



PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY News

March 2026

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

C. Lowry Barnes, M.D., Selected as Next Chancellor of UAMS

By Nate Hinkel

The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas approved the selection of C. Lowry Barnes, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) as the next chancellor of the state's only academic health sciences center.

Barnes, founding director of The Orthopaedic and Spine Hospital at UAMS, became interim chancellor of UAMS in July and was selected as [one of four finalists in a national search for the position](#) in December.

The UA Board approved University of Arkansas System President Jay

B. Silveria's recommendation of Barnes during a specially called meeting today held virtually and in-person at the UA System – Cammack Campus.

"Dr. Barnes' distinguished career and service to UAMS and the health profession have earned him the respect and admiration of many people in this state and nationally, and certainly within the ranks at our state's only academic medical center," Silveria said. "He is driven by a sincere desire to see UAMS succeed and ultimately to make a positive difference for health care across our state. I look forward to working with him to set UAMS on a strategic path to long-term success in each of its core mission areas of education, research and patient care."

Barnes is a fellowship-trained, board-certified orthopaedic surgeon specializing in joint reconstruction and replacement surgery of the hip and knee. He joined UAMS in 2014 as professor and chair of the Department of



C. Lowry Barnes, M.D.

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Harnessing AI for the Daily Demands of Medical Practice

Elizabeth Woodcock, MBA, FACMPE, CPC

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Nearly every health care media outlet features a headline about artificial intelligence (AI). Many readers turn the page, assuming this “futuristic” concept has no relevance to their medical practice or is too unknown or unsafe to use. If you’re in that camp, keep reading; you may be surprised at the opportunities and efficiencies that AI can offer.

Several basic AI platforms can be remarkably useful in a practice setting. Tools like ChatGPT or Claude offer free versions and reasonably priced professional plans that also help protect and secure your inputs. In seconds, these tools can:

1. Draft a staff script for managing conversations about past-due
2. Provide company names, contacts, and comparisons of mid-market telephone system
3. Compose a draft letter to patients announcing a partner’s upcoming
4. Develop a draft staff policy for personal grooming (e.g., hair, nails).
5. Produce sample social determinants of health screening questionnaires for adoption by the practice.
6. Create a draft job description for a newly established staff
7. Diagram a draft workflow for scheduling a surgery as a staff reference

To achieve these outcomes simply enter your request, provide context or key details, and specify instructions such as tone or level of formality.

Beyond these straightforward but time-consuming tasks, AI platforms can also support more sophisticated functions. These include designing provider and staff schedules, developing financial forecasts, building executive dashboards for partner meetings, and even creating accounts receivable work queues based on probability of collection.

Though AI brings a host of benefits, always keep safety and security in mind:

- Before using AI in your practice, consult your AI Use Policy and follow internal security and safety requirements. Not all platforms offer the same security levels.
- Remember that AI output should be carefully reviewed by a human and will likely require editing or final touches.
- Only use the AI platforms that have been approved by your practice or organization and follow best practices provided for each platform.

Safe and policy-adherent use of AI can bring a host of benefits to your practice. Start the conversation with your practice today to see if AI can help your practice run more efficiently and provide more opportunities for your resources.

C. Lowry Barnes, M.D., Selected as Next Chancellor of UAMS

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Orthopaedic Surgery. In 2017, he was invested in the Carl L. Nelson, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery. He also serves as the director of the Musculoskeletal Service Line at UAMS Health. Barnes is founding director of The Orthopaedic and Spine Hospital at UAMS, a hospital located on UAMS' Little Rock campus that brings world-class orthopaedic, spine and pain experts together under one roof to provide the best possible care focused on achieving the best possible results. The Orthopaedic and Spine Hospital opened in 2023.

"In the six months I've had the pleasure of serving as interim chancellor, two things really stood out — the opportunity to work with such an outstanding executive leadership team, and the level of commitment shown by the more than 12,000 members of the UAMS family," Barnes said. "Given this opportunity to continue in a permanent role, I am most excited about being a part of the significant growth and transformation we are planning for our institution. This begins with a modification in culture so that UAMS becomes known for exceptional hospitality and service as we put patients, families and guests first in everything we do. I am humbled by this opportunity to work with President Silveria, the Board of Trustees and the entire UAMS family to improve health and health care delivery across our state through clinical care, discovery and education."

