

# COMmunication

August 2018

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## Technology on Tour

**David Davies, Ph.D.**, and **Kevin Phelan, Ph.D.**, award-winning educators in the Department of **Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences**, have been exceptionally busy lately. As a \$1.3 million renovation of the Gross Anatomy Lab was being completed, the Co-Directors of the Division of Clinical Anatomy embarked on a whirlwind schedule of demonstrations of the jaw-dropping new technology that is literally at the fingertips of College of Medicine students and other learners at UAMS.

Freshman Family Day, Alumni Weekend, the Teaching with Technology Symposium, television interviews, outreach to high school students and continuing education events were just some of the things on the itinerary. With help from enthusiastic student volunteers and standardized patients, Dr. Phelan and Dr. Davies have showcased how ultrasound is augmenting education and captivated audiences with demonstrations of the new Sectra 3D virtual dissection table.

Read more about the Sectra in the [COM Newsroom](#), and watch as M2 Sarah Beckwith uses the table in this report from [KARK TV](#).



## It Starts with a White Coat and an Oath ...

*"Give this world your very best, staying centered in a loving presence while seeking the good in others and reflecting it back. Learn what matters to them. Offer hope and healing."*

**Linda L.M. Worley, M.D.**  
Associate Dean, UAMS Northwest Regional Campus  
Keynote Address, 2018 White Coat Ceremony

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### COM Grads' Step 3 Scores Hit New Record

A record high 98 percent of College of Medicine graduates passed the Step 3 U.S. Medical Licensing Examination on the first attempt in the most recent class year tracked by the USMLE.

The USMLE released data for 2015 graduates nationwide at the end of July. The exam is taken after graduation from medical school, often early in residency training. The 2015 data is for graduates who took the exam between May 2015 and December 2017.

“Our faculty can take pride in the fact that our students achieved the highest pass rate on the Step 3 in the two decades that we have been tracking this data,” said **Richard P. Wheeler, M.D.**, Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. “Our educators deserve credit for their ongoing work to enhance the curriculum, commitment to outstanding teaching, and willingness to mentor our students.”

Step 3 is the final USMLE exam required for medical licensure in the United States. The national average pass rate has climbed in recent years and has been at 98 percent for the two most recent years of data. UAMS’ average has roughly paralleled the national average in most years.

### Dr. Alissa Kanaan Named to Rhinologic Society International Committee

**Alissa Kanaan, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor in the **Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery**, has been appointed to a three-year term on the International Liaison Committee of the American Rhinologic Society (ARS). The committee advocates for international members and those interested in international affairs, advises the ARS Board of Directors and staff on the development of international programs, and develops programs to recruit international members and broaden the society’s involvement in foreign countries.



### Dr. Issam Makhoul Selected for Clinical Oncology Education Scholars Program

**Issam Makhoul, M.D.**, a Professor in the Department of **Internal Medicine** and Director of the Division of Medical Oncology, has been accepted into the inaugural class of the highly competitive education scholars program of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. The year-long program, which accepted only 12 participants nationwide, is designed to create a cohort of oncologists with the knowledge and skills to serve as role models and advance medical education in the field.

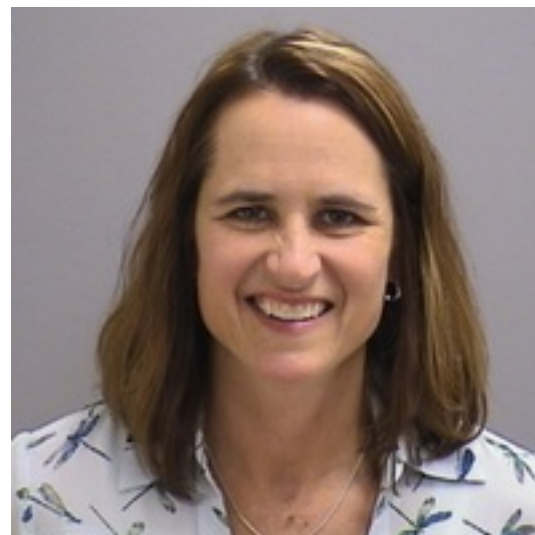
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## New Faculty and Leaders

### Dr. Jill Fussell Named Chief of Developmental Pediatrics

**Jill Fussell, M.D.**, a Professor of **Pediatrics** and Medical Director of the James L. Dennis Developmental Center, has been appointed Chief of the Section of Developmental-Behavioral and Rehabilitative Pediatrics.

