

COMmunication

October 2018

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Family and Preventive Medicine Receives \$3.29M to Reduce Obesity in Arkansas

The Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine** has received a \$3.29 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a five-year project to reduce obesity, increase physical activity and improve nutrition in Arkansas, especially in the Delta.

The State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) project funding was awarded to the Community and Health Education Division. Division Director **Alysia Dubriske, M.Ed., CHES**, is leading the grant. Pictured above are Dr. Dubriske (on right) with **Leanne Whiteside-Mansell, Ed.D.**, Director of the Research and Evaluation Division.

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In the News: Cooking up a Healthier Arkansas



UAMS' new culinary medicine initiative is gathering steam! The committee overseeing development of the medical student culinary curriculum is led by **Gloria Richard-Davis, M.D.**, Professor and Director of the Department of **Obstetrics and Gynecology's** Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, and **Gina Droben, M.D.**, Associate Professor of **Pathology** and Chief of Pathology at Arkansas Children's Hospital. In the future, medical students may have the opportunity to take a senior elective in culinary medicine in addition to required curriculum elements.

You can check out one of the recent news reports on the initiative, from KARK, in the video above. The segment features Dr. Richard-Davis, senior medical student **Jordan Fletcher** and freshman **Alexis Brown**. Also this week, Chancellor **Cam Patterson, M.D.**, and junior medical student **Sasha Ray** touted the initiative and demonstrated how to make vegetarian pizza on KATV's Good Afternoon Arkansas.

Want to learn more about this evidence-based emerging field of medicine? UAMS will showcase its plans for culinary medicine activities and host a presentation by a national expert at noon next Friday, Oct. 26. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Have you seen the new weekly Accolades from Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, yet? Sent via email, Accolades highlights many more recent honors and accomplishments of College of Medicine faculty, staff, residents and students. You can also [read Accolades here](#). If you know someone who deserves a shout-out, send your ideas to Dr. Westfall via [COM Internal Communications](#)!

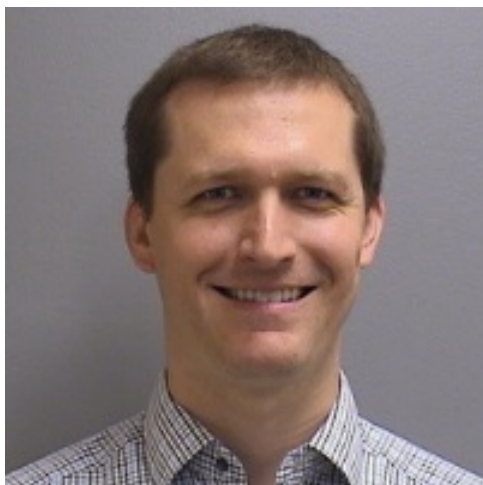
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New Faculty and Leaders



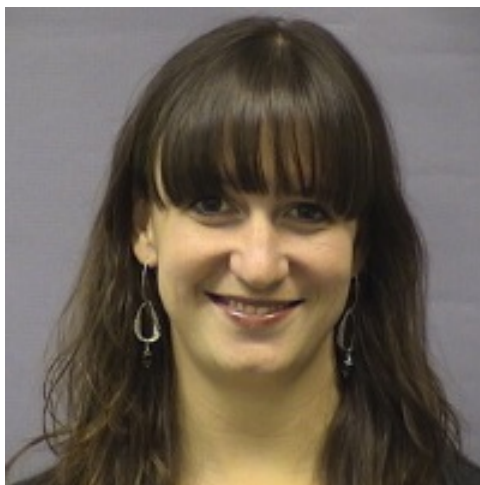
New Faculty Reception

College of Medicine Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, and other COM and campus leaders welcomed faculty members who have joined the UAMS family this past year at the annual New Faculty Reception on Sept. 27. Pictured above, from left, are Assistant Professors **Harriet Kayanja, M.D., Ph.D.**, who joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine in January; **Bittu Majmudar, M.D.**, who joined the Department of **Pediatrics** Division of Neurology in August, and **Genevieve Gabriel, M.D.**, who joined Pediatric Neurology in October 2017.



Markus Renno, M.D., M.P.H., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology.

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Liza Murray, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Children at Risk.