Widely recognized as one of the foremost joint replacement experts in the world, Barnes has made substantial contributions to research focused on the hip and knee, having published more than 350 peer-reviewed

articles. He lectures nationally and internationally on total joint replacement surgery and holds seven patents for orthopaedic surgery devices and implants.

After graduating with honors from the UAMS College of Medicine, Barnes remained at UAMS for his internship and residency in orthopaedic surgery. He completed an Adult Reconstructive Surgery and Arthritis Surgery Fellowship at Brigham & Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School in Boston. He was then selected to participate in the prestigious John N. Insall Traveling Fellowship as well as an AO/ASIF (Association for the Study of Internal Fixation) Adult Orthopaedic Fellowship at Inselspital in Bern, Switzerland.

Barnes went into practice as a joint replacement surgeon at Arkansas Specialty Orthopaedics, later becoming its president and managing partner for more than a decade. He's held numerous leadership roles in professional societies, including serving as the president of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS). He has also served as president of the Society for Arthritic Joint Surgery, the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association, the Southern Orthopaedic Association, and the Arkansas Orthopaedic Society.

Barnes is actively involved in the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, (AAOS) Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons, and the International Society for Technology in Arthroplasty. He is also a member of prestigious Knee Society and Hip Society and serves on the editorial boards of many scientific journals

Baptist Health Launches Program to Provide Free Fruits, Vegetables to Community Members

Baptist Health Community Outreach, in partnership with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, is launching the Arkansas Fruit & Vegetable Prescription Program for community members.

This initiative aims to improve health outcomes by providing free fruits and vegetables every month to residents who have a diet-related health condition such as diabetes or hypertension and meet income requirements.

Qualifying individuals who sign up for the program will receive \$50 of fresh fruits and vegetables each month. Items can be picked up each month on the participant's schedule from climate-controlled food lockers at Baptist Health Community Outreach, 10117 Kanis Road in Little Rock.

Space in the program is limited. To see if you qualify and for more information, visit bit.ly/bhproducerx or call (501) 202-1540.

Six Baptist Health Hospitals Honored for Top-Tier Stroke Care Performance

Baptist Health is proud to announce that six of its hospitals have been recognized by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) for their outstanding commitment to high-quality stroke care. The awards, based on performance metrics from the Arkansas Stroke Registry between July 2024 and June 2025, highlight Baptist Health's dedication to improving survival rates and patient outcomes in a state with some of the highest stroke risks in the nation.

The ADH awards are categorized into Diamond (95%+ adherence), Ruby (90–94.99%), and Pearl (85–89.99%) classes. The following Baptist Health hospitals were recognized:

- **Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock:** Ruby for Stroke Band Documentation
- **Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock:** Pearl for Coverdell Defect-Free Stroke Care Award and Ruby for Stroke Band Documentation
- **Baptist Health-Fort Smith:** Pearl for Stroke Band Documentation
- **Baptist Health Medical Center-Stuttgart:** Ruby for Door to CT Times
- **Baptist Health Medical Center-Hot Spring County:** Pearl for Coverdell Defect-Free Stroke Care Award, Door to CT Times and Stroke Band Documentation
- **Baptist Health Medical Center-Drew County:** Ruby for Door to CT Times

Key metrics evaluated include Door-to-CT times, which measure how quickly a patient receives a brain scan to determine treatment, and Defect-Free Care, which ensures patients receive every evidence-based treatment for which they are eligible.

Arkansas currently ranks among the top states in the "Stroke Belt," holding the 4th highest stroke death rate in the United States. With roughly 32 Arkansans hospitalized for stroke every day, according to ADH, the speed and quality of care provided by local hospitals are matters of life and death.

Baptist Health encourages all Arkansans to learn the BE FAST acronym to identify a stroke. If you notice any of the following, call 911 immediately:

- **B**alance: Sudden loss of coordination.
- **E**yes: Sudden blurred or double vision.
- **F**ace: Facial drooping on one side.
- **A**rms: Weakness or drifting in one arm.
- **S**peech: Slurred or strange speech.
- **T**ime: Time to call 911.

