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. 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, and the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging. 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.”
It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of Janet Honeycutt, executive director of the Arkansas Caduceus Club. Janet passed away July 1 after suffering a stroke during Alumni Weekend 2004.

Janet was a person of great character and kindness and brought boundless energy to everything that she did. Janet served as executive director of the Caduceus Club for almost 20 years. We know that many of you knew Janet personally and recognized her numerous contributions, unwavering dedication and commitment to the College of Medicine. We will all miss her tremendously.
Last year I told you in our inaugural issue of UA Medicine how our mission to teach new generations of physicians and scientists in settings where research fosters the best possible clinical care remains our priority, and how the genomic revolution has given rise to promising new diagnosis, treatment and cures. It’s clear that the future we envisioned is arriving, and perhaps more rapidly than expected.

In 2003 our physicians saw 46,203 inpatients and 1,271,987 outpatients. Patients came to UAMS from every state and numerous countries around the world, generating almost $100 million in out-of-state revenue. Our major funding source (66%) remains patient care. The state of Arkansas represents 12% of UAMS funding; tuition 2%; grants and contracts 16%, and gifts and other 4%. As we conclude FY04, it’s gratifying to look back – both at our achievements and the excitement felt throughout the College of Medicine. FY04 was a year of hard work, ongoing improvements and tremendous accomplishments – a great year indeed.

The role that the College of Medicine plays in Arkansas is a unique and challenging one. We are at the medical forefront in the state, and we continue to provide strong, statewide leadership. Research, technology, and collaboration continue with our affiliate institutions including Arkansas Children’s Hospital, Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System and the FDA’s National Center for Toxicological Research. These affiliations help us significantly expand current education, research, and technology at every level from students, to residents, to fellows, and faculty.

Many brilliant minds and skilled hands work together to train the next generation of physicians and scientists. Our standing among the great academic medical institutions of the nation is rising, drawing students, patients, and faculty from around the world to our campus. We are energized as we look ahead to the challenges and opportunities.

Our solid research infrastructure and our highly organized and collaborative research community create an environment for excellence and scholarship to flourish through mutual exploration and discovery. The last decade has been marked by an enormous growth in research and funding from the National Institutes of Health and other agencies.

The monthly Dean’s Research Fora provide an opportunity for our entire faculty to hear about ongoing research in the College of Medicine and has increased the collaboration and joint funding opportunities. The Dean’s Distinguished Lecture Series has brought nationally acclaimed physician scientists to our campus.

As you read through just a few of our exciting highlights in this issue of UA Medicine, I hope you share my sense of pride and “hear” the tenor of admiration for our people, their efforts and accomplishments. They are an extraordinary group and make our institution among the leading academic health centers in the United States.

E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.
Vice Chancellor and Dean

“It is time for us all to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever — the one who recognizes the challenge and does something about it.”
– Vince Lombardi
May 14 and 15 were exciting days for our College of Medicine seniors. Convocation and Commencement 2004 were held for 136 new physicians. The candidates were presented by Dean E. Albert Reece to Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson for the conferring of degrees as proud family and friends looked on and cheered at Little Rock’s Barton Coliseum.

Special greetings to all attending were extended by Gary C. George, chairman of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, and B. Alan Sugg, president of the University of Arkansas System. Chancellor Wilson provided remarks. Dean Reece introduced special commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient, Jordan J. Cohen, M.D., president and chief executive officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Cohen was also presented the College of Medicine’s Distinguished Service Award at the May 14 Convocation event. Dr. Cohen was honored for his exceptional leadership abilities, his vast accomplishments, and his distinguished services to the fields of medicine and science.

