

# COMmunication

December 2018

**GO TO:** New Faculty and Leaders | Accolades | Recent Grants



*Season's Greetings!*



Like a lot of folks in the College of Medicine, the Residency Program Coordinators Organization (PCO) wanted to do something meaningful to mark the season. The group "adopted" 20 kids at the Chicot Early Head Start. Members purchased toys, books and necessities such as socks, mittens and hats for each child. The treasures were delivered to delighted youngsters this week.

*Pictured, top photo: Program coordinators stuffed stockings instead of having a PCO holiday luncheon earlier this month. Bottom photos, left to right, feature **Darlene Clinton**, Program Coordinator in **Orthopaedic Surgery**; **Lacie Covington**, Program Coordinator in **Radiology**; and **Shannon Heard**, Program Coordinator in **Family Medicine**.*



## Fall Faculty Meeting Focuses on Research

Opportunities and challenges faced by College of Medicine researchers were a special focus of the Fall Faculty Meeting on Dec. 3. Executive Vice Chancellor and COM Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**, moderated discussion with a faculty panel representing COM research leadership, affiliated campuses and some of the key research programs and resources available to COM researchers.

The meeting also included an update on the changing landscape of Graduate Medical Education in Arkansas. In addition, faculty members heard about a dentistry initiative and voted to establish a Department of Pediatric and Special Needs Dentistry. The faculty also approved minor changes to the COM Bylaws.

A [detailed summary](#) of the meeting, PPT slides, bylaws revisions and other materials from the meeting are available on the [2018 Faculty Meetings](#) intranet page.



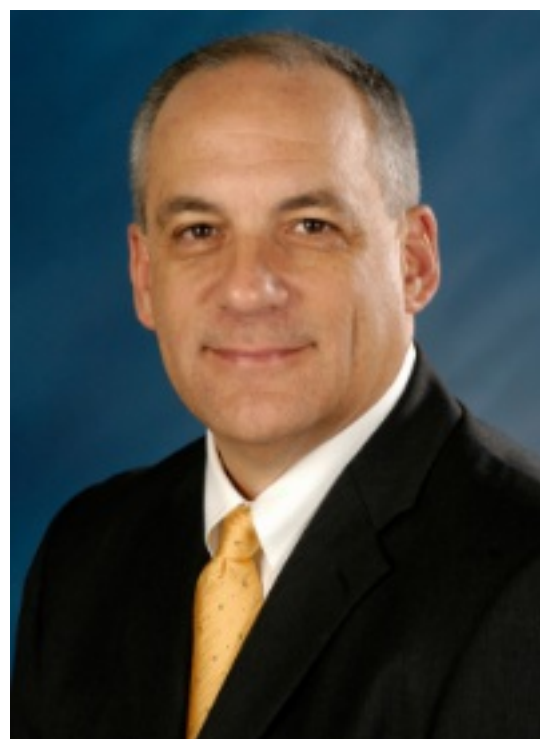
### Dr. Clint Kilts Named ARA Fellow

**Clint Kilts, Ph.D.**, a Professor of **Psychiatry** and founding Director of the UAMS Brain Imaging Research Center, was named an Arkansas Research Alliance Fellow at the State Capitol on Dec. 13.

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)

## New Faculty and Leaders



### Dr. Gregory Sharp Named CMO at ACH

**Gregory Sharp, M.D.**, Professor and Chief of Pediatric Neurology in the College of Medicine Department of **Pediatrics**, has been named Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH).

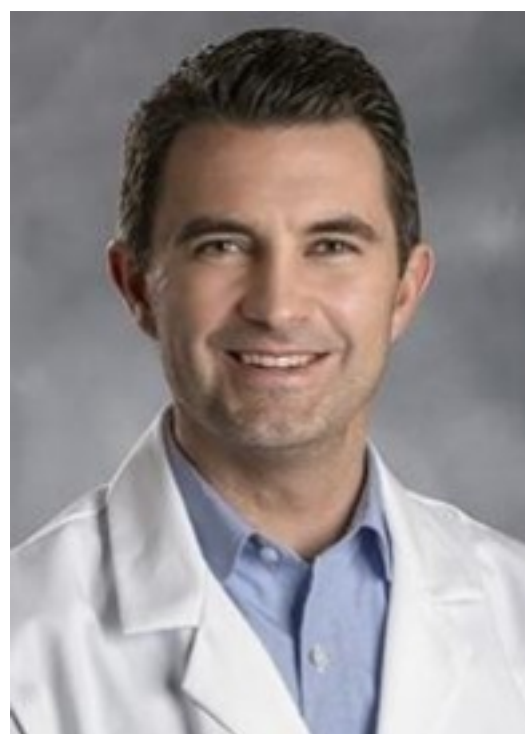
Dr. Sharp has held numerous clinical, academic and hospital leadership posts since first joining the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Neurology in 1990.