Baptist Health Orthopedic Clinic – Little Rock Adds Dr. Christopher Lang

Baptist Health Orthopedic Clinic-Little Rock recently welcomed Dr. Christopher Lang, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon with over 25 years of extensive experience.

Dr. Lang specializes in sports medicine, including arthroscopic surgery for the knee and shoulder. He is also highly skilled in orthopedic trauma.

A native of Savannah, Georgia, Dr. Lang earned his Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Georgia. He completed his Orthopaedic Surgery residency at Atlanta Medical Center following an internship at Georgia Baptist Medical Center. Dr. Lang is recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Dr. Lang was inspired to pursue orthopedic surgery after a fractured collarbone required surgery, an event he attributes to a divine calling from God that steered him away from his initial focus on engineering.



Dr. Christopher Lang

"I find purpose in helping people every day as an orthopedic surgeon, solving complex problems with a hands-on approach," Dr. Lang said. "I am committed to my patients and believe that better understanding of their condition, the surgical process, and the expected recovery leads to greater ease, satisfaction, and improved outcomes."



OrthoArkansas Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Surgery Center

OrthoArkansas marked a significant milestone in expanding access to high-quality orthopedic care with a groundbreaking ceremony on February 11 for its new outpatient surgery center in North Little Rock. The event celebrated the start of construction on a modern facility designed to enhance the patient experience and support the growing healthcare needs of Arkansas.

The new surgery center will span just over 47,000 square feet and feature 10 operating rooms, along with 20 pre-operative bays, 20 post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) recovery bays, and three overnight stay rooms. The facility has also been thoughtfully designed to allow for future expansion, with the ability to add up to four additional operating rooms as patient needs grow.

“This new surgery center represents an important investment in the future of orthopedic care in our community,” said Dr. Kirk Reynolds, President of OrthoArkansas. “Our goal is to continue providing high-quality, patient-focused care in a modern

environment that improves efficiency while helping reduce costs for patients.”

The new facility reflects the organization’s ongoing commitment to delivering accessible, cost-effective outpatient surgical care, while maintaining high clinical standards. Construction is expected to be completed in 2027.



UAMS Now Offering Healthy Heart Screening Program

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) celebrated the opening of its Healthy Heart screening program today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The program offers same-day results for anyone without an existing heart disease diagnosis between the ages of 40 and 75.

For a one-time fee of \$99, patients can sign up for a scheduled cardiac evaluation designed to identify cardiovascular risk factors. The evaluation will take place in the UAMS Health Imaging Suite at the Premier Medical Plaza at 10915 N. Rodney Parham Road, Suite H, in Little Rock.

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UAMS Now Offering Healthy Heart Screening Program

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"This is a very convenient and cost-effective opportunity for anyone who wants to understand their risk of heart disease and stroke," said Jorge Saucedo, M.D., chair of the UAMS Department of Internal Medicine and director of cardiovascular clinical services. "We use the most up-to-date equipment available and provide follow-up care for those who need it."

The assessment will include a blood pressure and BMI check, a non-invasive heart CT scan that can quickly reveal all stages of heart disease, a resting electrocardiogram (EKG), a lipid panel, basic glucose screening, screening for urine protein, and a risk assessment score for developing heart disease and stroke.

"A key component of the program is education," said Roger Swayze, RN, administrator of cardiovascular clinical services at UAMS. "All patients receive a consultation with a cardiac nurse and educational materials on reducing the risk of cardiac disease. Participants are offered guidance

on ways to improve their cardiovascular health through nutrition, exercise and weight management."

The screening program is not available for people who have stents or already have a diagnosis of heart disease. Anyone with abnormal findings or an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease can then avail of expedited appointments with a cardiologist or other specialists at UAMS.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Arkansas and the United States. Many patients remain undiagnosed until late-stage complications arise. The screening is recommended for patients with a family history of heart disease, people with no prior heart disease but with known risk factors such as diabetes, high cholesterol or a history of smoking, and health-conscious patients interested in preventive care.

