

# RESEARCH & INNOVATION NEWS

UAMS

August 2023

## Congratulations! Extramural Grant Awards



**Brooke E.E. Montgomery, Ph.D.**, received an award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services. "Home Together: Reducing family homelessness through integrated mental health treatment, recovery, and supportive community services"  
Period: 09/30/2023 – 09/29/2028  
Total: \$2,000,000



**Huiliang Zhang, Ph.D.**, received an award from the National Institutes of Health. "Deciphering the mitochondrial proton leak"  
Period: 09/01/2023 – 07/31/2028  
Total: \$1,882,216



**Amanda Stolarz, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**, received an award from the National Institutes of Health. "Ryanodine Receptors as Therapeutic Targets to Prevent Doxorubicin-Induced Lymphatic Dysfunction"  
Period: 08/10/2023 – 07/31/2028  
Total: \$1,801,737



**Roy Morello, Ph.D.**, received an award from the National Institutes of Health.

“Lung developmental defects caused by type I collagen mutations in mouse models of osteogenesis imperfecta”

Period: 09/01/2023 – 07/31/2027

Total: \$1,536,059



**Lu Huang, Ph.D.**, received an award from the National Institutes of Health.

"Macrophage metabolism in diabetes and tuberculosis comorbidity"

Period: 08/21/2023 – 07/31/2025

Total: \$438,023



**Youssef Aachoui, Ph.D.**, received an award from the National Institutes of Health.

“Pyroptotic Macrophages Traps Against Shigella Infection”

Period: 08/25/2023 – 07/31/2025

Total: \$420,750



**Mark Manzano, Ph.D.**, received an award from the National Institutes of Health.

“Role of a latent OriLyt RNA in KSHV latency in primary effusion lymphoma”

Period: 08/01/2023 – 07/31/2025

Total: \$393,402

## **The Arkansas Research Alliance (ARA) Scholar and Fellow Awards**



Antiño R. Allen, Ph.D.



John Imig, Ph.D.



Let's extend our heartfelt congratulations to both Antiño R. Allen, Ph.D., and John Imig, Ph.D., for their remarkable achievements in receiving the Arkansas Research Alliance awards on August 8, 2023.

Dr. Allen received the Arkansas Research Alliance Fellow Award, accompanied by a grant of \$75,000. Dr. Imig received the Arkansas Research Alliance Scholar Award, accompanied by a grant of \$500,000.

The Arkansas Research Alliance Scholars program is central to ARA's foundation, linking university research with economic growth. It focuses on key research strengths in Arkansas. Likewise, the ARA Fellows program aids renowned researchers at the state's 5 research universities, acknowledging their impactful contributions.

In attendance were Shuk-Mei Ho, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation; Mohamed O. Elasri, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation; Cindy D. Stowe, Pharm.D., B.S., Dean & Professor, College of Pharmacy; and Stephanie Gardner,



**The Division of Research & Innovation cordially  
invites you to join us for the  
UAMS Research Faculty  
Orientation & Administration Showcase**

**Sept. 12, 2023**

**2:30 – 6 p.m.**

**Location: 10th floor, Cancer Institute**

**[Click to RSVP](#)**

**2:30 - 3:45 p.m.**

**UAMS Research Faculty Orientation**

\* Welcome and introduction of Division of Research and Innovation

\* Presentation of Division Directors/Managers

**4 - 6 p.m.**

**Research Administration Poster session with refreshments served**

Your presence and participation would be greatly appreciated as we come together to explore and celebrate the latest advancements in research and innovation at UAMS.

## **News & Upcoming Events**

### **UAMS Research Academy Workshop**

**Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023**

**12:00 – 1:00 pm**



**Zhongzhen Nie, Ph.D.**

Branch chief of the Pharmacological and Physiological Sciences (PPS) Branch in the Division of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biological Chemistry at NIGMS/NIH.

**Title: Maximizing Investigators' Research Award  
(MIRA, R35)**

**Virtual Presentation  
Thursday, September 28th**

The Division of Research and Innovation, under its UAMS Research Academy, is offering two workshop series to help faculty and staff sharpen their skillsets in grant-writing and post-award management.

Please click the link below to view past presentations:

[Grantsmanship Seminar Series](#)

[Research Administration, Grants Management, and Regulatory Affairs Seminar Series](#)

## **National Postdoc Appreciation Week Sept. 18 - 23, 2023**

UAMS Postdoctoral Fellows serve as both trainees and research colleagues. In honor of National Postdoc Appreciation Week, the Division of Research and Innovation is excited to host a series of events. Please join us in celebrating the remarkable contributions made by postdoctoral fellows to UAMS' research and discovery.

