

[Jump to: Updates from R & I Team](#)

## Congratulations! Extramural Grant Awards

**Shengyu Mu, M.D., Ph.D.**, received a competing continuation award from the National Institutes of Health "T Cell Homing to the Kidney Contributes to Salt Retention and Blood Pressure Regulation"  
 Period: 04/10/2024–03/31/2029  
 Total: \$3,733,521

## News and Upcoming Events

Meet Daniel E. Voth, Ph.D., Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation



Greetings Researchers!

As you read this newsletter, I have been Interim VCRI for roughly 3 weeks and am learning a lot! I have been making my way around campus to meet as many of you as possible and better understand your research visions and areas where the VCRI Division can help. As a reminder, our Division supports investigators in each College at UAMS involved in many areas of research. We provide support for all faculty in grant management, grant and manuscript writing, animal care and use, human subjects research, and clinical trials. We foster entrepreneurial and intellectual property pursuits through BioVentures. We are also highly supportive of the multiple institutes and centers at UAMS.

The Division also represents the Arkansas Biosciences Institute, providing guidance on the scientific endeavors of the Institute and funding to expand and enhance research programs in each College at UAMS. In addition, the Division informs research policy at UAMS through activities of the University Research Committee, which is composed of active researchers who meet regularly to provide guidance on policies and research initiatives, including intramural funding and investigator-initiated proposals.

The Division hosts several research showcases each year to celebrate research successes and promote collaboration. These showcases foster interactions between faculty and trainees in diverse areas of science, while advancing translational research by providing an environment where clinical and basic scientists can exchange ideas. The first showcase since the pandemic will feature the incredible work being done in Dr. Mark Smeltzer's Center for Microbial Pathogenesis and Host Inflammatory Responses. This showcase will be May 22 from 4-6 pm, and I would love to see you all there so I can get to know you and your interests better, while celebrating the successes of a current Center.

Our offices are located on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors of Biomedical Research Center II and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Central Building. If you have any questions about the functions and initiatives of the Division, please contact me. If I have not yet met with your research group, please reach out so we can schedule some time to chat. I look forward to meeting you all soon!

**Daniel E. Voth, Ph.D.**  
 Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation

## In Appreciation

### SHUK-MEI HO, PH.D.

#### VCRI Leadership

Join us in celebrating Dr. Ho's service!

MAY 1, 2024

4:00 - 6:00 PM

UAMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONFERENCE ROOM

Virtual Seminars from NIH Scientific Review Officers

Save the Date!

May 16, 2024

12:00 - 2:00 PM

[Click to Join Virtual Meeting](#)

## NIH REVIEW PROCESS

MAY 16, 2024

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM CST  
(VIRTUAL MEETING)

Overview of the NIH Review Process

Joshua Park, PhD, MS  
 Scientific Review Officer  
 Basic and Translational Sciences Section (BTSS)  
 Scientific Review Branch  
 National Institute on Aging

Alternative Careers in Science

Dario Dieguez, Jr, PhD, MPH  
 Scientific Review Officer  
 Social and Behavioral Sciences Section  
 Scientific Review Branch  
 National Institute on Aging

Scan to add event

All are invited!

## UAMS SHOWCASE OF MEDICAL DISCOVERIES

Our First Showcase:  
 The Center for Microbial Pathogenesis and Host Inflammatory Responses (CMPHIR)

May 22, 2024  
 4:00-6:00pm

Location:  
 Cancer Institute 10th Floor Rotunda

Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served

### UAMS Postdoc Academy Seminar

A group of post doctoral colleagues convened for a luncheon seminar hosted by Research & Innovation on April 5th, 2024. Dr. Abdelrahman (Abdel) Y. Fouda, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at UAMS, shared valuable insights from his academic journey and post doctoral training, shedding light on the transition into advanced career stages. The seminar, conducted in person, fostered an engaging discussion among participants, significantly enhancing comprehension of postdoctoral experiences and career advancement in academia.

### UAMS ThermoFisher Vendor Show

The Biomedical Atrium buzzed with activity as researchers from the community visited the ThermoFisher Vendor Show on April 25th, 2024. Members of the Research Community seized the opportunity to delve into the latest products for laboratories, as well as cutting-edge offerings in their field.