The Convocation ceremony also honored Janet T. Honeycutt with its Distinguished Service Award. Honeycutt is director of Alumni Programs in the College of Medicine and executive director of the Arkansas Caduceus Club, the school’s alumni association; she has held both positions for the past 19 years. She is also a board member of the Founders Society, which seeks major endowments for the college. Her husband, W. Mage Honeycutt, M.D., received the College of Medicine’s Distinguished Service Award posthumously in 1980. The Honeycutts are the only husband and wife team to have received the Distinguished Service Award.
Imagine a typical mother talking to her typically awkward teenage daughter. “Stand up straight! Hold your shoulders back, your head up, and get that hair out of your face!” But how do you walk down the street and hold your head high and keep your hair off one side of your face when that side of your face is disfigured? Living with any illness is difficult. Living with an illness that is easily visible, disfiguring and life-threatening is more than most of us can imagine.

Rafaella Calixto Oliveria is 23 years old and from the town of San Luis in the state of Maranhão in northern Brazil. Doctors diagnosed her with an extensive arterio-venous malformation (AVM) of the face that covers the most of the right side of her face and involves her lips, nose, cheek, sinus, mouth and eye. She’s endured a lifetime of mental and physical pain. Hope hasn’t always been in sight… she’s learned to live with the stares, the pain and the possibility of bleeding to death.

How does a young woman get from Brazil to Little Rock? Let’s start at the beginning. At about six months old, thin vessels appeared on Rafaella’s face and recurring nose bleeds began. Her mother, Isamar Calixto, did what most mothers would do: tried not to worry and made an appointment with her pediatrician. Unfortunately, Rafaella was misdiagnosed with a hemangioma (a tumor of blood vessels that typically begin to regress around a child’s first birthday and can be treated with surgery or drug therapy) and spent years being incorrectly treated. She saw doctor after doctor from Sao Paulo to Rio de Janeiro, yet continued to bleed and wear bandages most of the time, and the AVM continued to grow.

Certainly, she is not a quitter. Through all the years of her life, she has continued her education, and she completed her first year of law school before coming to the States. Rafaella and her mother never considered giving up. (She has now had over 60 surgeries.) Instead, they turned to the Internet and began looking for information, specialists, and hope. Through the Web search, they found the joint program at UAMS and Arkansas Children’s Hospital, led by UAMS’ James Suen, M.D., professor and chairman of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery and director of the Arkansas Cancer Research Center. Rafaella arrived in Little Rock on May 19, 2003, and less than 48 hours after her arrival, she had been evaluated by the “A Team” with Dr. Suen in the lead. She was ready to embark on a 26-hour long surgery that included 10 hours of mapping the nerves in her face. This was just the beginning of her journey here at UAMS.

There are very, very few physicians who will take cases such as Rafaella’s because so little is known about AVM and its causes, and because the surgical procedures are extremely risky. Some experts believe that these AVMs can’t be cured; certainly Rafaella’s case is difficult, if not impossible, to cure. “Unfortunately she does not have a disease process that is predictable in which one could give a definite number of procedures necessary to stop her disease process,” said Suen. Currently Rafaella continues laser surgeries on a timely schedule that Dr. Suen prescribes to offer the best chance to stop this persistent disease.

It’s been a long road, and a year has come and gone while Rafaella and her mother have made Little Rock and UAMS their home. Her mother has sold the family’s assets in Brazil and remains at her side. Her insurance has run out, and friends and family continue to send what they can, when they can, to help with the expenses. Fortunately many people here at UAMS have taken up her cause, and UAMS has agreed to absorb the costs of her remaining treatment including removal of more of the malformation and reconstructive surgery. It’s a long way from complete, but Rafaella is hopeful and celebrates her future now.

Just prior to her 23rd birthday a few months ago, she said she no longer wondered if she’d live to see her next birthday. She is becoming more and more confident of her future.
The “A Team”

The vascular lesions team at UAMS’ College of Medicine formed a strong affiliation with Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH) several years ago to create a combined program to treat all types of vascular lesions. Children and adults from all over the country and the world come to Little Rock for treatment by the world’s best “A Team” of trained vascular lesions specialists. Headed by James Y. Suen, M.D., professor and chairman of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery and director of the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, this highly specialized team can spend from 12 to 14 hours on a vascular lesion surgery, and even that may just be the beginning of many, many additional reconstructive surgeries. Radiologists, pathologists, neuroradiologists and surgeons are but a few of the specialists required. Lisa Buckmiller, M.D.; Charles James, M.D.; Paula North, M.D., Ph.D.; Rudy Van Hemert, M.D.; and Eren Erdem, M.D., are integral members of the this elite A Team as well.

