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August 12, 2026

## News & Announcements

### UAMS Institutional Review Board (IRB) CLARA System Updates

We have updated the IRB Blogs with a couple of recent changes to the CLARA system:

**New Proxy Signatory Responsibility** — Co-Investigators and Sub-Investigators can now serve as proxy signatories for CLARA submissions (other than the initial submission). [Read the blog →](#)

**New Section for Unaffiliated Collaborators** — New questions have been added to better capture information about collaborators not affiliated with UAMS or Arkansas Children's. [Read the blog →](#)

### Facility Update

#### What's That Crane Doing Outside Biomed II?

If you noticed a lift and crew working along the exterior of Biomed II last week, here's what's happening: Facilities conducted a water test on the building's glass panels to track down the source of a recurring issue. While they were up there, the crew was also cleaning the glass.

This is a proactive step toward a lasting fix, not just a patch. Thanks for your patience as we work to get this resolved.



Photos by Mickey Thomas

### NIH Reminder on Foreign Components and International Collaborations

In May 2026, NIH issued [NOT-OD-26-084](#), reminding researchers of its definition of a **foreign component** and the importance of disclosing international research activities. Foreign components may include research conducted at foreign sites, use of foreign facilities or resources, support from foreign entities, or international collaborations that result in **co-authorship with individuals at foreign institutions**. Investigators should disclose potential foreign components to their NIH sponsor as soon as they are identified.

Researchers may reach out to **Andi Ham** [ACHam@uams.edu](mailto:ACHam@uams.edu) or **Nicole Schartz** [NSchartz@uams.edu](mailto:NSchartz@uams.edu) for guidance on reporting foreign components.

Additionally, under [UAMS Policy 4.4.26](#), employees must disclose and obtain approval from the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation before entering into agreements with foreign entities or participating in certain activities involving foreign entities. Researchers engaged in international activities or considering foreign collaborations should complete the [UAMS International Activities Form](#) [here](#) and contact Nicole Schartz with any questions.

### Nominations Open: 2026 Chancellor's Awards of Faculty Excellence

UAMS is accepting nominations and applications for the 2026 Chancellor's Awards of Faculty Excellence, recognizing outstanding faculty across education, scholarship, clinical innovation, mentorship, teamwork, and community engagement.

**Deadline:** 11:59 p.m., Sept. 18

**Eligibility:** Self-nominations and colleague nominations both welcome

**Details & application:** [Center for Faculty Excellence website](#)

Questions? Contact Wendy Ward, Ph.D., associate provost for faculty, at [ward@uams.edu](mailto:ward@uams.edu).

Awards will be presented at a future Academic Senate meeting. If you applied or were nominated before, you are encouraged to try again this year!

### Now Open: 2027 UAMS Medical Research Endowment Fund Applications

Applications for the 2027 UAMS Medical Research Endowment (MRE) Fund are now open. Key information is summarized below.

#### AWARD DETAILS

- Maximum award: \$25,000
- Deadline: **August 30, 2026**
- Funding start: February 1, 2027

#### ELIGIBILITY

Permanent, full-time UAMS faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor or above. Faculty who received an MRE award last year (as PI or Co-Investigator) are not eligible for this cycle.

#### FUNDING PRIORITIES

1. Early-stage investigators
2. Start-up or seed efforts in new research areas
3. Projects with strong potential for extramural funding
4. Established investigators pursuing new research directions

[View Full Guidelines](#)

[Submit Your MRE Application](#)

## Upcoming Events

### BioVentures Innovation Day

**Aug. 19, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM | Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute (12th Floor)**

Join researchers, faculty, students, trainees, staff, entrepreneurs, investors, and industry partners for a day of innovation, connection, and real-world impact. Explore emerging technologies, learn about commercialization opportunities, and discover how research moves from the lab to the real world.

Please complete the interest form to RSVP.

[Register Now](#) | [View Event Flyer](#)

### Sip & Science is next Thursday!

*Researchers connect with community in casual conversations*

**Aug. 20, 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM | Hibernia Irish Tavern**

Step outside the usual academic setting for an evening with researchers from the UAMS Department of Psychiatry. Bring a friend, family member, or neighbor and join the conversation!



[Add to Calendar](#)

### Center for Musculoskeletal Disease Research

#### Distinguished Lecturer Series

*Title: "Emerging Functions for Nerves and Schwann Cells in Bone Homeostasis, Bone Regeneration, and Osteoarthritis"*

**Aug. 21, 2026 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Biomed II, Rayford Auditorium**

**Speaker:** Erica L. Scheller, DDS, PhD, Associate Professor, Division of Bone and Mineral Diseases, Washington University School of Medicine, Executive Director, Washington University Center of Regenerative Medicine, Past President, International Society of Bone Morphometry

\* Lunch will be provided to the first 30 participants

### UAMS Research & Innovation Research Orientation & TRI's Research Expo

**Aug. 27, 2026 | 3:00 - 6:00 PM | Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute (12th Floor)**

The combined event is Aug. 27 in the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, 12th Floor, with the UAMS Research & Innovation Research Orientation from **3:00 - 4:00 PM** and the TRI Research Expo from **4:00 - 6:00 PM**.

At the Orientation, gain insights about the pivotal role UAMS Research & Innovation programs play in research. All are welcome; no RSVP required.

At the Expo, network with colleagues and chat with representatives from over 50 research services across UAMS, Arkansas Children's Research Institute, and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System. Learn about the full suite of TRI career development, research, and clinical trial services for investigators. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

[Register for the Expo](#)

### Past Weekly Updates and Newsletters

#### Weekly Updates

[Aug 5, 2026](#)  
[July 22, 2026](#)  
[July 15, 2026](#)  
[July 8, 2026](#)  
[June 24, 2026](#)

#### Newsletters

[July 2026](#)  
[June 2026](#)  
[May 2026](#)  
[April 2026](#)  
[March 2026](#)

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Learn about the innovative work of UAMS investigators over the past year.

Daniel E. Voth, Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
and Innovation

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