## Welcome New Members Joining the UAMS Research Community from January - April, 2024

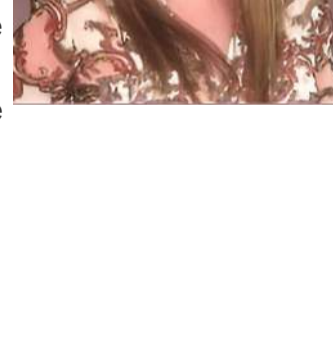
- Xueying Ma, Ph.D., Post Doctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Obesity
- Ripa Jamal, Ph.D., Post Doctoral Fellow, Pediatric Nephrology
- Yong Zhu, Ph.D., Professor, Epidemiology
- Jeny Elizabeth Rivera, M.D., Post Doctoral Fellow, Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center
- William Jeremy Shelton, M.D., Post Doctoral Fellow, Neurosurgery
- Kristina Ray, Ph.D., Post Doctoral Fellow, Psychology & AR State Hospital Partnership
- Manuel Martinez Ruiz, Ph.D., Post Doctoral Fellow, Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center
- Sergio Losada Garcia, Ph.D., Post Doctoral Fellow, Pharmacology and Toxicology
- Alberto Cortes, Ph.D., Post Doctoral Fellow, Pharmacology and Toxicology

## Updates from R & I Team

### Office of Research and Engaged Programs (ORSP)

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce that Andrea (Andi) Ham, B.S., CRA has been promoted to the role of Senior Director of ORSP. Andi has been in ORSP since 2014 and has worked with many investigators across the campus to ensure accurate grant submission and management.



Andi started her career at UAMS in 2002 by providing administrative support for Dr. Rick Smith in his role as Chair of Psychiatry. In that role, she was active in research and department administration. She took a break from her career from late 2005 to 2009 to focus on being a mom. Andi returned to the Department of Psychiatry in 2009 when Dr. Clint Kilts was opening the Brain Imaging Research Center. In 2014, Andi transitioned to the role of Senior Grants Administrator in ORSP. In 2023, Andi was promoted to the role of Assistant Director.

Andi completed her UAMS Grants Management Certification in 2010 and obtained her Certified Research Administrator (CRA) certification in 2017. Andi has been actively engaged in the Grants Management Certification program, Grants Management Executive Committee, and Grants Management Education committee during her time at UAMS. She served as Chair of the Executive Committee in 2023 and has served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Education Committee for many years. She has actively engaged in teaching and training central research administration and others engaged in research administration across campus. She has also served on several campus-wide committees related to research administration, system integration, and process improvement.

From Andi – "I had so many great teachers along the way – I truly learned from the best. I also made mistakes and because I had great teachers, I learned from those mistakes AND I used those experiences to teach others. There is so much value in the process – and in research administration, it's the journey that allows us to grow. We have really complicated jobs and finding that work/life balance is hard, but when we get to the point in our career where we can literally figure out anything, that's when we realize that all the time spent building caring relationships made such a difference. I believe in the research mission here at UAMS, and I am so excited to see what I can bring to the table in my new role as Senior Director."

Please join me in congratulating Andi in her new position and committing to making her transition to this critical position a success.

**Daniel E. Voth, Ph.D.**  
 Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation

### Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Pam Killebrew, B.S.N., R.N.P.,  
CCRC, CIP  
Senior IRB Administrator

Eric Moorehead  
IRB Administrator

Please join us in congratulating two long-time IRB staffers, IRB Administrator Eric Moorehead and Senior IRB Administrator Pam Killebrew, on their upcoming retirements.

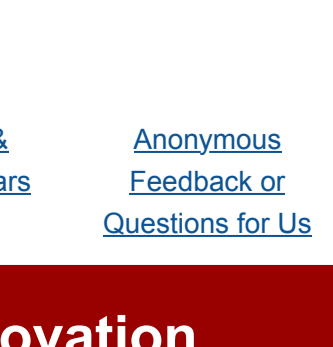
Eric, whose last day is April 30, has been at UAMS for 21 years. He has connected with the research community, performed reviews and managed workflows in the office, and coordinated attendance and recordkeeping for IRB meetings.

Pam has been an IRB reviewer for more than 20 years on the convened board and has been involved in just about every aspect of IRB work since joining the staff full time in 2011. Her last day at UAMS is May 29.

Both Eric and Pam have been real stalwarts on the IRB team and will be sorely missed. We thank them for their long-time support of the entire research community and their many contributions to the UAMS human research protection program. We send them best wishes for a wonderful retirement!

### Office of Research Regulatory Affairs(ORRA)

On April 9, **Laura Adkins, MAF, CCRP, CCRA, CRS, AdvCRS**, Director, UAMS Office of Research Regulatory Affairs was honored to speak to the ECHO ISPECTN (Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes - IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network) as part of their Professional Development Series. The title of her presentation was "Adverse Events and FDA Inspections"



### Useful Links

- [Research Core Facilities](#)
- [UAMS Research Administration](#)
- [Past Research & Innovation Seminars](#)
- [Anonymous Feedback or Questions for Us](#)

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[Division of Research and Innovation](#)  
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