Both institutions function together as one center for vascular lesions, but the actual treatment is dependent upon the patient’s age, as well as the severity and surgical requirements of the lesion. A younger child may be treated at ACH while an older child with more severe deformity and dysfunction may be treated at UAMS.

“We bring our expertise, passion, innovation and research all together so you can see that the team concept isn’t just in the operating room,” Suen said. Research is ongoing to help in the diagnosis of the various types of vascular lesions and hemangiomas. Paula North, M.D., a world-renowned pathologist on the research team, has shown that hemangiomas originate in the placenta and are identical to placenta tissue. What still is not known is how the placenta enters into the blood stream and reaches a baby’s face.

This truly is the A Team! Patients are referred to our vascular lesions team from many other prestigious institutions throughout the United States. Over the past four years, patients have come from 44 states and 30 countries, including Denmark, Japan, Thailand, Brazil and Australia. Most of these patients have assumed an active role in their search for treatment, and the Internet has proven to be another referral avenue. Dr. Suen and the team estimate that last year they performed somewhere between 50-75 major surgeries.

“We bring our expertise, passion, innovation and research all together so you can see that the team concept isn’t just in the operating room,” Suen said.
There are several types of congenital vascular lesions. The most common tumors in infants are hemangiomas, which are clusters of blood vessels that can cause great deformity. They typically begin to fade sometime after the child’s first birthday and can be treated with drugs, lasers or surgery. The subtypes of vascular malformations include venular, venous, lymphatic, arterio-venous (AVM) and mixed malformations. These vascular lesions can cause significant disfigurement and functional problems, including vision, eating and breathing, as well as psychological impairment. Hemangiomas, especially AVM’s, also are capable of bleeding significantly and can be life threatening.

The successful treatment of hemangiomas and malformations hinges on an accurate diagnosis. It is not unusual for misdiagnosis to occur despite a thorough history and physical exam. Sophisticated and often expensive testing is required, and the expertise in this area is limited.

Many times the “wait and see” diagnosis has prevailed, and many children spend their entire childhood growing up with physical deformity and dysfunction. While not cancerous, these vascular malformations can act like a cancer. They are destructive, can regenerate, recur, bleed and, if not removed entirely, can be fatal.
Familiar Faces, Familiar Places — Faculty Featured on National News Broadcasts

You may have noticed some familiar faces and some familiar places on the UAMS campus on recent national news broadcasts. William J. Evans, Ph.D., professor in the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatrics, and John Shaughnessy, Ph.D., of the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, have been featured in recent national news broadcasts devoted to discoveries in their respective fields.

Evans was interviewed from the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging on the "CBS Evening News with Dan Rather" on CNN, by the Washington Post, on ABC radio in San Francisco, by USA Today, and other media outlets about his research published in the Archives of Internal Medicine that showed that older adults could lose weight on a diet high in carbohydrates without cutting calories.

In a 12-week experiment funded by the National Institute on Aging, the UAMS researchers found that a low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet, with or without aerobic exercise, clearly supported weight loss in overweight men and women ages 56 to 78 years of age.

Volunteers eating all they wanted of foods, with no more than 20 percent dietary fat, lost significant weight and body fat. Volunteers who also exercised regularly lost even more weight. The average weight loss in the study was almost 11 pounds. The findings are in contrast to claims that high-carbohydrate foods create more body fat than do low-carbohydrate foods, and that it's easier to restrict calories on a high-fat diet because the dieter feels more satisfied.

