



PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY *News*

May 2021

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When you think professional, ethical, quality healthcare,
think physicians of Pulaski County Medical Society.

Harmony Health Clinic Garden Work Day

On Sunday, April 25, 2021 UAMS students began repairing and preparing the Harmony Health Clinic garden for planting this year. The pandemic did not allow much work on the garden in 2020, but 2021 is looking like it will be much better.



Two of the weeded beds and a few more in the background that still need work.



A carrot we found that had been growing all on its own



Oregano still growing from last year!



We have your back, so you can move forward.

When a problem occurs, you need a proactive partner that can navigate unforeseen challenges and help you solve the tough legal issues that come with practicing medicine. In our collaborative claims process, our in-house attorneys and our roster of local defense attorneys help you – our valued members – to be ready for what lies ahead.

Move forward with us at
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CHI St. Vincent Cardiovascular Surgeons Receive Highest Quality Rating for Mitral Valve Replacement & Repair with Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting

Cardiovascular surgeons with the CHI St. Vincent Heart Institute at the Infirmary in Little Rock earned a distinguished three-star rating for patient care and outcomes in mitral valve replacement and repair (MVRR) surgery with coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS). The STS star rating system is one of the most sophisticated and highly regarded overall measures of quality in health care and the three-star rating denotes the highest category of quality the system bestows.

"This recognition confirms something that we have long known. It recognizes that our cardiovascular surgeons with the CHI St. Vincent Heart Institute are among the elite surgeons for these procedures, not just here in Arkansas, but across the country," said Marcia Atkinson, president of the CHI St. Vincent Heart Institute.

The latest analysis of data for MVRR+CABG surgery covers a three-year period from July 2017 to June 2020 and includes 3,800 participants. STS benchmarks



outcomes of cardiothoracic surgery programs using a combination of quality measures for specific procedures performed by database participants. The STS National Database was established in 1989 as an initiative for quality improvement and patient safety among cardiothoracic surgeons and gathers information from more than 3,800 participating physicians, including surgeons and

anesthesiologists from more than 90% of hospitals that perform heart surgery in the United States.

"Participation in the database and public reporting demonstrates a commitment to quality improvement in health care delivery and provides patients and their families with meaningful information to help them make informed decisions about health care," said David M. Shahian, MD, chair of the Task Force on Quality Measurement. "The Society of Thoracic Surgeons congratulates STS National Database participants who have received three-star ratings."

Arkansas Cardiology, Baptist Health Heart Institute Open State's First, Only Cardio-Oncology Clinic

Arkansas Cardiology and Baptist Health Heart Institute in Little Rock recently opened the state's first and only cardio-oncology clinic.

Under the leadership of Ramey Marshall, MD, and Stephen Greer, MD, FACC, this clinic focuses on preventing and managing cardiovascular complications among cancer survivors and patients battling the disease. Drs. Marshall and Greer created this clinic to form a collaborative relationship made up of a multidisciplinary team of cardiac and cancer specialists such as oncologists, hematologists, radiation oncologists, surgical oncologists and oncology pharmacists.

As cancer therapy has improved, there has been a dramatic increase in cancer-related survival. However, for some, this has come at the cost of either temporary or long-term adverse cardiovascular effects.

The Arkansas Cardiology Cardio-Oncology team offers a fully comprehensive service dedicated to the prevention and management of potential cardiomyopathy/heart failure, hypertensive disorders, cardiovascular complications, arrhythmias, conduction disorders, valvular disorders, myocardial inflammatory conditions and more.

UAMS Health Breaks Ground On New Surgical Hospital on Main Campus

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) broke ground April 12, 2021 in a ceremony marking the start of the construction of the \$85 million, UAMS Health Surgical Hospital, which is expected to be complete by spring 2023.

The project is being paid for by a bond issue approved this year by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees. With four floors providing more than 158,000 square feet in space, the hospital will be an extension of the UAMS Medical Center containing:

- 24 private patient rooms for overnight observation and inpatient stays.
- 12 examination rooms for Orthopaedic Trauma, Orthopaedic Oncology, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.
- 12 operating rooms in its surgical center.
- Eight examination rooms and two procedure suites for use by the Pain Management team.
- Faculty and administrative offices for the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.
- Department of Orthopaedic Surgery resident educational space.

"With the beginning of this exciting new project, UAMS is growing physically to meet the expanding volume of orthopaedic surgeries at UAMS Health," said UAMS Health CEO and UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA. "The new hospital will help us to better serve our patients and their families. The need for this space is evidence of the success and the reputation of our orthopaedic surgeons and the overall orthopaedic team in patient care." The new building will complement and will not replace the off-campus orthopaedic clinics now in Little Rock.

"When the construction is complete, it will be a place of healing and innovation in keeping with the tradition of excellence at UAMS," said C. Lowry Barnes, M.D., chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. "Our surgeons, nurses and staff demonstrate every day their great skill and compassion for our patients. We look forward to using this new space and the functionality it will provide to showcase even better that talent and caring."



