



May 2026

Congratulations!

Arkansas INBRE Renewed for Another Five Years

The renewed Arkansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) award totals approximately **\$19.6 million** and extends support through **04/30/2031**. The program originally began in 2001. Through this mechanism, UAMS, UA Fayetteville, and UALR, along with partner institutions provide resources and mentoring to 16 statewide primarily undergraduate institutions. The program provides key opportunities for students and faculty through supporting faculty research and mentoring, supporting and promoting student participation in biomedical research, and growing biomedical research infrastructure across the network.

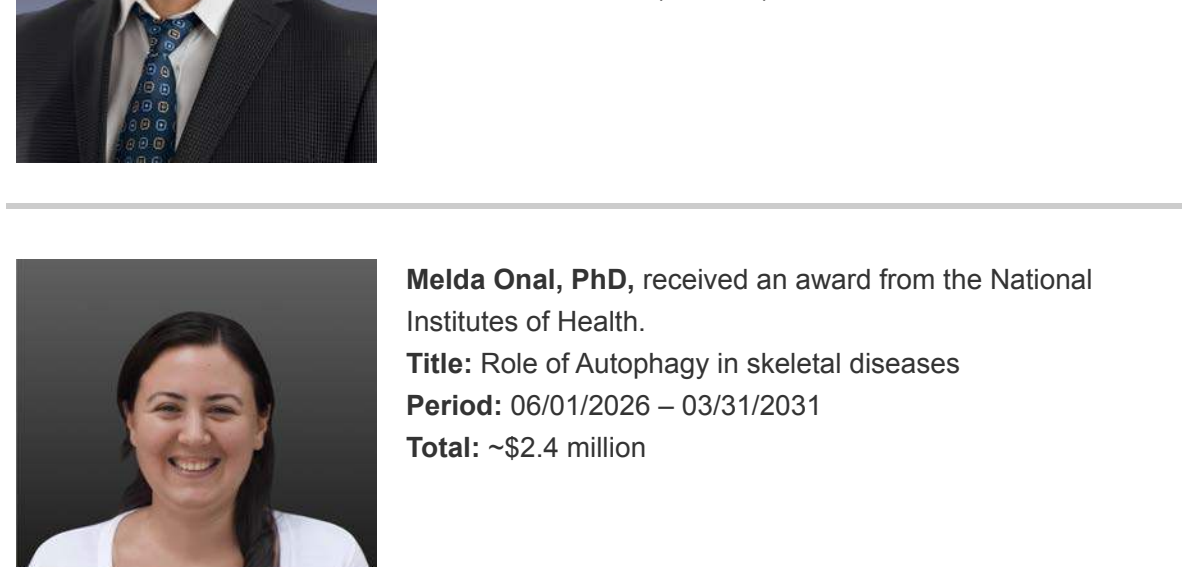


William Steinbach, MD, Sara Shalin, MD, PhD, and Mark Smeltzer, PhD, received an award from the National Institutes of Health.

