The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine is one of six academic units at UAMS and is the state’s principal biomedical research center. UAMS also includes centers of excellence that are recognized as among the best in the nation and the world. Some of the centers are: the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, the Jackson T. Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute, the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging, the Alzheimer’s Disease Center, the Center for Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Prevention, and the Center for Addiction, Behavior and Prevention. Because UAMS Medical Center is a teaching institution, we remain on the forefront of new medical procedures and technologies. UAMS conducts pioneering research that leads to new knowledge with application and integration into the health care disciplines.

Our College of Medicine at UAMS has grown rapidly and has rich traditions. Since 1879, the College of Medicine has had a long and progressive history of teaching, service and research. UAMS prepares excellent health care professionals and scientists who are committed to high ethical and professional standards; lifelong learning; and skill advancement in health care for Arkansas, the nation and the world.

UAMS College of Medicine advances medical care and education through research innovation. Our UAMS College of Medicine vision is “in relentless pursuit of excellence, every day.”
In Relentless Pursuit of Excellence, Every Day
1986-Present
p. 25

I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., Cover

The UAMS College of Medicine is celebrating an event of historic proportions. As we reflect on the past 125 years, we honor the many individuals who have inspired us through their accomplishments in education, research, patient care and service to our state.

“In relentless pursuit of excellence, every day” does more than just serve as the theme for the College of Medicine’s 125th anniversary. It describes, in a nutshell, the numerous faculty and staff who have dedicated their careers to the UAMS College of Medicine over the years. The people who make up the College of Medicine at UAMS have consistently demonstrated a progressive mindset and determination to provide the best medical care, education, and research possible for Arkansas, and in many instances, the nation and the world. The College of Medicine is now poised to enter what I believe will be its most remarkable era yet.

We are in the planning phase for a major expansion initiative: a replacement hospital for the 50-year old University Hospital, new student housing, a parking deck, a new psychiatry center, an addition to both the Jones Eye Institute and the Outpatient Center, and a new affiliated state psychiatric hospital. We are in the midst of changes that only a few years ago were simply dreams in the minds of many of our campus leaders.

The College of Medicine has been instrumental in our development of outstanding science, technology and facilities. Our commitment is to facilitate discovery through applied research, and to teach the best science and compassionate care to tomorrow’s caregivers. As proud as I am of our achievements so far, I believe that our best still lies ahead.

Sincerely,

I. Dodd Wilson, M.D.
Chancellor
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

“The Use of History is to Give Value to the Present Hour.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

125th Anniversary Edition
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125 years & the future of UAMS
FROM THE CHANCELLOR

“...the numerous faculty and staff who have dedicated their careers to the UAMS College of Medicine over the years. The people who make up the College of Medicine at UAMS have consistently demonstrated a progressive mindset and determination to provide the best medical care, education, and research possible for Arkansas, and in many instances, the nation and the world. The College of Medicine is now poised to enter what I believe will be its most remarkable era yet.”

I. Dodd Wilson, M.D.
Chancellor
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
As we observe the 125th anniversary of the founding of the College of Medicine, (COM) we are reminded that our roots are deeply embedded in a history rich in perseverance and innovation. From our establishment in 1879, our work and efforts have reflected our mission, “In relentless pursuit of excellence, every day.” Our predecessors strove for excellence from the very beginning, and this determination prompted significant growth and resulted in the world-renowned institution that we enjoy today.

Since 1879, the College of Medicine at UAMS has had a long and progressive history of teaching, service and research. UAMS prepares excellent health care professionals and scientists. One hundred and twenty-five years ago, eight ambitious physicians invested $625 each to secure a charter to purchase the Sperindio Hotel and Restaurant for physical facilities. Twenty-two brave medical students embarked upon this new frontier on October 7, 1879. Today, the COM has over 1,000 full-time and part-time faculty, members, more than 600 residents, almost 700 medical students and graduate degree students, and almost 4,000 employees.

It is difficult to separate the COM from UAMS as a whole. UAMS is comprised of a University Hospital and six colleges – medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, health related professions, and the graduate school. Together, these cultivate an atmosphere that promotes innovative thinking and discovery. Some of the most prominent developments that we celebrate today are in the Centers of Excellence – the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute, the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging, the Jackson T. Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute and the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy. These centers serve as institutional “magnets” for research and clinical developments and have gained regional and national acclaim for their contributions in their respective fields.

What, then, will the future bring for the COM? We are progressing in stature and are rapidly entering the ranks of the great medical institutions of the nation. While it is difficult to fathom the progress that will occur in medicine over the next 125 years, it is definite that the future of the COM will be an ongoing enhancement of what the first 125 years have been – an institution in relentless pursuit of excellence every day. We will continue conducting ground-breaking research that leads to new knowledge with application and integration into the health care disciplines.

Someone once said, “The past is history; the future is a mystery; this moment is a gift – that is why it is called the present.” It is important to reflect on the past, pay homage to our founders and plan for the future; however, the faculty and staff of the College of Medicine recognize the necessity of living in the present and taking advantage of all of the opportunities that unveil themselves daily. We will continue to be pioneers of medicine, growing exponentially to meet the increasing demands of the world around us and, certainly, anticipate the countless achievements of our alumni in all areas of medicine.

E. Albert Reece
M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.
Vice Chancellor and Dean
The purchase of the Sperindio Restaurant and Hotel building for $5,000 at 113 West Second Street in Little Rock signaled the beginning of the College of Medicine. P.O. Hooper, M.D., and seven other physicians incorporated under state law and successfully negotiated with the Arkansas Industrial University (now the University of Arkansas) to use the university’s charter for authorization, but had no financial support. The narrow three-story building that served as home for the College of Medicine for eleven years included a lecture room and small classrooms on the first floor, while the second floor housed the dean and registrar offices, operating room, amphitheater, and anesthetizing and recovery rooms. The new school was organized into departments in 1884 and purchased its first microscope in 1895. Enrollment for the first year was 22 and by 1910 numbered 171. A bequest from Isaac Folsom, M.D., would eventually provide a free clinic on the first floor that carried his name. The medical school would graduate its first medical doctor, Tom Pinson, in 1880.

The school during this era was designed as a proprietary institution with a primary goal of producing a profit and a secondary goal of producing qualified physicians for the state. The number of faculty (19 part-time faculty members) were limited, and soon many of the original faculty who had been educated in the fine institutions of the northeast, were replaced by a younger group who had little experience. Arkansas as a whole was still reeling from the war and the so-called reconstruction. However, the medical school would survive.

Deans of the Era
P.O. Hooper, 1879-1886
James A. Dibrell, 1886-1904
Edwin Bentley, 1904-1907
James H. Lenow, 1907-1912

The College of Medicine
The Formative Years as a Private Institution
1879-1910

1879
Purchase Sperindio Restaurant and Hotel, 113 W. Second Street for $5,000

School opens October 7, 1879 with 22 students

Madison Square Garden opens

Albert Einstein born
College of Medicine

HALL OF FAME Inductees

The inauguration of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Hall of Fame members is an integral part of the College of Medicine’s 125th Anniversary. Outstanding alumni and faculty members will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, and each following year during Alumni Weekend additional members will be added. On the following pages are the Hall of Fame inductees in alphabetical order and how these inductees have distinguished themselves through:

- leadership and/or accomplishment in research, teaching, service, clinical care, support and philanthropy
- service to humanity through his/her profession and/or personal achievements
- recognition as an outstanding peer leader in their profession and community
- character that represents the values and ideas of the College of Medicine
- demonstration of continuing support and interest in the College of Medicine

George L. Ackerman was born in 1929 in Rison, Arkansas. He received his undergraduate degree in premedical training from Henderson State University and his medical degree from the UAMS College of Medicine in 1954. He completed his internship at the Philadelphia General Hospital, served for two years in the United States Navy Medical Corps and then returned to Arkansas in 1957 to complete his residency in medicine at UAMS.

