



# PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY News

April 2021

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

## Virtual Match Day Celebration Doesn't Dampen COM Seniors' Enthusiasm

By Linda Satter

Senior medical students at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) gathered virtually Friday – some by themselves, some holding babies, some surrounded by family, friends and even their dogs – to announce where they would be continuing their medical training.

Just before the virtual ceremony began, the students at UAMS and other medical schools across the country simultaneously received emails from the National Resident Matching Program revealing each person's "match" with an available residency program.

College of Medicine senior Danica Ordonez, pictured on the screen, is headed to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas for a residency in obstetrics/gynecology.

The residencies, matched according to the confidentially ranked choices of the students and the institutions where they applied and interviewed, will provide additional training in a specialty for the next three to seven years.

Though Match Day is traditionally marked by an extended celebration at a large gathering site with a variety of festivities, social distancing requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic required a virtual gathering both last year and this year.

It didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm, however.

While the event was captured on live feeds on Facebook and YouTube, the students were able to share their news and congratulate each other in a shared videoconference via Zoom.



*A screen in the auditorium captures Danica Ordonez sharing the news that she is headed to Dallas for her residency in obstetrics-gynecology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School*

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## Virtual Match Day Celebration...

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*As Sharanda Williams and Sara Tariq, M.D., clap in the auditorium, senior Madison Morris announces via Zoom, with baby in lap, that she will be staying at UAMS to begin her residency in internal medicine.*

Colorful balloons, confetti and banners were visible in the background as several budding doctors waited with friends, family members or other students. Cheers and squeals rang out. Hugs were given, fists were raised, tears of joy were wiped away and some enthusiastic bystanders even danced across the screen as the graduating students announced their names, their specialty and where they will be going after their May 14 graduation.

Some students waited to announce as couples, such as Wesley White and Moriah Hollaway, both of whom are staying at UAMS, White in psychiatry and Hollaway in general surgery; and Zachary Reiners, psychiatry, and wife Emily Reiners, pediatrics, who are both going to the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in Memphis.

Leading the UAMS event from the Fred W. Smith Auditorium in the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute was Sara Tariq, M.D., associate dean for student affairs in the College of Medicine, joined by Sharanda Williams, M.A., assistant dean for student affairs and diversity, and James Graham, M.D., executive associate dean for academic affairs.

Tariq congratulated the seniors for making it through 1,118 days of medical school since they first gathered for freshman orientation on Aug. 1, 2017. She praised their tenacity despite unexpected hurdles unique to this class, whose senior year coincided with an international pandemic that suspended in-person



*Sharanda Williams, M.A. and Sara Tariq, M.D. share a laugh while drawing names from cups representing groups of seniors to prod the students to announce their matches*



*James Graham, M.D., executive associate dean for academic affairs, tells the students in his virtual audience that this is a "milestone day" they will never forget, and, "We're incredibly proud of all of you."*

classes and, among other things, forced them to undergo virtual rather than in-person interviews with prospective employers and forgo the usual visits to those campuses.

At UAMS, 169 UAMS College of Medicine seniors participated in the 2021 match program. Tariq said 15 seniors failed to match initially into a first-year post-graduate position, but 14 of them found positions through the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program, through which unfilled positions are offered to unmatched and partially matched applicants. Tariq's office was working to finalize a training position for the student who did not match.

Nationally, there were 42,508 applicants for 35,194 first-year positions offered.

Tariq said 87 UAMS seniors received Arkansas residency positions, while 82 received out-of-state residencies in 32 states.

College of Medicine Dean Christopher Westfall, M.D., who is retiring this year, addresses his final Match Day class.

The most popular specialties in the 2021 class were internal medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine and family medicine.

Tariq said 79 students – about 46 percent of the seniors – are going into primary care fields, which includes internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology.

"Whether you matched into your first or your fifth choice, a door has opened for you today, and that door is going to open many more doors down the road," she told them.