More information about the program is available at [UAMS.Health/HealthyHeart](https://uams.health/HealthyHeart).

To schedule an appointment, please call 501-603-1222.

CHI St. Vincent Infirmiry Named NPF Center of Excellence Infirmiry Recognized for Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer and Pancreatitis

CHI St. Vincent Infirmiry in Little Rock has been nationally recognized as an approved NPF Center of Excellence for Pancreatic Cancer and Pancreatitis by the National Pancreas Foundation. NPF Centers of Excellence designations are awarded after a rigorous audit review to determine that an institution's focus is on multidisciplinary treatment of pancreatitis, treating the "whole patient" with a focus on the best possible outcomes and an improved quality of life. There are fewer than 200 NPF Centers of Excellence in the United States, and CHI St. Vincent is the only Arkansas hospital to achieve this distinction.

"We are honored that CHI St. Vincent Infirmiry has been designated as a NPF Center of Excellence for treatment of pancreatic cancer and pancreatitis," said Dr. William G. Jones, president of CHI St. Vincent Infirmiry. "This honor recognizes our exceptional gastroenterology healthcare team, whose focus is on providing the best and most innovative care possible."

"We are thrilled to expand our NPF Centers of Excellence Program to better serve the needs of patients suffering

from pancreas disease," said Jenny Pagel-Guile, Executive Director of The National Pancreas Foundation. "The NPF Centers of Excellence Program is one of the pillars of NPF, and we are looking forward to working with our current and new Centers."

An approved NPF Center must meet the criteria that were developed by a task force made up of invited subject matter experts and patient advocates. The criteria includes having the required expert physician specialties such as gastroenterologists, pancreas surgeons, and interventional radiologists, along with more patient focused programs such as a pain management service, psychosocial support and more.

"I am very proud of my team and this achievement," said Dr. Abdelrahman Attili, hepatobiliary surgeon and director of CHI St. Vincent's pancreatic treatment team. "This award is just further confirmation of our team's commitment to excellent, cutting-edge patient care."

For more information about the National Pancreas Foundation, please visit www.pancreasfoundation.org.

Registration Open for UAMS' Summer MASH Camps to Immerse Students in Hands-On Health Care Experiences

Arkansas high school students can get hands-on health care experiences such as suturing workshops, field trips, CPR training and heart dissection at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) MASH camps across the state this summer.

Medical Applications of Science for Health (MASH) camps are a free, two-week program for rising high school juniors and seniors where they can explore team-building exercises, visit health care settings, learn at various workshops, and even shadow health care professionals. Mini-MASH camps are another option with camps that last only one week.

Applicants must be entering the 11th or 12th grade and must have completed a biology class. They will be selected based on recommendation letters; academic, athletic or other achievements and awards; extracurricular activities; leadership and service in school and the community; and a personal essay describing the student's desire to attend the camp and pursue a career in health care.

A second summer option is Community Health Applied in Medical Public Service (CHAMPS) camps, which are like MASH camps but generally last three to five days and are geared toward students entering ninth or 10th grade.

Camps have been scheduled throughout June and July for Arkadelphia, Berryville, Blytheville, Clinton, Conway, Crossett, DeWitt, Dumas, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Harrison, Jonesboro, Lake Village, Malvern, Mena, Pine Bluff, Rogers, Texarkana, and West Memphis.

Additional camps are planned for Cabot, Forrest City, Helena-West Helena, Hot Springs, Paragould and Warren, but dates are not yet confirmed.

Application deadlines vary by camp, ranging from March 18 to May 8. A complete list of camps, their dates and application deadlines are available at bit.ly/3EITDy6.

The MASH program is made possible thanks to a long-term partnership with Arkansas Farm Bureau. In 2023, the organization pledged a five-year, \$500,000 gift to create the Farm Bureau Fund for Excellence, which supports health career recruitment programs for Arkansas students.

More than 400 students attended 23 MASH and CHAMPS camps last summer.

The MASH concept was launched in 1988 at UAMS South Central Regional Campus in Pine Bluff. The program has grown into a statewide collaboration of local, state and federal organizations, including area hospitals, which play an important part in the students' experience.

Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock Appoints Kim Young as AVP of Hospital & Pharmacy Operations

Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock is pleased to announce the official appointment of Kimberly Young, PharmD, MHA, BCSCP, as assistant vice president of hospital and pharmacy operations. The appointment follows an interim period in the role.

Young recently completed a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from Louisiana State University in Shreveport and has a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy.

Young's tenure at Baptist Health spans more than 18 years, beginning as a pharmacy intern. Most recently, she served as the director of the pharmacy and wound center at BHMC-North Little Rock.

She brings extensive leadership experience to the position and has already been instrumental in championing several key initiatives at BHMC-North Little

Rock. These accomplishments include the development of a limb preservation center, a new PET/CT center and overseeing overall pharmacy operations.

"Kim embodies our healing ministry's values, puts our employees first and remains dedicated to enhancing guest experiences," said Cody Walker, president of BHMC-North Little Rock. "She is an excellent example of how the Baptist Health culture develops leaders and advances talent from within. We look forward to her continued success and leadership."



Kimberly Young, PharmD, MHA, BCSCP

CHI St. Vincent Named to National Top 50 List for Cardiovascular Care

Hospital Ranked 12th for Clinical Outcomes and Patient Experience

[CHI St. Vincent Infirmery](#) has been named one of the nation's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals® according to an independent quality analysis based on a balanced scorecard provided by Premier, Inc. and published by Modern Healthcare. The Infirmery was ranked 12th for teaching hospitals without a residency program. CHI St. Vincent Infirmery was the only Arkansas hospital named to the 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals list.

To create the list, an objective, quantitative analysis of publicly available data was conducted to identify the top cardiovascular hospitals in the United States. The primary purpose of the 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals program is to provide data-driven benchmarks that hospital leaders can use to better understand performance variation and improve care for heart patients nationwide. Hospitals do not apply to participate in the study, and recognized organizations do not pay to market this distinction.

"CHI St. Vincent has always been a leader in cardiovascular healthcare in Arkansas," said Dr. William G. Jones, President at CHI St. Vincent Infirmery. "To see our cardiac teams recognized on a national level like this is truly special. My congratulations and deep gratitude go to all of the doctors, nurses, leaders and everyone on the cardiovascular care teams who come to work every day to make a big difference for our patients."

Compared to peer hospitals, those in the 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals delivered better results across all 21 measures, including clinical outcomes, operational efficiency, extended outcomes and patient experience.

Key national performance observations include:

- Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) inpatient mortality showed a 56-percent difference in index value between benchmark and peer hospitals (0.43 vs. 0.99, respectively).
- ^a In complication measure results for the two surgical patient groups (CABG and Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)), the PCI group outperformed the CABG group by a 10 percent difference (31.4 percent vs. 21.4 percent, respectively).



- The CMS Care Compare 30-day mortality measure for CABG patients had the largest difference between benchmark and peer hospitals (16 percent), with index values of 2.1 vs. 2.5, respectively.
- Average cost per case showed the most notable difference in the heart failure patient group, with a 19.6 percent difference (\$9,859 vs. \$12,264, respectively).

These outcomes add up to meaningful differences. According to the study's analysis, if all U.S. hospitals' cardiovascular service lines performed at the level of this year's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals, the impact could include over 14,000 additional lives potentially saved, more than 27,000 additional bypass and angioplasty patients experiencing fewer complications, and over \$2.0 billion in potential savings.

"Cardiovascular care is one of the most complex and impactful service lines in healthcare," said David Zito, President of Performance Services at Premier. "The 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals program highlights organizations delivering strong outcomes while providing hospital leaders with meaningful benchmarks to help improve care."

The 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals study is based on quantitative research that uses a balanced scorecard approach, based on publicly available data, to identify the top cardiovascular hospitals in the U.S. The program focuses on short-term, acute care, non-federal U.S. hospitals that treat a broad spectrum of cardiology patients. It includes patients requiring medical management, as well as those who receive invasive or surgical procedures. Because multiple measures are used, a hospital must provide all forms of cardiovascular care, including open heart surgery, to be included in the study. Each patient group is mutually exclusive by design.