Ackerman gained further training in diabetes and metabolic disease before joining the faculty at UAMS in 1961 as an instructor in the Department of Internal Medicine. During his career at UAMS, he rose through the ranks to become a professor and served as acting director of the Renal Division from 1973-1976, interim chair of the Department of Internal Medicine from 1976 to 1977 and from 1985 to 1988, and also served as vice chairman of the department. He also served on many committees and was the governor of the Arkansas chapter of the American College of Physicians, where he recently attained master status.

A highly respected physician, teacher and mentor, Ackerman has received a great deal of recognition from his colleagues and students for his outstanding contributions to medicine. In 1967, the Arkansas Caduceus Club dedicated the UAMS yearbook to Ackerman. He received the Golden Apple Award, the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Arkansas Caduceus Club, the Outstanding Faculty Award from the internal medicine residents and interns, and the Abernathy Award for Excellence in Internal Medicine, the highest award given by the Arkansas chapter of the American College of Physicians. Ackerman currently serves as professor emeritus in the Department of Internal Medicine. He was awarded the 2004 Arkansas Caduceus Club Distinguished Alumnus Award during Alumni Weekend.
Jeff Banks was a 1934 graduate of the UAMS College of Medicine, where he later became a highly respected, skilled and much-loved professor of gross anatomy. An excellent and compassionate teacher, Banks served as a surrogate father to every student who passed through the medical school during his 23-year tenure.

In 1957, the UAMS campus was under construction on the western edge of Little Rock. Along with the hospital and the educational building, a much needed dormitory and student union building was built and opened on July 1, 1959. It was slated to be dedicated later that year. In September, the untimely death of the beloved Banks stunned and saddened the entire campus. Shortly after his death, students, former students, friends and faculty in unison demanded that the new dormitory and activity center be named in Banks’ honor.

Thus on November 20, 1959, the “Jeff Banks Memorial Student Union” was officially dedicated as a tribute to a man who had but one passion and one family – his students.

Roger C. Bone was born in Bald Knob, Arkansas, in 1941, and graduated from Hendrix College in Conway in 1967. He earned his medical degree from the UAMS College of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, where he was a pulmonary fellow.

Bone returned to UAMS as professor of medicine and served as chief of the pulmonary and critical care division of University Hospital and at the Central Arkansas Veterans Hospital. In 1984, Bone left UAMS to become a professor of medicine at Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center in Chicago and in 1992 was named dean of the Rush Medical College in Chicago.

In 1995, he was named a master fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians, becoming the sixth physician in the organization’s 61-year history to receive the honor. He was also a master fellow of the American College of Physicians. Bone was the recipient of 57 research grants, the author of more than 1,000 articles and the editor of 56 books.

Bone led a remarkable life as a physician, educator and author. In 1993, when he was diagnosed with renal cancer, he continued to teach others by writing his own thoughts on the disease and on the care of terminally ill patients in publications, including The Journal of the American Medical Association, where he penned a column titled “Piece of My Mind” that shared his innermost feelings about the dying process and how to deal with it. Just prior to his death, he established the Roger C. Bone, M.D., Presidential Endowed Chair, committing the interest from the chair’s endowment to the medical center’s Institute for the Education and Study of the Dying Patient. Bone also hosted a weekly program, “Internal Medicine Update,” on the Lifetime Cable Network.

Bone received the Hendrix College Distinguished Alumni Award in 1996, and in May 1997, he was presented with an honorary doctorate by the College of Medicine at UAMS.
Roger Bost, a native of Clarksville, Arkansas, graduated from high school in 1939 and began his undergraduate studies at Northwestern Oklahoma State University before transferring to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He enlisted in the United States Navy and then earned his medical degree in 1945 from UAMS before being called to active duty during World War II. After the war ended, Bost cared for the soldiers as they returned home and was subsequently accepted to the pediatric medical program at Duke University. He completed his pediatrics training in 1949 and became the first instructor added to the Duke faculty in seven years. While at Duke, he earned the distinguished Bagby Award in Pediatrics. He taught at Tulane University Medical School in New Orleans for three-and-a-half years before returning to Arkansas to open a private practice in Fort Smith.

Bost began his career at UAMS in 1965 and in 1967 became the director of the Arkansas Regional Medical Program, a program that provided physicians, hospitals and health-related professionals with the latest advances in diagnosis and treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease, cancer, stroke and related diseases. He also served as the director of the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) that was established to focus on the state’s primary healthcare needs. Bost was a renowned pediatrician at Arkansas Children’s Hospital and dedicated his career to providing exceptional care to his patients. Bost was presented with the Arkansas Caduceus Club’s Distinguished Faculty Award for his contributions to pediatric medicine and to the College of Medicine.

Tom A. Bruce, a native of Mountain Home, Arkansas, and a 1955 graduate of the UAMS College of Medicine, has served UAMS in several capacities. He returned to his alma mater from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, where he served as head of the Cardiovascular Section of the Department of Medicine, to become dean of the College of Medicine in 1974.

Bruce quickly garnered high praise from faculty and students alike when he dramatically restructured the governance system of the school. Known as imaginative and articulate, he shared the need to continue to grow the College of Medicine with his predecessor, Winston K. Shorey, M.D. However, in the early 1970s, Arkansas and the country were facing a crisis – rural communities were without physicians. Bruce, along with several others in cooperation the Rockefeller Foundation and other state agencies, set out to reverse this trend. In less than 10 years, Arkansas developed a mature modular health education network – the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs). The AHECs delivered physicians to rural areas but also revealed that the state was one of the more unhealthy places to live in the nation, and placing more doctors in rural communities was not the sole answer.

Bruce left UAMS in 1985 to become program director for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. Bruce retired and moved back to Arkansas to assist in the care of his aging parents, but soon “unretired” when Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., asked him to head the College of Public Health that would be created as a part of the state’s tobacco settlement package and chair the search committee. Bruce soon resigned from the search committee to become interim dean.

This spring Bruce saw yet another dream come to reality when the College of Public Health was officially dedicated. He certainly has not spoken of retirement again. Bruce continues his quest on behalf of the people of the state of Arkansas as associate dean, University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service.

Tom A. Bruce M.D.
William M. Burns was born February 4, 1878, in Gadsden, Tennessee, and moved to Vilonia, Arkansas around the age of three. He attended the University of Arkansas, was admitted to the medical school in 1899, and was licensed to practice in 1899, during a time when county boards reviewed and licensed physicians. In 1912, Burns moved his practice to North Little Rock and returned to medical school to receive his formal medical degree in 1914, while making house calls at night to support his family.

Burns served as member of the School Board of North Little Rock for 37 years. He was instrumental in the placement of North Little Rock Old Main High School, located then in an undeveloped area between the municipalities of North Little Rock, Levy and Park Hill. The result was a school that soon became central to the growing city. He served as mayor for two terms (1919-20 and 1925-36), and while in his second term, he completed a water line over the Broadway Bridge that provided the city with a reliable source of purified drinking water.

Burns' medical practice was legendary. He delivered over 8,000 babies, made thousands of house calls, and was said to have walked from house to house during the influenza epidemic of 1918-19, searching for those with the dreaded disease. In many cases, he received no compensation other than a grateful “thank you.”

Burns’ most important contributions lay outside the field of medicine or politics and arose from his innate ability to see the future. He championed the purchase of 870 acres of surplus government land adjoining Camp Robinson Military Reservation for a large park, against opponents who argued that the land was too far from the city to be used adequately. In 1949, the city of North Little Rock purchased the land for $20,000, and today the park that bears his name, Burns Park, reminds us of his vision for the future.

Burns died suddenly of an apparent heart attack at age 75 in 1953. His lasting legacy to us all was the support and vision for a city, school and park that remains today.

Gil Campbell was born in Toronto, Canada and graduated from the University of Virginia in 1943, where he also earned his medical degree in 1946. He obtained a Master of Science degree in physiology in 1949 and a doctorate in surgery in 1954, both from the University of Minnesota. Campbell served in the United States Army Medical Corps, where he earned two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart.