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### Virtual Match Day Celebration...

*Continued from page 3*

College of Medicine Dean Christopher Westfall, who is retiring in August, addressed his last Match Day class, telling them, "You have worked incredibly hard and this day is evidence that all of that hard work has paid off." He added, "I am delighted that many of you are working with us or at one of our partners across the state."

For those going elsewhere across the country, he said, "We hope you will return to Arkansas and lend your expertise and compassionate care to this state."

Other places the UAMS grads are heading are Dallas; New Haven, Connecticut; Norfolk, Virginia.; Nashville, Tennessee.; Houston; Kansas City, Kansas; San Diego; Bryan, Texas; Boca Raton, Florida; Dayton, Ohio; Atlanta; Park Ridge, Illinois; Minneapolis; Birmingham, Alabama; Knoxville, Tennessee; Winston-Salem, North Carolina; St. Louis; Salt Lake City; Jacksonville, Florida.; Danville, Pennsylvania; El Paso, Texas; Rochester, Minnesota; Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Charlottesville, Virginia; New Orleans; Fort Worth, Texas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Oklahoma City; Omaha, Nebraska; Cleveland;



*Standing at a podium surrounded by balloons, College of Medicine Dean Christopher Westfall, M.D., tells members of the 2021 senior class, "You have worked incredibly hard and this day is evidence that all of that hard work has paid off."*

Lejeune, North Carolina; Boston; Hershey, Pennsylvania; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Providence, Rhode Island; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Honolulu; Chicago; Baltimore, Maryland; Portland, Oregon; Norfolk, Virginia.; Portsmouth, Virginia; Temple, Texas; Burlington, Vermont; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Manhasset, New York; Lexington, Kentucky; Los Angeles; Indianapolis; Bethesda, Maryland; and Gainesville, Florida.

## Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D., Named Dean of the UAMS College of Medicine



Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D., has been named executive vice chancellor and dean of the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), effective June 1.

She is succeeding Christopher Westfall, M.D., who retires Aug. 1, 2021, after 24 years at UAMS.

"Dr. Smyth is a remarkable physician, researcher and administrator whose focus on patient-centered care aligns perfectly with ours," said Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, UAMS chancellor and CEO of UAMS Health. "Her skillset and experiences will serve her well as dean of the College of Medicine, and I look forward to working with her.

"I'm also very grateful to Dr. Westfall for his years of dedicated leadership and innumerable contributions to advancing UAMS and its tripartite mission of education, research and clinical care."

Smyth joins UAMS from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, where she is the chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine and the director of

the Gill Heart and Vascular Institute, a position in which she developed and implemented an operating structure that emphasized the integration and translation across research, education, and clinical care.

"I am very excited to be joining UAMS and the College of Medicine," Smyth said. "UAMS has a tremendous reputation for educational, clinical and research excellence, and a compelling commitment to making lasting improvements in the health of Arkansans. I am honored and look forward to working with the talented UAMS team and partners across the state to promote health equity and collaboratively address the health needs of Arkansas."

Smyth graduated from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, with a bachelor of arts in biology before earning both a medical degree and a doctorate of pharmacology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She completed an internal medicine residency, including a year as chief resident, at University Medical Center in Stony Brook, New York, and cardiology fellowships at Mount Sinai Medical School in New York, New York, and The University of North Carolina, where she joined the institution's faculty in 2001.



## CHI St. Vincent Infirmary Designated as Center of Excellence for TAVR & Mitraclip Heart Procedures

CommonSpirit Health designated CHI St. Vincent Infirmary as a Center of Excellence for both Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) and Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair (MitraClip™) (TEER) heart procedures. CHI St. Vincent joins Mercy One in Des Moines, Iowa as the only two hospitals in the 142 hospital and 21 state CommonSpirit Health system to be recognized as a Center of Excellence in both of these complex heart procedures.



provide faster recovery times, excellent outcomes and help limit the need for patients to undergo open heart surgery.”

