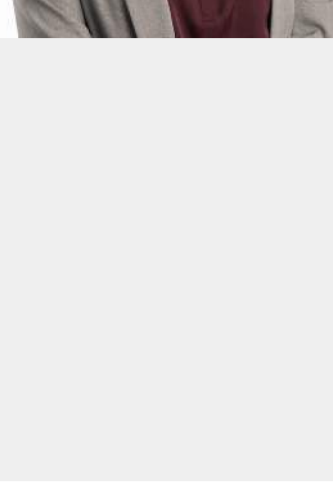


## Congratulations!

### FY 2023 Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Equipment Awards


The office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation (VCRI) has awarded 6 Equipment Awards to enhance the research capability of our funded investigators by supporting the acquisition of state-of-the-art commercially available equipment. In total, the VCRI Equipment Awards for this year amount to an impressive \$606,000, reflecting our commitment to empowering researchers and facilitating their pursuit of cutting-edge discoveries.

#### Featured Awardees and Project Descriptions




**Neha Dole, Ph.D.**  
**Amount Awarded:\$190,000**

"The state-of-the-art Promethion cage system for monitoring single-mouse whole-body respirometry, body weight, and continuous food intake and activity uses open-circuit respirometry in combination with a weigh station, massed food hopper, and exercise wheel. These features are combined with laser monitoring of mouse movement within the entire cage. The cage system is designed for low-stress housing (corn cob bedding, enrichment), allowing for the most accurate metabolic and behavioral phenotyping available. The 8-cage Promethion Core will be housed at the Barton DLAM facility and will be available to UAMS investigators beginning in Fall of 2023. Financial support for the Promethion Core is provided in part by the VCRI Equipment Grant and the Departments of Internal Medicine, Physiology and Cell Biology, Biochemistry, and Geriatrics . Contact Neha Dole (nsdole@uams.edu) for more information."



**Ping-Ching Hsu, Ph.D.**  
**Amount Awarded: \$80,000**

"Residents in rural Arkansas risk exposure to carcinogenic heavy metals (e.g., As, Cr, and Cd) that are present at high levels in the soil, water, and air. Metals occur in different fractions with varying origin and reactivity. Exposure to arsenite (iAsIII), arsenate (iAsV), and organic methylated species are known to inhibit DNA mismatch repair and produce genomic instability, cause oxidative/methylated DNA damage in offspring, exhibit potent estrogen-like activities, and act as endocrine disruptors to increase cancer risk. The absorbed doses of arsenic can be measured in nail, hair, saliva, blood, and urine samples. The Thermo Vanquish UHPLC system awarded to us will expand the capabilities of the existing inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS) in the UAMS Bioanalytical Core and can perform speciation analysis to identify and quantify the various inorganic and organic forms of heavy metals associated with occupational or environmental exposure."



**Shengyu Mu, M.D., Ph.D.**  
**Amount Awarded:\$200,000**

"The need for precise cardiovascular phenotyping techniques poses a significant obstacle to comprehensive studies on cardiovascular diseases. To overcome this limitation, my VCRI award of \$200,000 will be used to acquire a bio-radiotelemetry system and direct pressure catheters for small animals, laying the groundwork for a future Cardiovascular Phenotyping Core. The core will provide cutting-edge equipment and state-of-the-art expertise to accurately assess blood pressure, heart rate, and cardiac function in small animals. This infrastructure enhancement will benefit ongoing cardiovascular research and facilitate multidisciplinary investigations in areas such as "immune-physiology" and "cardio-oncology"; it will allow us to offer exceptional training opportunities for students, equipping them with the necessary skills for a successful career in cardiovascular research."