Prior to moving to Little Rock, he was the chief of surgery at the Oklahoma City VA Hospital and chief of thoracic surgery at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center. Campbell came to UAMS in 1958, where he was a professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery for 18 years. He also served as a consultant to various medical institutions in Little Rock, including Arkansas Baptist Medical Center, Arkansas Children's Hospital, Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital and Riverview Medical Center.

Campbell’s extensive experience has entailed numerous leadership positions at various renowned organizations. He served on several committees for the American Medical Association, including the surgery research committee and the House of Delegates. He has held memberships to the American Heart Association, the Halsted Society, where he also served as president, and the Arkansas State Medical Society.

In addition to these accomplishments, Campbell was a visiting professor and guest speaker at some of the top universities and associations in the country.
Raymond C. Cook was born a few miles east of Conway, Arkansas, and attended a one-room school until the eighth grade. At the age of 17, he entered the Arkansas State Normal School (now the University of Central Arkansas), where he completed high school and graduated with an associate degree. Cook taught in the Conway school system and in 1925 entered medical school, from which he graduated in 1929. He worked his way through medical school as a police officer on the same corner in Little Rock where he would later open his medical practice. He interned at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, for which he was paid $15 per month. He returned to Little Rock as the house surgeon at Little Rock Medical Center Hospital and then spent a year in general practice in Texas. Cook then completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Memphis EENT Hospital with benefits that only included room and board.

In 1935, Cook opened his private practice in Little Rock and also worked two mornings a week in the UAMS Department of Ophthalmology, that soon changed to five mornings each week. He traveled to Europe in 1937 and studied at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, the University of Vienna Eye Clinic, and the Budapest Eye Clinic. Upon his return he joined the Navy from 1942 to 1946, serving with distinction, and then returned to Little Rock.

Cook was the president of the Pulaski County Medical Society in 1953 and chief of staff at Baptist Hospital Medical Center in 1959. He served the UAMS Department of Ophthalmology for 36 years. He was awarded a clinical professorship and also served as the ophthalmologist for the Rehabilitation Center in Fair Park and for the Arkansas Blind School for many years. Cook was honored by the establishment of the Raymond C. Cook Endowed Lectureship in the Department of Ophthalmology in January 1984. Cook died in Seattle, Washington in 1989.

William J. Darby, a native of Galloway, Arkansas, earned his medical degree in 1937, from the UAMS College of Medicine and became one of the nation’s leading nutrition researchers. Darby published his first article on nutrition in 1933, based on research he conducted with Paul L. Day, Ph.D. This research, which included a series of vitamin experiments, led to the discovery of folic acid and brought the university national recognition.

Darby obtained his doctorate from the University of Michigan and joined Vanderbilt University in 1944, with a dual appointment in its Departments of Medicine and Biochemistry. He was appointed chair of the Department of Biochemistry at Vanderbilt in 1949, and served in that capacity until 1971. While at Vanderbilt, Darby successfully established the first separate identifiable nutrition unit in an American medical school. As a result of his efforts in the field of nutrition, he was elected to membership of the prestigious National Academy of Science and also became president of the Nutrition Foundation.

Darby significantly increased our knowledge of the human requirements for protein, iron, folic acid and zinc through his research. His contributions to the improvement of mankind’s overall health are outstanding.

Jack L. Blackshear, M.D.
Class of 1968
Specialty: Gastroenterology, Central Arkansas Veterans Hospital

I knew early on what my profession would be, thanks to a strong role model in my hometown of Paragould. Dr. Robert Abernathy was one of my most admired professors. He accepted and saw more potential in me than I could see in myself. The 125th Anniversary speaks very well of the people who have gone before us and those who have kept the College of Medicine going. I am proud of our multiple endowments that we now have to help students afford medical school and the Founder’s Society. I think that we will see over the next 25 years a challenge of technical and social needs. These are opposing forces, and UAMS will be on the forefront working to handle these patient-centered needs.

William Fuller grows first rice in Arkansas, establishing one of the state’s leading crops

Sigmund Freud writes “The Interpretation of Dreams”

First Rotary Club is founded

1903 – Wright brothers fly at Kitty Hawk

1904
The College of Medicine began to take shape in 1911, when the medical department of the Arkansas Industrial University merged with the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. The merger provided both unique opportunities and problems. In 1931, the state legislature would appropriate $275,000 to build a new school, but the bonds were never sold. However, a new State Capitol building was completed, and the legislature assigned the old State Capitol building to the medical school. The legislature also appropriated $35,000 for the 1913-1915 biennium so that the old State Capitol facilities could be remodeled according to the needs of the medical school.

The clinical experiences, however, fell short due in part to the fact that there were no inpatient services. A portion of the Isaac Folsom M.D., bequest and additional funds soon provided a new building on Second Street that housed 50 beds for private inpatient service. The first floor provided the free clinic, exam rooms and offices. The second and third floors provided general and obstetrical wards and a few private rooms. The fourth floor housed operating rooms and an X-ray facility.

Enrollment during these challenging years ranged from a low in 1920 of 15 students to a high of 229 in 1934. This growth in students came to an end during the years of World War I, when students and faculty left for military service. In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt’s Public Works Administration, (with encouragement from U.S. Senator Joe T. Robinson) provided $500,000 to build a new school that was completed for classes beginning in 1935.

Deans of the Era
Morgan Smith, 1912-1923; 1924-1927
Arthur R. Stover, 1923-1924
Frank Vinsonhaler, 1927-1939

The College of Medicine Challenges as a State Institution
1911-1934

1905 – Einstein proposes theory of relativity

U.S. FDA regulates sale and manufacture of medicines

1906

1910s

Average car - $400

Gallon of milk - .36
Katherine (Katie) Dodd was a much loved and admired professor of pediatrics at the University Medical Center and head of the Pediatrics Department from 1952 to 1957. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, on March 24, 1892, Dodd was educated at Bryn Mawr College and completed her medical degree at Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1921. She completed her internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital and her residency at New Haven Hospital in 1924. At a time when few women were in leadership roles, especially in the medical field, Dodd was indeed a rising star. In 1943, she moved to Cincinnati to become an associate professor of Pediatrics and a fellow of the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Research Foundation, where she remained until she was named professor and head of the Department of Pediatrics at UAMS College of Medicine.

She was known to exude a quiet confidence when she talked about how specialists in the state now are able to effectively control such once-common diseases as measles, small pox and whooping cough. Dodd was extremely proud of the accomplishments that her field had delivered in her lifetime. She was a beloved professor, and upon news of her retirement, a self-appointed committee of former students originated the idea for a “Katie Dodd Day.” Speeches, reminiscences, a luncheon and a trip to Winrock Farm on Petit Jean Mountain highlighted the celebration of her 32 years of teaching the next generation of pediatricians.

Dodd wrote almost weekly for “The Medico,” the official student medical school newspaper, while at UAMS. One such article quotes Dodd as saying “Pediatrics is a unique specialty in many ways. It is the only specialty, except possibly geriatrics, which confines itself to an age group.” Dodd completed her career as a distinguished professor of Pediatrics, University of Louisville School of Medicine, and as a professor of Pediatrics at Emory University.

W. Thompson Dungan, born in Little Rock, Arkansas, received his medical degree at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 1954. He completed his residency in Pediatrics at Vanderbilt Hospital and served a pediatric cardiology fellowship at the University of Chicago Clinics. Dungan served as a captain in the United States Air Force and the chief of pediatrics at the United States Air Force Hospital, Elgin Air Force Base, in Florida before coming back to Arkansas.

Dungan came to the UAMS College of Medicine as an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics in 1960 and dedicated his career to the lives of children with both congenital and acquired cardiovascular disease. He was the medical director of Arkansas Children’s Hospital for four years and was chief of staff there for two years. He was president of the Arkansas Heart Association, a chairman of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the American College of Cardiology.

Dungan was the 1995 Arkansas affiliate physician honoree of the American Heart Association and was presented with the College of Medicine Distinguished Service Award in 1997.

