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June 2026

Congratulations!



Angela Odle, PhD, received an award from the National Institutes of Health.
Title: Paracrine and Endocrine Influences on Gonadotrope Development and Function
Period: 07/01/2026 – 04/30/2031
Total: ~\$2.6 million



Srinivasa Gokarakonda, MD, received a subgrant from the Arkansas Department of Human Services.
Title: UAMS Health Six Bridges — Adolescent Outpatient Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Program
Period: 06/01/2026 – 09/29/2026
Total: ~\$1.64 million

News and Updates

SciCom Expands With New Research Development Services

The UAMS Science Communication Group (SciCom) is launching new research development services led by incoming Research Development Specialist Madison "Katie" McGraw, Ph.D.

New services include:

- **Individualized Funding Prospecting** — Tailored funding searches by project and career stage
- **Facilitating Collaborations** — Multidisciplinary and translational research partnerships across UAMS
- **Educational Programming** — Workshops and seminars on funding your science
- **Monthly Funding Newsletters** — Curated opportunities by research area

[Subscribe to Funding Newsletters →](#) | [Schedule SciCom Services →](#) | [SciCom website](#)

Postdoc Activities & Event Highlights

UAMS Postdoctoral Educator Training: Foundations of Teaching & Facilitation

The UAMS postdocs are participating in a 6-week Educator Training series that began on June 3 and will conclude July 8. These sessions are facilitated by the Division of Academic Affairs staff (JoAnn Scales, Josiah Wheeler, and Scott Anthony Wright). This 6-session, interactive workshop series is designed to help postdocs strengthen teaching, facilitation, and feedback skills for academic, clinical, and research settings.

Congratulations to all our postdocs completing the training on July 8!

From the R & I Team

Meet the New Postdoctoral Education Coordinator



Elise Hensley, MPH
Postdoctoral Education Coordinator

The Research & Innovation team is excited to welcome our new Postdoctoral Education Coordinator. In this role, she will collaborate with Dr. Elasri, the Postdoctoral Advisory Committee, and the Postdoctoral Society to create engaging workshops, events, and programs that support postdocs in building community and advancing their professional development at UAMS.

She joins us from CareLink, where she led efforts supporting homebound seniors through the Meals on Wheels program and partnered with the community to promote healthy aging. She earned her Master's in Health Behavior and Health Education from the UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health.

Outside of work, she enjoys cooking, discovering new foods, and spending time with her family. We are delighted to have her on the team and look forward to the impact she will make.

Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM)



Kassie Sitzes, LAT

Congratulations to DLAM's Kassie Sitzes for passing her Laboratory Animal Technician (LAT) certification exam and Alyssa Gonzales who passed their Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT) certification exam!



Alyssa Gonzales, ALAT

Spot On!

We always talk about being a coordinated team, but we took it to a whole new level! Check out these fun, unexpected matching moments spotted around the division. It turns out team spirit and fashion intuition are running high!



Janet Storment (left) and Catrenia Banks (right) accidentally turned the office into a runway when they both showed up rocking matching polka dots on the exact same day.



Double the spirit! Ashley Clark(left) and Crystal Smith (right) were spotted matching in their UAMS Cares t-shirts. Thanks for bringing the team energy and representing the mission!

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

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



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