TAVR procedures allow interventional cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons to replace the aortic valve of patients suffering from aortic valve stenosis without open heart surgery, resulting in improved quality of life and extended lifespans.

Similarly, TEER or MitraClip™ procedures offer a less-invasive option for patients who are not able to undergo traditional mitral valve surgery. Doctors access the mitral valve using a thin tube called a catheter through a vein in the patient’s leg to reach the heart instead of requiring them to open the chest and temporarily stop the heart during surgery.

“We at the CHI St. Vincent Heart Institute are truly honored by this recognition, not only because it reflects our physicians’ commitment to excellence, but because it clearly demonstrates how we put our patients first,” said Marcia Atkinson, president of the CHI St. Vincent Heart Institute. “These minimally invasive heart procedures

## Baptist Health Hires System’s First Value Based Care Officer

Dr. Cliff Fullerton recently joined Baptist Health as the health care organization’s first chief value based care officer.

In this newly created role, Dr. Fullerton leads Baptist Health’s efforts to improve the quality and cost of health care for Arkansans and leads the Population Health Services Office for Baptist Health. This office will unify the organization’s efforts to work with patients, physicians, health plans and employees in agreements that bring more value to stakeholders.

Dr. Fullerton comes to Baptist Health from the Baylor Scott and White Health system where he has held numerous leadership roles. Most recently, he served as senior vice president and chief population health officer as well as president of the Baylor Scott and White Quality Alliance.

Dr. Fullerton is board-certified in Family Medicine and holds a master’s degree in Healthcare Management.

## Rheumatologist Dr. Nasim Khan Joins CHI St. Vincent Little Rock Diagnostic Clinic



CHI St. Vincent announced that rheumatologist Dr. Nasim Khan has joined the team of leading physicians at the CHI St. Vincent Little Rock Diagnostic Clinic a multi-specialty medical practice founded in 1961 providing diagnostic and treatment services to patients throughout Central Arkansas.

The care of inflammatory arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis is a particular focus of Dr. Khan’s professional practice. After attending medical school at All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, Dr. Khan completed his residency in internal medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit and his fellowship training in rheumatology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Dr. Khan previously served as a staff physician with the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System and Associate Professor in the Division of Rheumatology at UAMS. Dr. Khan has published more than 30 research papers and made more than 50 national and international scientific conference presentations.

## Baptist Health Debuts New Mobile Unit During 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Stops Planned Throughout Arkansas This Year

In Baptist Health's 100th year, the health care organization is strengthening its ability to serve communities beyond medical center walls with the debut of a new mobile health unit.

The Baptist Health Mobile Health Unit will offer COVID-19 vaccines to help get more Arkansans vaccinated at stops across the state this year. Additionally, it will provide free health care services such as screenings and prevention education from Baptist Health's team of caregivers.

"As Baptist Health looks ahead to the next 100 years, we remain focused on responding to changing healthcare needs by meeting people where they are," said Troy Wells, president and CEO of Baptist Health. "Our new mobile health unit will enable us to bring free access to critical health and wellness tools in areas that might not otherwise be served, thanks to the generous support of donors and community."

The nearly 40-foot-long mobile health unit is equipped with a front waiting area and two exam rooms, and is wheelchair-accessible.

"We are excited that the mobile health unit will allow us the opportunity to take health care out into the communities around the state where people need it the most – focusing on the underserved, uninsured,



underinsured and underrepresented," said Teresa Conner, system director of Baptist Health Community Outreach.

Baptist Health's new mobile health unit was funded in large part through a \$150,000 donation from the Arkansas-based Windgate Foundation. Also contributing toward the project were participants and sponsors of Baptist Health Foundation events including Arkansas Charity Clays, the Bolo Bash Golf Tournament and the Bolo Bash Luncheon.