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### Jake Stover Appointed Associate Dean, CFO

**Jake Stover, M.H.S.A.**, who served in financial leadership roles at UAMS from 2006 to 2017, has returned to UAMS as Associate Dean for Finance and Chief Financial Officer in the College of Medicine.

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### Dr. Sami Uwaydat Appointed Interim Ophthalmology Chair

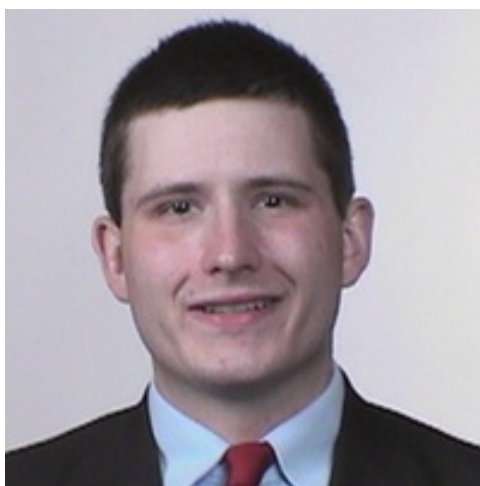
**Sami Uwaydat, M.D.**, has been named Interim Chair of the Department of **Ophthalmology**, where he has served in several leadership positions since joining the faculty in 2008.

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**Isabelle Racine Miousse, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Jason Arthur, M.D., M.P.H.**, has joined the Department of **Emergency Medicine** as an Assistant Professor and Ultrasound Fellow.

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**Heather McLemore, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Emergency Medicine** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Meenakshisundaram Balasubramaniam, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Geriatrics** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Angela Norman, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Geriatrics** as an Assistant Professor and Director of the UAMS Centers on Aging at the Reynolds Institute on Aging.

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**Veronica Pinto Miranda, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Geriatrics** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Rashmi Verma, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Medical Oncology.

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**Angela Odle, Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences** as an Instructor.

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**T. W. Morris III, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Neurosurgery** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Melissa Helmich, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Obstetrics and Gynecology** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Sam Overley, M.D.**, has joined the departments of **Orthopaedic Surgery** and Neurosurgery as an Assistant Professor.

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**Graham M. Strub, M.D., Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery** as an Assistant Professor.

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**Sumera Ali, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pediatric Radiology.

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**Don Benson, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Body Imaging.

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**Mudassar Kamran, M.D., M.Sc., D.Phil. (Oxon.)**, has joined the Department of **Radiology** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Interventional Neuroradiology.

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**Emmanouil Giorgakis, M.D., M.Sc.**, has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Transplant Surgery.

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**Lawrence E. Greiten, M.D., M.Sc.**, has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery.

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# Recent Grants



## Dr. Arny Ferrando Receives \$2.2 Million DOD Grant

**Arny Ferrando, Ph.D.**, a Professor in the Department of **Geriatrics**, has garnered a \$2.1 million U.S. Department of Defense grant to determine the best possible nutrition for military personnel engaged in combat and training.

“UAMS and its scientists like Arny Ferrando continue to demonstrate how the university is leading in research that promises not just to benefit Arkansas but the nation,” said UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D.

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## Extramural Grants

*Congratulations to COM faculty members and a graduate student who received new extramural grants in June/July. This list, courtesy of the Office of the Executive Associate Dean for Research, excludes industry trials and awards under \$10,000. The dollar amount is the current funding allocation for FY18/19 direct costs.*



**Aime Franco, Ph.D.**, Department of **Physiology and Biophysics**, MAPK pathway modulation in thyroid tumorigenesis, NIH/Nat. Cancer Institute, \$228,750.



