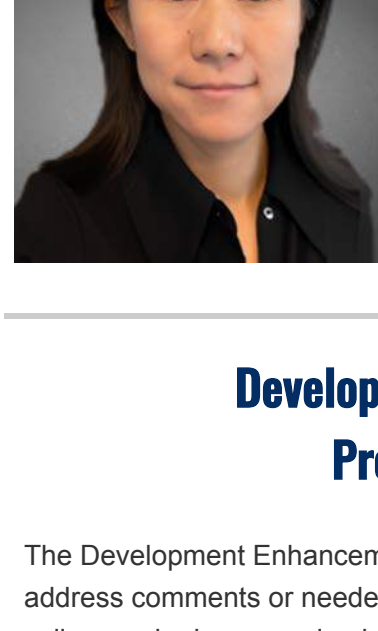


Congratulations!



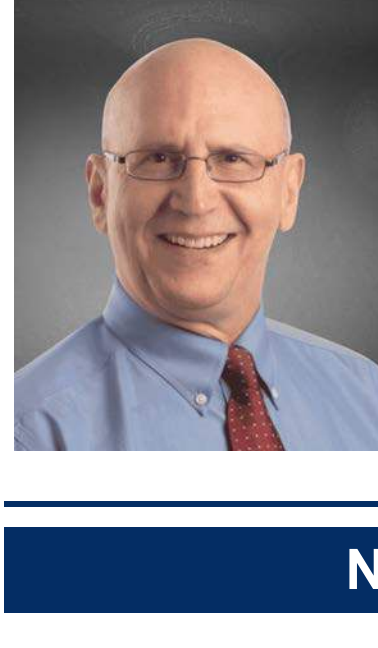
Yunmeng Liu, PhD, received an award from the National Institutes of Health.
Title: Metabolic Rewiring of T Cells Bridges Diabetes to Hypertension
Period: 02/15/2026 – 11/30/2030
Total: ~\$3.6 million

Development Enhancement Awards for Proposals (DEAP) Recipients

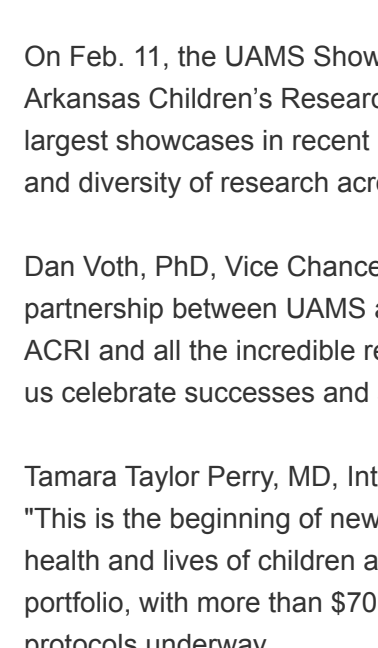
The Development Enhancement Awards for Proposals (DEAP) program provides funds to address comments or needed revisions for new/established faculty members from all UAMS colleges who have received a score on an unsuccessful proposal submitted to a foundation or federal agency.

Melda Onal, PhD, and Paul Drew, PhD, each received \$50,000 to fund their proposed work.

[More DEAP Details & Application](#)



