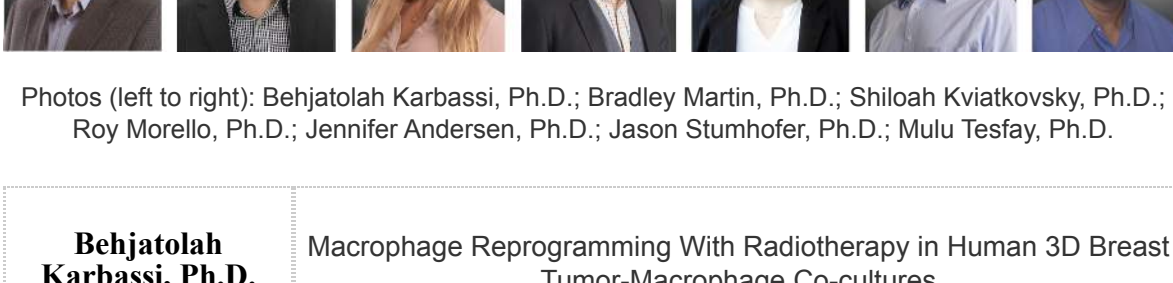


Congratulations!

2026 Medical Research Endowment Award Recipients



Photos (left to right): Behjatolah Karbassi, Ph.D.; Bradley Martin, Ph.D.; Shiloah Kviatkovsky, Ph.D.; Roy Morello, Ph.D.; Jennifer Andersen, Ph.D.; Jason Stumhofer, Ph.D.; Mulu Tesfay, Ph.D.

Behjatolah Karbassi, Ph.D.	Macrophage Reprogramming With Radiotherapy in Human 3D Breast Tumor-Macrophage Co-cultures
Bradley Martin, Ph.D.	The Association of Medical Cannabis Purchase During Pregnancy With Adverse Maternal Outcomes
Shiloah Kviatkovsky, Ph.D.	Effects of EAA Consumption on Recovery and Rehabilitation in Adult Spinal Deformity Patients Undergoing Surgery
Roy Morello, Ph.D.	Muscle Function in Osteogenesis Imperfecta
Jennifer Andersen, Ph.D.	Understanding Women's Experiences with Gestational Diabetes Screenings and Gestational Diabetes
Jason Stumhofer, Ph.D.	Modeling Human Adaptive Immune Responses to EBV and Plasmodium Falciparum Using Organoids
Mulu Tesfay, Ph.D.	Oncolytic Immunotherapy for PDAC

News and Updates

Sip & Science Recap

UAMS's first Sip & Science of 2026 drew nearly 30 participants to hear from Eric Peterson, Ph.D., Geoffrey Curran, Ph.D., and Samantha Kendrick, Ph.D. Sip & Science connects researchers with the community to make science approachable.

Dr. Curran discussed using evidence to guide researcher boundaries. Dr. Peterson's talk on research and patents sparked debate, leading to Dr. Kendrick's insights on AI/ChatGPT use. She stressed: "You need to be careful about fact checking... people don't always look at disclaimers... these may not be accurate."

Thanks to all who joined—watch for the next event!



AAALAC Accreditation Site Visits

The site visit will be **March 17 at UAMS** and **March 18 at the Children's campus**. Our Animal Care and Use Program has been continuously accredited by AAALAC International since 1973. We will be communicating with investigators over the next several weeks to help them prepare.

[Learn More About the Visit](#)

Important Updates for eRA Commons

- **REMINDER:** Principle Investigators need to link their ORCID ID to their eRA Commons account as soon as possible. For questions, please contact Nicole Schartz, Ph.D.
 - See the link for details: https://www.era.nih.gov/erahelp/commons/PPF_Help/8_2_orcid.htm
 - Using SciENcv for NIH Biosketch and Other Support: [https://wd5.myworkday.com/uasys/d/inst/1\\$17816/17816\\$6268.html](https://wd5.myworkday.com/uasys/d/inst/1$17816/17816$6268.html)
 - ORCID ID to eRA Commons: [https://wd5.myworkday.com/uasys/d/inst/1\\$17816/17816\\$6198.html](https://wd5.myworkday.com/uasys/d/inst/1$17816/17816$6198.html)
- eRA Commons updated their systems on **January 26, 2026**.
 - The Common Forms 'validation' warnings will go away when submitting Changes to Prior Approval, JIT, and RPPR.
 - See NIH link for all eRA update changes: <https://www.era.nih.gov/news/era-enhancements-changes-prior-approval-just-time-and-rppr-be-released-monday-january-26-align>

NIH Public Access Policy

On December 17, 2024, NIH released its updated [2024 Public Access Policy](#). The Public Access Policy was informed by public feedback, including comments received in response to the NIH Draft Public Access Policy. The 2024 NIH Public Access Policy is in keeping with the White House OSTP memo "[Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research](#)." The 2024 Public Access Policy is effective for manuscripts accepted for publication on or after **July 1, 2025**.

The 2024 NIH Public Access Policy updates the longstanding NIH Public Access Policy. It accelerates free, immediate public access to NIH-funded research publications by requiring manuscripts to be deposited in PubMed Central (PMC) [without an embargo](#) upon official publication.

Summary for Researchers:

- Deposit NIH-funded manuscripts in PubMed Central immediately upon acceptance.
- Ensure manuscripts are publicly available on publication date without embargo.
- Include PMCID in NIH applications and reports.
- Budget only allowable publication costs.