Evans is director of the Nutrition, Metabolism, and Exercise Laboratory in the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatrics, and is affiliated with the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System. Other investigators in the research included Nicholas Hays, Ph.D.; Raymond Starling, Ph.D.; Dr. Xiaolan Liu, Ph.D.; Dennis Sullivan, Ph.D.; Todd Trappe, Ph.D.; and James Fluckey, Ph.D.
John Shaughnessy, Jr., Ph.D., and his research team in the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy reported in the New England Journal of Medicine that they have identified a gene, called DKK1, which causes bone lesions in multiple myeloma and leads to debilitating and intractable bone pain and a higher risk of bone fractures, spinal cord compression, and life-threatening levels of calcium in the blood.

Shaughnessy is one of the first to use gene expression profiling to discover how a disease process works. Shaughnessy is developing a drug that will act like a sponge in the bloodstream to absorb DKK1, potentially arresting and reversing the bone destruction that is the primary effect of multiple myeloma. Almost always fatal, multiple myeloma strikes about 15,000 people in the United States each year.

Shaughnessy is an associate professor of medicine and a member of the Arkansas Cancer Research Center (ACRC) at UAMS. Myeloma Institute Director Bart Barlogie, M.D., Ph.D., and researchers Yupo Ma, M.D.; Ronald C. Walker, M.D.; Fenghuang Zhan, Ph.D.; and Erming Tian, B.S.; all of UAMS, and Erik Rasmussem, of Cancer Research and Biostatistics in Seattle collaborated on the study that led to identification of DKK1. Shaughnessy and Barlogie have received research funding from the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health; the Fund to Cure Myeloma; and the Peninsula Community Foundation.

Shaughnessy’s discovery of the mechanism that destroys bone in the deadly cancer multiple myeloma was also featured on CNN, NPR and in print by Health Day (a news service of the New York Times), by the Associated Press.
James D. Marsh, M.D., Appointed Chairman of Internal Medicine

James D. Marsh, M.D., has been appointed the new chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) by the Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Medicine, E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A. Marsh earned his baccalaureate degree from Harvard University, graduating with honors (magna cum laude) and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, graduating also with honors (alpha omega alpha). He completed an internship and residency at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital/Harvard Medical School, and then received clinical and research fellowship training in cardiology, also from Peter Bent Brigham Hospital/Harvard Medical School, completing his formal education and training in 1979. From 1980 to 1993, he served successively as instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Following a 20-year tenure at Harvard, he was recruited in 1993 to Wayne State University to serve as professor and director of the Division of Cardiology, as well as professor in the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics. In 2001, he was appointed Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Medicine.

Marsh is board certified in both internal medicine and cardiology and is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology. His research interests lie in the regulation and function of calcium channels, the control of transmembrane signaling, and the development of clinical therapies for vascular thrombotic syndromes. He has been continuously funded by the NIH and the VA for the past two decades and has been published extensively.

Bruce R. Smoller, M.D., Appointed Chairman of Pathology

Bruce R. Smoller, M.D., a national leader in dermatopathology, has been appointed the new chairman of the Department of Pathology in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) by the Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Medicine, E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.

Dr. Smoller received his baccalaureate degree with highest distinction (alpha omega alpha) from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, and his doctorate in medicine from the University of Cincinnati. He then completed an internship and residency in pathology at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, served as chief resident as the same institution, and then pursued a fellowship in dermatopathology at New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical Center in New York.

Smoller began his professional career as an instructor at Harvard Medical School and then moved on to Cornell University Medical College to become an assistant professor. He subsequently relocated to Stanford University Medical School in California where he rose through the academic ranks from assistant to associate professor and then to full professor. He also served as Director of the Dermatopathology Section at Stanford. In 1997, he joined the Department of Pathology in the UAMS College of Medicine, where he served as professor of Pathology and Dermatology and director of the Division of Dermatopathology. In 2001, he became vice chair of the department prior to assuming the post of interim chair.