Title: Clinician Research Education and Scientific Training (CREST) Program

Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2031

Total: ~\$2.8 million

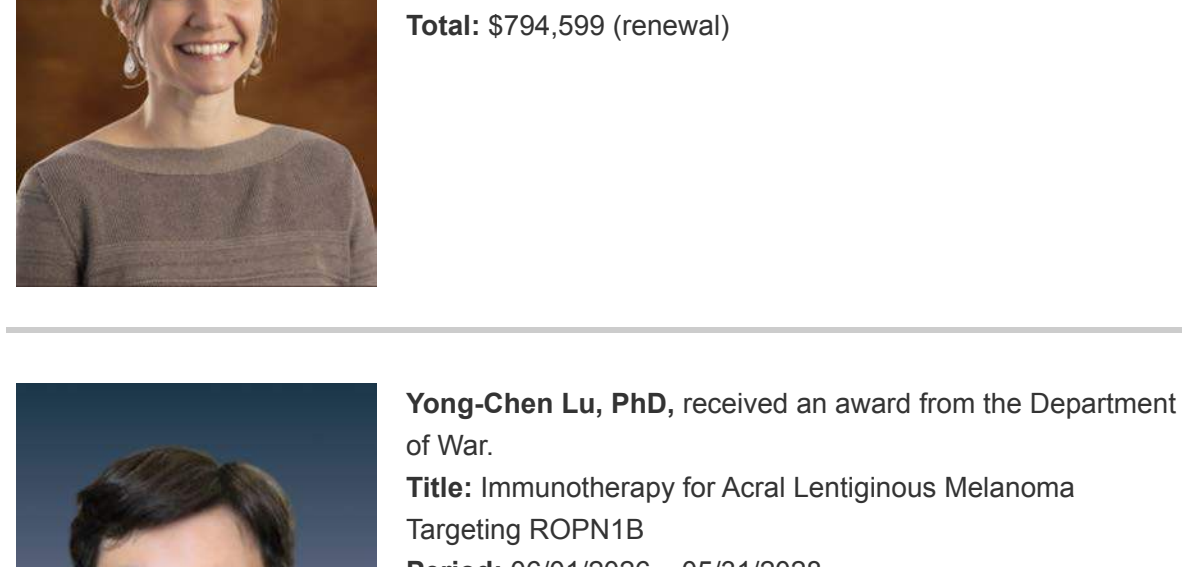


Fenhguang Zhan, MD, PhD, received a renewal award from the National Institutes of Health.

Title: Towards a better understanding of the critical role and therapeutic potential of drug resistant genes in multiple myeloma

Period: 06/01/2020 – 05/31/2031

Total: ~\$2.5 million (renewal)

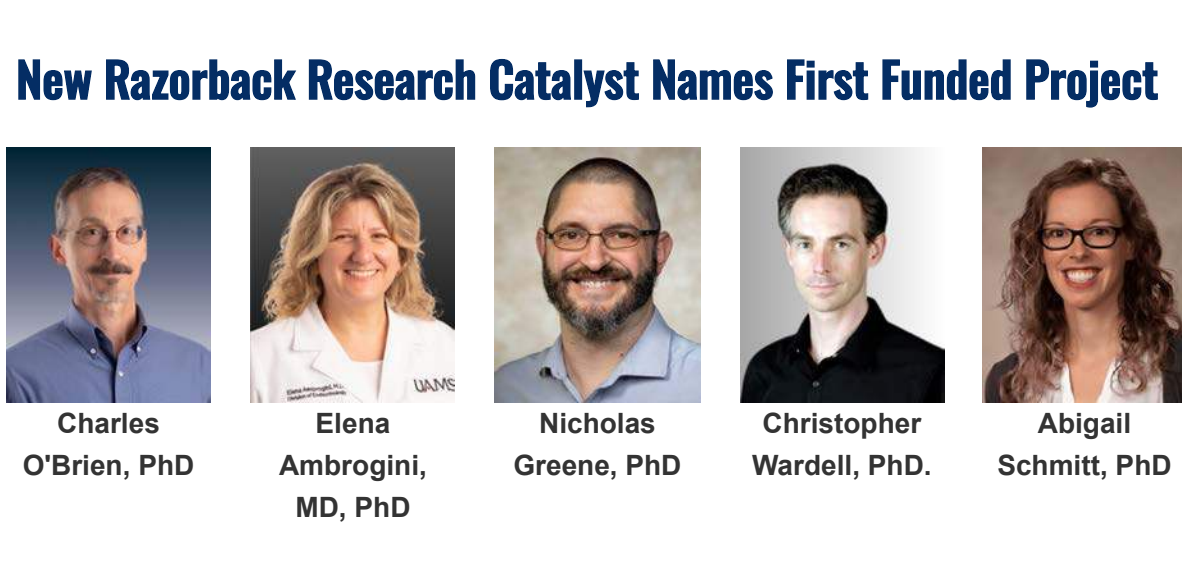


Melda Onal, PhD, received an award from the National Institutes of Health.

Title: Role of Autophagy in skeletal diseases

Period: 06/01/2026 – 03/31/2031

Total: ~\$2.4 million



Samantha Kendrick, PhD, received a renewal award from the National Institutes of Health.