Rhonda Williams Gentry — Class of 2002

Specialty: Internal Medicine
(third year resident, UAMS)

I am impressed about how much the College of Medicine truly cares about medical students and how it tries to make the medical school experience a positive one. I was in a class that was very closely knit. I value the unity the majority of us had, and the friendships I developed are still very important to me today. Of all the people I met and worked with, Janet Honeycutt was the most influential person for me in the College of Medicine. As director of the Caduceus Club, she truly gave of her time to medical students, and on a personal level, she tried to invest in us as well. I think that more than anything, it was because she wasn’t a physician – she was someone who really
Richard V. Ebert was born in Minnesota and raised in South Dakota. He graduated from the University of Chicago and followed his father's footsteps into medicine. He served as professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine at UAMS from 1954-1966 and was a distinguished professor of medicine from 1978, until his retirement in 1993.

During his tenure at UAMS, he was instrumental in the tremendous growth of research grants and fostering the VA Hospital as an integral part of the overall program in the College of Medicine. He was recognized nationally for his research in pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure. A Master of the American College of Physicians, he received the Distinguished Teacher Award, the Distinguished Faculty Award given by the Arkansas Caduceus Club, and an endowed chair in internal medicine.

Ebert had the character of a true leader, and the physicians he trained and influenced continue to acknowledge his leadership and mentorship through their service to the medical profession.

Joycelyn Elders came from humble but promising beginnings. She entered Philander Smith College in Little Rock at the age of 15 on a scholarship from the United Methodist Church. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology in 1952, completing it in three years while working as a maid to support herself.

Elders enlisted in the Army in May 1953. She was sent to Brooke Army Medical Center, where she was the only African-American in her class. She was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1953 and began her internship as a physical therapist. In April 1954, Elders was licensed as a physical therapist and transferred to Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver. She was one of two therapists who treated President Eisenhower after his heart attack.

After her discharge in 1956, Elders attended the UAMS College of Medicine on the GI Bill and obtained her medical degree in 1960. After completing an internship at the University of Minnesota Hospital and a residency in pediatrics at the University of Arkansas Medical Center, Elders earned a Master of Science degree in Biochemistry in 1967. She served as an assistant professor in pediatrics at UAMS beginning in 1967, was promoted to associate professor in 1971, and then to professor in 1976.

In 1987, Elders was appointed Director of the Arkansas Department of Health by Governor Bill Clinton. Her accomplishments in this position included a ten-fold increase in the number of annual early childhood screenings and almost a doubling of the immunization rate for two-year-olds in Arkansas. Elders was appointed Surgeon General of the Public Health Service in 1993 by President Clinton. She was the first African-American to serve in the position. In late 1994, after resigning as Surgeon General, she returned to UAMS as professor of pediatrics.

Memories

Allison A. Johnson, M.D.
Class of 2003
Internal Medicine (second year resident, UAMS)

I chose to practice Internal Medicine primarily because it allows me to look at the whole picture of what’s going on with patients. I am able to take care of multiple problems, not just one issue. Obtaining my education has provided me with growing experiences in my professional life, and it has also helped me learn about myself from a personal and spiritual standpoint. It has taught me about service to others, which to me, is exemplified by Dr. Jay Menna. He unselfishly gives so much to the students, and not only in his job as an administrator. He really cares about the students' lives and always has an open door.
Robert H. Fiser Jr., was born in Morrilton, Arkansas, and graduated from the UAMS College of Medicine in 1966. He was the only person in his class to enter into the field of pediatrics. He was inspired by the excitement and challenge of working with children.

Fiser served as an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine and as associate program director of the UCLA Clinical Research Center before returning to Arkansas to become the youngest pediatric department chairman in the country at the age of 32.

With exceptional leadership, determination and vision, Fiser helped to increase the number of full-time faculty in the Department of Pediatrics from six to 125, representing 16 subspecialties. The combination of his personal interest in the teaching program, along with the new faculty, laid the foundation for the tremendous growth in the size and quality of the pediatric residency program and helped attract more high-caliber residents. Fiser also helped increase the number of hospital beds from 60 to 263 and boosted the department’s annual budget from $800,000 to $20 million.

Perhaps Fiser’s greatest contribution was the large number of pediatricians trained under his leadership. Many of these individuals entered academic roles throughout the nation. Many more remained in Arkansas, where they revolutionized the care of children in the state. No person in the history of the College of Medicine was more admired by his residents than Fiser, for he embodied all that was best in a pediatrician. In the late 1970s, Fiser played a key role in moving the Department of Pediatrics’ base to Arkansas Children’s Hospital. He also contributed to the establishment of the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Research Institute.

Isaac Folsom was an 1866 graduate of the St. Louis Medical College and was a friend of Edwin Bentley, a founder of the College of Medicine and its third dean. Folsom, a Lonoke, Arkansas native, admired and respected the efforts of Dean Bentley to establish a free clinic. Since he had no heirs to perpetuate his name, on January 30, 1892, he bequeathed a gift of $20,000 that would endow the College of Medicine’s dispensary.

His bequest asked in return that the faculty was to mention the endowment in annual announcements and catalogs published and issued by the school and was to include on diplomas issued by the institution that the recipient had attended instructions at the Isaac Folsom Clinic. Later, upon receipt of the money, the school was to erect a substantial and suitable building to be called the “Isaac Folsom Clinic.” Folsom died in September 1866. However, the bequest was not received until after 1905.

The “Isaac Folsom Clinic,” located on East Sherman Street, opened in September 1917 at a cost of approximately $55,000. Approximately one-half of the funds needed had been generated by the Folsom bequest.

Isaac Folsom, M.D.

LeRoy A. LeNarz, M.D.
Class of 1976
Specialty: Cardiovascular Surgery

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Henry W. Foster, Jr. grew up in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and received his undergraduate education at Atlanta’s Morehouse College in 1954. He earned his medical degree from the UAMS College of Medicine in 1958 and completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College in Nashville.

Foster assumed the position of chief of Obstetrics/Gynecology at John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital at Tuskegee University, where he initiated a national model for regionalized perinatal health care systems that led to his induction into the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine in 1972. He served as a professor and chairman of Meharry’s Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology from 1973 to 1990, before assuming the role of dean of the School of Medicine and vice president for Health Services. He devoted five years as a senior program consultant for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and directed its program to consolidate health services for high risk young people. His involvement with this program inspired him to launch his “I Have A Future” program in 1987 to reduce teen pregnancy, which received recognition from President George Bush in 1991 as one of the nation’s “Thousand Points of Light.”

In 1995, Foster was nominated by President Clinton to become the next United States Surgeon General. He was subsequently appointed as President Clinton’s senior advisor on Teen Pregnanacies and Youth Issues and was a consultant to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. Foster’s exceptional leadership abilities have earned him such awards as the Appreciation Award for Research and Teaching in Sickle Cell Anemia (Tuskegee Institute), the first White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities Faculty Award for Excellence in Science and Technology, and an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from the UAMS College of Medicine in 1993.

In 1949, a National Cancer Institute grant allowed the establishment of a Department of Oncology at UAMS and the appointment of James H. Growdon, a graduate of Washington University, as an associate professor and head of the department. Growdon was promoted to professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery in 1953, a position he held for 13 years. He is credited with planning and establishing the present department during its transition from the former medical school on McAlmont Street to the present UAMS site. He served as chairman of the Arkansas chapter of the American Cancer Society, was a diplomat of the American Board of Surgery, and served as a clinical professor of surgery after his retirement on a voluntary basis. Growdon received the Distinguished Service award in 1973.

Growdon chaired the much-needed and well-organized continuing education program. He chaired a committee on statewide post-graduate medical education and formally established the CME program at UAMS. Under Growdon’s direction, the committee coordinated, planned refresher courses sponsored by the various clinical departments, and gained the State Medical Society’s endorsement and financial support.

