HUB of HEALTH
Make your connection
The Mission of UAMS

is to improve the health, health care and well-being of Arkansans and of others in the region, nation and the world by:

- educating current and future health professionals and the public

- providing high-quality, innovative health care as well as specialty expertise not routinely available in community settings

- advancing knowledge in areas of health and disease through research

- translating discoveries into improvements in health and health care
welcome to your hub of health

Today we are in the midst of the first fundamental change in health care since the 1960’s with the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid. At that time life expectancy was 68 years; today it is close to 80 years. Each day in the United States, 10,000 people turn 65 and this will continue for the next 16 years. Advances in knowledge, technology and capacity to care for complex medical situations will be more important than ever. On this campus, we are making progress in these areas every day.

Our mission to improve the health, health care and well-being of Arkansans and others in the region, nation and world is lived day in and day out by our faculty, health care professionals, staff and volunteers. As the state’s only academic health center, UAMS combines research, education and patient care to provide the residents of Arkansas health care for everyday needs and the most specialized services for complex diseases, illnesses and injuries.

As the hub of health in Arkansas, UAMS leads the way and serves as a model in the delivery of care and health care education. We are a very rural state, 54 of Arkansas’s 75 counties are deemed rural. Additionally, 44 percent of Arkansans live rurally compared with only 16 percent of people living in nonmetropolitan counties in the nation. It is essential to have a supporting and nurturing health system to reach each member of our state. To ensure Arkansans receive the best care possible closest to home, we are committed to utilizing the latest technologies that allow our dedicated, highly qualified professionals to support and consult with health care providers throughout the state.

As you read through the pages of this book about some of our patients, students and faculty and staff, I hope you will be proud of the accomplishments and stories. I thank you for your investment in the health of Arkansas.

Daniel W. Rahn, M.D.
UAMS Chancellor
Our volunteers and donors are a critical part of the team. More than 1,400 individuals commit their time, energy and resources to UAMS through service on advisory boards. Their advocacy and community perspective bring energy to our collaborative work.

Joining them are the 8,120 donors who make health, education and research a giving priority. Our supporters provide over $1 million annually in scholarships allowing students from every part of Arkansas to pursue their passion in healthcare service. Philanthropy is so very important to UAMS.

On behalf of the UAMS Foundation Fund Board of Directors, we thank you for joining with us to improve health and health care of our state and beyond. Together we are making a difference!

Thank you for caring about Arkansas.

Lance Burchett  
Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement  
Executive Director of the UAMS Foundation Fund

Kevin A. Crass  
Chair, UAMS Foundation Fund Board

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1879  The year that eight physicians pooled their money and invested $5,000 to start the first medical school in Arkansas.

$1 million  The amount given by our supporters annually for student scholarships.

1,400  The number of committed volunteers who give of their time, energy and resources.

Philanthropy has been at the core of UAMS from the earliest days.

In 1879, eight physicians pooled their money and invested $5,000 to start the first medical school in Arkansas. This commitment to caring for others continues over 130 years later.

UAMS employees, physicians, researchers, volunteers and donors are a team dedicated to a three-fold mission: providing the highest levels of care to thousands of individuals each year, educating our state’s future health care professionals and conducting translational research leading to health improvement for all Arkansans.
We hope you’re impressed by our world-renowned academic health sciences center and now have many reasons to support us. As a philanthropic destination benefiting Arkansas and beyond, we invite your support. You can help UAMS remain at the forefront of medical innovation and education. Be assured that 100 percent of your gift stays in Arkansas and gifts of any size make a difference.

annual gift designations

The power of unrestricted annual support gives UAMS the flexibility to utilize resources when and where they are needed most. By giving to one or more of these areas, you are providing important support for the highest priorities at UAMS.