Title: Partnership in Cancer Research (PCAR)

Period: 09/01/2020 – 04/30/2031

Total: \$794,599 (renewal)



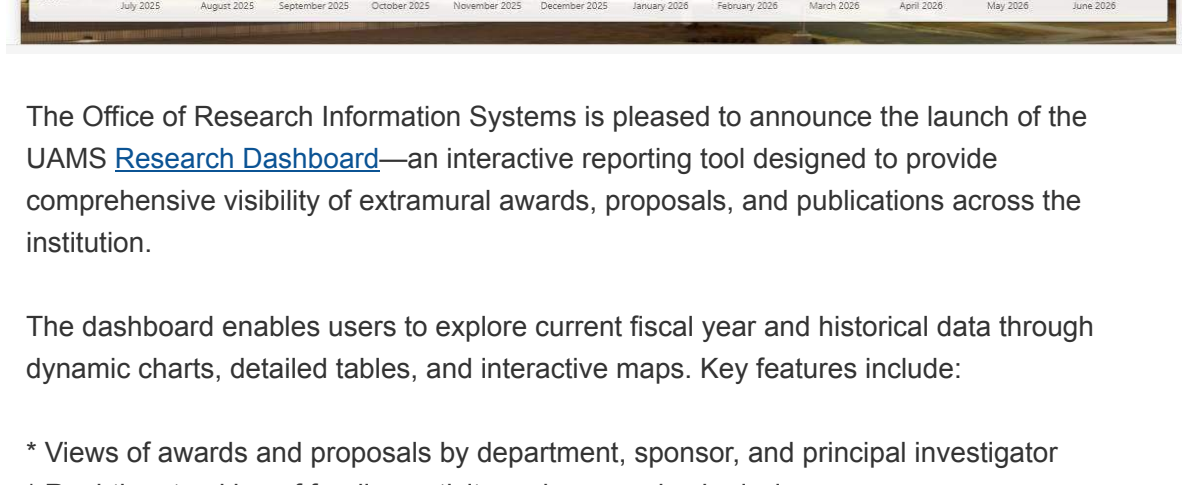
Yong-Chen Lu, PhD, received an award from the Department of War.

Title: Immunotherapy for Acral Lentiginous Melanoma Targeting ROPN1B

Period: 06/01/2026 – 05/31/2028

Total: \$559,998

New Razorback Research Catalyst Names First Funded Project



UAMS and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville have launched the Razorback Research Catalyst, a joint initiative designed to strengthen high-impact, collaborative research across both universities. The program anticipates that the Catalyst Team will ultimately grow into a center or institute.

We are proud to announce that the inaugural Catalyst project has been selected. This collaborative project is led by PIs Charles O'Brien, PhD (UAMS), Elena Ambrogini, MD, PhD (UAMS), and Nicholas Greene, PhD (U of A), with key contributions from Co-PIs Christopher Wardell, PhD (UAMS), and Abigail Schmitt, PhD (UAF/UAMS).

Together, the research team will examine the effects of GLP-1 receptor agonists on bone and muscle health, a timely and clinically relevant issue given the growing use of these medications for diabetes and weight management.

News and Updates

New UAMS Research Dashboard Now Available in Power BI



The Office of Research Information Systems is pleased to announce the launch of the UAMS [Research Dashboard](#)—an interactive reporting tool designed to provide comprehensive visibility of extramural awards, proposals, and publications across the institution.

The dashboard enables users to explore current fiscal year and historical data through dynamic charts, detailed tables, and interactive maps. Key features include:

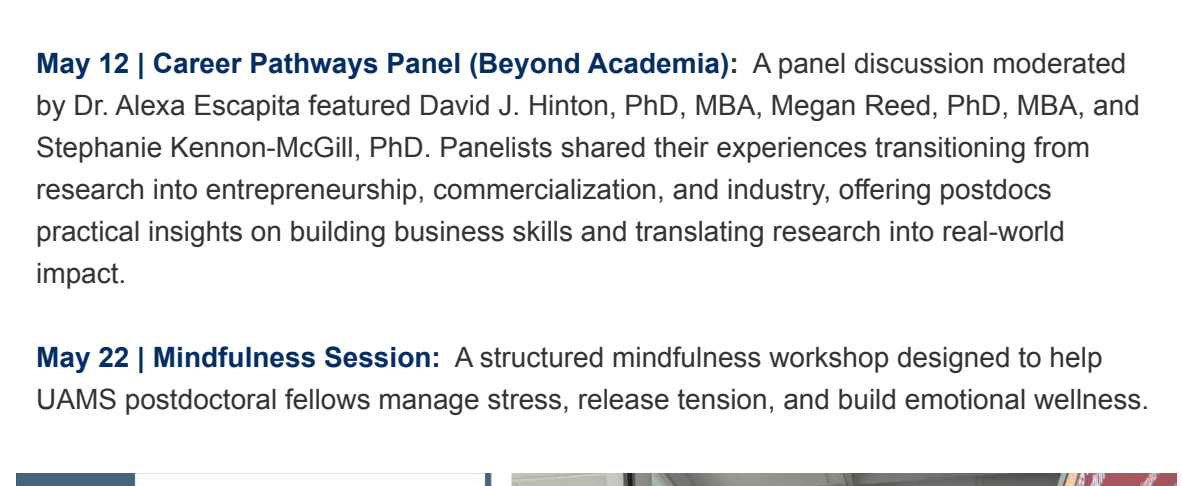
- * Views of awards and proposals by department, sponsor, and principal investigator
- * Real-time tracking of funding activity and proposal submissions
- * Detailed line-item data for awards, proposals, and publications with export options
- * Interactive filtering, drill-down capabilities, and customizable bookmarks
- * At-a-glance summaries and shareable visualizations for reporting and presentations

You can access the dashboard through this link: [Research Dashboard](#). You can also access the dashboard directly via the UAMS Apps portal using Power BI, with full functionality available on desktop and mobile devices.

We would like to extend a special thanks to [Donna Chachere](#), [Grant Olsen](#), [Susan Steelman](#), and [Stefani Gafford](#) for their valuable support and contributions to making this dashboard possible.

For questions, contact Anna Evatt at arevatt@uams.edu.

Recap: UAMS Showcase of Medical Discoveries – Drug Discovery and Emerging Therapies



Approximately 80 researchers, faculty, students, and staff gathered on May 13 for the UAMS Showcase of Medical Discoveries.

On May 13, the Division of Research & Innovation hosted the Showcase of Medical Discoveries: Drug Discovery and Emerging Therapies on the 12th floor of the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute. The event brought together 22 research posters covering topics spanning from cancer therapeutics and infectious disease to retinal injury and beyond—showcasing the depth of drug discovery and translational research happening across UAMS.

This is truly impressive work. It captures one of the many things our institution does so well: the discovery and manipulation of compounds and the treatment of different conditions through clear translational and clinical approaches. I am very proud of the groups here.
— **Daniel Voth, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation**

Drug discovery and emerging therapies bridges basic science, translational science, our education mission, and our clinical mission. Everything ties together here. Please talk to each other. Finding new collaborations is truly the purpose of these showcases.
— **Amit K. Tiwari, PhD, Associate Dean of Research & Graduate Studies, College of Pharmacy**

[Read the Featured Article](#)

[Read the Abstracts Booklet](#)

The Showcase of Medical Discoveries series continues to grow as a signature event in the UAMS research calendar. We look forward to the next installment and the conversations—and collaborations—it will spark.