Melda Onal, PhD
Title: Autophagy and Skeletal Aging



Paul Drew, PhD
Title: Role of Oligodendrocyte-Lineage Cells in FASD

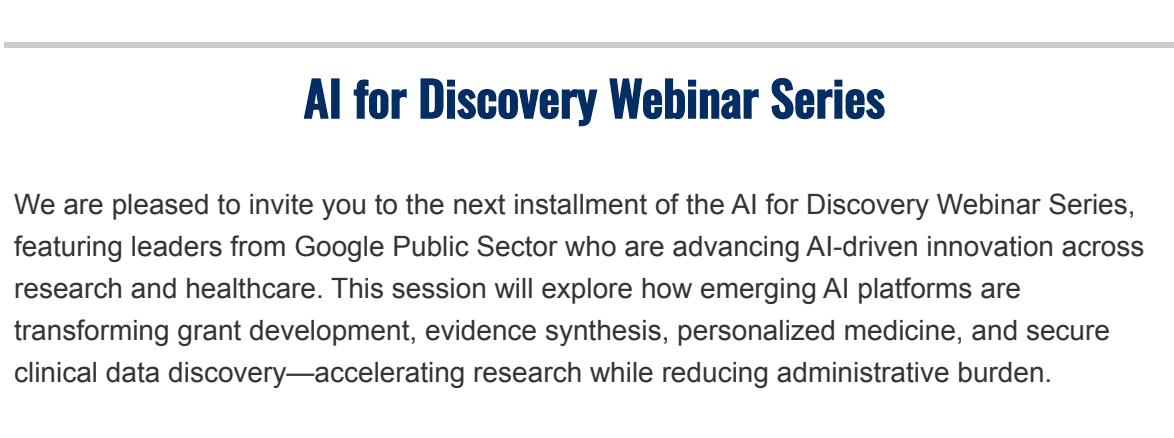
News and Updates

Recap: UAMS Research Showcase Highlights ACRI

On Feb. 11, the UAMS Showcase of Medical Discoveries brought together teams from the Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI) for a record-breaking event — one of the largest showcases in recent history. Nearly 40 posters were presented, reflecting the depth and diversity of research across both institutions.

Dan Voth, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation, underscored the value of the partnership between UAMS and ACRI, noting, "We really appreciate our relationship with ACRI and all the incredible research happening just down the road. These showcases help us celebrate successes and spark new ideas for growing together."

Tamara Taylor Perry, MD, Interim President of ACRI, echoed that collaborative spirit, saying, "This is the beginning of new opportunities for us to collaborate as we work to improve the health and lives of children across Arkansas." She also highlighted ACRI's strong research portfolio, with more than \$70 million in active funding and over 220 human subjects protocols underway.



Join the Next UAMS Showcase of Medical Discoveries – Advancing UAMS Research: The Postdoctoral Engine of Innovation

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Time: 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Location: 10th Floor, Cancer Institute

A Research & Innovation event showcasing postdoctoral fellows' contributions to the UAMS research environment. The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs invites all current and recent postdoctoral fellows to present their research at UAMS' inaugural Postdoctoral Research Showcase. Register here to present a poster: <https://forms.gle/DYPEGjhNqXP3eY7J6>

AI for Discovery Webinar Series

We are pleased to invite you to the next installment of the AI for Discovery Webinar Series, featuring leaders from Google Public Sector who are advancing AI-driven innovation across research and healthcare. This session will explore how emerging AI platforms are transforming grant development, evidence synthesis, personalized medicine, and secure clinical data discovery—accelerating research while reducing administrative burden.

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Virtual Seminar: <https://meet.google.com/gqt-nwuo-ajt>

[Add to Outlook Calendar](#)

[View Event Flyer for Additional Details About the Session Content.](#)

Laboratory Closeout & Decommissioning Policy Now Live

The UAMS Laboratory Closeout & Decommissioning Policy (Policy 16.1.25) has successfully completed review and approval by all required committees and review boards and has been signed by the Chancellor. The policy is now officially in effect.

[UAMS Policy 16.1.25 – Laboratory Closeout & Decommissioning](#)

A virtual overview, including training and a Q&A session, is currently being developed to assist faculty and staff in understanding the new process. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

Prepare for AAALAC Accreditation Visit

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.

To help present our research spaces in the best possible light, please ensure hallways are kept clean and free of clutter. If you need assistance removing old furniture or disposing of trash, please contact Paul Browning, Building Manager.

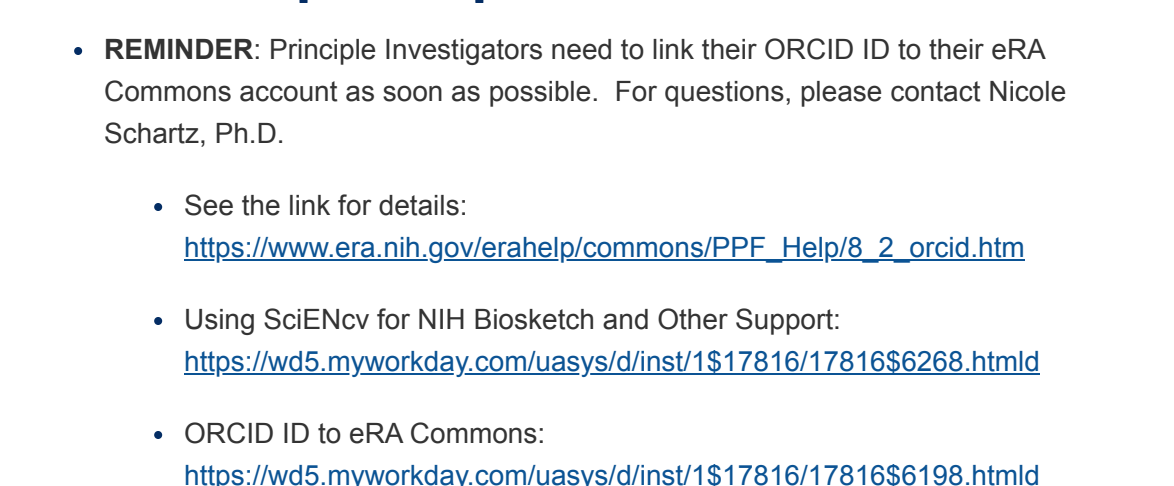
[Learn More About the Visit](#)

