

Congratulations!

Julie Sheppard, Ed.D., received an award from the Department of Health and Human Services

Title: REAL Deal (Respect. Empowerment. Awareness. Life)

Period: 9/30/2025-9/29/2030

Total: \$659,578

News and Updates

2026 UAMS Student Research Day March 10, 2026

Locations:
 Little Rock Campus: I. Dodd Wilson Building
 NW Regional Campus: Fayetteville

[NEWLY DESIGNED Poster Templates Available](#)

Student Registration Link: [Register Here](#)

JUDGES NEEDED

We need your help to judge posters! Classes are canceled, so these conflicts are avoided. This is a great opportunity to network, build collaborations, and celebrate our students' creativity and innovation!

Time:
 Poster session A will be from 8:30 am to 10 am (LR only)
 Poster session B will be from 10 am to 11:30 am (LR and NWA)

If presenting and judging posters, use a separate email for judge registration (it will be used for logging into the system to judge posters, same as last year.)
Judge Registration Link: [Register Here](#)

Other activities include the 3-minute thesis (3MT) presentation finals.
 Sign up by **Jan. 24, 2026**.

Please email Jen Gan-Kemp at JGan@uams.edu for questions.

Save the Date: Jan. 20, 2026

Sip & SCIENCE

Researchers connect with community in casual conversations

Samantha Kendrick, Ph.D. Eric Peterson, Ph.D. Geoffrey Curran, Ph.D.

From the Northwest Campus

Clayton Frazier

Two of our 2nd year COM students (Clayton Frazier and Brennan Lawrence VanDyke) recently published first-author papers. That is HUGE, because research takes time and they managed to do this along with their schoolwork within their second year at UAMS.

Read the Published Article:
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41338181/>
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41256335/>

Brennan Lawrence VanDyke

View Fall Publications from the OT Department

From BioVentures

Title: AR Ventures Accelerator Program (Part 5): Advancing Early Detection of Acute Kidney Injury

In this episode, the BioVentures team talks with Dr. John Arthur about his team's development of a rapid urine test that can predict severe acute kidney injury much earlier than current methods. By identifying a more accurate biomarker, this technology could help doctors intervene sooner, guide dialysis decisions, and even make future drug trials more feasible. This project is supported by BioVentures through the AR Health Ventures Accelerator (ARHVA) program.

Click to Listen Episode 15

2025 Research Highlights Recap from Research & Innovation

Reflect on a year of impactful events and new initiatives that advanced UAMS research collaboration and innovation. From showcases to workshops, these highlights drove engagement across our community. Thank you for your support and participation in the Research & Innovation events throughout the year!

Key Events:

- [UAMS Showcase of Medical Discoveries](#) – Celebrated groundbreaking work.
- [Virtual & In Person Workshops/Presentations](#) – Fostered cross-format learning.

New Initiatives:

- [Research Administration Roundtable](#) – Strengthening administrative excellence.
- [Sip & Science](#) – Science meets community

Key Launch: [UAMS Office of Postdoctoral Affairs](#) – Supporting postdoc success.

The first **Sip & Science** event featured three speakers — Craig Forrest, Ph.D.; Nikki Edge, Ph.D.; and Daniel Voth, Ph.D. (from left to right)

This was the **monthly General Postdoc Meeting** that took place on December 5th. These meetings are an opportunity for postdocs to share feedback, build community, and help shape postdoctoral programming here at UAMS. This meeting featured the first installment of our new Tool Spotlight series. As a part of that series, Shashank C.G., a postdoc, presented "*Research Rabbit: A Smarter Way to Discover and Visualize Literature*," an introduction to a tool that may be especially helpful for enhancing literature search and research workflows for UAMS postdocs.

The six **2025 showcases** featured topics such as INBRE-supported research, BioVentures and innovations, mental health and treatment, core facilities, digital health and innovation, and birth defects research.

The 1½-day workshop, **Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals**, equipped participants with practical strategies and conceptual guidance for crafting competitive NIH grant proposals.

We had around a dozen **virtual seminars** that provided UAMS researchers with practical guidance on navigating key research support offices, regulatory requirements, and compliance expectations across the research lifecycle.

Biomed 1 Renovation Update

This week, the construction team has started making modifications to piping that currently interferes with pathways needed for future device maintenance. There will be some drilling involved, but it should be minimal.

Painting has started in some areas, and fortunately, that process is much quieter.