"We are deeply grateful to the Windgate Foundation and our 2020 event sponsors," said Lena Moore, chief development officer at Baptist Health Foundation. "Their selfless support, during a year of unprecedented uncertainty, has strengthened Baptist Health's ability to provide access to quality healthcare in underserved and rural communities. We hope our philanthropic partners take pride and ownership in seeing the impact of their vital donations at work."

Among the stops planned are a free COVID-19 vaccine clinic in Tollette on Sunday, March 28, from noon to 5 p.m. at First Church of God Tollette, 1080 Martin Luther King Drive. Johnson & Johnson's one-dose Janssen COVID-19 vaccine will be administered. Please bring a photo ID. Supply is limited, and all eligible participants must pre-register by calling (501) 202-1540.



## 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

Lydia Lane, MD  
Keith Morris, MD  
Alison Richardson, MD

Tommy Love, MD  
Thomas T. Jefferson, MD  
Valyntina Honchar, MD  
Gail McCracken, MD

Clifton Johnson, MD  
Adil Imran, MD  
Jason Holder, MD

## Dr. Brandon Ingram Joins CHI St. Vincent Medical Group



CHI St. Vincent announces that surgeon Dr. Brandon Ingram has joined the team of more than 300 physicians and medical providers with the CHI St. Vincent Medical Group. Dr. Ingram will begin seeing patients at the CHI St. Vincent Surgery Clinic and CHI St. Vincent Little Rock Diagnostic Clinic.

"Dr. Ingram is a committed surgeon with vast experience in general surgery," said Dr. David Foster, president of the CHI St. Vincent Medical Group. "The addition of Dr. Ingram and his support in developing additional future surgery programs at the Infirmary reinforces our

commitment to provide quality, compassionate care to our patients in Central Arkansas."

Dr. Ingram previously served as a general and bariatric surgeon at Southern Surgery and Urology in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He attended medical school at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency in general surgery.

The CHI St. Vincent Medical Group is a multi-specialty network that connects primary care doctors with their colleagues in surgery, cardiology and many other medical fields. Emergency physicians and hospitalists are also part of the Medical Group to allow primary care providers to stay connected when patients visit CHI St. Vincent.

## UAMS Division for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Receives \$800,000 Grant to Launch Academy for Arkansas Students

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Division for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has received an \$800,000 grant from the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Temporary Assistance for Needed Families program.

Funding will support the creation of a Pathways Academy, a comprehensive learning and community engagement program focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for students in public middle and high schools across Arkansas. The annual grant is renewable for up to five years, or a potential commitment of \$4 million.

"The Pathways Academy is meant to not only give students the opportunity to explore and pursue careers in science and health care fields, but to build bridges of community engagement and education in communities with underrepresented minority populations, opening doors for clinical and translation research as well," said Brian Gittens, Ed.D., MPA, UAMS vice chancellor for diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Pathways Academy program will use online tools to engage selected Pathways Scholars from families eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and help prepare those students for careers in STEM and health care fields, with opportunities for mentoring,

tutoring, attending conferences and seminars, internships, summer programming and technology-based technical training.

The program will also engage the parents of Pathways Scholars by hosting workshops meant to help them in supporting their child's academic career and will also provide training for scholars' teachers.

"The achievement gap for socioeconomically disadvantaged students and students from minority backgrounds is well documented in terms of graduation and matriculation rates," said Gittens. "Our purpose with this program is equity and providing resources to those who need them to prepare them for further academic and career advancement."

Immediate program goals include staffing to support curriculum and program development and administration, said Gittens. This staff will then begin the work of recruitment of students, parents and teachers.

"Our long term goal is to grow to include 1,200 students statewide," said Gittens. "We want to empower them, as well as their parents and teachers, to break the cycle of poverty with opportunities for education and employment and to create partnerships that help us eliminate disparities in health and wellness across the entire state."



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### **Mission:**

**Promote medical care,  
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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.**