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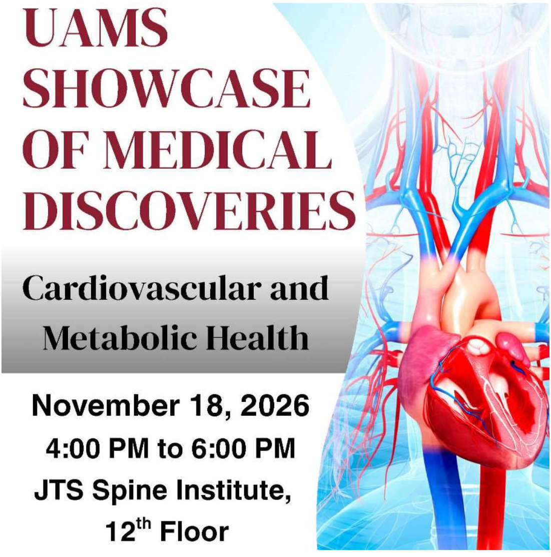
October 2026

News & Updates

Join us to celebrate the research happening across UAMS!


UAMS SHOWCASE OF MEDICAL DISCOVERIES
Cardiovascular and Metabolic Health
November 18, 2026
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
JTS Spine Institute, 12th Floor

You are invited to attend the UAMS Showcase of Medical Discoveries! Researchers, trainees, postdoctoral scholars, and students will share their work in poster presentations on cardiovascular, metabolic, and related health sciences.

Whether you do research, follow new discoveries, or want to meet colleagues in other fields, you're welcome to attend. It's a relaxed setting to explore ideas, talk with presenters, and see the work happening across our institution.

Want to present?
If you work in cardiovascular, metabolic, or related health research and would like to share a poster, email Dr. Elasri at MOElasri@uams.edu

See the Presenters Here

Add to Calendar

UAMS Innovators Honored at Innovation Day 2026

BioVentures celebrated UAMS researchers, inventors, and students at the Innovation Day 2026 Awards & Recognition Ceremony. Awards included Therapeutic Innovation of the Year, Student Innovator of the Year, Innovation Champion of the Year, Medical Device of the Year, and the Lifetime Impact Award. UAMS inventors on six patents issued this past year were also recognized. Read the full story

New podcasts: Hear more from Innovation Day 2026.
Episode 23 - Innovation Day 2026, Part 2 | Episode 24 - Innovation Day 2026, Part 3

UAMS Celebrates Intellectual Property Awareness Month

We're proud to join Arkansas in celebrating Intellectual Property Awareness Month and appreciate Governor Sanders' recognition of the role innovation and intellectual property play in driving economic growth across our state.

At UAMS, our researchers and clinicians are advancing discoveries with the potential to improve health and transform patient care. Over the past year, UAMS innovators generated 60 invention disclosures, filed 41 patent applications, secured 10 issued patents, and executed 9 option and license agreements. Congratulations to all the UAMS researchers, clinicians, and innovators behind these discoveries!

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME – GREETINGS:

"INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MONTH"

From the R & I Team

Bravo to Our IRB and ORSP Teams!

It was Bravo Break time for our IRB and ORSP teams! These pop-up moments of appreciation recognize their hard work. Bravo Breaks happen throughout the year to lift spirits and offer a fun pause in the workday. The teams gathered in the IDW Lecture Hall for a morning celebration. Thank you to our IRB and ORSP colleagues for all you do!

Conflict of Interest and International Compliance Office

The UAMS Conflict of Interest and International Compliance Office has published three new decision guides to help employees navigate COI and related policies. The infographics cover the Gift Policy, Speakers Bureaus, and Ghostwriting. Find them on the UAMS Conflict of Interest website under Policies & Guides.

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Welcome!

Andrea Moerman-Herzog, PhD, joined the Institutional Review Board Office as a Senior IRB Administrator. Dr. Moerman-Herzog will provide ethical and regulatory review for research studies with human participants. She holds a doctorate in cellular and molecular biology from Saint Louis University and is a seasoned biomedical researcher. She comes to the IRB from the ECHO IDEA States Pediatric Clinical Trial Network Data Coordination and Operations Center, where she gained experience with multi-site clinical trials. In addition, she has been an IRB committee volunteer since 2021.

