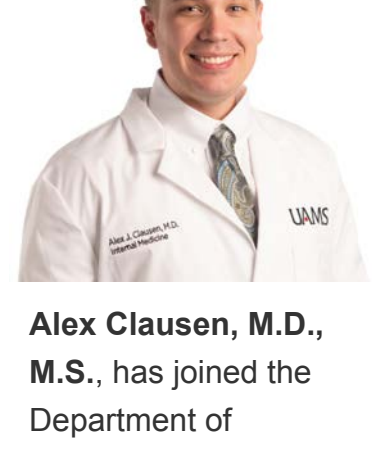

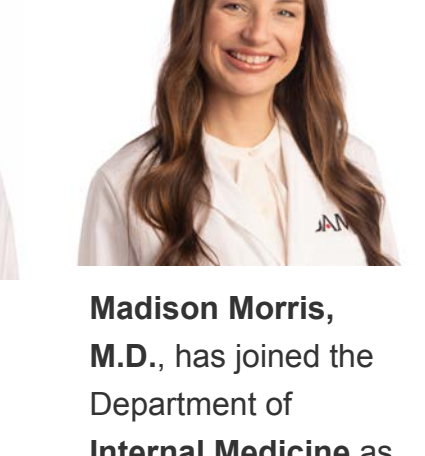
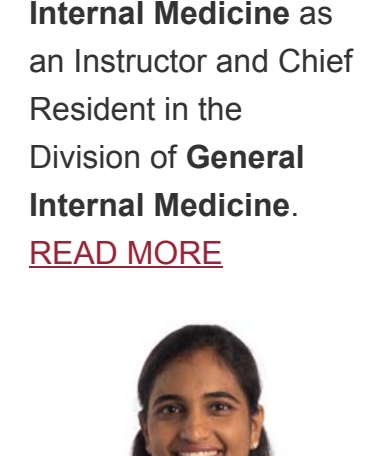
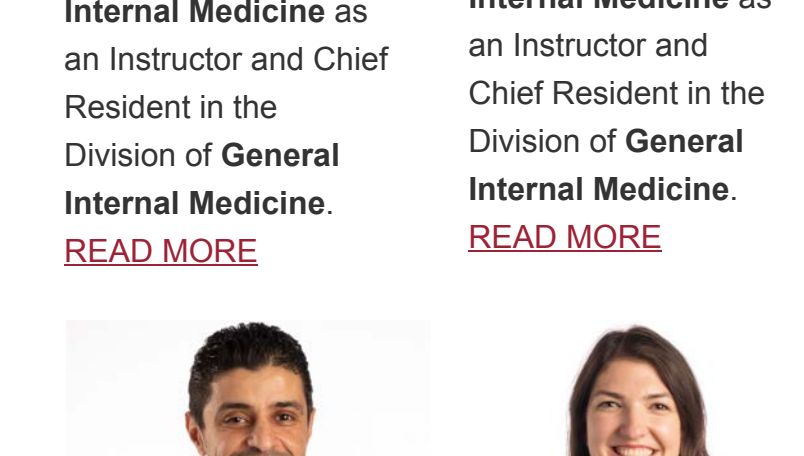
*Steve*

**Steven A. Webber, MBChB, MRCP**  
Dean, College of Medicine  
Executive Vice Chancellor, UAMS

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## NEW FACULTY

Please join us in welcoming these recent additions to the COM faculty - and watch for more introductions in upcoming issues!