**UAMS Medical Center** As patient and family partners, our medical skills are surpassed only by our people skills

**Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health** Educating a diverse public health workforce and promoting the health of all Arkansans

**College of Health Professions** More program and degree offerings than any other allied health school in Arkansas

**College of Medicine** Arkansas’ only medical school – and so much more

**College of Nursing** The state’s only Ph.D. in Nursing and only master’s (M.N.Sc.) in Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program

**College of Pharmacy** From drug discovery to advancing medication therapy, we’re developing future pharmacy leaders

**Graduate School** Moving innovative discoveries and treatment to patients and communities to improve health

**Academic Affairs** Providing centralized core services to support the educational mission of the University

**Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute** Providing the most specialized training, research and care of the eye

**Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy** Internationally recognized for outstanding patient outcomes and innovative translational research

**Psychiatric Research Institute** The state’s only comprehensive academic, research and behavioral health treatment provider

**Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging** Translating world-class, aging-related research and education to benefit seniors in Arkansas

**Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute** Offering hope through a full spectrum of cancer research and treatment services

**Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute** Innovative spine care using the EVE system to reduce pain and increase function

**Translational Research Institute** One of only 60 specialized institutes nationwide accelerating discoveries toward better health

**UAMS Regional Programs** The state’s premier provider of community-based health professions education

**UAMS Northwest** The only UAMS regional campus for health care education

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**2013-2014 UAMS foundation fund board**

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Early one rainy morning, I was headed to Little Rock with co-workers. Near the end of our trip, we hydroplaned on wet pavement and went across the highway. When we stopped, my right arm was crushed against a tree. I was taken by ambulance to UAMS. A friend met me in the emergency room and was with me for the horrible moment when the doctor told me my arm would be amputated. She asked the doctors to wait until my family could be there, and I am forever grateful that they listened and allowed me and my family to be part of my care. The doctors showed my family the x-rays, and it was immediately evident how severe the damage was, but I wanted more than anything to keep my arm. I was thrilled when the doctors said they would try. The first surgery to save my arm was that same day. Over the next 18 months, I had 16 more surgeries, physical therapy and more heart-felt conversations with my caregivers than I can count. Throughout the process, I felt the doctors, nurses and therapists were all working with me as partners to help me regain use of my hand and arm. Thanks to this outstanding team, I can hug my family with both arms. That’s what’s important to me.

Misty Paschall

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uamshealth.com
We focus on population health, which is the health of all Arkansans. We are devoted to improving the health of individuals, families and communities across Arkansas through education, research and service. I think you will be pleased with the outcomes of our work. Your support enables us to train a workforce and conduct research that results in disease prevention and a better quality of life for everyone.

James "Jim" Raczynski, Ph.D., F.A.H.A., Professor and Founding Dean, Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health

As Deputy Director of the Arkansas Center for Health Disparities, I see obesity has far-reaching impacts on Arkansans’ health and our economy. Rural communities, racial and ethnic minorities and persons of low socioeconomic level are disproportionately affected. And in fact, outlying communities have few resources to address obesity. The HEALTHY Ways project demonstrated that the evidence-based Diabetes Prevention Program Lifestyle Intervention can succeed in underserved areas – and that community members trained as lay health educators can effectively deliver the program. This is one example of research that improves access to quality prevention and health care programs for minorities, with the goal of reducing health disparities.

Ten years have passed since the signing of Arkansas Legislative Act 1220, which was designed to combat childhood obesity. With leadership from Martha Phillips, Ph.D., Associate Professor, the College of Public Health has been involved every step of the way in the design, implementation and evaluation of the Act’s core activities. Evidence shows that this historic legislation is making a difference, with reductions in the percentage of overweight children in schools that embraced the changes. Act 1220 has been heralded as the first, comprehensive policy approach to try to reduce childhood obesity in the nation.

T. Elaine Prewitt, Ph.D., Associate Professor

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publichealth.uams.edu
Knowing the scholarship has community service as a criterion makes it special to me. Classroom and laboratory education is vital but when students engage in the community — particularly in the communities they will serve after graduation — it can have a career-changing and lifelong impact.

I invite you to help ensure that future generations of allied health professionals have a strong foundation of community service.

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healthprofessions.uams.edu
Physician Assistant students reach out to the community
Recent advances in genomics have ushered in a new era of health care. The College of Medicine is working to develop innovative “Precision Medicine” services that use a patient’s own genetic information to predict predisposition to specific diseases and pre-empt or even prevent them. With genetics-based tools, we can more precisely diagnose complex conditions and prescribe the very best treatment for each individual. The potential is enormous. With your support, we can change lives.

"The world is an amazing array of color and pattern and light. I capture those elements in my watercolors, whether I’m painting blooms in my garden or the cityscape of the Big Apple. I am a pharmacist by profession, but an artist at heart. And when I discovered through genetic testing that I am at high risk for severe vision loss through macular degeneration, I made some changes. The biggest decision was to retire early so that I can focus on my passion, painting.

