August has been a whirlwind for many of us in the College of Medicine, perhaps

RSVP here by Sept. 1.

especially for our new M1s. Hello, Class of 2028! It was wonderful to welcome you at Freshman Orientation and an honor to be a part of your White Coat Ceremony on Aug. 9. A shout-out to Johnathan Goree, M.D., Associate Professor and Director of the Chronic Pain Division in the Department of Anesthesiology, for his inspiring words as the keynote speaker. Hello also to all the new faculty members who joined us this month. We are so glad you are here. As a reminder, if you joined us in the past year, I hope to see you at the New Faculty Reception on Sept. 26. All who plan to attend should

The College of Medicine leadership team had new additions this month. **Alan** Tackett, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular **Biology**, will provide strong leadership for our research initiatives in his new role as Executive Associate Dean for Basic Science Research. This week, we announced the recruitment of Ashley Booth Norse, M.D., from the University of Florida College of Medicine Jacksonville to serve as Chair of **Emergency**

Medicine, starting next January. Successful leadership transitions depend on the dedication, service and hard work of those who serve as interim leaders, and all team members. My thanks to everyone in **Emergency Medicine**, with special thanks to Interim Chair **Randy** Maddox, M.D., and former interim chair Greg Snead, M.D. I am also appreciative of the team in **Microbiology and Immunology**, and very thankful to **Jon** Blevins, Ph.D., who began serving as Interim Chair this month following the recent appointment of **Dan Voth, Ph.D.**, as UAMS Vice Chancellor for Research

and Innovation. Kudos also to Sanjaya Viswamitra, MBBS, who began serving as Interim Chair of Radiology last month, and his department colleagues. Finally, thank you to **Robin Dreisigacker**, **J.D.**, for her exceptional service as Associate Dean for Finance and Administration. Robin has been a tireless advocate for our college since 2015. We said farewell to Robin this week as she returns to her home state of Arizona and assumes a leadership post with the University of Arizona College of Medicine. I hope everyone has a great Labor Day Weekend!

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

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WELCOME, CLASS OF 2028!





Campus recite the Medical Student Oath.

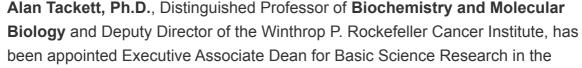
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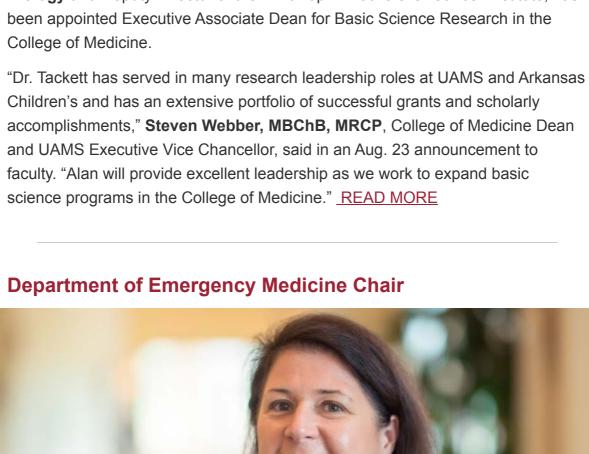
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COLLEGE OF

insights at the podium. Below right: Students and faculty at the UAMS Northwest Arkansas

LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS Executive Associate Dean for Basic Science Research



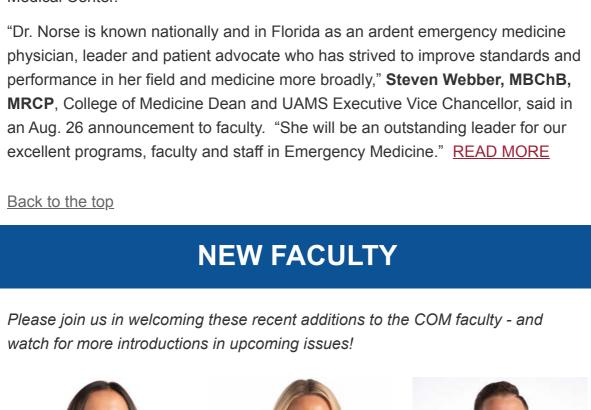


Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Norse, who will start on Jan. 6, 2025, also will serve as Clinical Service Chief for Emergency Medicine for UAMS Medical Center.

Ashley Booth Norse, M.D., FACEP, Professor and Associate Chair of

College of Medicine Jacksonville, has been named as the next Chair of the

Operations in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Florida



UNAS

Jessie Merrill, M.D.,

Anesthesiology as

has joined the

Department of

an Assistant

READ MORE

Professor.

Calixto Romero,

faculty as an

of **Emergency**

Medicine and

specialist in the

Care Unit.

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Medical Intensive

Khristian Sunga,

Department of

an Assistant

Medicine.

READ MORE

Kristina Jones,

Department

the Division

of **General**

Obstetrics and Gynecology. **READ MORE**

Devin Cook, D.O.,

has joined the

Department of

Instructor and

Pediatric Chief

READ MORE

Resident.

Pediatrics as an

M.D., has joined the

of **Obstetrics and**

Gynecology as an

Assistant Professor in

Professor in the

M.D., has joined the

Internal Medicine as

Division of **Hospital**

M.D., has joined the

Assistant Professor

Kristel Magsino,

Department of

READ MORE

M.D., has joined the

Anesthesiology as an

Associate Professor.