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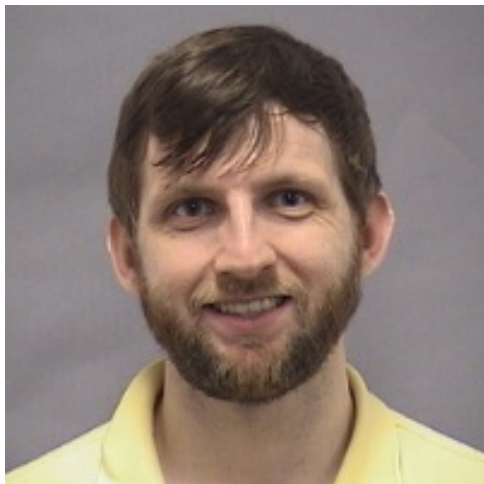
Chenia Eubanks, M.D., M.P.H., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Associate Professor in the Division of Community Pediatrics.

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Heather Bullard-Manbeck, D.O., M.A., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine.

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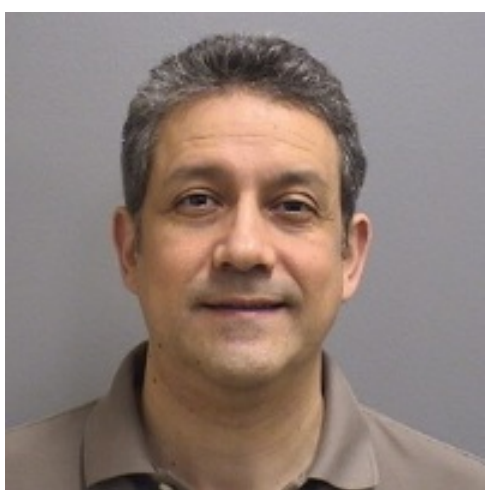
Carl W. Dowden, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine.

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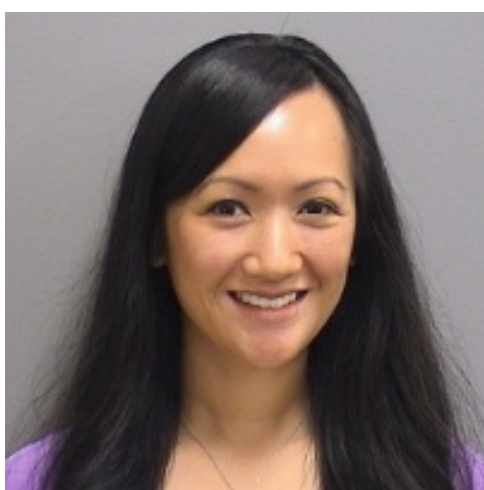
Travis Ayers, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Gastroenterology.

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Alex Ramirez, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Gastroenterology.

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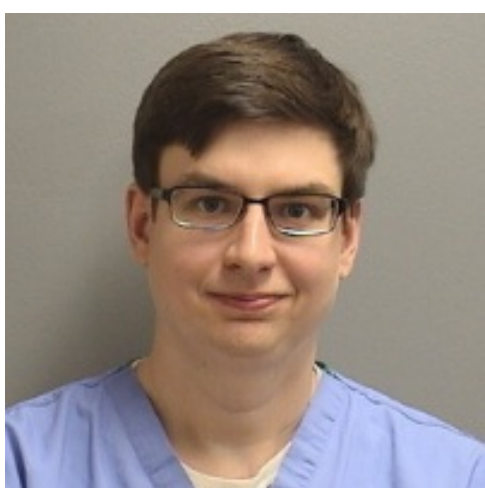
Joana Mack, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology.

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Sara Camp Sanders, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine.

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David Matlock, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Neonatology.

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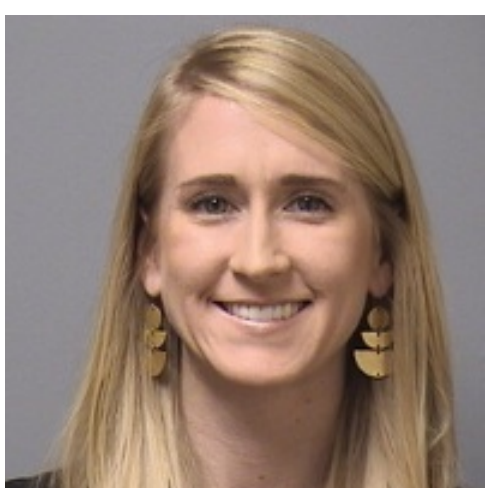
Ankita Shukla, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Neonatology.

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Rachel Millner, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology.

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Sarah Cobb, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Neurology.

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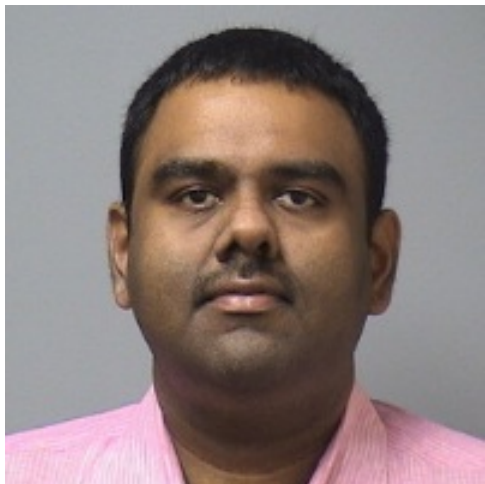
Tara Johnson, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Neurology.