Looking ahead, we are planning a **chilled water shutdown on Jan. 3, 2026**. As we learned during the previous shutdown, this will impact some coolers in Biomed 2. Items stored in coolers on floors 3–5 will need to be moved to coolers on floors 2 or 6. We will follow up next week with any anticipated issues. Parts have been ordered for one of the coolers that was previously down, and we are hopeful those will be installed before the shutdown to give us more flexibility.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue these improvements!

NIH Policy Updates for Common Forms and Research Security Training

NOT-OD-26-018: NIH is adopting the Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support for application due dates and Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) submissions on or after **January 25, 2026**. A [tutorial](#) on how to use SciENcv to complete common forms is available on Workday.

NOT-OD-26-017: All senior/key personnel listed on a NIH grant application must certify that they have completed research security training within 12 months of the date of application submission. This policy will go into effect for applications due on or after **May 26, 2026**. [Research Security Training](#) is available on Workday.

Contact for questions: Nicole Schartz, Ph.D., at NSchartz@uams.edu

Watch the presentation: [UAMS Research Security Program \(PowerPoint Slides\)](#)

From R & I Team

Office of Research Regulatory Affairs (ORRA)

Brenda Gannon, Ph.D., Featured as Senior Author in Recent Publication

Brenda Gannon, Ph.D., is senior author of an article in [Journal of Psychopharmacology](#). It includes ideas from several preclinical and clinical experts in the field of substance use disorder (e.g., drug addiction) research.

This commentary focuses on approaches to address current issues related to scheduling drugs under the United States Controlled Substances Act (CSA). Importantly, scheduling is intended to protect public health and safety by adequately restricting access to these drugs based on what is known as abuse potential assessment. Because new drug applications typically include recommendations for scheduling status as a controlled substance, if scheduling is warranted, abuse potential assessment of drugs with central nervous system activity is a critical component of the development of new medications for regulatory filings and approval worldwide. Thus, this commentary highlights the importance of using appropriate assays/models when evaluating abuse potential because overly restrictive scheduling or under-scheduling can each present risks to public health.

Office of Research & Sponsored Programs (ORSP)

Kathy Rowland, BBA, MRA, Achieves Academic Excellence with Master's Degree in Research Administration

We are proud to announce that Kathy Rowland, Research Administrator in ORSP, has successfully completed her Master's in Research Administration at the University of Central Florida, graduating with an outstanding 4.0 GPA. This remarkable achievement reflects Kathy's dedication to advancing her expertise in research administration and her commitment to excellence in the field. Her accomplishment underscores the value of continuous learning and professional growth, and we congratulate her on this significant milestone.

Carmesha Jemerson, MBA, CRA, obtained her Certified Research Administrator (CRA) certification

The CRA certification is a professional designation offered by the Research Administrators Certification Council (RACC) for individuals working in research and sponsored program administration. The CRA certification indicates that an individual possesses a broad understanding of the profession of research administration, encompassing areas like proposal development, financial management, compliance, and award closeout. It is designed to validate and recognize the competence of professionals working in this field. Please join us in congratulating Carmesha on her professional accomplishment!

Video Recordings Available for Recent Virtual Seminars!

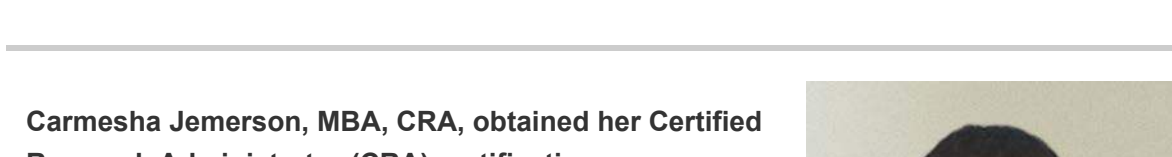
1. [UAMS Research Security Program](#): Nicole Schartz, Ph.D. ([PowerPoint Slides](#))
2. [Working with the UAMS IRB](#): Edith Paal
3. [Working with the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs](#): Andrea Ham, BS, CRA
4. [Essentials of Grant Writing](#) – A National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week Workshop: Peggy Eges, Ph.D., ELS
5. [Research Information Systems: Managing, Maintaining, and Using the UAMS Research Suite "Muse"](#): Anna Evatt, Ph.D.

Archived Seminars

Useful Links

- [Grant Life Cycle](#) [Research Portals](#) [Core Facilities](#) [Feedback/Questions](#)

Follow us!



Happy Holidays

May this holiday season bring you countless moments of joy, deep peace, and the company of those you cherish most.

Research & Innovation

Make a gift today >>