Rickey D. Medlock, M.D.
Class of 1983
Specialty: Ophthalmology

I think it’s important to show the public that this is a great institution and to remind them how fortunate we are to have it in our state. The research and facilities that have been developed at UAMS offer many specialized areas of medicine to the people in Arkansas. We have other people from around the country who come to receive the specialized treatment that we have in our own backyard. Someone that had a far-reaching influence both on campus and with alumni was Janet Honeycutt. She was the backbone of the Caduceus Club and kept the alumni interested in the institution. I have been president of my class for three years and am also the vice president of the Founder’s Society, so I know the effort it takes to keep people involved.
Masauki Hara, M.D. earned his bachelor and doctor of medicine degrees from Stanford University. He completed his surgical residencies at St. Louis City Hospital and Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital before joining UAMS as an instructor of surgery in 1949. He was promoted to professor in 1955 and proceeded to courageously lead the open heart surgery team that conducted the first open heart surgery in Arkansas in 1957, as well as the first bypass operation in 1959. Under Hara’s guidance, the UAMS College of Medicine kidney transplant team was developed in 1964 and proceeded to perform more than 24 transplants in four years.

His many ground-breaking achievements as a surgeon received national recognition and helped him to earn many prestigious honors and awards. In 1964, he was presented with the St. Louis City Hospital Alumni Association’s Award for Meritorious Service. Hara authored over 50 research papers published in various scientific journals. He died in 1968, at the age of 51 after a long illness, one month after the first successful heart transplant surgery in the world. The College of Medicine established the Masauki Hara, M.D., Memorial Lectureship in 1969, in his honor.

James W. Headstream was born in Batesville, Arkansas, and completed his undergraduate education at Lyons College in 1934. He received his medical degree from the UAMS College of Medicine in 1939 and completed his internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana. He began his surgery residency at City Hospital in Mobile, Alabama, but in 1940 was called to serve in the United States Army, where he remained for five years before he was able to finish his residency.

Headstream completed his residency in urology at the UAMS College of Medicine and then joined the faculty as an associate professor of surgery. He became head of the Department of Urology in 1950. His leadership abilities and strong determination led to the establishment of a training program in urology that was approved by the American Board of Urology. Under this program, Headstream trained six residents who went on to obtain board approval. Headstream resigned as head of the department in 1958 but remained available as needed for several years thereafter. He established a private practice consisting of five urologists called Urology Associates before retiring in 1988.

Headstream’s contributions to the Department of Urology were acknowledged in 1986, when he was honored with the Arkansas Caduceus Club Alumnus Award.

Rex N. Moore, M.D.
Class of 1952
Speciality: General Surgery (retired)

At age 17, I entered the Navy, was sent to Hospital Corps School and spent the next 16 months as an operating room technician. I found this very interesting, so medical school and a general surgery residency naturally followed.

The College of Medicine was the starting place for a very enjoyable medical career, and more importantly, it was the place that I met 75 of the greatest guys and gals there ever were. These classmates are still an important part of my life. My fondest memory of medical school is of the time I was nominated to receive the Buchanan Key, a scholarship awarded annually on the basis of academic achievement, by these classmates and my teachers. In addition, I have very positive memories of Dr. Jeff Banks and Dr. Mas Hara, who were very influential in my education and life.
Henry Hollenberg was born in 1902 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He obtained his undergraduate degree at Princeton in 1924, and his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1928, where he also served his internship. He returned to his home state and became a professor in the Department of Surgery at UAMS in 1938, and then joined the United States Army in 1941, before returning to Little Rock to open a private practice.

While at UAMS, Hollenberg performed everything from thyroid and gallstone removal surgeries to brain surgery. He also served as chief of staff at St. Vincent Infirmary Medicine Center (now John L. McClellan Medical Center) and was a driving force behind the establishment of Arkansas Children’s Hospital. He was awarded the American College of Surgeons membership and passed the first examination ever held by the American Board of Surgery in New York and Philadelphia. Hollenberg’s ground-breaking work with penicillin led to the discovery that the antibiotic cured chronic cases of syphilis and gonorrhea. Consequently, he was honored with the Legion of Merit Award and gained membership to the American Surgical Association.

Hollenberg remained active in the UAMS College of Medicine Department of Surgery in several capacities until he retired in 1978.

P. O. Hooper was the College of Medicine’s founder and first dean. Born in Arkansas in 1833, Hooper graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and became a noted politician and the leader of Arkansas’ first medical associations.

In May 1879, Hooper wrote to the president of the Arkansas Industrial University (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville) regarding the establishment of a medical department under the school’s charter. The trustees voted and granted the establishment of a medical department in Little Rock on June 17, 1879. Hooper was designated as principal of the department and president of the faculty. By July of that year, a faculty had been selected; the school was incorporated under the laws of the day with eight proprietors, each holding 25 shares valued at $25 each; and $5,000 was borrowed to purchase the building formerly occupied by the Sperindio Hotel at 113 West Second Street.

Thus the College of Medicine was born. Hooper’s tireless efforts as a physician, teacher, entrepreneur, mentor and leader created the College of Medicine.

Memories

Thomas H. Wortham, M.D.
Class of 1953
Specialty: Family Practice (retired)

The College of Medicine is my medical home, and I’ve always felt comfortable going back. In fact, I still volunteer as a preceptor in the family clinic two days a week. I’ve witnessed some remarkable events at UAMS, both during my time as a medical student and as a local family practitioner. My most awesome memory of medical school is when the first black woman was admitted into medical school, in 1948. Time, Life, and all the newspapers were there. We were all nervous about what would happen, but nothing did – we all just went to school and went to work. It was the nicest thing, because she fit in perfectly.

The College of Medicine is medicine in Arkansas. We all send our toughest patients there. That’s the source. If you’re in trouble they’ll help you.
The new medical school building faced McAlmont Street and towered six stories high. Five years later it would be connected with the City Hospital. The first floor continued to honor the bequest of Isaac Folsom and the free clinic. In the late 1930s, the two story connection with City Hospital would help alleviate some of the growing pains that the school was experiencing.

The medical school building now consisted of offices, a records office, the cafeteria, a board room, a student-run bookstore, a teaching laboratory, and departments. Enrollment increased from 298 in 1936 to a high of 325 students during this remarkable growth period. However, accreditation difficulties lingered. The 1939 General Assembly approved the largest annual appropriation ever for the school, $125,000, and added $175,000 for the lease of the City Hospital and the care of its charity cases. The City Hospital was renovated and now had a 200-bed capacity.

Funds for an educational building were freed up and contracts awarded in 1954. The building would include accommodations for the School of Nursing, Pathology, Microbiology, Physiology/Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Anatomy, animal quarters, a library, and an auditorium. Strong academic leaders were in position in most of the departments. The medical school was beginning to assume the look of what would later become a modern day medical center. In 1951, Governor Sid McMath urged the legislature to appropriate funds for a new University Hospital, and groundbreaking was held October 6, 1951.
Edith Irby Jones was born in Conway, Arkansas, received her bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry and physics from Knoxville College in 1948, and earned her medical degree from the UAMS College of Medicine in 1952. She began her residency in internal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine Affiliated Hospitals in Houston and completed her residency at Freedman’s Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Jones wanted to be a physician but along the way became a national role model when she became the first African-American student enrolled at what had previously been a segregated medical school. Members of a Hot Springs Church gave her money to come to medical school with the words of wisdom that if she needed more money, she should see Daisy Bates, the editor of the African-American newspaper in Little Rock. Jones did need additional funds for equipment and so, approached Ms. Bates who, provided her the money from her “coffee can bank.” Jones, as the only African-American in the medical school, was given her own bathroom and a special table in the library where she ate meals. However, she rarely dined alone as many of the students chose to join her.

In 1985, she was elected as the first woman president of the National Medical Association. She was also the only female founding member of the Association of Black Cardiologists and the first black female chairman of the Board of Trustees for Knoxville University. The internationally renowned physician has taught and consulted in medicine and health care in many countries and has clinics established in her name in Haiti and Mexico. She is also a charter member of the Physicians for Human Rights organization, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998.