All International Shipments Require Prior Screening Before Shipping

This applies to all UAMS employees. It is especially important for Researchers and their staff to be aware of this screening requirement. This is how we often ensure compliance with legal needs (e.g., MTAs or Collaborative Research Agreements) and ensure compliance with the International Activities policy.

[Read the Full Announcement](#)

Join Student Research Day as Poster Judge March 10, 2026



We now have 4 poster sessions at the Little Rock campus.

Thanks to Our Registered Judges:
 We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the faculty and postdocs who have already signed up to judge. Your commitment to mentoring our trainees is what makes this event a success.

Urgent call for additional judges for poster sessions A and D:
 • Session A: 9:00–10:00 AM
 • Session D: 3:30–4:30 PM

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

Judge Registration Link: [Register Here](#)

From BioVentures

Applications Open for BioVentures' Medical Innovation and Entrepreneurship Honors Track (MIEHT)

The MIEHT program offers structured training in need identification, customer discovery, problem triaging, and iterative solution development. Through seminars, hands-on exploration, and mentorship, students gain practical experience in evaluating clinical challenges and advancing innovative concepts that can improve patient care and healthcare system efficiency.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

BioVentures at the AUTM Annual Meeting 2026

It was a privilege for BioVentures to join fellow innovators at the **AUTM Annual Meeting** February 8–11 in Seattle, Washington. This annual gathering brings together technology transfer professionals, researchers, and industry leaders from around the world who share a common mission: advancing innovation and translating discoveries into real-world impact.

[Read More](#)

More BioVentures Updates

Biomed I Renovation: Latest Progress

Biomed I Dock Elevator Closure : 2/27 - 3/1

Starting 2/27 at 7 am, we will be restricting access to the back dock entrance at Biomed I. At this time, we will also remove access to the 1st floor via the back dock elevator. All other floors are expected to be accessible and all other modes of entry are still available during this time. This closure will remain in place until we complete the prepping and installation of the epoxy floors which is expected to be completed by 3/1 at 5 pm. Signage will be placed this week to remind everyone of the closure. (*The Constructing Team*)

UAMS Grounds Crew

The Grounds Crew is working hard to keep our campus looking great year round.

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/dl/ins/1/17816/17816\\$6268.html](https://wd5.myworkday.com/uasys/dl/ins/1/17816/17816$6268.html)
 - ORCID ID to eRA Commons: [https://wd5.myworkday.com/uasys/dl/ins/1/17816/17816\\$6198.html](https://wd5.myworkday.com/uasys/dl/ins/1/17816/17816$6198.html)
- eRA Commons updated their systems on **January 26, 2026**.
 - The Common Forms 'validation' and RPPR 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>

From R & I Team

Research & Innovation Town Hall Meeting

The Research & Innovation Town Hall on February 23 drew a full house of researchers and members of the UAMS research community, filling the Cancer Institute's 10th Floor Walton Auditorium.

Dan Voth, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation, provided important updates on topics central to UAMS research operations. Highlights included progress on grant awards, ongoing research infrastructure improvements, and upcoming priorities.

The session offered an opportunity for open discussion, allowing researchers to stay informed, share feedback, and engage directly with leadership on research priorities and resources.

Video Recordings Available for Recent Virtual Seminars!

1. [SciENcv Common Forms – Tips and FAQs](#): Nicole Schartz, Ph.D.
2. [AI for Discovery – Accelerating UAMS Research](#)
3. [UAMS Research Security Program](#): Nicole Schartz, Ph.D. ([PowerPoint Slides](#))
4. [Working with the UAMS IRB](#): Edith Paal
5. [Working with the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs](#): Andrea Ham, BS, CRA
6. [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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