

# COMmunication

November 2018

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## Paying it Forward

**Kemmian Johnson** and **Anna Nguyen**, fourth-year medical students at the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus, visited the Jean Tyson Child Development Study Center at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville recently to talk to preschoolers about staying active and eating healthy. They also may have inspired a future physician or two!

## Model of Perseverance

**Cesar Hurtado, M.D.**, moved to the United States from Mexico at the age of 9 and later graduated from high school in Rogers, Arkansas. Today he's a third-year family medicine resident at the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus - and so much more. Dr. Hurtado was recently honored by LULAC for serving as an inspiration to Hispanic youths.

"Cesar has persevered in realizing the American Dream, said **Linda McGhee, M.D.**, Family Medicine Residency Director at the Northwest Regional Campus. "He will be a valuable asset to the people of northwest Arkansas."



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## Steadfast Service

When **Robert Burns, Ph.D.**, joined UAMS in 1968 as the first faculty hire made by then Anatomy Chair John Pauly, Ph.D., he was on his way to becoming an exceptional educator and researcher whose impact continues 50 years later. Dr. Burns and other longtime faculty and staff, including the College of Medicine's **Robert Arrington, M.D.**, **Rebecca Bryant** and **Edgar Garcia-Rill, Ph.D.**, were honored at UAMS Employee Service celebrations on Oct. 30 and Nov. 1.

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## New Faculty and Leaders



## Dr. Rick Smith Returns to Psychiatry Leadership Posts

**G. Richard Smith, M.D.**, previous longtime Chair of the Department of **Psychiatry** and founder of the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute (PRI), has been appointed to serve again in the top psychiatry posts at UAMS.

“Dr. Smith has dedicated his career to UAMS and to ensuring the very best psychiatric care for Arkansans,” said **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, Executive Vice Chancellor of UAMS and Dean of the College of Medicine. “He is an exceptional leader and ensures continued strong momentum for our psychiatric programs.”



Dr. Smith chaired the Department of Psychiatry from 2001 to 2013 and served as Dean of the College of Medicine in 2013-2015. He oversaw the development of PRI, which opened in 2008.

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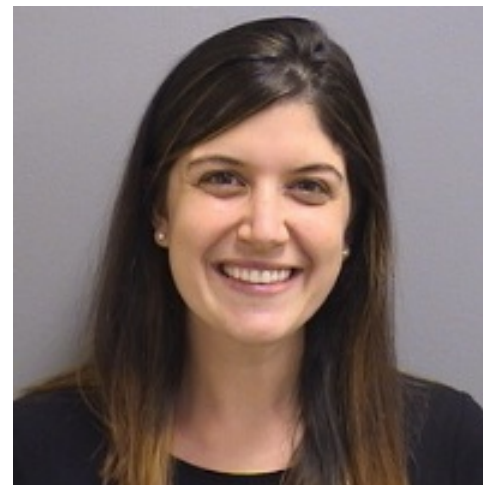
**Muhammad Asim Khalil, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Internal Medicine** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Medical Oncology.

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**Omar Salem, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine.

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**Becca Perin, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Pediatrics.

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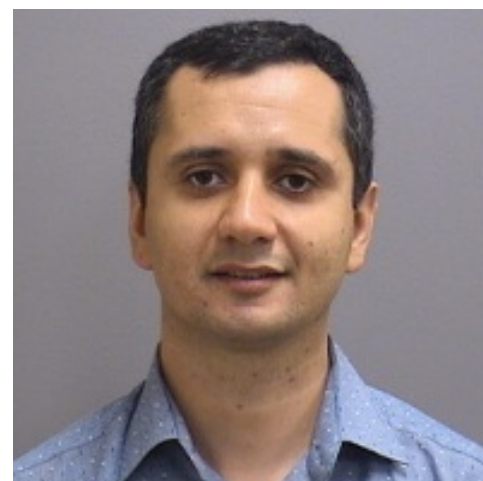
**Hannah Renno, M.D., M.P.H.**, has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Pediatrics.

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

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**Erhan Ararat, M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonology.

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Have you read the latest Accolades from Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**? The weekly email highlights 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!](#)

**These COM team members were named in Accolades Oct. 24-Nov.14:**

Mohamed Ahmed  
Nadia Alqurini  
Robert Arrington  
Saeedah Asaf  
Lowry Barnes  
Rebecca Bryant  
Robert Burns  
Joe Chacko  
Parimal Chowdhury  
Ryan Dare  
Linda Deloney  
Scott Dickson  
John Dornhoffer  
Paul Edwards  
Praveen Errabelli  
Aime Franco

Sara Foster  
Edgar Garcia-Rill  
Jerad Gardner  
Rob Garrison  
James Graham  
Teresa Hudson  
Kedar Jambhekar  
Alissa Kanaan  
Nithin Karakala  
Ryota Katsumi  
Jennifer Laudadio  
Everett "Pat" Magann  
Stavros Manolagas  
Spyridoula Maraka  
Chelsea Mathews  
Simon Mears

Jay Mehta  
Beverly Miller  
Grover Miller  
Mauricio Moreno  
Rachel Pahls  
Hakan Paydak  
Eric Rosenbaum  
LaTunja Sockwell  
Jeffrey Stambough  
Brendan Stack  
James Suen  
Billy Thomas  
Ramakrishna Thotakura  
Richard Wheeler

**These departments were represented in Accolades Oct. 24-Nov. 14:**

Anesthesiology  
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology  
Emergency Medicine  
Family/Preventive Medicine  
Internal Medicine  
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences  
Neurology  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Ophthalmology

Orthopaedic Surgery  
Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery  
Pathology  
Pediatrics  
Physiology/Biophysics  
Psychiatry  
Radiology  
Surgery

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## Recent Grants

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



**Beverly Miller, M.Ed.**, Department of **Pediatrics**:

Child Passenger Safety Education, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (10/01/2018 - 09/30/2019), \$342,844. Pass through from Arkansas State Police.

AR Drive Smart Challenge/Battle of the Belt, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (10/01/2018 - 09/30/2019), \$171,038. Pass through from Arkansas State Police.

**LaTunja Sockwell, B.A.**, Department of **Family and Preventive Medicine**:

HIV Intervention Services, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, (10/01/2018 - 12/31/2019), \$40,000.



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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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