Updated IRB Policies

The IRB has posted revised IRB policies to its website. Although a little delayed from our usual annual updates, the IRB office, with help from others on campus, including our Human Research Protection Program Advisory Committee, made changes to several policies, the HRPP Plan, the Emergency Preparedness Plan for the HRPP, as well as created one brand new policy (2.9). Many of these changes are minor, such as formatting changes or updating the organizational structure and titles, although some are more significant. A full rundown of what has changed can be found here.

Please contact the IRB office at IRB@uams.edu or 501-686-5667 for any questions related to the new or updated policies or to request policy specific training.

Office of Research Integrity (ORI)

Welcome!

Charles M. Skinner joined the Office of Research Integrity as Research Compliance Manager and DEA certifying official.

Charles is a Certified Research Specialist, with a background in molecular biology. He has been in research for over 24 years and is now in his 18th year at UAMS. His more than 25 publications range from the isolation and reprogramming of stem cells to exposure to deep space radiation.

"My many years as a researcher will be a major strength in my new role," Charles said. "I am looking forward to working with everyone in our department and continuing to help move the research being conducted at UAMS forward."

Office of Research Regulatory Affairs (ORRA)

Welcome!

Keshari Thakali, PhD, joined the Office of Research Regulatory Affairs (ORRA) on October 1. Dr. Thakali earned her doctorate in Pharmacology and Toxicology from Michigan State University and most recently served as an Assistant Professor with the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center.

She brings extensive experience in biomedical and clinical research and regulatory compliance, along with valuable expertise in research document preparation, medical writing, FDA regulatory pathways, IND/IDE concepts, and ICH GCP.

We are delighted to welcome Keshari to ORRA and look forward to the knowledge, experience, and perspective she will bring to our team!

FDA Regulatory Roundup

The Office of Research Regulatory Affairs (ORRA) is launching the FDA Regulatory Roundup to share FDA-related updates with the research community.

This month:

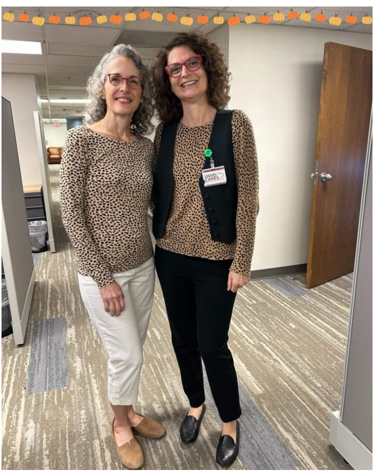
Both the Nuremberg Code and the Declaration of Helsinki, foundational documents to those of us conducting human research, mention testing on animals prior to testing on humans. But times, as they say, are changing!

On September 21, 2026, FDA issued a direct final rule updating its regulations to clarify that non-animal methods can be used where appropriate for testing the safety of drugs and biological products intended for human use before they are tried in humans. This change gives scientists and drug developers greater flexibility to use the testing approach that best addresses their scientific question. **Note**: It does not eliminate or prohibit animal studies.

Bottom Line: No longer is animal testing the only acceptable way to generate safety information for regulatory decisions in products intended for human use.

Featured Photo of the Month: A Halloween-Season Surprise!

Two of our IRB colleagues showed up in nearly matching leopard-print tops, complete with similar curly hairstyles. Their unintentional coordination made for a picture-perfect moment worth sharing. Sometimes the most memorable workplace fun happens by coincidence. Have you worked with these IRB team members?



Left to right: Andrea Moerman-Herzog, Ph.D., and Giuseppina Dusio, Ph.D., CCRP.

UAMS Research in the News

Dr. Erika Petersen featured on KATV Daybreak discussing UAMS research and new treatments — KATV

UAMS Cancer Institute receives $2.3 million NIH grant — Talk Business & Politics

UAMS receives $2.4 million grant to study aging and brittle bones — KARK | AOL

UAMS lands $3.1 million grant to study cancer prevention — KARK

Video Recordings Available for Recent Virtual Seminars

1. Research Security: Preparing for a Changing Landscape: Nicole Schartz, PhD
2. From Portal to Submission: Navigating the ORSP Proposal Support Journey: Andrea Ham, BS, CRA
3. Microsoft Word Tips & Tricks: Eric Rathman, MS, ELS
4. SciENcv Common Forms – Tips and FAQs: Nicole Schartz, PhD

Archived Seminars

Useful Links

Grant Life Cycle Research Portals Core Facilities Feedback/Questions

UAMS
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Division of Research and Innovation

Biomedical Research Bldg. II, 159-2, Slot 718
4301 W. Markham St., Little Rock, AR 72205

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