[Click to view the full list of events!](#)

## **The AR Health Ventures Accelerator (ARHVA)**

### **Call for Applications!**

BioVentures is starting a new therapeutics accelerator award—the AR Health Ventures Accelerator (ARHVA). The purpose of ARHVA is to accelerate the process of turning a therapeutic discovery into something commercializable so that it can reach the patient population more quickly and efficiently.

[Click for more information and to apply.](#)

## **August 2023 Highlights: Conferences and Meetings Attended**

**BioVentures invited to the White House Jobs Day**



BioVentures first grant submission to the Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) grant program has been not only recommended for funding but has also led to a special invitation to join in a momentous occasion. **Kevin Sexton, M.D., President of BioVentures**, was invited to attend a ceremony and roundtable discussion at the White House, Friday, August 4th, 2023.

#### **Pending Award**

Opportunity Title: 2023 MBDA Capital Readiness Program  
"Arkansas Collaborative for Technological and Innovative Venture Equality (ACTIVE)"  
Agency: Department of Commerce  
**TOTAL \$3,752,097.00**

## **2023 gener8tor Healthcare Conference**



This conference brought together leading organizations, corporations, investors, and startups in digital health, health equity, medtech, biotech, pharma, wellness, and mental health.

**Kevin Sexton, M.D., President of BioVentures**, presented at the conference to speak about healthcare automation and innovation.

## **65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Council of University Research Administrators**



At the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) Annual Meeting, **Suzanne Alstadt, Sr. Director of Research and Sponsored Programs and Research Information Systems**, served as Workshop Faculty for the **Certified Financial Research Administrator (CFRA) Knowledge (BoK) Review Session**. With her colleague **Robin Lewis** of Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, she presented a full day workshop providing participants with a review of the CFRA (BoK) intended primarily for persons who plan to take the CFRA Exam and wish to have a better understanding of the exam in order to study effectively.



"UAMS was well represented at the recent 65th Annual Meeting of the National Council of University Research Administrators in Washington D.C. the first week of August.

Members of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP), Office of Sponsored Programs Administrative Network (OSPAN), and Grants Accounting attended workshops and various breakout sessions to discuss a wide variety of relevant research administration topics. Topics included updates from federal agencies who sponsor research (NIH, NSF, etc.); Research administrator support of Principal Investigators; and many other current issues facing University researchers and research administrators.

The OSPAN staff returned from the conference and immediately formed internal committees to look at ways to address the relationship between OSPAN research administrators and the faculty that they support. How can we improve the cooperation/collaboration between the RA and the department? How can we improve the support of the Principal Investigator? Where can steps be implemented to improve workflow between ORSP/OSPAN/Grants Accounting and the departments? There were so many areas/opportunities identified that the staff returned fully charged to identify and implement improvements or clarify current procedures." **Tyrone Stephens, CPA, CRA Director, OSPAN**

## Research Finance Conference



**Sreedevi Vaddi, MBA, Financial Manager**, participated in a 2-day Research Finance Conference held on August 10th-11th, 2023. The conference focused on the intersection of research and finance, highlighting the administrative practices employed by college administrators across different areas through presentations and discussions. During the event, she also had the valuable opportunity to stay informed about the latest research advancements across various fields.

## Team R & I Announcements

### Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)









In October 2023, IACUC is planning semiannual site visits. Stay tuned for more details and information as the date approaches.

## Office of Research Regulatory Affairs (ORRA)



The Office of Research Regulatory Affairs is delighted to introduce our newest team member, Crystal Smith, MSW, MA, who joins us as a Clinical Research Monitoring Specialist. With 7 years of experience in clinical research, Crystal holds master's degrees in social work and counseling. Her dedication is fueled by her husband and children. Beyond her professional achievements, she finds joy in cooking, shopping, and music. Crystal is enthusiastic about contributing to the growth of the monitoring team and assisting in achieving UAMS and ORRA's goals of excellence.

**A new webpage to access all [Research Administration Offices](#). Check it out!**

 <b>Office of Sponsored Programs Administrative Network</b> Submitting a grant proposal <a href="#">Learn More</a>	 <b>Office of Research and Sponsored Programs</b> Facilitating research proposal approval and award management <a href="#">Learn More</a>	 <b>Science Communication Group</b> Assisting investigators in generating clear and concise writing <a href="#">Learn More</a>	 <b>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</b> UAMS intranet site with information about submitting animal protocols <a href="#">Learn More</a>
 <b>Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine</b>	 <b>Office of Research Regulatory Affairs</b>	 <b>Institutional Review Board</b>	 <b>Office of Research Information Systems</b>

## Support Research and Innovation

Remember UAMS Research & Innovation in your charitable giving!

[Give Online Today!](#)



University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

[Division of Research and Innovation](#)

Biomedical Research Bldg. II

159-2, Slot 718

4301 W. Markham St.

Little Rock, AR 72205