Genetic tests are easy to come by these days. But I would have been lost without the expert analysis and guidance that my husband and I received from Dr. Brad Schaefer in the UAMS College of Medicine’s Division of Genetics and Dr. Christopher Westfall in the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute. They helped us to understand my test results and macular degeneration and to begin to plan our next steps, including preventative measures.

My husband and I are longtime, strong supporters of UAMS, and we are thrilled that the College of Medicine is dedicated to developing comprehensive genomic-based personalize medicine services for Arkansans. We know first-hand what a difference this will make."

Risa Clothier

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Risa Clothier
Little Rock, Arkansas
I know that I am meant to be a nurse. I have a passion for helping others; I love math and science and my nursing entrance exam scores were high. I applied to the UAMS College of Nursing and was accepted. I was so excited, but I had no money. As a single mom, I had many sleepless nights trying to figure out what to do. I went to orientation even though I barely had enough to pay for parking.

Some of the older nursing students got me uniforms and books. In the summer I received an emergency nursing student loan funded by alumni. And then the greatest miracle of my life arrived in the mail. I was awarded the Dean’s Scholarship for Future Nurse Educators, a fully paid scholarship.

Receiving a scholarship to the College of Nursing was my passport to freedom; it means my two children and I will have a better life. It has inspired me to excel and to give back to others and to UAMS. Our College has all the pieces in place to provide excellent training for tomorrow’s nurses and nurse educators. But many are like me; the only way they can become a nurse is through a scholarship.

Vallon Williams

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nursing.uams.edu
Pharmacists are often the most accessible health care providers in the community. Health care changes impact pharmacies down the street, across the state and throughout the nation. Our faculty is in the forefront to educate future pharmacists. We are committed to implementation and evaluation of new care models while determining the impact that they have on health and wellness. Your support helps as we strive to improve health in Arkansas through our partnerships with community and hospital pharmacists.

We all know health care is changing; this includes pharmacy practice. Pharmacists are many times the most convenient health care providers to the community. I have worked in the UAMS College of Pharmacy’s Arkansas Drug Information Center for the past 13 years. We provide drug information support to Arkansas health care professionals.

The center is helping to drive change in an evolving health care landscape. Recently renamed the Medication Therapy Services (MTS) Center, it has become a vital part of the Evidence-Based Prescription Drug Program (EBRx).

Health care delivery in the future will demand new pharmacy practice models and the MTS Center will play a pivotal role. We will provide phone-based medication therapy management services for patients unable to obtain MTM at community pharmacies. “Transitions of care” is another area where the Center can provide needed services. Medication errors, as well as inappropriate and/or inadequate use of medications, are costly to our health care system and frequently occur when a patient transitions from hospital to home care. Medication reviews performed at these critical times can improve patient care and reduce hospital readmissions.

I am eager to continue to serve the drug information needs of Arkansas providers, but I also look forward to the opportunities that will come with the MTS Center’s expanded role.

Mark Estes

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pharmcollege.uams.edu
The focal point for some of the most innovative biomedical research nationally, the Graduate School, is the most exciting academic research training environment in Arkansas. Our collaboration with UAMS colleges and institutes strengthens our programs in basic, clinical and population-based sciences in creating remarkable networks of opportunity for students. Your gift will allow us to support student scholarships, research and travel to conferences.

Coming from a diverse background with an African-American mother and Cape Verdean father and living in several different states, I have been exposed to a variety of people and environments. This has made me appreciative of the ways people think, their motivations and the sources of their personality differences. After graduating from Tulane University in New Orleans, I contacted Robert McGehee, dean of the UAMS Graduate School, in search of research opportunities in neuroscience at UAMS. Through him, I met Andrew James, of the Brain Imaging Research Center (BIRC) and began an internship where I studied the use of functional MRI to investigate how the brain encodes individual differences in personality and behavior. The BIRC surrounded me with a diverse group of intelligent people who genuinely love their work. This experience sparked my curiosity of the brain into a passion to become a clinical neuroscientist. I was accepted into the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program and received an NIH Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Fellowship. I am also starting as a T32 Addiction Research Fellow. UAMS allowed me to train as a clinical neuroscientist, and as a woman of color, UAMS is supporting my future career and the need for diversity in the sciences.