He has received a number of honors, including excellence-in-teaching citations from Stanford, and has received the Red Sash teaching excellence award at UAMS on multiple occasions. In 2002, he was the Outstanding Residency Program Director. He has been awarded other honors and has memberships in national scientific organizations. He has exhibited academic citizenship by virtue of having served as a member or chair of numerous departmental, college, hospital and campus committees, subcommittees and programs. Dr. Smoller has also served as faculty advisor for many medical students, fellows and residents. He currently serves on several national and international committees and has memberships in numerous professional societies. He is an invited speaker throughout the world on his area of expertise, dermatopathology. Dr. Smoller has published extensively in the scientific literature, having published over 200 articles and 30 book chapters. Additionally, he served as editor of five books. Dr. Smoller brings a wealth of academic and clinical scholarship to his new post.

Smoller is married to the historian Laura Ackerman Smoller, Ph.D., of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, whose father, George Ackerman, M.D., is professor emeritus in the UAMS College of Medicine.
Helen H. Kay, M.D., has been appointed professor and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) by the Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Medicine, E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.

Dr. Kay is a nationally acclaimed physician and expert in maternal-fetal medicine. A native of Hong Kong, Dr. Kay received her baccalaureate degree from the University of Chicago and her medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine. She received her obstetrics and gynecology training at George Washington University Hospital. She pursued a perinatal research fellowship at the National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and subsequently a maternal-fetal medicine fellowship at Duke University School of Medicine. She remained on the full-time faculty at Duke for 13 years and then assumed the post of professor and director of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the University of Wisconsin at Madison until 2002 when she returned to Chicago to serve as the director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Edward Hospital, a clinical affiliate of the University of Chicago.

Kay is a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is certified by this organization in general obstetrics and gynecology as well as in the subspecialty of maternal-fetal medicine. She serves on the board of directors of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, on the editorial board of the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, and serves as a member of the Council of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

Dr. Kay is recognized nationally in the area of maternal-fetal medicine and has published extensively. Her research emphasis is in clinical perinatology and basic studies in placental metabolism and the effects of oxygen tension and hypoxia on fetal development.

Robert McGehee, Ph. D., Appointed Dean of the Graduate School

Robert E. McGehee Jr., Ph.D., a long-time faculty member at UAMS, has been appointed dean of the UAMS Graduate School. Dr. McGehee is an associate professor of pediatrics, physiology and biophysics, and pathology in the College of Medicine. He is a member of the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, where he is program leader of cell diffusion and signaling. He also serves as director of Basic Science Research in the Division of Neonatology in UAMS’ Department of Pediatrics and at Arkansas Children’s Hospital. An Arkansas native, McGehee earned his doctorate in physiology and biophysics at UAMS and completed a postgraduate fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital before returning to UAMS, where he has been a faculty member since 1993.

“Dr. McGehee has been very active in the graduate program here,” said Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, M.D. “He has devoted his talents to teaching classes, training students and developing courses.” McGehee said he plans to promote the new interdisciplinary biomedical science program in the Graduate School and recruit more graduate students from Arkansas. “I am vested in this institution,” he said. “UAMS is my alma mater, Arkansas is my home state, and I’m committed to making our graduate program the best that it can be.”
Jeannette M. Shorey II, M.D., Appointed Associate Dean for Continuing Medical Education and Faculty Affairs

Jeannette M. Shorey II, M.D., was named the new associate dean for Faculty Affairs and Continuing Medical Education in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) by the Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Medicine, E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A. Dr. Shorey graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wellesley College Phi Beta Kappa and then went on to earn her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She completed her internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School and has been extensively involved in medical education at many levels. Shorey was on the faculty at Harvard Medical School and served as the director of the Primary Care Residency Program at the Beth Israel Beaconess Medical Center – just one of many such appointments. While a part of the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care system she not only taught students and residents, but she also became very involved in continuing medical education and faculty development activities. One of her major interests has been in physician/patient communications, and she has served as the Vice President and member of the Board of Directors of the American Academy on Physician and Patient (AAPP).