NIH Guidance and Policy Documents:

- **NOT-OD-25-047: 2024 NIH Public Access Policy**
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-047.html>
- **NIH Public Access Policy Overview**
<https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/public-access/nih-public-access-policy-overview>

Supplemental Guidance:

- **NOT-OD-25-048: Publication Costs Guidance**
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-048.html>
- **NOT-OD-25-049: Government Use License and Rights Guidance**
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-049.html>

Meet ACRI Researchers at the UAMS Showcase of Medical Discoveries, Feb 11, 2026

You're invited to UAMS' first Showcase of Medical Discoveries of 2026, featuring ACRI researchers presenting groundbreaking work from the **Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI)** — ranging from the impact of nutrition on brain development and innovative disease prevention programs to advanced imaging/metabolomics techniques, immune engineering breakthroughs, and more.

Time: 4 - 6 PM
Location: 12th Floor, Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute

Come meet ACRI researchers and learn more about the exciting work driving better health for all.

[Add to Calendar](#)

Join Student Research Day as Poster Judge March 10, 2026



We now have 4 poster sessions at the Little Rock campus. We need judges, especially for Session D (3:30-4:30 p.m.)!

Schedules — [Little Rock Campus](#) & [NW Campus](#)

Judge Registration Link: [Register Here](#)

To ensure accurate poster-judge matching, **please update your availability** if you've already signed up.

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

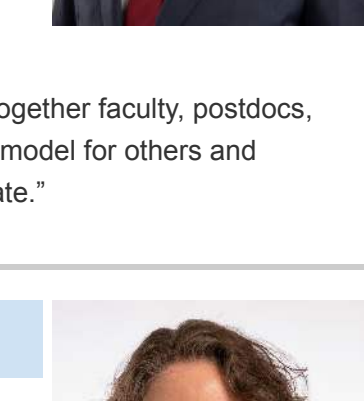
Biomed I Renovation Updates

This week, we will continue to have some drilling as hangers are installed to hang the ceiling grid that we had not completed from the seismic material installation. There will also be some bracing for the exhaust equipment that will be installed requiring additional drilling. We continue to prime and paint walls and epoxy the floors. We have completed phase 5 and we find we had an office or two that had some stronger smells than we have had in the other phases. We will continue to try and mitigate all odors to the best of our ability. *(The Construction Team)*

From the Northwest Campus

Kudos to Clayton Frazier, one of the four recipients selected to receive research funding through the 2025 Emerging Investigator Research Grants (EIRG) Program.

[Click to Read the News Release](#)



From BioVentures

Health Sciences Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HSIE) T32 Postdoctoral Training Program is Accepting Applications

This two-year graduate certificate program starts July 1. HSIE scholars work with a primary research mentor while obtaining value-added training in business principles, entrepreneurial skills, team science, and strategies to innovate and commercialize health care technologies. The program is a partnership between the UAMS Translational Science Institute, BioVentures LLC, and the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

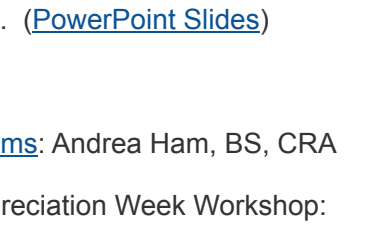
Applications due on Mar. 23 at 5 p.m.

[Click to View More Information](#)

Listen to New BioVentures Podcast

Episode 16 - Turning Research Into Patient Solutions: A Conversation With Michael Geranen

In our latest BioVentures Podcast episode, we sit down with Michael Geranen, Technology Manager at BioVentures, to explore how industry partnerships help bring academic healthcare innovations to patients. We cover what partners look for in university inventions, common pitfalls to avoid, and why early disclosure, strong IP strategy, and unmet clinical need are key to building strong collaborations.

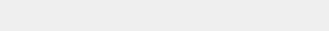


[Click to Listen Episode 16](#)

From R & I Team

Congratulations to Dr. Elasri!

Please join us in congratulating **Mohamed Elasri, Ph.D.**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, on receiving the UAMS Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentorship/Sponsorship/Coaching.



"He established the UAMS Postdoctoral Academy as a platform for connecting postdocs and helping them achieve career goals while serving as a faculty advisor. In addition to personal mentorship, he organized and helped organize grant writing workshops and very successful research showcases, bringing together faculty, postdocs, students and staff. His chair said his leadership and work are a model for others and "reinforce the culture of professionalism that we aspire to cultivate."

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Senior IRB Director **Edith Paal** was a panelist at the January SMART talk, hosted by [SMART IRB](#) and attended by about 300 participants. The topic was about how institutions handle reporting and reviewing potential noncompliance in multisite studies overseen by a single IRB.

Office of Research Integrity (ORI)

Congratulations to **Tracie Wilson**, Research Compliance Analyst, who earned her CCRP (Certified Clinical Research Professional) credential in December.

The Certified Research Specialist Awards Ceremony was held December 10, 2025 where we honored 56 new Certified Research Specialists, 16 new Advanced Certified Research Specialists, and 211 individuals who maintained their certification in 2025.

Video Recordings Available for Recent Virtual Seminars!

1. [AI for Discovery – Accelerating UAMS Research](#)
2. [UAMS Research Security Program](#): Nicole Schartz, Ph.D. ([PowerPoint Slides](#))
3. [Working with the UAMS IRB](#): Edith Paal
4. [Working with the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs](#): Andrea Ham, BS, CRA
5. [Essentials of Grant Writing](#) – A National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week Workshop: Peggy Epes, Ph.D., ELS

[Archived Seminars](#)

Useful Links

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

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