 <b>Cash Arcement, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Anesthesiology</b> as an Assistant Professor. <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Ashley Elser, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Anesthesiology</b> as an Assistant Professor. <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Pedro Solorzano Arathoon, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Anesthesiology</b> as Assistant Professor in the Division of <b>Pediatric Anesthesiology</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>
 <b>Paige Dailey, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Emergency Medicine</b> as an Assistant Professor. <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Joshua Ellis, M.D., MPH</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Emergency Medicine</b> as an Assistant Professor. <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Kendra Maple, M.D., MPH</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Emergency Medicine</b> , Division of <b>Ultrasound</b> , as an Assistant Professor and Ultrasound Fellow. <a href="#">READ MORE</a>
 <b>John Martindale, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Emergency Medicine</b> as an Assistant Professor. <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Mohammad Mousa Farhan Alomari, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Internal Medicine</b> as an Assistant Professor in the Division of <b>Gastroenterology</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Thomas Augustine, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Internal Medicine</b> as an Assistant Professor in the Division of <b>Gastroenterology</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>
 <b>Alex Clausen, M.D., M.S.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Internal Medicine</b> as an Instructor and Chief Resident in the Division of <b>General Internal Medicine</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Mason Harper, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Internal Medicine</b> as an Instructor and Chief Resident in the Division of <b>General Internal Medicine</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Madison Morris, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Internal Medicine</b> as an Instructor and Chief Resident in the Division of <b>General Internal Medicine</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>
 <b>Manozna Karri, MBBS</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Internal Medicine</b> as an Assistant Professor in the Division of <b>Hematology/Oncology</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Wabba Bin Homam, MBCh</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Internal Medicine</b> as an Assistant Professor in the Division of <b>Hospital Medicine</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Morgan Tripod, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Internal Medicine</b> as an Assistant Professor in the Division of <b>Hospital Medicine</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>
 <b>Ryan James, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Internal Medicine</b> as an Instructor and Advanced Interventional Pulmonology fellow in the Division of <b>Pulmonary and Critical Care</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Roni Cox, M.D.</b> , has rejoined the Department of <b>Pathology</b> as an Associate Professor in the <b>Anatomical Pathology</b> Division. <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Venkatram Krishnan, M.D.</b> has joined the Department of <b>Radiology</b> as an Assistant Professor in the Division of <b>Neuroradiology</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>
 <b>Sania Razzaq, M.D.</b> has joined the Department of <b>Radiology</b> as an Assistant Professor in the Division <b>Pediatric Radiology</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	 <b>Lexie Vaughn, M.D.</b> , has joined the Department of <b>Surgery</b> as an Assistant Professor in the Division of <b>General and Minimally Invasive Surgery</b> . <a href="#">READ MORE</a>	

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**PRIMARY CARE DOCS FOR ARKANSAS**

**BEST MEDICAL SCHOOLS** | UAMS continues to climb *U.S. News & World Report's* list of Best Medical Schools. The magazine's annual listing of medical schools across the country ranks UAMS fourth for primary care education, ninth for the most graduates practicing in health professional shortage areas and 11th for graduates practicing in rural areas.

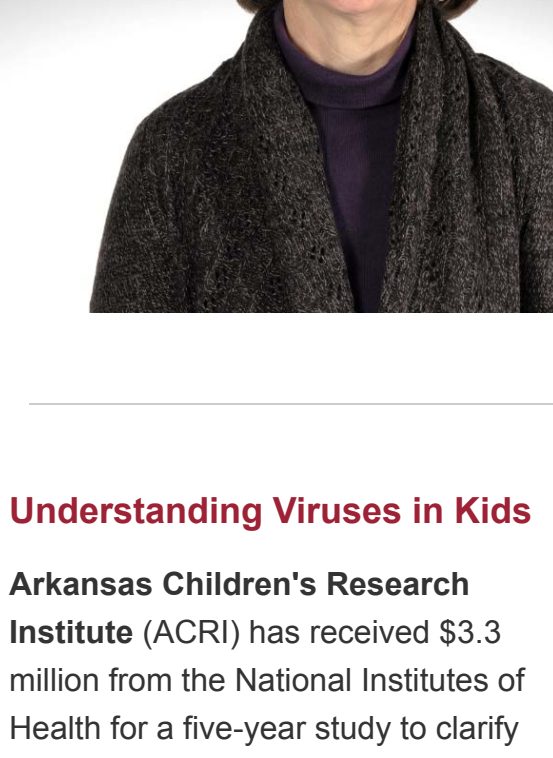
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## RECENT GRANTS

