

March 2024

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# **Congratulations!**



Robert Eoff, Ph.D., received a P20 award from the National Institutes of Health to fund the Phase 1 COBRE: "Center for Molecular Interactions in Cancer (CMIC)" Period: 03/05/2024 – 12/31/2028 Total: \$11,475,000



Mitchell Ryan McGill, Ph.D., received an award from the National Institutes of Health Project: "The role of phosphatidic acid in liver regeneration after acetaminophen overdose " Period: 03/15/2024 – 02/28/2029 Total: \$1,640,170



Martin Cannon, Ph.D., received an award from the National Institutes of Health Project: "Mechanisms of Th17-DC immunotherapy for ovarian cancer" Period: 03/07/2024 – 02/08/2026 Total: \$393,402



Analiz Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D., received an award from the National Institutes of Health Project: "Development of immunocompetent melanoma brain metastases organoids" Period: 03/06/2024 – 02/08/2026 Total: \$153,000

## Inspiring Achievements: Dr. Shuk-Mei Ho's Accolades

Keynote Presentation at the AR-BIC 2024 Meeting

Shuk-Mei Ho, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor of Research & Innovation, Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology at UAMS, was one of the four keynote speakers at the AR-BIC 2024 meeting, focused on the "Real-World Impact of AI." Her presentation, titled "Can AI Heal? Unpacking the Hype and Hope of AI in Health and Public Health," explored AI's transformative potential in healthcare and public health, including improving diagnosis accuracy, streamlining drug development, and enhancing care outcomes. She discussed AI's applications in epidemic modeling, disease surveillance, human health behavior analysis, and environmental health monitoring, highlighting its future prospects in patient- centric approaches, synthetic data generation, and medical personnel training.

AR-BIC, established in 2014 with seed funding from NCTR, aims to foster partnerships in bioinformatics in Arkansas, drawing over 200 participants from across the nation and globe this year, including academics, companies, and experts. The event featured engaging dialogues with Dr. Namandjé N. Bumpus, Principal Deputy Commissioner of the US FDA, and Dr. Richard Woychik, Director of NIEHS & NTP, marking its 10th-year anniversary with its largest attendance yet.

# Shuk-Mei Ho, Ph.D., Receives the 2024 UAMS Phenomenal Women Award

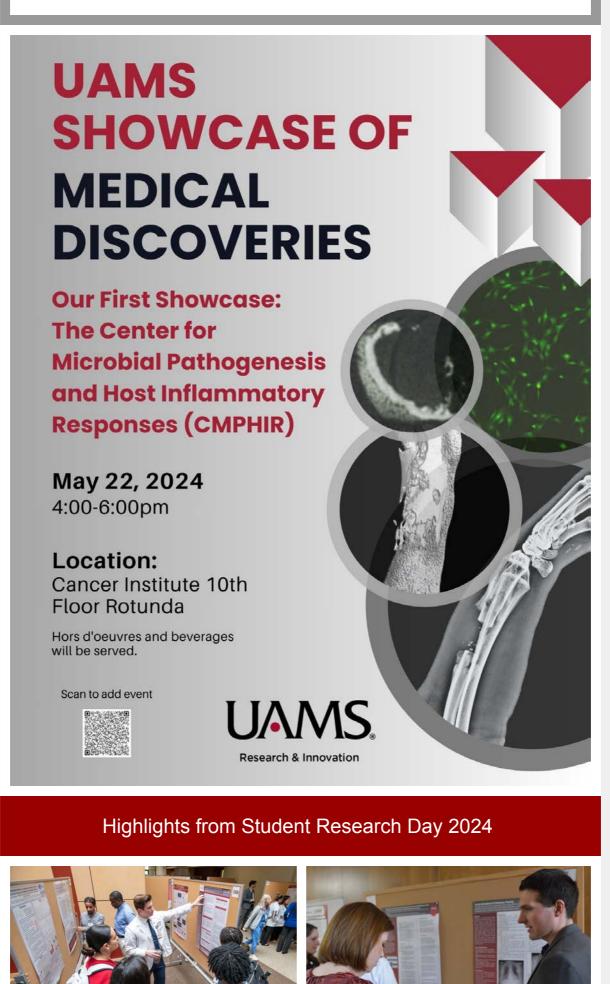
Join us in congratulating Dr. Shuk-Mei Ho for receiving the 2024 UAMS Phenomenal Women Award!