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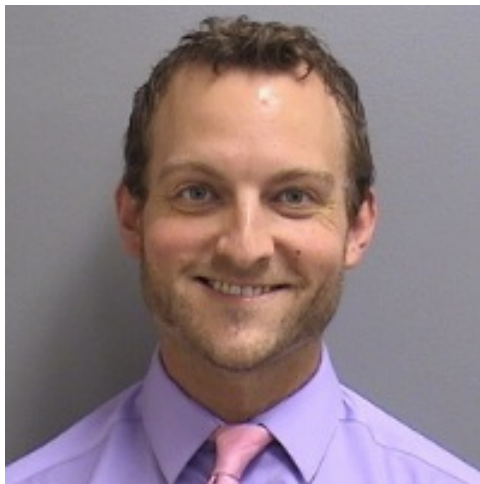
Bittu Majmudar, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Neurology.

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Aravindhan Veerapandiyan, M.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Neurology.

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Seth Sorensen, Ph.D., has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Psychology.

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Recent Grants

Congratulations to College of Medicine faculty and staff members who received new extramural grants with award start dates in September. This list, courtesy of the Office of the Executive Associate Dean for Research, excludes industry trials and awards under \$10,000.



Karen Abbott, Ph.D., Department of **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, Novel platform linking cancer-specific glycosylation with cell signaling outcomes, NIH/Nat. Cancer Institute (09/12/2018 - 08/31/2021), \$604,208.



Paul Drew, Ph.D., Department of **Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences**, Neuroinflammation: Role in FASD Cognitive Deficits, NIH/Nat. Inst. on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism (09/01/2018 - 08/31/2023), \$1,906,001.



Alysia Dubriske, M.Ed., CHES, Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine**, Mission Expedition: University of Arkansas for Medical Science's State Physical Activity and Nutrition and Project, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (09/30/2018 - 09/29/2023), \$3,290,835.



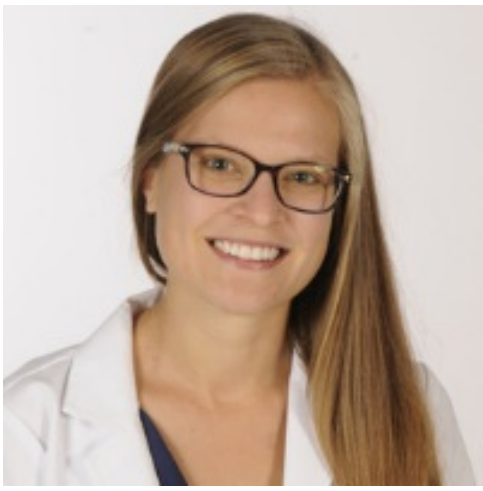
Larry Johnson, M.D., Department of **Internal Medicine**, Cystic Fibrosis Care Center Mental Health Coordinator, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (09/01/2018 - 08/31/2021), \$161,637.



Cynthia Kane, Ph.D., Department of **Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences**, Dynamic neuroimmune interactions in the onset and progression of FASD, NIH/Nat. Inst. on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism (09/01/2018 - 06/30/2023), \$2,264,825.



Angus MacNicol, Ph.D., Department of **Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences**, Control of pituitary cell plasticity through regulated mRNA translation, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Child Health & Human Development (09/01/2018 - 06/30/2023), \$3,152,134.



Erin Mannen, Ph.D.,
Department of
Orthopaedic Surgery,
Biomechanical Evaluation
of Infants in Inclined Sleep
Products, U.S. Consumer
Product Safety
Commission (09/18/2018
- 09/17/2019), \$248,432.



Robert Reis, Ph.D., and
Srinivas Ayyadevara,
Ph.D., Department of
Geriatrics, Inference of
Common Pathways
Underlying
Neurodegeneration &
Other Age-Progressive
Diseases, NIH/Nat. Inst.
on Aging (09/30/2018 -
05/31/2023), \$1,867,446.



Brian Storrie, Ph.D.,
Department of **Physiology**
and Biophysics,
Structure/Function
Determinants of Platelet
Granule Secretion, NIH/Nat.
Heart, Lung & Blood
Institute (09/15/2018 -
08/31/2019), \$508,114.

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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 below to email the *COMmunication*.

Comments? Ideas? Email Us!



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