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August 19, 2026

News & Announcements

NOT-OD-26-094 NIH Replacing Letters of Support with Letters of Collaboration

Starting with Forms J in Fiscal Year 2027, NIH will no longer accept letters of support, replacing them with letters of collaboration that document collaborative relationships with individuals not listed as senior/key personnel or other significant contributors. Letters of collaboration must be limited to stating intent to collaborate or provide material support (100 words max) and cannot include endorsements or project evaluations. Investigators preparing applications for FY2027 should start using the new letter of collaboration format going forward.

Full notice: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-094.html>

Innovation Day 2026 Is Underway!

BioVentures Innovation Day 2026 is in full swing today at the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute! Researchers, innovators, and industry leaders from across Arkansas have come together for a day of learning, networking, and celebrating UAMS innovation.

There's still time to stop by this afternoon — sessions continue through the Awards & Closing Remarks at 4:00 p.m., followed by a Reception & Networking at 4:45 p.m.

[View the full agenda](#)

Moments from this morning's sessions



Research Security Annual Refresher Training Now Available

We are pleased to announce the release of an annual refresher course for Research Security Training. After completing the full 1-hour **NSF Consolidated Research Security Training**, researchers will be able to take the **UAMS Research Security Training Annual Refresher**, which takes 20-30 minutes to complete. We will begin a Workday enrollment campaign starting September 1.

New Podcast from BioVentures



Episode 21 - SBIR and STTR Funding Updates

In this episode, BioVentures' Rebecca Todd discusses SBIR and STTR funding programs and how they help startups and researchers turn early-stage scientific innovations into market-ready products. She explains recent program changes, the differences between SBIR and STTR, how to identify the right funding opportunities, and what makes a proposal competitive. Rebecca also shares practical advice for navigating the application process and highlights the support available to Arkansas innovators through BioVentures and other entrepreneurial organizations.

[Listen to Episode 21 →](#)

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 or **Nicole Schartz** 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.

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

Sip & Science: Tomorrow is the night!

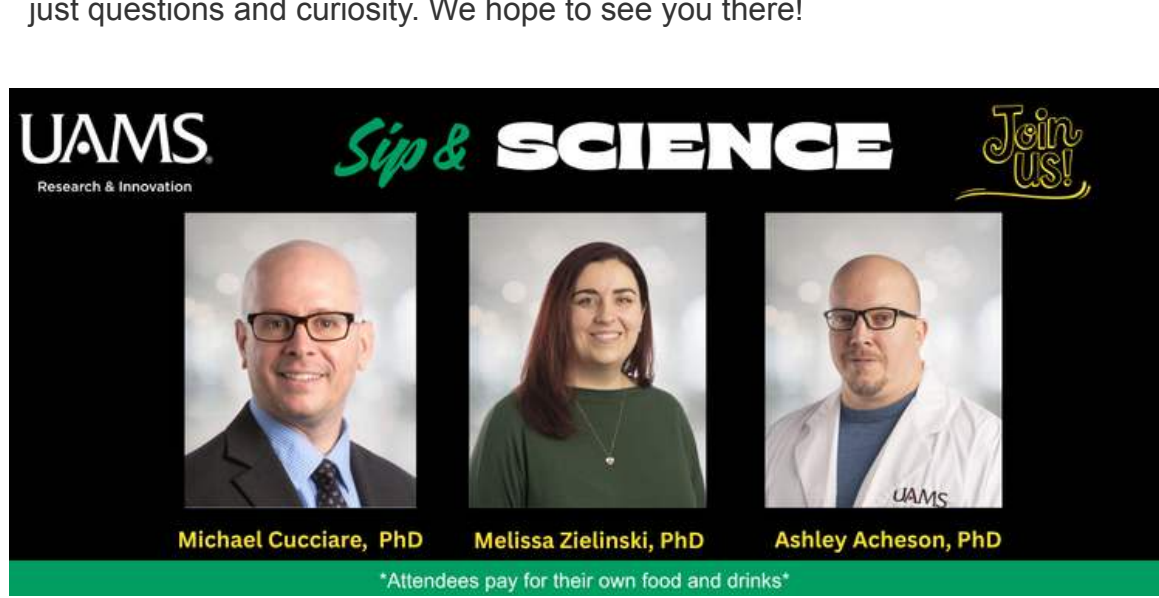
Researchers connect with community in casual conversations

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

Join us tomorrow evening for an engaging conversation with three researchers from the UAMS Department of Psychiatry:

- Michael Cucciare, PhD
- Melissa Zielinski, PhD
- Ashley Acheson, PhD

Bring a friend, family member, or neighbor. No science background needed—just questions and curiosity. We hope to see you there!



Attendees pay for their own food and drinks

[Add to Calendar](#)

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. 12, 2026](#)
[Aug. 5, 2026](#)
[July 22, 2026](#)
[July 15, 2026](#)
[July 8, 2026](#)

Newsletters

[July 2026](#)
[June 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

UAMS
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