Jones served for over 50 years as a practicing internist and gerontologist in the Third Ward community of Houston. She was also a clinical assistant professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas, Houston. She served as medical director for Universal Healthplan of Texas, Prospect Medical Laboratory and medical consultant for the Social Security Administration, Texas Public Welfare Department, Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the Vocational Rehabilitation Association. Her achievements in the field of medicine are limitless and have been rewarded with many distinguished awards and honors.

Mollie King became a member of the Pathology Department in 1917 and was the first full-time female faculty member at UAMS.

King was a 1915 graduate of the Indiana University School of Medicine. Although her time at UAMS was a short five years, she made a substantial mark in the college's history.

King was an active researcher who worked with the energetic Joseph D. Aronson, head of the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology. They investigated such problems as the toxicity of cigarette, cigar, and pipe smoking, the actions of drugs on the vagus center of the medulla, and the bifurcation of the seventh cranial nerve long before others considered research in these fields.

She accepted a position in Eau Claire, Wisconsin in 1920, and later practiced in Union City, Indiana. She was a member of the American Medical Association and the Association of Anesthetists of both the United States and Canada – joining some of the first females in these prestigious medical organizations.
Samuel L. Kountz was one of the first African-American graduates of the UAMS College of Medicine. He was among the world’s leading kidney transplant surgeons and a true medical pioneer, who performed over 500 kidney transplants at a time when this procedure was limited to only a few institutions.

A native of rural Lexa (Phillips County) and the son of a Baptist minister, Kountz did not qualify for admission initially to Arkansas AM&N College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff). However, at the urging of the college president, Dr. Lawrence Davis, Sr., he enrolled in additional courses, was admitted and subsequently graduated. He earned a master’s degree in chemistry from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and was a 1958 graduate of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine. He interned at San Francisco General Hospital and trained for surgery at Stanford Medical Center, where his research focused on transplants and immunology and contributed to advances in controlling tissue rejection in kidney patients. While at the University of California at San Francisco, he worked with a team to develop the prototype of a machine that preserved a kidney for 50 hours after its removal from a donor and developed techniques that aid the ability to predict when rejection of a transplanted organ begins, thus providing for more dosage control. He served as head of surgery at State University of New York at Downstate in Brooklyn, New York. In 1973 he was awarded an honorary Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas.

He died of an undiagnosed illness upon his return from South Africa in 1977. This came as a shock felt across the country and in Arkansas. When Kountz accepted the position at Downstate Medical Center, he told friends he wanted to improve medical care in the African-American community and help to heighten the public awareness regarding the need for organ donations. Kountz’s many outstanding contributions and accomplishments remain an important legacy.

Betty A. Lowe received her undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas and graduated first in the class of 1956 from the College of Medicine. She interned at UAMS in pediatrics and completed her residency at Children’s Medical Center, Boston/Harvard Medical School. Lowe served as chief resident at UAMS from 1959 to 1960.

Lowe has served UAMS, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, and the state of Arkansas with distinction as an outstanding clinician teacher and advocate for children’s health. She was in private practice in Texarkana from 1960 to 1975, and returned to UAMS and ACH for the duration of her career. She retired with distinction in 2001, after serving 29 years at UAMS. She received numerous awards including the UAMS Golden Apple, the Distinguished Faculty Award presented annually by the Arkansas Caduceus Club, and the UAMS/ACH Distinguished Award. She held the Harvey and Bernice Jones Distinguished Chair in Pediatrics from 1996 to 2001.

Lowe touched many lives over the years and is fondly remembered by medical students, residents, colleagues, and families throughout the state and region for her thorough, straightforward, and no-nonsense approach to the practice of pediatrics. She was deeply involved in shaping the face of pediatrics in America through her strong and tireless advocacy for children’s health. Her most prominent role was her service as president of the prestigious American Academy of Pediatrics. Closest to her heart were her own patients and the children of Arkansas. She earned the devoted respect of former President Bill Clinton and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and served as their daughter Chelsea’s pediatrician for 12 years. She worked closely with them during their years in the Governor’s Mansion and the White House.

Retirement has not slowed the pace of Lowe’s advocacy for children’s health or her civic and community service.

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**World War II ends**

**1945**

Jackie Robinson, first African-American to play major league baseball

**1947**

Jay Forrester patents computer core memory

**1949**

City Hospital renamed University Hospital
Raymond Miller, born in Cotton Plant, Arkansas, began college at Arkansas AM&N (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) to study agriculture in 1956. He changed his major to pre-medicine during his sophomore year and went on to graduate at AM&N. He obtained his medical degree at UAMS in 1963 and served his internship and residency in internal medicine, as well as a fellowship in pulmonary disease, at UAMS. He was then called on by the United States Army to serve at the Pulmonary Disease Service at Walter Reed General Hospital for two years.

Miller returned to Little Rock in 1970, and established the Little Rock Internal Medicine Clinic, the state’s first racially integrated medical practice. Two years later, his outstanding reputation led to his appointment as the first African-American to serve on the University of Arkansas board of trustees, where he served for 10 years, including a term as chairman from 1981 to 1982.

He was also involved with the boards of Boatmen’s Bank of Arkansas, Entergy Corporation and the Razorback Foundation. Miller became active with the athletic programs at the University of Arkansas to boost minority enrollment and participation. The Razorback Foundation recognized his efforts in 1995 with the Distinguished Service Award, which included a $100,000 scholarship endowed in his name.

Miller received the National Humanitarian Award at the National Conference of Community and Justice for the Arkansas region in May 2004. He currently serves as staff emeritus at the St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center and trustee emeritus of the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees.

Hayden C. Nicholson, a native of Michigan and graduate of the University of Michigan, began his medical career as assistant professor in the Department of Physiology at the University of Michigan. He served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Medical Corps, U.S. Army, from 1942 to 1946.

Nicholson arrived at a pivotal time in the history of the College of Medicine and assumed the combined duties of both vice president and dean of the College of Medicine in 1950. His experience and personal characteristics made him a perfect dean for the College of Medicine that at this point in time, was dependent entirely upon the good will of the citizens of Arkansas and the state medical profession. He and University of Arkansas President Lewis Webster Jones requested that the General Assembly add the final funding to construct the new medical center located on West Markham Street. Thus the dream of many for a modern medical center became a reality.

Nicholson was witty, persuasive, confident and amiable; he worked tirelessly with the press, the Legislature, physicians and the Arkansas Medical Society to ensure the taxpayers of the state that their tax dollars were spent wisely and that the public’s expectations of the institution were met. Nicholson served as dean of the College of Medicine and provost of the Medical Center from 1950 to 1955. He then became dean at the University of Miami School of Medicine and retired in June 1972.
Phillip L. Rayford was born July 25, 1927, in Roanoke, Virginia, where he graduated from high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army. After returning from the Philippines, he earned a bachelor’s degree in biological science at A&T State University in Greensboro, N.C.

Rayford wanted to become a physician; however, medical schools were not open to African-Americans at that time. Thus began Rayford’s struggle to become one of the top scientists in the world. He studied at Howard and American Universities, both in Washington, D.C., and received a master degree in zoology from the University of Maryland in College Park. During this time, Rayford conducted cancer research with several prominent researchers at the National Institutes of Health. He later earned a doctoral degree in endocrinology, physiology and biochemistry from the University of Maryland. He spent the next two-and-a-half years in Accra, Ghana, helping the U.S. State Department set up a much needed medical school for West Africans.

From 1973 to 1980, Rayford was on the faculty of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. By 1980, he was an assistant dean of Medicine, professor and director of the Surgical Biochemistry Laboratory, and professor of Biochemistry, Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics. He came to UAMS in 1980, and began an 18-year tenure as chairman of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics as well as associate dean for minority affairs.

Under his chairmanship, the Department of Physiology and Biophysics significantly increased extramural grant support for research, saw increased faculty recruitment, and was awarded six doctoral degrees. UAMS awarded two of those doctorates to African-Americans – a first at UAMS – and Rayford played a pivotal role in this achievement. He served as a counselor, role model and friend to all minority medical and graduate students.

