COM Faculty Meeting Focuses on Clinical Mission, Links to Education

The Fall Faculty Meeting featured a panel discussion of the clinical mission, UAMS' and Arkansas Children's growing clinical footprint across Arkansas, and the crucial links between clinical programs and education in the effort to increase the numbers of physicians and improve health. Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., moderated the Oct. 15 discussion with the panel and other faculty leaders.

“Regardless of what happens in Washington, one thing is very clear. Value-based care is the one sure direction. We must work to make health care less expensive.”

– Arabinda Choudhary, M.D., MBA, Chair, Department of Radiology

Read the Meeting Summary. (Intranet)

Congratulations to COM Faculty Invested in Endowed Chairs!

October was a month for honoring extraordinary colleagues and celebrating the philanthropic spirit that makes endowed chairs possible. Four College of Medicine faculty members were invested in endowed chairs. Faculty who are named to endowed chairs at UAMS and premier institutions around the world are among the most highly regarded physicians, scientists and educators in their fields. Congratulations to these outstanding colleagues!

UAMS and Washington Regional Medical Center celebrated the investiture Oct. 3 of Randy Shinn, M.D., Assistant Professor of Geriatrics, as the inaugural recipient of the Pat Walker Distinguished Chair in Senior Health at the UAMS Schmieding Center for Senior Health and Education in Springdale.

J.D. Day, M.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, was invested Oct. 10 in the Robert Watson, M.D., Chair in Neurological Surgery at UAMS.

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Warm Welcome

Faculty members who joined UAMS in the past year were welcomed by campus and COM leaders at the new faculty reception on Sept. 24. Above left: Christopher Westfall, M.D., visits with Srinivasa Gokarakonda, M.D., M.P.H., who joined the Department of Psychiatry faculty in August. Above right: David Walker, M.D., who joined the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in August, shakes hands with Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., as they visit with Otolaryngology Chair John Dornhoffer, M.D.

Below, say hello to some of the new faculty members who have joined us recently!

Arabinda K. Choudhary, M.D., MBA, Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiology, was invested Oct. 14 in the Ernest J. Ferris, M.D. Chair in Diagnostic Radiology at UAMS.

Mark Smeltzer, Ph.D., Professor in the departments of Microbiology and Immunology and Orthopaedic Surgery, was invested Oct. 28 in the Chair in Sciences Basic to Medicine at UAMS.

New Faculty and Leaders

David Nagy, M.D., has rejoined the Department of Anesthesiology as an Assistant Professor and Director of Trauma Anesthesia.

Sukanthi Kovuru, M.D., has joined the Department of Neurology as an Assistant Professor and neuromuscular specialist.

Ramon Ylanan, M.D., has joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery as an Assistant Professor and orthopaedic sports medicine specialist in Fayetteville.
Leslie Harrell, D.O., has joined the Department of Radiation Oncology as an Assistant Professor.

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Anna M. Privratsky, D.O., has joined the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery.

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We will continue to introduce new faculty colleagues in future issues!

Recent Grants

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

Maryam Garza, MMCi, MPH, Department of Biomedical Informatics, CDISC eSource Project, FDA (05/01/2019 – 09/30/2019), $188,972. Pass through from Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium.

Fred Prior, PhD., Department of Biomedical Informatics:


Xiawei Ou, Ph.D., Department of Radiology, and Ashley Acheson, Ph.D., Department of Psychiatry, Co-PIs, HEAL Consortium: Establishing Innovative Approaches for the HEALthy Brain and Child Development Study, NIH/ Nat. Inst. On Drug Abuse (09/30/2019 – 03/31/2021), $516,375.

(Top photo: Dr. Ou; Bottom photo: Dr. Acheson)
These COM departments were represented in Accolades Sept. 25-Oct. 30:

- Anesthesiology
- Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
- Biomedical Informatics
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family/Preventive Medicine
- Geriatrics
- Internal Medicine
- Microbiology/Immunology
- Neurobiology/Developmental Sciences
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology-Head/Neck Surgery
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacology/Toxicology
- Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation
- Physiology/Biophysics
- Psychiatry
- Radiology
- Surgery

In Memoriam

Howard Barnhard, M.D., a longtime Professor of Radiology and Chair of the department from 1960 to 1973, died October 7. Dr. Barnhard graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina. A Navy veteran of World War II, he came to UAMS in 1954 and in 1960 became the youngest Chair of Radiology in the country. He stepped down in 1973 to serve as the first Director of the UAMS Department of Planning, Organization and Development. While in this role he instituted the first campus plan and added several educational and research facilities to the campus.