Russell Roark, M.D.,

Internal Medicine as

an Instructor in the

Gastroenterology.

Einnod Williams,

the Department of

in the Division of

READ MORE

Viktoriya

Tulchinskaya, M.D.,

Collette Tilly, M.D.,

has joined the

Department of

Instructor and

Pediatric Chief

READ MORE

Erin Jefferson, M.D.,

has joined the

Department of

Psychiatry as an

Instructor and the

inaugural UAMS

Women's Mental

Health Fellow.

READ MORE

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Resident.

Pediatrics as an

Hospital Medicine.

M.D., MPH, has joined

Internal Medicine as

an Assistant Professor

has joined the

Department of

Division of

READ MORE

Alan Baltz, M.D., has joined the Department

of **Internal Medicine** as

Hematology/Oncology.

an Assistant Professor

in the Division of

READ MORE



Eva Regel, D.Be., has

joined the Department

of **Medical**

Humanities and

Bioethics as an

READ MORE

Assistant Professor.

has joined the Pediatrics as an Department of **Obstetrics and** Instructor and Pediatric Chief Gynecology as an Assistant Professor in Resident. the Division of READ MORE Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. **READ MORE**

Hannah Barkley, M.D., M.S., has joined the Department of

Kyle Camp, M.D., Hamza Hassan Khan, has joined the M.D., has joined the Department of Department of Psychiatry as an **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor. Assistant Professor of READ MORE Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and

FIGHTING A DEADLY FUNGUS | The National Institutes of Health has awarded two grants totaling more than \$3 million to Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI) Principal Investigators Praveen Juvvadi, Ph.D., and William **Steinbach**, **M.D.**, to propel research into a deadly fungus, *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

RECENT GRANTS

Infectious Diseases. Dr. Steinbach serves in the section and is Professor and Chair of the Department of **Pediatrics**, Associate Dean for Child Health, and Pediatrician-in-Chief for Arkansas Children's. READ MORE

funded with a \$310,000 supplemental grant from the National Institutes of Health to Lawrence Cornett, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Physiology & Cell Biology and Director of the Arkansas IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research **Excellence** (INBRE). The project will be overseen by **Colin Kay, Ph.D.**, Professor of **Pediatrics** and Director of **Precision Health Research** at **ACRI**. READ MORE Congratulations to the following College of Medicine team members who were awarded new extramural grants in July. 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.

Supplement), NIH/Nat. Inst. of General Medical Sciences, (02/01/2024 -01/31/2025), \$250,000. Mohammad Rahman, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry & Molecular

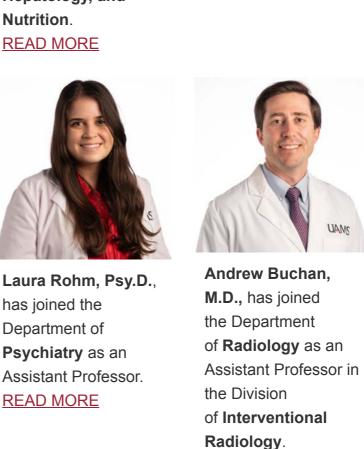
Charles O'Brien, Ph.D., Department of Internal Medicine, microCT 45 (Admin.

Jennifer Guimbellot, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Pediatrics, ENsuring ACcess

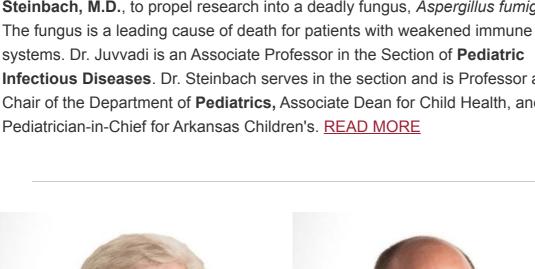
to optimal Therapy in CF: ENACT study, NIH/National Institutes of Health,

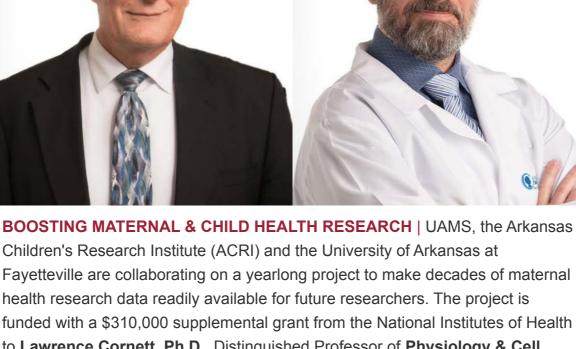
(07/17/2024 – 06/30/2029), \$2,981,633. (ACRI)

LaTunja Sockwell, M.A., Department of Family & Preventive Medicine, Ending



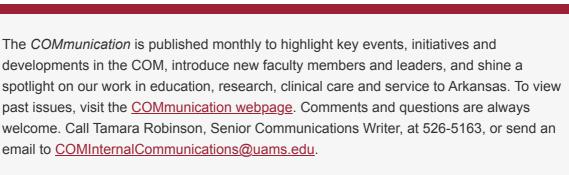
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Biology, R35, NIH/Nat. Inst. of General Medical Sciences, (07/08/2024 – 04/30/2029), \$1,883,350.

the HIV Epidemic, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, (07/01/2024 -05/31/2028), \$820,456. Back to the top The COMmunication is published monthly to highlight key events, initiatives and developments in the COM, introduce new faculty members and leaders, and shine a



College of Medicine