William G. Reese, a native of Utah and reared in Idaho, received both an undergraduate and master’s degree from the University of Idaho. He attended Washington University School of Medicine and received his medical degree in 1942. He completed his internship in internal medicine at Barnes Hospital, after which he served in the U.S. Medical Corps for three years. Upon his return he completed his psychiatry residency at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, where he also served on the faculty.

Reese came to the UAMS College of Medicine to develop the Department of Psychiatry in 1951. He was professor and chairman of psychiatry at the College of Medicine and served twice as chief of staff of the University Hospital. He retired in 1987, as the Marie Wilson Howells Professor and Chairman, Emeritus. During his tenure, Reese founded the Arkansas Psychiatric Society and received the Society’s Meritorious Service Award. Reese was a charter member of the American College of Psychiatrists.

He received numerous awards, including the Arkansas Caduceus Club’s Distinguished Faculty Award in 1974, and an honorary degree (D.Sc.) in 1990. An annual “Reese Award” was established in his honor in 1987 to recognize psychiatry residents for scholarship and research. Noted for his wit and anticipating an eventual obituary, Reese stated, “This is a hard way to get newspaper publicity, but I won’t complain about any errors in the account.”
Winston K. Shorey, a native of Vermont, completed his undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College and received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency and specialty training in gastroenterology. He was selected by a search committee to become the dean of the UAMS College of Medicine in 1961. Shorey proved to be well-suited for the post of dean. At 42 years of age, he was one of the younger deans at UAMS and was known for his even temper, decisive actions, thoughtfulness and sense of humor. His willingness to entertain new ideas in curricula and programs made him an effective leader and earned him the respect of his colleagues. His close ties and service to the Arkansas and Pulaski Medical Societies proved invaluable. In short, Dean Shorey possessed the traits of character that provided vibrant leadership during a decade of growth that saw the College of Medicine rise to serve the citizens of Arkansas.

The most obvious growth was in the size of the student body at the College of Medicine. With both Arkansas and the nation deficient in physicians, (in 1960, the state had one physician for every 1,041 residents) the legislature mandated that the 1961 class size increase by 12 more than the previous year, and that all entering freshmen were required to be Arkansas residents. Shorey recognized that the growth rate did not immediately translate into new physicians, but rather forced the College to admit students who were inadequately prepared. Shorey enlisted the support of his colleagues and both medical societies to launch a successful campaign that resulted in a new law that permitted the admission of non-residents of up to 15 percent of the total freshman class.

Shorey played a prominent role in the planning and implementation of programs that were designed to improve the state’s health delivery system, most notably the family practice residency program and the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs). Shorey assumed directorship of the AHEC program until his untimely death in 1976. In 1981, the Education Building One was renamed in his honor.

H. Elvin Shuffield, born in Nashville, Tennessee, attended Georgia Military Academy and Little Rock Junior College before graduating from the UAMS College of Medicine in 1944. He served his internship and one-year residency at Arkansas Baptist Hospital and served in the Army Medical Corps for 15 months. While serving in the military, Shuffield primarily worked at the Beaumont General Hospital in Texas.

He returned to Arkansas in 1947, and joined his father in private practice, specializing in orthopaedic surgery and traumatic surgery. Shuffield was extensively involved with the Arkansas Medical Society, serving as secretary of the society, chairman of the society’s Legislative Committee and as chairman of the society’s Committee on Veteran’s Administration Affairs. Shuffield lobbied for the legislation that resulted in the establishment of regulations on training physician assistants, and he testified about the importance of having a law to allow persons to donate vital organs after death.

He was the secretary of the medical staff at Arkansas Baptist Hospital and in 1957, served as the chief of staff at the Baptist Medical Center. Shuffield was also the vice president of the Arkansas Medical Board and was advanced to the rank of fellow in the International College of Surgeons in orthopaedic surgery in 1977.

Shuffield was honored in 1981, with the UAMS Distinguished Service Award and was named honorary past president of the Arkansas Medical Society in 1984.
The College of Medicine was changing and growing rapidly. The new hospital on West Markham Street would cost just over $9 million. After 45 years of frustration, the University of Arkansas School of Medicine had a hospital worthy of a modern educational institution. The hospital had a capacity for 450 beds but opened with only 236 due to an operations funding shortage. In 1956, the clinical faculty and students moved into the new hospital building, and the basic medical scientists and the nursing faculty moved into the new educational building in 1957. The total price tag for the new facilities was $13 million.

The entire University Medical Center plans were not complete. Contracts were awarded for a student dormitory that included 315 single student rooms and 95 married student quarters. In 1959, Colonel T. H. Barton would provide the seed money for a faculty research building that was completed in 1961. Difficult financial times lay ahead for the new and modern facility, but effective fiscal measures were effectively put into place.

The 1960s were years of growth. One of the most significant areas of growth was in class size. Arkansas needed more physicians, and the College of Medicine set into motion a program to handle the state’s physician shortage. This was also a time that departments and research grew exponentially. The Child Study Center was built in 1969, an additional educational building was added in 1978, and the Ambulatory Care Center was built in 1981.
Eugene J. Towbin was born in New York City in 1918 and received his bachelor of arts degree in Psychology and Chemistry from New York University in 1941. After receiving his master of science degree in Psychology and Biology at the University of Colorado in 1942, he became a research assistant at the University of Rochester, earning both medical and doctoral degrees from that institution. He completed his residency and fellowship in cardiology at Duke University and serve on the Duke faculty before his military service at Walter Reed and Fort Knox.

For over 41 years Towbin was a distinguished faculty member at UAMS and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, where he served as associate chief of staff for Research and Education beginning in 1960, and chief of staff in 1968. Under his leadership the VA Hospital – College of Medicine program was launched and blossomed. Anticipating the needs of an aging population, Towbin developed a model system of geriatrics and long term care and established the first Veterans Health Administration Geriatric Research Education Clinical Center. His vision and efforts culminated in the building of the John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans’ Hospital in Little Rock and a new 1,000-bed facility in North Little Rock.

He received numerous awards during his career, including the Distinguished Service Award from the College of Medicine, the Abernathy Award of Excellence in Internal Medicine, and the Exceptional Service Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He was a Fellow of both the American College of Physicians and the Gerontological Society of America. In 1985, Towbin received the William F. Rector Award for Distinguished Civic Achievement and in 1988, an honorary doctor of science from UAMS. Towbin developed one of the strongest veterans healthcare systems in the nation.
Tom Ed Townsend frequently is quoted as saying “I was born in the train depot in Willow, Arkansas.” When asked how he arrived at the decision to attend Henderson State University, he has quipped, “I just started walking down Highway 7 and it was the first college I came to.” A graduate of Gurdon High School, he received his medical degree from the UAMS College of Medicine in 1950. Townsend interned at Lloyd Nolan Hospital, Fairfield, Alabama from 1950 to 1951, and completed a Pediatric residency there in 1952. He became chief resident in Pediatrics at Kern General Hospital in Bakersfield, California in 1952.

Townsend returned to Arkansas and established his private practice children’s clinic in Pine Bluff. He has served as chief of staff at Jefferson Regional Medical Center, president of Jefferson County Medical Society, chairman of the Council of the Arkansas Medical Society, president of the Arkansas Medical Society, delegate to the American Medical Association, diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics, and fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Townsend also served as clinical professor of Pediatrics at UAMS and Arkansas Children's Hospital. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award presented by the Arkansas Caduceus Club in 1990.

Townsend is known for his love and care of children, enthusiasm, diligence, wit, intelligence and wisdom. Townsend has seen and taught many medical students in senior rotations, and all but one of them have chosen pediatrics as their specialty. This is a truly amazing statistic and one that honors and reflects the admiration and respect that he is given.

Frank Vinsonhaler was an 1885 graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. Vinsonhaler trained initially as a general practitioner but in 1891, went to Europe, studied ophthalmology and returned to Little Rock to establish an ophthalmology practice. Vinsonhaler was appointed dean of the College of Medicine at the age of 63 in 1927 and served until 1939, a period of difficult and unfortunate economic and political times.