**Abdallah Hayar, Ph.D.**, Department of **Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences**, EPSCoR - CASE, National Science Foundation, \$25,714. Pass through from Arkansas Economic Development Commission.



**Ronda Henry-Tillman, M.D.**, Department of **Surgery**, Colorectal Cancer Screening Program FY 2019, Arkansas Department of Health, \$406,740.



**Nishank Jain, M.D.**, Department of **Internal Medicine**, A Mechanistic Study in Patients with Non-Dialysis Chronic Kidney Disease to Investigate Altered Platelet Response to Antiplatelet Therapy, American Society of Nephrology, \$90,909.



**Vladimir Lupashin, Ph.D.**, Department of **Physiology and Biophysics**, Characterization of mammalian COG complex-interacting Golgi trafficking machinery, NIH/Nat. Inst. of General Medical Sciences, \$265,000.



**Sharp Malak, M.D.**, Department of **Radiology**, UAMS Mobile Mammography Program: 2018-2019, Arkansas Department of Health, \$401,490.



**Samantha McClenahan, B.A.**, Ph.D. candidate, Department of **Pharmacology and Toxicology**, Development of an Enantiomeric Specific Vaccine for 3,4-Methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDPV) Abuse, NIH/Nat. Inst. on Drug Abuse, \$34,733.



**Hakan Paydak, M.D.**, Department of **Internal Medicine**, Medtronic - Fellowship Funding Award 2018 - 2019, Medtronic Inc., \$30,000.



**Ronald Robertson, M.D.**, Department of **Surgery**, Trauma System Grant, Arkansas Department of Health, \$1,017,000.



**Leanne Whiteside-Mansell, Ed.D.**, Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine**, Adult Drug Court (ADC): Understanding Promoters and Barriers to Uptake and Adherence of Oral Truvada for PrEP, Gilead Sciences, Inc., \$198,043.



**Robert Wolfe, Ph.D.**, Department of **Geriatrics**, FORTE: Effects of Fortetropin on Skeletal Muscle Protein Fractional Synthetic Rate in Older Men and Women, MYOS RENS, \$45,379. Pass through from University of California, Berkeley.

### Intramural Grants

*Congratulations to COM faculty members who received intramural awards in July:*



**Michael Golinko, M.D.**, Department of **Surgery**, Neurodevelopmental Outcomes in Craniosynostosis Repair, Research Scholar Pilot Grant Award in Child Health, \$49,811.60.



**Nadir El Sharawi, M.B.B.S.**, Department of **Anesthesiology**, Plasma Concentrations Analysis of Biological Markers in Women Diagnosed with Placental Abruption and Normal Cesarean Delivery, Research Scholar Pilot Grant Award in Child Health, \$49,324.25.

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## Your Turn!

Last month's issue was the first in our **new e-newsletter format**, after many years of directing readers to a PDF of a formatted newsletter on the intranet each month. We invited you to rate our new format on a scale of 1-5 stars and share comments. The results are in ...





12 comments

[SHOW COMMENTS](#)

**Here's what a few of you had to say:**

"I like the new format - it's easier to read in the email!"

"Looks great! I like the new format and inclusion of ACH, UAMS and research information."

"I'm sure the new background serves a purpose but I did like the color and design of the old version. The new version doesn't seem to have the professional and polished appeal that the old one did."

"I like it ...! Very easy to read!"

We appreciate all of your comments and will continue to strive for an engaging, informative, entertaining and easy-to-read newsletter!

**Comments? Ideas? Email Us!**

The *COMmunication* is published monthly to highlight key initiatives and developments in the COM, to introduce new faculty members and leaders, and to celebrate major professional honors and awards. The Dean's Office works in partnership with designated newsletter liaisons throughout the COM. To find your department's contact, read our submission guidelines or view past issues, visit the [COMmunication webpage](#).

**Comments, questions and suggestions for improvements are always welcome.** Call Tamara Robinson, Senior Communications Writer, at 526-5163, or click the red button above to email the *COMmunication*.



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