CHI St Vincent Establishes Unique, New Addiction Recovery Program in Arkansas

CHI St. Vincent, in partnership with Bradford Health Services, announces the first Addiction Recovery Program in the state of Arkansas that offers the full continuum of care through an integrated approach that includes both outpatient and hospital inpatient components. The new program, located at CHI St. Vincent Infirmary in Little Rock, marks a significant step forward for the hospital system's 133-year healing ministry and recognizes the growing need for integrated, compassionate care programs that offer recovery support for addictive diseases in Arkansas.

"The Opioid crisis was a pandemic ravaging our communities long before anyone had even heard of COVID-19 and our healing ministry has long felt called to provide support to Arkansans suffering from addiction and other addictive diseases," said CHI St. Vincent Infirmary Chief Medical Officer Dr. Gerry Jones. "For too

long, the healthcare infrastructure has struggled to get them and their families the full continuum of care they need to help them overcome these challenges. Now, with our partners at Bradford Health Services, we're able to make that compassionate care possible in a setting appropriate to the needs of our patients."

In addition to both outpatient and inpatient services, the new Addiction Recovery Program at CHI St. Vincent Infirmary includes a private entrance to help ensure patient confidentiality. The dedicated space includes inpatient suites for 30 residential patients, 10 detox spaces and staff trained in Bradford Health Services' proven addiction treatment methodology in order to help anyone suffering from addiction to find the support and healing they need. Whether suffering from drug, alcohol, food or other substance abuse challenges, the new

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CHI St Vincent Establishes Unique, New Addiction Recovery Program in Arkansas

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program incorporates a model designed to provide the necessary help patients need to overcome addiction.

"In the past, we have too often thought of addiction in the wrong way. Now we know it is no different from Diabetes or COPD. There is no quick and easy solution. It is a health issue that requires ongoing maintenance and care," said Bradford Health Services CEO Mike Rickman. "We have a lot of experience getting people on the path to recovery and now with our partners at CHI St. Vincent we can stick

with them from a convenient, central location that offers everything from detox to longer term residential stays."

The Addiction Recovery Program is part of CHI St. Vincent's commitment to help protect all Arkansans, regardless of race, gender or socioeconomic background, as this healing ministry works to create healthier communities. The program was made possible with the generous support of donors, including Bradford Health Services. To learn more about resources available through the CHI St. Vincent Addiction Recovery Program in partnership with Bradford Health Services, visit: chistvincent.com/clinical-services/behavioral-health-services/addiction-recovery-program

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Recognizes 2 Little Rock Central High Students

The inaugural Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Special Award for Outstanding Cancer Research at the Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair was recently presented to Little Rock Central High School students Amna Khan and Anu Iyer for the cancer research they each presented at this year's fair.

The award recognizes a student or team of students who demonstrate outstanding cancer research and/or cancer-related science. Khan, a 17-year-old junior, was the winner, and Iyer, a 16-year-old sophomore, was runner-up.

"The purpose of this award is to inspire and encourage outstanding high school students to consider pursuing careers specializing in cancer research or treatment," said Thomas Kelly, Ph.D., associate director of Cancer Research Training and Education at the Cancer Institute. "We also hope it establishes a pipeline of future cancer research scientists and clinicians to serve the state of Arkansas."

The statewide science and engineering fair was in early April at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway with judging through Zoom conferences.

Khan's project was "Synthesis, Characterization and In Vitro Cytotoxicity of Tunable Sized Chemo-PTT Combination Nanomedicines." Through it, she investigated how a new type of cancer-killing agent called a nanoparticle, which kills tumor cells either chemically



or with toxic molecules produced by exposure to light, could be refined for the highest efficiency. Her study included producing particles of increasing size and testing the killing of cancer cells. Through it, she showed that the smallest particles were the most effective at killing cancer cells.

Iyer's entry was titled "Heuristic Oncological Prognosis Evaluator (HOPE): A Novel Approach

Implementing A Deep Learning Convolutional Neural Network Framework to Detect Brain Cancer, Breast Cancer, Colorectal Cancer and Lung Cancer." In her project, Iyer used python programming language to produce an artificial intelligence program that she trained to identify tumors in digital radiograph images and digital histology images. She then tested the program's ability to identify tumors in samples that were not in the training set, and the program was very successful in doing so.

A cancer researcher and an educator chose the winners of the Cancer Institute's award by watching a posted video of the projects and listening to a livestream Zoom student presentation to a larger panel that was judging for placement overall in the fair in their category of biomedical health sciences. The judges of the institute's award also asked the students some questions to assess their knowledge and contribution. Relevance to the cancer field, thoroughness, clarity, scientific thought and creativity all factored into judging process.

Fourth Annual UAMS Day of Giving Raises More Than \$350,000

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) held the fourth annual Day of Giving on April 14 to support education, clinical care and research across the institution. This year, the event raised \$352,933.

Since 2017, the Day of Giving event has been UAMS' largest single-day philanthropic effort. As the state's only health sciences university, UAMS continues to lead in education, clinical care and research while playing an essential role in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic in Arkansas.