Vinsonhaler’s principal goal as dean was to ensure the school’s accreditation by the American Medical Association, the evaluating body for medical schools. Determined to solve the problems that threatened the institution’s academic standing, he set out on the mission to secure funds to build a medical school. Vinsonhaler remained steadfast in his vision and in 1933, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Public Works Administration (PWA), he immediately began work to obtain PWA funds. He delivered the much needed funds through his persistent lobbying efforts and the personal interest of Arkansas Senator Joe T. Robinson.

In 1935, The University of Arkansas Medical School on McAlmont Street towered six stories high and housed a student body of 300. The building is still in use today as the University of Arkansas School of Law. Vinsonhaler truly helped lay down the foundation of learning for the College of Medicine.

Martin Luther King delivers “I Have a Dream” speech 1963
Dr. Michael Debakey implants artificial heart 1966
Gallon of milk - $1.40 1970s
Alex Haley writes “Roots”
Robert C. Watson was born in Mena, Arkansas, and as a teenager working in the local drugstore, discovered he wanted to become a physician. He passed on to many students and friends his remembrance of bandaging cut fingers and how much he enjoyed this simple task.

Watson earned a bachelor’s degree at Emporia State University in Kansas, and returned to Arkansas to attend the UAMS College of Medicine. Upon graduation, he had not decided which specialty he would pursue, but that changed while he cared for a young girl with a brain injury during his internship at Detroit City Hospital. He furthered his training in Brooklyn, New York, at King’s County Hospital, where his fascination with the brain grew. In 1944, he became the 108th physician to receive accreditation from the American Board of Neurological Society.

Against the advice of friends and peers, he returned to Arkansas to practice neurosurgery. While practicing, Watson also began a 27-year volunteer career as a teacher educating young physicians about diagnosing neurological cases. His accomplishments also included serving as chief of staff of Baptist Medical Center, president of both the Arkansas and the Pulaski County Medical Societies, and president and founder of the Southern Neurosurgical Society that was later renamed in his honor.

Chancellor Emeritus Harry P. Ward, a magna cum laude graduate of Princeton University, received his medical degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver and a Master of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

In 1979, as UAMS celebrated its centennial year, Ward was selected to lead UAMS into its second century. A man of determination, compassion, and commitment, Ward employed the wisdom of a father raising a child to skillfully guide UAMS through years of unprecedented growth to reach a new level of recognition as one of the outstanding academic health centers in the world.

The “Ward Decades,” as they are called, saw remarkable growth in student enrollment and facilitated the growth of external research dollars to increase 20-fold in 20 years. Under his leadership, the physical size of UAMS increased five-fold, including the expansion of the hospital that bears his name, Ward Tower. UAMS rose through the ranks to become one of the state’s largest employers during these decades. More than $200 million in major construction projects were completed, due in no small part to his ability to interest the private sector in philanthropic giving.

Every Area Health Education Center (AHEC) expanded its programs, and an extensive interactive television network was created that delivered courses throughout Arkansas. Ward coined the phrase that “UAMS is a university without walls.” He restructured the hospital administration and began an active renovation program. During his tenure Ward would shepherd the opening of the Ambulatory Care Center, the hospital gift shop, the Center of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, the Family Medical Center, the Magnetic Resonance Imaging building, the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, the Biomedical Research Center, Education Buildings II and III, the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute, and the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging. He worked diligently to increase the number of endowed chairs and helped to establish the Double Helix society to honor major donors.

UAMS dramatically changed during the 21 years with Ward at the helm. UAMS evolved from a small, local center to a nationally – and in some areas – internationally – recognized academic health center.
The College of Medicine

“In Relentless Pursuit of Excellence, Every Day”

1986-Present

UAMS and the College of Medicine saw remarkable changes during the late 1980s and 1990s. The College of Medicine has grown rapidly and has developed rich traditions of its own. During this time the Family Medical Center, the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Center, the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, Outpatient Surgery, Biomedical Research Buildings, the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute, BioVentures, the Gamma Knife Center, the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, Central Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute, the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging, the Jackson T. Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute, and the Alzheimer’s Disease Center were all inaugurated.

We have over 1,000 full and part-time faculty, more than 600 residents, almost 700 medical students and graduate degree students, and almost 4,000 employees. Because UAMS Medical Center is a teaching and research institution, we remain at the forefront of new medical procedures and technologies. UAMS conducts pioneering research that leads to new knowledge with application and integration into the health care disciplines for Arkansas, the nation, and the world.

Since 1879, the College of Medicine at UAMS has had a long and progressive history of teaching, service and research. As we reflect on our past, we look forward to our future. We are in the planning phase for a major expansion initiative: a replacement hospital for the 50-year old University Hospital, new student housing, a parking deck, a new psychiatry center, and an addition to the Jones Eye Institute and Outpatient Center.

Chancellors of the Era
I. Dodd Wilson, 2000-present

Deans of the Era
Glen Baker, interim, 1986
I. Dodd Wilson, 1986-2000
John Shock, interim, 2000-2002
E. Albert Reece, 2002 - present

Elvis Presley dies 1977
First test tube baby born 1978

Three Mile Island nuclear disaster 1979

Average house - $111,350 1980s
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As part of our continuing commitment to provide our patients with the best in health care, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences partnered with GK Financing to bring the Gamma Knife technology to Arkansas.

The Gamma Knife is a revolutionary noninvasive tool used to treat intracranial benign and malignant tumors, vascular malformations and trigeminal neuralgia without a single incision.

For more information about the Gamma Knife or to refer a patient, call 501-603-1800 or toll free 1-800-942-8267.
125th Anniversary Edition

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Chancellor’s Message

I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., Cover

“The Use of History is to Give Value to the Present Hour.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

125 years & the future of UAMS

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

“The Use of History is to Give Value to the Present Hour.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

The UAMS College of Medicine is celebrating an event of historic proportions. As we reflect on the past 125 years, we honor the many individuals who have inspired us through their accomplishments in education, research, patient care and service to our state.

“In relentless pursuit of excellence, every day” does more than just serve as the theme for the College of Medicine’s 125th anniversary. It describes, in a nutshell, the numerous faculty and staff who have dedicated their careers to the UAMS College of Medicine over the years. The people who make up the College of Medicine at UAMS have consistently demonstrated a progressive mindset and determination to provide the best medical care, education, and research possible for Arkansas, and in many instances, the nation and the world. The College of Medicine is now poised to enter what I believe will be its most remarkable era yet.

We are in the planning phase for a major expansion initiative: a replacement hospital for the 50-year old University Hospital, new student housing, a parking deck, a new psychiatry center, an addition to both the Jones Eye Institute and the Outpatient Center, and a new affiliated state psychiatric hospital. We are in the midst of changes that only a few years ago were simply dreams in the minds of many of our campus leaders.

The College of Medicine has been instrumental in our development of outstanding science, technology and facilities. Our commitment is to facilitate discovery through applied research, and to teach the best science and compassionate care to tomorrow’s caregivers. As proud as I am of our achievements so far, I believe that our best still lies ahead.

Sincerely,

I. Dodd Wilson, M.D.
Chancellor
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine is one of six academic units at UAMS and is the state’s principal biomedical research center. UAMS also includes centers of excellence that are recognized as among the best in the nation and the world. Some of the centers are the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, the Jackson T. Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute, the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging, the Alzheimer’s Disease Center, the Center for Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Prevention, and the Center for Addiction, Behavior and Prevention.

Because UAMS Medical Center is a teaching institution, we remain on the forefront of new medical procedures and technologies. UAMS conducts pioneering research that leads to new knowledge with application and integration into the health care disciplines.

Our College of Medicine at UAMS has grown rapidly and has rich traditions. Since 1879, the College of Medicine has had a long and progressive history of teaching, service and research. UAMS prepares excellent health care professionals and scientists who are committed to high ethical and professional standards; lifelong learning; and skill advancement in health care for Arkansas, the nation and the world.

UAMS College of Medicine advances medical care and education through research innovation. Our UAMS College of Medicine vision is “in relentless pursuit of excellence, every day.”