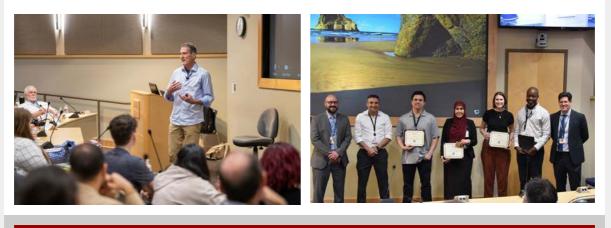
"As a pioneer in the field of environmental epigenomics, Dr. Ho has focused on using "omics" and big data to improve predictive, precision medicine. As the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, Dr. Ho worked



diligently to support the research activities and visited departments to meet all faculty and to connect and promote collaborations. As a woman scientist, she has a strong desire to inspire and support young women scientists to pursue their careers and to ignite their potential." (Description by Ping-Ching Hsu, Ph.D., for the Phenomenal Women's Award nomination)

# **News & Upcoming Events**



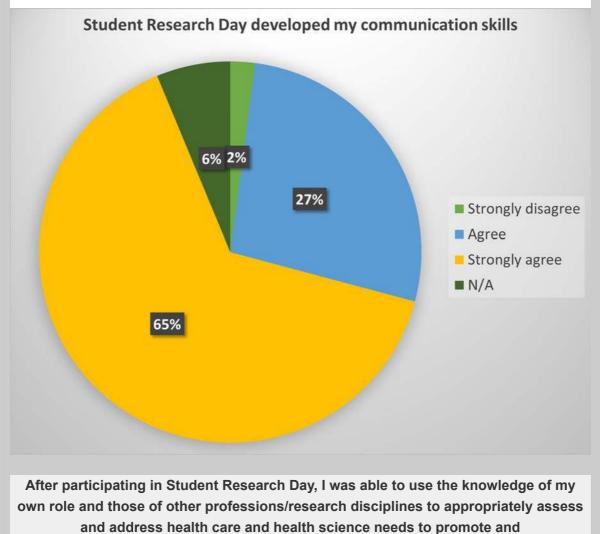


What Feedback Have Students Provided?

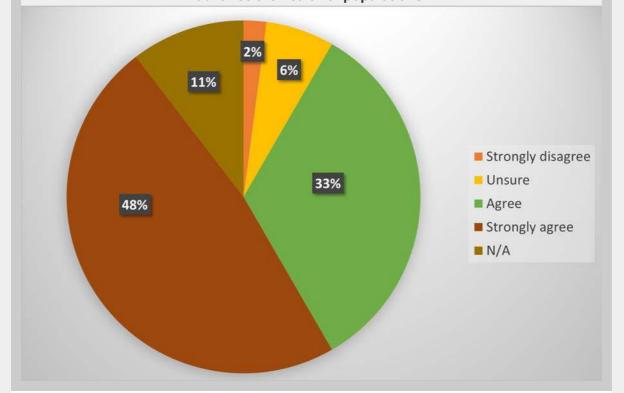
"The event was well-organized. Excellent communication and attention to details. Digital interface worked very well."

"Students were enthusiastic and prepared to present. There was an impressive array of research topics."

"This is an excellent forum for students to showcase their work. We need to make it more competitive across the campus for exciting participants. If possible, participants (students) should be given a participation certificate or acknowledgement. "



advance the health of populations.



### What aspects of Student Research Day did you find most valuable?

"Gaining perspectives from other professions and hearing about cutting edge research."

"Opportunity to learn about other amazing research."

"I enjoyed hearing everyone's research and talking to students and faculty in different departments! "

"Speaking to others gave me new ideas for my project."

"The networking was great!"

"I enjoyed the poster sessions the most. I liked the 3MTs also."