"Every year I am humbled by the outpouring of support from our donors on the Day of Giving, but this year is special," said UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA. "Despite all of the hardships over the past year, our donors came out in force to support UAMS. Not only that, they showed up to fill our food pantry and to share notes of encouragement for our front-line caregivers. That profound commitment makes a difference every day to further our mission in research, education and clinical care."

This year, donors made gifts via phone or online at the campaign website dayorgiving.uams.edu. In addition,



donations, food, and supplies were dropped off at Freeway Medical Tower for the Stocked & Reddies food pantry. Heartfelt, handwritten notes for UAMS' front-line health care heroes also were collected.

State funding is only a small percentage of UAMS' \$1.5 billion annual budget. UAMS relies on philanthropic support from generous donors in Arkansas and beyond to provide much-needed funds for clinical excellence, groundbreaking research and innovative education for the next generation of health professionals. Learn more at giving.UAMS.edu.

UAMS Ranked 7th in Nation on *Forbes* Magazine's Best Employers for Diversity List

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) has been ranked seventh nationally on an annual list of Best Employers for Diversity created by *Forbes* magazine.

The rankings are based on independent surveys of more than 50,000 people in workplaces of more than 1,000 employees. They include both direct and indirect recommendations and consider both diversity in executive leadership and institutional efforts to promote diversity in the workplace.

"I have always said that at UAMS our diversity is our superpower, enabling us to do great things," said Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, chancellor of UAMS and CEO of UAMS Health. "Diversity and inclusion are part of our core values at UAMS and inform all parts of our mission to research, educate and provide care."

The survey included consideration of general diversity as well as gauging participant's perceptions of each

employer's approach to gender and ethnic diversity, as well as LGBTQ+ representation and accommodation of employees with disabilities.

"This national ranking is an accomplishment for all of our employees at UAMS, because it is a team effort. Diversity and inclusion require an individual commitment to our common goal of creating a welcoming atmosphere in which everyone feels respected and valued," said Brian Gittens, Ed.D., MPA, vice chancellor for diversity, equity and inclusion.

"We are committed to having a workforce that represents the people we serve, and those values are reflected in our policies and practices in hiring and advancement, so that across our institution all voices can be heard," added Danielle Lombard-Sims, Ph.D., vice chancellor and chief human resources officer.



Donors Making a Difference

The following are members and clinics who have donated in support of the PCMS Healing the Healer Foundation during the 2021 Annual Dues drive since the last publication. Your support will insure that our doctors are taken care of so that they can care for their patients:

Doctors

Alan Storeygard, MD

Pittman Moore, MD



Profiles in Excellence

Danny Wilkerson, MD



What motivated you to choose medicine as a career?

I think, like a lot of my peers, I was motivated by the attributes I saw in my childhood family practitioner. He had this presence that to me represented healing, compassion, and competence.

Why did you choose your specialty?

I was in the middle of my third year of medical

school and I had not found anything that really excited me. I remember the first day of my anesthesiology rotation and it was the proverbial "ah-ha" moment. I thought "I really like this". The next day was even more exciting and the rest is history.

Who are the people who influenced you the most in your professional life and why?

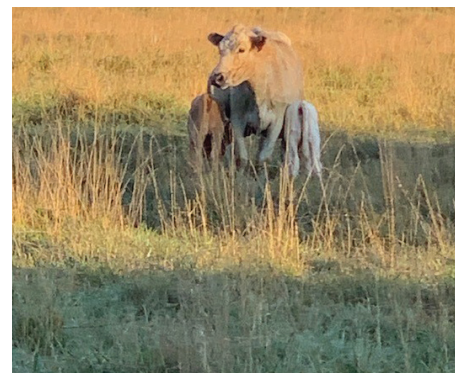
The chairperson of the Department of Anesthesiology, Dola. S. Thompson. She was a levelheaded, even tempered guiding light that headed me in the right direction.

What advice would you give current medical students?

Whatever you decide to do, remember to put your patients first. Care for them to the best of your ability and don't be afraid to ask for help in doing so.

Name one interesting thing that most people would not know about you?

I raise cattle.



Profiles in Excellence is our way of spotlighting member physicians who are making a difference and changing our world. It is a chance to recognize doctors who have made outstanding contributions to medicine and local communities. Doctors may be recommended by fellow physicians or staff members by contacting the Pulaski County Medical Society office at 501-687-0039.



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Mission:

**Promote medical care,
professional growth, and
public health.**

Vision:

**To be a catalyst for change
in how healthcare is
viewed and implemented
in Central Arkansas**

Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021

1

Practice and Professional Viability

Maintain and enhance services,
professional staff and communications
to effectively implement the mission.

2

Community Voice and Outreach

Create and participate in events to
promote health; monitor and propose
government initiatives that affect public
health and safety; become the trusted
resource in the community for overseeing
the influencing of public health policy.

3

Leadership

Growing the number of active members
involved in the society's community
outreach and service, and take care of
the mental health of its members through
the foundation.

**If you would like to be involved in the
committee to help implement the
Strategic Plan please call 501-687-0039.**