[READ MORE](#)

### Dr. Bobby Boyanton Jr. Joins Faculty as Pathology Section Chief at ACH

**Bobby Boyanton Jr., M.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pathology** as Professor and Section Chief of Pathology at Arkansas Children's Hospital. He previously was a Professor of Pathology at the William Beaumont College of Medicine at Oakland University in Michigan, where he led the clinical microbiology and molecular pathology laboratories and served as Associate Residency Program Director at Beaumont Hospital.

[READ MORE](#)





**Zhiqiang Qin, M.D., Ph.D.**, has joined the Department of **Pathology** as an Associate Professor.

[READ MORE](#)



**Fernando Vargas, M.D., M.P.H.**, has joined the Department of **Pediatrics** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Developmental Pediatrics.

[READ MORE](#)



**Kalenda Kasangana, M.D., RPVI**, has joined the Department of **Surgery** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery.

[READ MORE](#)

[Back to the Top](#)



Have you read the latest **Accolades** from Dean **Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.**? The weekly email highlights recent honors and accomplishments of COM 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 & UAMS team members were named in Accolades Nov. 28-Dec. 19:**

Amit Agarwal  
Shahryar Ahmadi  
Jake Allison  
Rick Barr  
Richard Blaszk  
Elijah Bolin  
Tamara Thomas Bradford  
Katie Brown  
Lyle Burdine  
Jason Chang  
Parimal Chowdhury  
Christina Clark  
Kasa Cooper  
Ryan Dare  
Sid Dassinger  
David Davies  
Jay Deshpande  
Alan Diekman  
John Dornhoffer  
Gina Droben  
Paul Edwards  
Murat Gokden  
Amanda George  
Larry Hartzell  
Sophie Hollenberg  
Robert Hopkins  
Piroon Jenjaroenpun  
Mike Jennings

Tonya Johnson  
Stacie Jones  
Joshua Kennedy  
Clint Kilts  
Haixia Lin  
Xiang-Yang "George" Lou  
Vladimir Lupashin  
Issam Makhoul  
Sharp Malak  
Matt Malone  
Neil Masangkay  
Kelly Mercer  
Jason Mizell  
John Musser  
Charles O'Brien  
Jon Oden  
Xiawei Ou  
Cam Patterson  
Hakan Paydak  
Kevin Phelan  
Terry Pivik  
Matt Quick  
Andrea Rhea  
Sung Rhee  
Ron Robertson  
Amy Rowell  
Joseph Sanford  
Amy Seay

Anna Severin  
Gregory Sharp  
Laura Sisterhen  
G. Richard Smith  
Brendan Stack  
Laura Stanley  
Jake Stover  
Mohsin Syed  
Gerardo Tamayo-Enriquez  
Sara Tariq  
Esther Teo  
Puru Thapa  
Billy Thomas  
Denise Thomas  
Ruth Thomas  
Joe Thompson  
Christopher Trudeau  
Dave Ussery  
Sami Uwaydat  
Daniel Voth  
Kent Westbrook  
Rob Williams  
Maggie Wilson  
Jeffrey Wolchok  
Thidathip Wongsurawat  
Theresa Wyrick  
Laxmi Yeruva

**These departments were represented in Accolades Nov. 28-Dec. 19:**

Anesthesiology  
Biochemistry/Molecular Biology  
Biomedical Informatics  
Internal Medicine  
Medical Humanities/Bioethics  
Microbiology/Immunology  
Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences  
Neurology  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Ophthalmology

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

[Back to the Top](#)

## Recent Grants

*Congratulations to College of Medicine faculty who received a new extramural grant in November. Our monthly list, courtesy of the Office of the Executive Associate Dean for Research, excludes industry trials and awards under \$10,000.*



**Daniel Voth, Ph.D.**, Department of **Microbiology and Immunology**, A Novel Human Lung Infection Platform to Define Staphylococcus aureus Virulence Determinants, NIH/Nat. Inst. of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (09/01/2018 - 08/31/2020), \$220,278.

**Back to the Top**

---

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!**

**UAMS** | College of Medicine



UAMS College of Medicine | 4301 W. Markham, #550 | Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

**Back to the Top**