Robert “Bobby” E. McGehee Jr., Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate School

Tonisha Kearney-Ramos

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gradschool.uams.edu
Tonisha Kearney-Ramos, M.S. (Ph.D. candidate)
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences Program
Providence, Rhode Island
At the core of the UAMS mission is the education of culturally competent health professionals who will provide the best care for patients. Your gifts help us provide the most innovative programs to students and faculty so they are equipped with the knowledge and skills for interprofessional and collaborative practice, team-based and patient and family-centered care and an ability to adapt to changes in the health care system.

I became a physician to be a patient advocate. I am passionate about helping people stay healthy and navigating stressful times during sickness. In medical school, I learned that it takes a team.

Educational initiatives at UAMS are promoting a collaborative approach to patient care. In simulated cases, students from the Colleges of Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy work as a team. These educational experiences reinforced my role as a physician. They also helped me gain a new understanding of the expertise of those who provide care from other health professions in developing and implementing strategies to meet specific patient-care needs.

Despite my limited experience as a new physician, I have already seen the benefit of interprofessional collaboration in optimizing patient care.

My education also helped me appreciate the role of an additional participant outside the health care community — the patient. In simulated patient encounters, I learned the value of establishing a partnership with patients. I learned to empower patients in their own health care through informed decision making.

UAMS has the resources for educational initiatives in interprofessional collaborative practice and patient-centered care. Your support will help UAMS expand these outstanding resources to provide more opportunities for students to learn with, about and from each other, as patient advocates.

Jamie Waldron, M.D.

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academicaffairs.uams.edu
As one of only a handful of free-standing University Eye Institutes nationwide, we provide all aspects of eye care, from general exams to diagnosis of disease to treatment for trauma. We’re one of just six ocular and retinal genetics centers in the country. Integrating genetics into ophthalmologic care provides the best opportunity for rapid, accurate diagnosis, targeted therapies and counseling. Your support helps us expand sight-saving research, improve education and recruit more highly-skilled practitioners and faculty.

Last August, my wife and I were on vacation on an island off the coast of Maine when I temporarily lost about half of my vision and I thought I had a retinal detachment. Because I have had almost 20 years of history with the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute at UAMS, including cataract and other surgeries, I knew I should call my ophthalmologist there. I was referred to Sami Uwaydat, M.D., who suggested that I see a Maine eye doctor quickly. After contacting an ophthalmologist close by, I was diagnosed with detachment and told that I needed surgery. Rather than having surgery at one of the many leading medical centers that I flew over in that part of the country, I decided to come back home to the Jones Eye Institute because I knew if I had complications I would be in good hands, they have a very deep line of star ophthalmologists. I was diagnosed with the detachment on a Thursday and Dr. Uwaydat and his team saw me on Friday night. I had surgery on that Saturday morning. After a week of rest, I had an outstanding outcome. They have done a wonderful job and I recommend them to anyone with any eye problem. I am forever grateful for their top-notch care.

Christopher Westfall, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Director, Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute

G. Richard Smith, M.D., Dean

For more information, contact Shannon Hughen-Giger (501) 686-8638 shgiger@uams.edu

eye.uams.edu
G. Richard Smith, M.D., Dean
UAMS College of Medicine
Little Rock, Arkansas
The Myeloma Institute is committed to one overriding goal: curing multiple myeloma. Through innovative translational research, we have changed the landscape worldwide for myeloma treatment. While many patients have already been cured, we will continue to advance a cure for all patients. My sincere thanks to our donors, who help make our research possible and keep us firmly positioned as the hub of myeloma excellence.

I was diagnosed with multiple myeloma on December 24, 2010 after my buddy gave me a bear hug that dropped me to my knees in severe pain. I was 49 years old, and at that moment my priorities went into sharp focus. I became obsessively determined to beat myeloma so I could be there for my wife, children and grandchildren.

I did my homework and sought treatment with Dr. Bart Barlogie at the Myeloma Institute. Once I had the facts, it was an easy decision for me. The Myeloma Institute treats more myeloma patients than anywhere else in the world, they run more clinical trials, and they have access to more cutting-edge drugs and therapies than any other institution.