"Recognition and Validation: Presenting research at Student Research Day allows students to receive recognition and validation for their hard work and contributions to their field of study. This recognition can boost students' confidence and motivation to continue pursuing academic and research endeavors."

"Most valuable was interaction with other students/faculty. "

Click to Learn More about Student Research Day and Award Winners

### **Research Wins Vol. 3 is now available!**



This "research yearbook" celebrates UAMS researchers and highlights their accomplishments during 2022-2023. <u>Click here to view Research Wins Vol. 3</u>

### NIH Grant-Writing Boot Camp, April 15-16

NIH Grant-Writing Boot Camp, Deadline Extended to April 1 When: April 15-16 Where: Ferncliff Conference Center, Little Rock <u>Click to apply and for more information</u>

### **UAMS ThermoFisher Vendor Show**



Mark your calendars for **April 25, 2024**, as ThermoFisher hosts an exciting Vendor Show in the Biomed I Atrium. With over 30 vendors showcasing their latest products tailored for research laboratories, this event promises to be a hub of innovation and discovery.

Open to all UAMS researchers, it's your chance to explore cutting-edge offerings in the field, network with industry experts, and stay ahead in your research endeavors!

All Researchers are Invited!

### **Maternal Health Hackathon**

Join us for an impactful hackathon focused on improving maternal health in Arkansas! This event is not just about coding; it's about creating innovative solutions to tackle critical issues facing mothers in our state.

When: April 5-7. Participants are expected to attend the entire event. Check-in begins at 5:00 PM on Friday evening.

**Where:** I. Dodd Wilson building, UAMS campus (116 Hooper Dr, Little Rock, AR 72205). Parking is available on campus.

More information and a link to register is available on the BioVentures website

Additional questions? Contact <u>skennonmcgill@uams.edu</u>.

More from Bioventures:

Applications open for ACTIVE (Arkansas Collaborative for Technological and Innovative Venture Equality) <u>Click for more information and application</u>

Announcement of the three selected projects for AHVA, our Therapeutic Accelerator: <u>Click for more information</u>

Licensing Agreement with Harmonic Discovery and University of California San Francisco Click for more information

#### Updated Grants Application Templates

- NIH Facilities & Resources template
- SF424 Research Proposal Template (FORMS-H)

Available to download on the <u>SciComp</u> website

# Team R & I Announcements

# Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

IACUC will be visiting animal housing and use areas on the UAMS and Children's campuses in April.

# **Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM)**

Construction has begun in Barton B2 to renovate office space into animal holding space. **DLAM offices are now located in Central Building, 1st floor 1/037 suite.** 

Please welcome DLAM's 3 new members in different roles:



**Kassie Sitzes**- Animal Services Specialist, Tech Services Core. Kassie has more than 4 years of laboratory animal experience, both at UAMS and the VA. Kassie has earned her ALAT certification. She will be assisting with DLAM's Tech Services Core.



**Jamie Whitehead**- Animal Care Supervisor. Jamie has his ALAT certification and over 8 years of experience in the UAMS animal facility. He already serves as a leader on this team and will continue to do so in this new role.



**Haley Scheen**- Research Vet Technician. Haley has 2 years of experience working in the UAMS animal facility and over 10 years of veterinary technician experience in private practice. She will be assisting the DLAM veterinarians to manage clinical and surgical cases.

# Office of Research Regulatory Affairs (ORRA)

ORRA participated in a successful teambuilding exercise! They used their combined skills to get themselves off "Santa's Naughty List" and escaped with over 3 minutes to spare!



## **Past Seminar Series**

The Division of Research and Innovation, under its UAMS Research Academy, offered 2 parallel workshop series to help faculty and staff sharpen their skillsets in grant writing and post-award management. All presentations were recorded and made available to view on the Research & Innovation website.

### Grantsmanship Seminar Series

Research Administration, Grants Management, and Regulatory Affairs Seminar Series

# Explore R & I Publications:

Newsletter Past Issues, Research Wins, & Administration Booklet

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Division of Research and Innovation Biomedical Research Bldg. II

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