She has been recognized nationally as an educator, having served not only on faculty development programs with the AAPP, but also as a member of the National Program Planning Committee for the Society of General Internal Medicine and as a member of the Writing Committee for the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Shorey's name is undoubtedly familiar to many of you. She is the daughter of Winston K. Shorey, M.D., dean of the UAMS College of Medicine from 1961 through 1974. Her mother, Jeannette M. Shorey, M.D., was also a well-known faculty member.

James Clardy, M.D., has been appointed the new associate dean for Graduate Medical Education in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) by the Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Medicine, E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A. The position is within the broader office of Academic Affairs and is principally charged with making sure the institution and its residency and fellowship programs follow all ACGME guidelines.

Dr. Clardy received his bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Harding University and then went on to earn his medical degree at UAMS. He completed the first three years of his residency training in psychiatry at UAMS and was then a medical staff fellow and senior staff fellow at the National Institute of Mental Health Clinical Brain Disorders Branch of the Neuroscience Center at Saint Elizabeth's hospital in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Clardy first joined the UAMS faculty in 1992 and rose to the position of associate professor and vice chair for Education in the Department of Psychiatry. He is the Director of the Psychiatry Residency training program and has been very involved in Graduate Medical Education (GME) at the institutional level. He has served as a member of the GME Committee Internal Residency Review Subcommittee, the Evaluation/Outcomes GME Subcommittee, and the GME Ad Hoc Committee on Professionalism. He chaired the GME Subcommittee on General Competencies, a major thrust of the ACGME, and is currently the Vice Chair of the GMC Committee. Dr. Clardy has a very strong academic approach to medical education, as evidenced by his participation in the Teaching Scholars Program, his service as a reviewer for the Medical Research Endowment Grant Award, and his membership on the Psychiatry Residency Research Committee.
The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) awarded the coveted Javits Investigator Award to John D. Houle, Ph.D., professor of neurobiology and developmental sciences and director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Neurosciences. Houle is a neuroscientist studying how to repair injured spinal cords. The Javits Award is a federal prize of $500,000 for which scientists may not apply, but are only considered by panels of their peers.

Houle expressed his surprise to learn that he was being considered for this award and his appreciation to the people in his lab over the years who contributed to the overall success of his research. Houle has a current grant of $1.25 million for his research involving axonal growth in the chronically injured spinal cord. He has worked for more than 15 years to determine if injured neurons can regenerate after a spinal cord injury and if it is possible to re-establish a functional connection across an injured area. He also is collaborating with Charlotte Peterson, Ph.D., and Esther Dupont-Versteegelen, Ph.D., of the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging to study the effects of physical activity on the repair and interaction of injured spinal cord and muscles in limbs affected by a spinal cord injury. He was also awarded a P30 center grant that supports his team's work as a whole, by providing funding for core facilities that produces more effective collaboration.

“We have shown that regeneration is possible with a combination of therapeutic treatments, even when treatments are delayed for several months after injury. We have characterized the long-term fate of injured neurons and some of the changes in gene expression that influence neuronal survival and regeneration. In addition, several behavioral tests for functional recovery show promising results,” Dr. Houle said. “The application to a human injury is still uncertain, but we are hopeful that this basic research can be translated into therapy for patients with spinal cord injuries.”

John D. Houle, Ph.D., Spinal Cord Researcher Wins Coveted Javits Investigator Grant Award and Center Grant
There is a number of ways to make a charitable contribution to the College of Medicine. Perhaps the easiest gift to make is a charitable bequest through your will. It does not require you to part with anything during your lifetime, and your heirs pay no estate tax on the bequest to a qualified charity.

Many of us receive most of our retirement income from our pension plans. The plans offer tax benefits during life, but may be subject to as much as 70 percent in income and estate taxes at death. You may want to consider a strategy that leaves other assets to heirs, and give your retirement plan assets to a qualified charity like the College.

It is also possible to make a gift and receive, in turn, guaranteed income for life. These are called “Life-Income” gifts and also hold significant tax advantages. The simplest of these is the Charitable Gift Annuity, that represents a contract between you and UAMS in which you give a gift of cash, stock or property and UAMS agrees to pay you guaranteed income for the rest of your life.