I finished my treatments in Little Rock in 2011 and have moved on to maintenance therapy in my home town of San Antonio under the direction of Dr. Barlogie, with periodic check-ups back at the Myeloma Institute.

I am living a full and active life with my family without limitations. And, I stay connected with my myeloma buddies from around the world who went through treatment the same time I did.

Life is good, and with the Myeloma Institute as my partner, I look forward to a long life ahead.

Ken Halliday

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myeloma.uams.edu
Ken Halliday with his family.
Pictured from left to right: Ken, Felice, Patty, Phillip
San Antonio, Texas
The Psychiatric Research Institute is committed to improving mental health for individuals and families in Arkansas and beyond through the integration of outstanding education, research, clinical care and service. We are working to change not only the way mental illness is treated, but the way it is perceived. Your gifts will enable us to fund key research projects and expand and strengthen clinical and community programs, ultimately providing cutting-edge care in a comfortable and secure setting.

I am the Chief Creative Officer of the New York advertising agency Badger & Winters. On Christmas Day 2011, my parents and three young daughters were killed in a fire that destroyed our Connecticut home. Shortly thereafter, I moved to Little Rock to be close to friends and was referred to the Psychiatric Research Institute (PRI) for counseling.

I think when I got to PRI I was in a total state of being overcome by sadness and fear. Rick (Dr. G. Richard Smith, M.D.) was the first person who understood what I was going through, what the grief felt like and he told me that it was going to get better. I was going to have to heal and it was going to take a lot of work, but it was going to get better.

The team that was assigned to me coached me back to life. They gave me confidence that I was going to be OK, which was crucial. I still check in with them by phone at least once a month, even though I’m in New York now, because they are an intricate part of my healing. They were there for me when I needed them. They helped me get through it. They saved my life.

Madonna Badger

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As we all live longer, healthier lives, our family portraits happily expand. Responsibility roles between generations are shifting. Who will take care of an aging parent who has taken care of everyone else for so long? The Reynolds Institute on Aging supports families as we promote vibrant independence among our treasured elderly. We are here meeting the needs of seniors and families with the highest standards of clinical care, research and education available.

I know first-hand the challenging and heart-wrenching experiences that come from caring for older parents. Having been the principal care-giver to our family’s elderly the last 30 years, I learned the limitations in finding medical care for central Arkansas’ aged. When my mother was suffering from Alzheimer’s in 1988, I walked into the UAMS Department of Geriatrics and asked, ‘Can anybody help me?’ And they did. Today the campus has the renowned Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging and other nationally recognized specialties. I learned to depend on the Institute on Aging’s geriatricians and health care professionals for help in caring for my aging family members. Geriatrics was once an unheard of specialty, but older adults need a different type of care as they come to the final stage of their life. Over the years, we have used every service available at the Institute. They offer a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to the medical care and treatment of the elderly. With the 2012 vertical expansion of the building, Arkansas’ aging population will have eight floors of specialized geriatric care, expanded educational programs and innovative research – all under one roof. I am not only a supporter of the Institute; I am a patient here, too!

Jo Ellen Ford

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Jeanne Y. Wei, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Director, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging
There’s a lot to celebrate at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute — our courageous survivors and families, our dedicated health care professionals and our innovative research breakthroughs, just to name a few. Through the power of research, we will continue to make more and more advancements in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Your support helps strengthen our research and patient support programs to ensure more celebrations in the years to come.

My cancer journey gave me a new appreciation for life. It began in 2005, when I was treated at the UAMS Cancer Institute for breast cancer. At the time, I was a 37-year-old single mother. Four years later, unusual bumps on my abdomen led to a diagnosis of stage 4 melanoma.

My doctor wanted me to receive the best possible care, so he referred me back to the Cancer Institute to see Dr. Laura Hutchins. Soon afterward, the cancer spread to my intestines and brain. I underwent multiple procedures and participated in a clinical trial for the new melanoma drug ipilimumab, which is now approved by the FDA.

After undergoing so much, I was exhausted. I sat in my kitchen and asked God to leave me here and healed, or to take me home. Shortly afterward, I returned for a follow-up exam where it was revealed that my tumors were no longer active cancer. I beat melanoma and overcame remarkable odds.