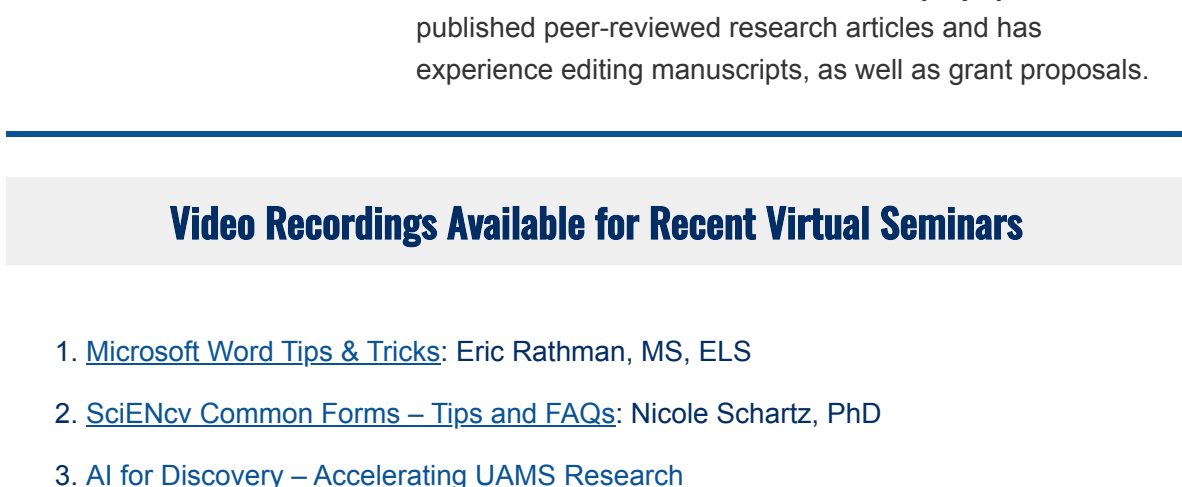
Postdoc Activities & Event Highlights

This spring, the [Office of Postdoctoral Affairs](#) has continued to foster professional development, networking, and well-being through a series of engaging events. The past two months have showcased the energy, talent, and active engagement of our postdoctoral community.

April 1 | Inaugural Showcase of Medical Discoveries: The Postdoctoral Engine of Innovation — invited current and recent postdoctoral fellows to present their research and highlight the vital role postdocs play in driving discovery across the institution.

May 12 | Career Pathways Panel (Beyond Academia): A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Alexa Escapita featured David J. Hinton, PhD, MBA, Megan Reed, PhD, MBA, and Stephanie Kennon-McGill, PhD. Panelists shared their experiences transitioning from research into entrepreneurship, commercialization, and industry, offering postdocs practical insights on building business skills and translating research into real-world impact.

May 22 | Mindfulness Session: A structured mindfulness workshop designed to help UAMS postdoctoral fellows manage stress, release tension, and build emotional wellness.



Research Highlights From the Northwest Campus

Congratulations to medical students Gabriel Dharwadker and Nathaniel Morsches for presenting their research poster at the 2026 Christian Medical & Dental Associations (CMDA) National Convention, held April 23–26, 2026.

Their poster, *"State-by-State Travel-Time Disparities in Access to Medicare-Participating Ophthalmologists in the United States,"* highlighted research examining disparities in access to ophthalmologic care across the country.

Left photo: Nathaniel Morsches; Right photo: Gabriel Dharwadker



[New Medical Publications Added](#) — Check Them Out!

From the R & I Team

Science Communication Group (SciCom)

SciCom welcomes **Katie McGraw, PhD**, as **Research Development Specialist**.

Madison "Katie" McGraw, Ph.D., joined the Science Communication Group (SciCom) as a Research Development Specialist. Dr. McGraw will work to match investigators with funding opportunities and identify novel opportunities for collaboration at UAMS. She holds a doctorate in interdisciplinary biomedical sciences from UAMS. In her predoctoral work, she studied innate immune system activation and metabolism in acute kidney injury. She has published peer-reviewed research articles and has experience editing manuscripts, as well as grant proposals.

Video Recordings Available for Recent Virtual Seminars

1. [Microsoft Word Tips & Tricks](#): Eric Rathman, MS, ELS
2. [SciEncv Common Forms – Tips and FAQs](#): Nicole Schartz, PhD
3. [AI for Discovery – Accelerating UAMS Research](#)
4. [UAMS Research Security Program](#): Nicole Schartz, PhD ([PowerPoint Slides](#))
5. [Working with the UAMS IRB](#): Edith Paal
6. [Working with the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs](#): Andrea Ham, BS, CRA

[Archived Seminars](#)

Useful Links

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