



# U niversity of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

## **Mission and Core Values**

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

- Education of current and future health professionals and the public;
- Providing high quality, innovative health care and also providing specialty expertise not routinely available in community settings; and
- Advancing knowledge in areas of human health and disease and translating and accelerating discoveries into health improvements.
- *Integrity* – We foster, encourage and expect honesty, accountability and transparency in pursuit of the highest ethical and professional standards in all that we do. We take responsibility for our performance, and will communicate our critical decisions to our employees, patients, students and stakeholders.
- *Respect* – We embrace a culture of professionalism with respect for the dignity of all persons, honoring the unique contributions provided by a diversity of perspectives and cultures.
- *Diversity* – We are committed to the importance of the diversity of UAMS leadership, faculty, staff and students in order to enhance the education of our students, reduce racial and ethnic health disparities in our state, and provide an environment in which all employees and views are welcomed.
- *Teamwork* – We seek to create interdisciplinary, synergistic and collegial relationships characterized by honesty, collaboration, inclusiveness and flexibility.
- *Creativity* – We encourage and support innovation, imagination, ingenuity, resourcefulness and vision.
- *Excellence* – We strive to achieve, through continuous improvement and adherence to institutional policies and best practices, the highest quality and standards in all our endeavors.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is Arkansas' only institution of professional and graduate education devoted solely to the health and biological sciences. First founded as a School of Medicine in 1879, UAMS became a medical sciences campus in 1951 with the addition of the College of Pharmacy. The College of Nursing was established in 1953. The original University Hospital was built in 1956 and was recently replaced with a new, state-of-the-art Medical Center in January 2009. The College of Health Professions was organized as a separate college within UAMS in 1971. The Graduate School was organized as an extension of the Graduate School of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1943 and was approved for independent status by the Board of Trustees in 1995. The Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC) was established in 1973. The College of Public Health enrolled students for the first time in 2002. Multiple Centers of Excellence and Institutes now reside on the UAMS campus, including the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute, the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging, the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, the Jackson T. Stephens Spine, Neurosciences Institute, Psychiatric Research Institute and Translational Research Institute. Today UAMS has grown into an academic health sciences center that encompasses broad aspects of education, research and service. The institution offers programs that improve the physical, economic and intellectual well being of the citizens of Arkansas. UAMS recently opened a branch campus in Northwest Arkansas.

The six academic units of UAMS – the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions, Public Health, and the Graduate School – as well as the UAMS Medical Center, the Area Health Education Centers, and the other Centers and Institutes noted above, provide the environment and opportunities, for students and practitioners alike, to learn and maintain the knowledge and skills they need. These programs integrate the liberal arts with the biological, physical and behavioral sciences and emphasize life-long learning for practitioners in the health professions.

UAMS is the principal biomedical research center for the state of Arkansas. In its programs of research, UAMS seeks to stimulate and support scholarly inquiry, for both faculty and students, aimed at maintaining and preserving knowledge and making discoveries that address the health needs of the state, nation and world. These research programs enhance the economic and educational programs of Arkansas through technology transfer and collaborative arrangements with other qualified individuals, groups, companies and institutions. The research mission involves the quest for new information, the organization of known information in new ways and the sharing of this information with the scientific community.

As the only academic medical center in Arkansas, the unique role of UAMS is to provide services requiring highly specialized personnel and technology. These services are delivered in an interdisciplinary environment to all Arkansans regardless of their ability to pay. In addition, comprehensive services in health, wellness and rehabilitation are offered in a statewide context. Our service mission is enhanced by affiliation with Arkansas Children's Hospital, the John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Administration Medical Center, the Arkansas Rehabilitation Institute and the Arkansas State Hospital. Additional cooperative programs are offered with other hospitals and practitioners affiliated with the AHEC Programs as well as the Angels and AR Saves programs. UAMS has a responsibility to provide health care services in a manner that ensures the long-range financial viability and continued quality of its programs while providing the most cost-effective care for its patients.

The UAMS mission encompasses a responsibility to its alumni and other health care practitioners of Arkansas to help them continue to improve their professional knowledge and skills. All schools and departments offer life-long learning opportunities as appropriate to their mission. The University library also serves as a resource for all health professionals by maintaining a portfolio of information services needed to support their information needs.

UAMS values its role of service to the general welfare of the state of Arkansas. This service includes action as a partner in science and health areas to all levels of the educational system of the state. As the leader in health care, the institution provides educational programs, consultation and technical advice to other institutions, agencies and local communities for the purpose of improving and maintaining the health of citizens.

The role of UAMS in the economic life of the community is significant. A major element of the central Arkansas economy, the salaries of a highly trained work force contribute substantially to the regional economy. UAMS represents over \$1 billion/year in revenue, employs about 10,000 faculty and staff, and attracts \$60 million/year in nationally funded research. It is estimated that UAMS and its affiliates, the Arkansas Children's Hospital and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare system, have an economic impact on Arkansas of nearly \$4 billion every year.