My journey continues, as I’ve experienced colon and thyroid cancer since that time. Both were successfully treated at UAMS.

This experience has taught me that life is not about the destination, but about the journey. I’ve traveled the world, scuba dived and watched my daughter start college. Everything is wonderful, and UAMS made that possible.

Carol Wadley

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cancer.uams.edu
seed-of-hope.com
Carol Wadley
Sherwood, Arkansas
at the Cancer Institute’s
Seed of Hope sculpture.
I had made my mind up that I was at my last resort, back surgery. During a visit to a surgeon’s office, a nurse said to me ‘do everything else first!’

Thank goodness Tod Dalby, who had been my physical therapist previously, was now working with the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute at UAMS. What a transformative experience! Over the next four months, my entire life changed. This last year has been great!

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spine.uams.edu
Patty Snider
Little Rock, Arkansas
As part of our mission to help speed the pace of discovery and health innovation, the Translational Research Institute is exploring new ways to ‘grow our own’ researchers. One way is to expand successful programs that more quickly develop talented new investigators such as Dr. Bryant and Dr. Kuo featured here. Your generous gifts can help leverage our publicly funded efforts to train and retain the next generation of researchers.

My research career was inspired as a family nurse practitioner while caring for people with depression. In many African-American communities, depression is a critical problem but one that is misunderstood and too often goes untreated, especially in men. I want to understand the roles of ethnicity, culture and gender on depression and to ultimately develop faith-based community interventions. The Translational Research Institute, through its KL2 Scholar program, has positioned me to pursue this work as an independent researcher with its support for training, research funding and most importantly the time needed to conduct my research.

Keneshia J. Bryant

As a pediatrician, I see many children with special health care needs whose families struggle to navigate our fragmented medical system. They make frequent long trips for care that could be provided closer to home if specialists and local doctors could work together. As a researcher, I am determined to find solutions for these families, and the Translational Research Institute, through its KL2 Scholar program, is making that possible. I have developed new research skills, found essential community networks and now have time to pursue my goal of ensuring that all children can receive the care they need when they need it.

Dennis Kuo

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Dennis Z. Kuo, M.D., M.H.S.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Center for Applied Research and Evaluation, UAMS and Arkansas Children’s Hospital
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Keneshia Bryant, Ph.D., A.P.R.N., F.N.-B.C., Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
Translational Research Institute
KL2 Scholar
Mount Morris, Michigan
In 2008 I woke up in the middle of the night with a terrible pain in my chest. I struggled to get myself to the emergency room just in time to pass out on the floor. When I woke up from that, I discovered I’d been through open-heart surgery, and three weeks later I ended up having another heart attack that really should have killed me.

“At the time I weighed over 400 pounds, and I knew something had to change, but I felt like my doctor was not providing me with the care I thought I needed. So I fired him and found my way to UAMS West, which I’ve gotta say has been an exhilarating experience. I was looking for a doctor who would be attentive to me in a personal way, and the whole team at UAMS West helped me get a plan custom made just for me.”

“They made sure I was aware of everything that was going on, and they were patient in explaining procedures and medications and what they expected of me. I have learned a great deal about how to take better care of myself, and I owe a huge debt to my UAMS family. I truly feel they have helped me to live!”

Nadir Numan

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ruralhealth.uams.edu
Nadir Numan with physician Mohamad Al-Haider, M.D. both of Fort Smith, Arkansas
As a 1953 polio survivor and spouse of a now long retired registered nurse, I have been interested in health care issues and facilities for more than 50 years. Because of this passion and interest, I agreed to serve as a member of the UAMS Northwest Advisory Board. I recognized how important a regional campus would be to the future of educating health care professionals not only for northwest Arkansas, but also the entire state of Arkansas.

As a result of polio, I was left with a useless, paralyzed arm that hung like a rope. Physical therapy in northwest Arkansas was all but nonexistent in 1953 and I had to go to Jacksonville, Arkansas where there were 75 children from all over the state who were there for mostly polio-related physical therapy. I was the oldest at 17, though there were children of all ages, including infants. There, a physical therapist gave me a big attitude adjustment, one that changed my life and helped me over time to regain the use of my left arm. I have been eternally grateful and I now want to help others to have the benefits of physical therapy for whatever the cause or reason.

Lewis Epley, Jr.

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