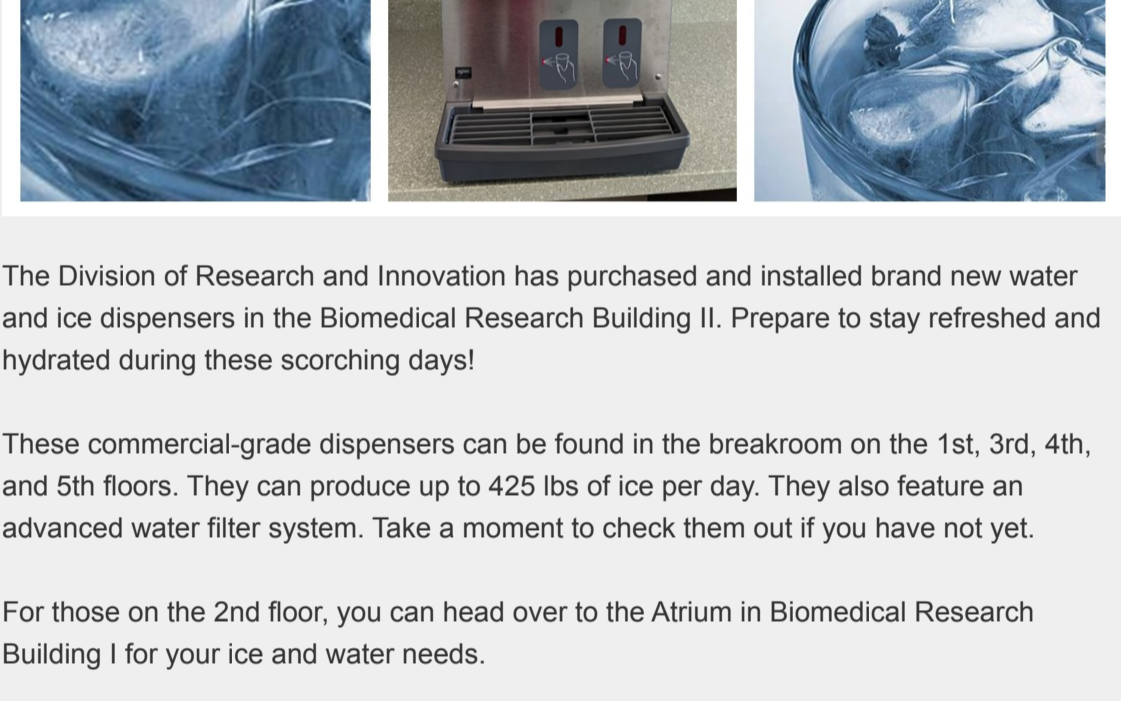
### Just Released: Research Wins Vol. 2



We are thrilled to announce the release of "Research Wins," an annual review of research accomplishments at UAMS. We encourage you to delve into the pages of "Research Wins" to witness the incredible journey we have embarked upon and to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our research community.

Click [here](#) for the digital version. Print versions will be distributed soon.

### Exciting Announcement: Beat the Summer Heat with Water and Ice!

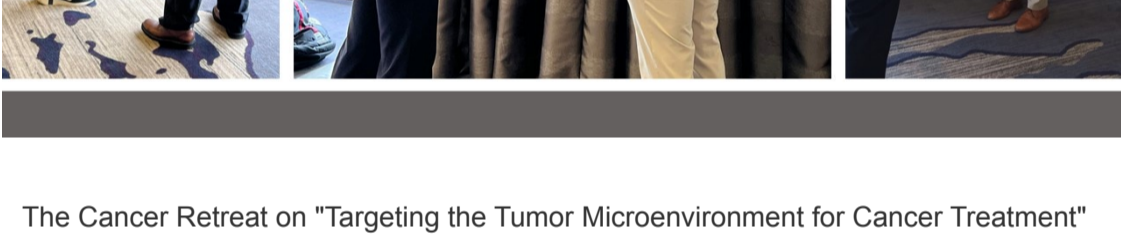


The Division of Research and Innovation has purchased and installed brand new water and ice dispensers in the Biomedical Research Building II. Prepare to stay refreshed and hydrated during these scorching days!

These commercial-grade dispensers can be found in the breakroom on the 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors. They can produce up to 425 lbs of ice per day. They also feature an advanced water filter system. Take a moment to check them out if you have not yet.

For those on the 2nd floor, you can head over to the Atrium in Biomedical Research Building I for your ice and water needs.

### Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Research Retreat



The Cancer Retreat on "Targeting the Tumor Microenvironment for Cancer Treatment" was successfully held at the Little Rock Marriott on May 16, 2023.

The program featured spotlight talks from the UAMS research community. A keynote address was delivered by Qing Yi, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Director, Houston Methodist Cancer Center. The retreat also included engaging poster sessions, where researchers presented their work and fostered discussions.

### Staff Updates of the Research Compliance Office, Institutional Compliance

The Office of Research Compliance (ORC), part of the Division of Institutional Compliance, has undergone several changes in recent months.

**Carrie Chiaro, MPH, CCRP, CHRC**, is the new Director of Research Compliance/Research Compliance Officer. Carrie has been with the ORC for almost 11 years, serving as the Research Compliance Audit Manager for the last 6 years.

**Jennifer McCluskey, RN, BSN, CCRP**, who has been with the ORC for 7 years, is now the Research Compliance Audit Manager.

Other changes include the addition of **Tracie Wilson, BS**, as a Research Compliance Analyst. Tracie comes to us from the Arkansas Department of Health.

**Kim Murphy, CMAR, CPIA**, who has been the Senior Compliance Analyst for Animal Research for the last 10 years, has taken on additional responsibilities as a result of these changes.

**Nancy Rhea, MS, CHRC, CCRP**, who was a Senior Research Compliance Analyst, has left UAMS as of April 30 for more exciting adventures. She will be missed by all.