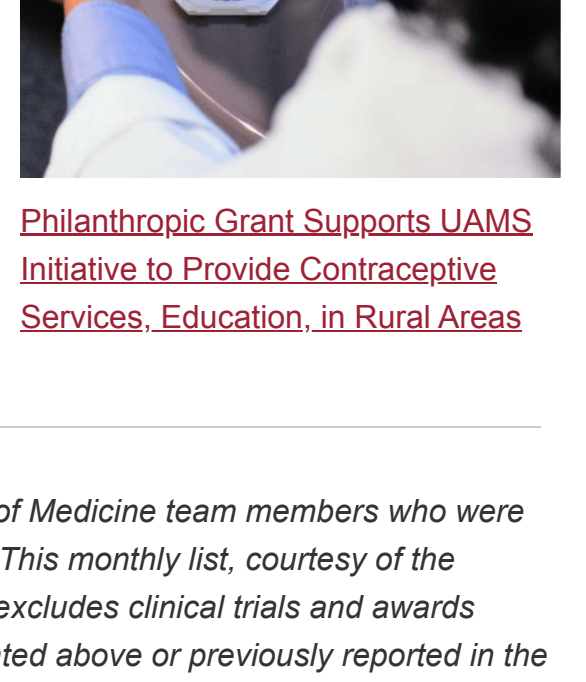
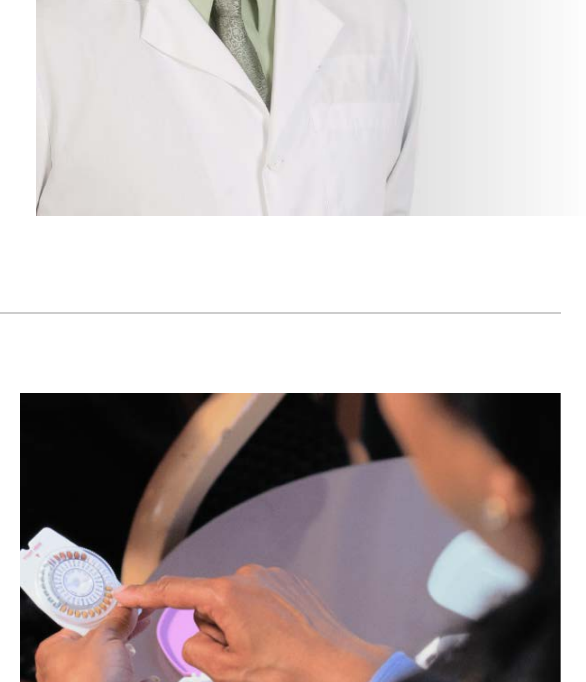


**ACCELERATING DISCOVERIES TO TRANSFORM HEALTH** | The **UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI)** has received a \$31.7 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) renewal to continue its work to cultivate and support UAMS researchers and partners across the state in efforts to accelerate research to improve health. TRI Director **Laura James, M.D.**, Professor of **Pediatrics** and UAMS Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical and Translational Research, serves as Principal Investigator on the CTSA. [READ MORE](#)



**Improving Care for Older Adults**  
The **Arkansas Geriatric Education Cooperative (AGEC)** has received a \$5 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to support efforts to provide specialized training for health professionals, students, caregivers and others who work with older adults across Arkansas. AGECE is directed by **Robin McAtee, Ph.D.** [READ MORE](#)

**Understanding Viruses in Kids**  
**Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI)** has received \$3.3 million from the National Institutes of Health for a five-year study to clarify which viral and host factors lead to severe disease among children infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. **Josh Kennedy, M.D.**, is Principal Investigator, and **Peter Mourani, M.D.**, is Co-Investigator. [READ MORE](#)



[UAMS Gets \\$1.3 Million Grant for High School-Focused Tech and Data Science Exposure Program in NWA](#)

[Philanthropic Grant Supports UAMS Initiative to Provide Contraceptive Services, Education, in Rural Areas](#)

*Congratulations to the following College of Medicine team members who were awarded new extramural grants in June. This monthly list, courtesy of the College of Medicine Office of Research, excludes clinical trials and awards under \$10,000, as well as grants highlighted above or previously reported in the COMMunication.*

- J. Craig Forrest, Ph.D.**, Department of **Microbiology & Immunology**, Defining KSHV LANA functions in viral pathogenesis, National Institutes of Health, (07/01/2024 – 05/31/2029), \$2,351,185.
- Donald Johann Jr., M.D., MSc**, Departments of **Biomedical Informatics and Internal Medicine**, S10 Equipment Supplement, National Institutes of Health, (06/15/2024 – 06/14/2025), \$750,000.
- William Steinbach, M.D.**, and **Praveen Juvvadi, Ph.D.**, Department of **Pediatrics**, Calcineurin Control over Aspergillus Fumigatus Antifungal Response Mechanisms, National Institutes of Health, (06/15/2024 – 05/31/2029), \$2,585,155. (ACRI)
- Melissa Zielinski, Ph.D.**, Department of **Psychiatry**, Translational Training in Addiction, NIH/Nat. Inst. on Drug Abuse, (07/01/2024 – 06/30/2029), \$2,447,715.

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