There will be one more Research Compliance Analyst position to fill and then the ORC will be fully staffed once again.

### International Activities and Act 1020 Certification Form

International collaboration is vital for scientific discovery, and UAMS supports the ability of researchers and scholars to communicate, exchange ideas, and collaborate with the brightest minds around the world. At the same time, Federal and Arkansas state law, as well as UAMS policies, require transparency with respect to certain activities and relationships involving foreign actors and activities. Find out more information and what you need to do regarding [international activities](#).

### UAMS Postdoctoral Society

On May 22, the Postdoctoral Society hosted a session titled "Introduction to Arkana Laboratories". The session featured a presentation by Shree G. Sharma, M.D., Laboratory Director, Nephropathologist, Arkana Laboratories. Dr. Shree shared his career path and provided valuable advice on alternative career paths beyond academia, addressing a common concern among postdocs. During the seminar, the speaker and attendees actively participated in a dynamic and engaging discussion session.

### Upcoming UAMS Research Academy Workshops

The Division of Research and Innovation, under its [UAMS Research Academy](#), is offering 2 parallel workshop series to help faculty and staff sharpen their skillsets in grant-writing and post-award management. All presentations are recorded and will be available to view on the Research and Innovation website.

#### Grantsmanship Seminar Series

**Mentoring as a Key Component to Research Productivity**  
Clint Kilts, PhD  
Professor and Wilbur Mills Chair in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention  
Director, UAMS NIDA T32 Training Program  
Director, UAMS Brain Imaging Research Center  
Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine  
Associate Director for Research  
Psychiatric Research Institute  
Thursday, June 15, 2023; Virtual: 12-1 p.m. ([Link](#))

**Research Administration, Grants Management, and Regulatory Affairs Seminar Series**

**OSPAN – What can they do for me?**  
Ty Stephens, CPA, Director of OSPAN  
Tuesday, Jun 13, 2023; Virtual: 12-1 p.m. ([Link](#))

The following presentations have been archived and are available for viewing:

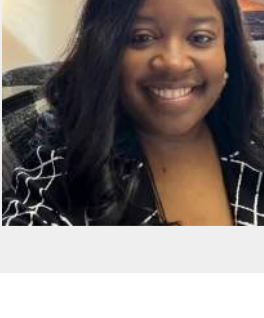
- [Anatomy of an impactful Specific Aims page](#): Mark Smeltzer, Ph.D.
- [How to address the main review criteria in your research strategy?](#): Marjan Boerma, Ph.D.
- [How do study sections review your proposal?](#): Alan Tackett, Ph.D.
- [How to address reviewers' comments?](#): Charles O'Brien, Ph.D.
- [Inclusion of human subjects in your research](#): Wendy Nembhard, Ph.D., MPH., FACE
- [Writing a successful DoD grant application – How is it different from an NIH application?](#): Shuk-Mei Ho, Ph.D.
- [Tips and tricks for productive scholarly writing](#): Amy Franks, PharmD
- [Space management](#): Mickey Thomas
- [Office of Research Regulatory Affairs \(ORRA\): Overview of functions and services](#): Laura Adkins, MAP, CCRP, CCRA, CRS, AdvCRS
- [Working with a scientific editor](#): Kerry Evans, Ph.D.
- [NIH Data management and sharing policy](#): Fred Prior, Ph.D.
- [MUSE Animal Ops and the Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine \(DLAM\)](#): Christy Simecka, DVM, DACLAM
- [3 ways entrepreneurship can help your lab: lessons from UAMS technologies](#): Kevin Sexton, M.D.
- [Managing multiple projects](#): Hari Eswaran, Ph.D.

## Team R&I Announcements

### Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine

Look out for training - Muse Animal Operations is going live this summer!


### Research and Sponsored Programs




**New staff member**

Research and Sponsored Programs is pleased to announce that **Desirae Walker** has joined us as our newest team member. Desirae holds BBA and MPA degrees from Southern Arkansas University (SAU). She has a daughter named Kylei and enjoys singing, cooking, and watching movies in her spare time. Please join us in welcoming Desirae to Team R&I!

### Congratulations to Science Communication Group (SciCom) team members!



SciCom editors **Eric Rathman, M.S.**, and **Meredith Joheim, M.S.**, both recently earned Editor in the Life Sciences (ELS) certification from the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS). ELS-certified editors have at bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited academic institution, have at least 2 years of experience as a manuscript editor in the life sciences, and must pass a written exam.



Eric Rathman, M.S.

## Open Positions

Join the Research & Innovation team: [Apply here!](#)

## Support Research and Innovation

Remember UAMS Research & Innovation in your charitable giving!

[Give Online Today!](#)