Contributing to the College of Medicine can be an uplifting experience. Consider your personal needs and objectives before you give so you arrive at the gift plan that best suits you. You also will have taken a big step towards creating and leaving your own legacy for future generations. We will be happy to consult with you or answer any of your questions. Contact John F. Coffin, director of Planned Giving, at 501.527.7197 or via e-mail at JFCoffin@uams.edu.
Philanthropy comes in all sizes. UAMS has been fortunate to be the beneficiary of many alumni, friends, corporations and foundations that continue to allow us to meet our four missions – to teach, to heal, to search, and to serve. Their continued generosity is crucial to all aspects of our educational, clinical and research programs. The impact of philanthropy isn’t always in plain sight. It’s in the classroom, the lab, the volunteer, a scholarship, a stipend, new medication, a professor’s knowledge, a surgeon’s instrument, a research discovery, or a textbook. It is in plain sight on buildings, clinics, libraries, research centers and institutes, endowed chairs and professorships, education centers, outreach programs, and specialized treatment facilities named for donors (including the $48 million Jack Stephens gift that built the Jackson T. Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute).

Philanthropy, sometimes defined as a voluntary action for the public good, permeates the entire UAMS campus. As you read this section that highlights the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation’s recent gift to the Jones Eye Institute, the Alzheimer’s Disease Center, the UAMS Center for Psychiatric Research, Education and Clinical Care, and a related story about two special friends, Bernice Jones and Pat Walker, I hope you see in the following articles exactly how these gifts are an investment in the future of medicine...an investment for us all.

I. Dodd Wilson, M.D.
The Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation of Springdale has given $21.5 million to UAMS for its eye institute, Alzheimer’s disease research, and psychiatry program. The foundation directed $15 million to the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute, $5 million for the UAMS Alzheimer’s Disease Center, and $1.5 million to the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the College of Medicine. The Walkers’ previous gifts to UAMS have amounted to more than $16 million. The original tower of the Arkansas Cancer Research Center at UAMS is named in honor of the Walkers.

The gift to the Jones Eye Institute will provide an additional five floors to the present building, which will be called the Pat Walker Tower. The Jones Eye Institute is one of only 20 free standing vision research institutes in the nation. The Walkers made an earlier gift of $6 million to the institute for the Pat and Willard Walker Eye Research Center. John P. Shock, M.D., chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, is director of the eye institute and executive vice chancellor of UAMS.

The Alzheimer’s Disease Center will be named in honor of Pat Walker and the late Willard Walker. The center was established with a grant from the National Institute on Aging and is a program of the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatrics in the College of Medicine. Cornelia Beck, Ph.D., R.N., a professor of geriatrics, psychiatry, and nursing, is director of the center.
The gift will also allow construction to begin on the new UAMS Center for Psychiatric Research, Education and Clinical Care, which will house the Walker Family Clinic. The Department of Psychiatry provides residency training and a variety of outpatient clinical services and conducts research in a wide range of mental health issues. G. Richard Smith, M.D., is the Marie Wilson Howells Professor and chairman of Psychiatry.

The late Willard Walker was the manager of Sam Walton’s Five & Dime in Fayetteville and the Springdale Wal-Mart Store #3. Willard and Pat Walker believed in and supported Sam Walton’s idea for success and feel very fortunate to have been a part of the Wal-Mart empire. The Walkers have enjoyed sharing their financial success by supporting many education and health care programs in the state. They are widely known and beloved in the state of Arkansas.

“We are profoundly moved by the Walker family’s generosity. Their gift will allow us to greatly expand our research and patient care for people coping with eye diseases, Alzheimer’s disease, and mental illness,” Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., said. “Yet it is Pat Walker’s, and her late husband Willard Walker’s, empathy for all people who struggle with poor health, more than their philanthropic leadership, that makes them inspirations to all of us at UAMS. We are better as healers and teachers and scientists because of our association with the Walker family.”
The recent $5 million gift from the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation of Springdale, Arkansas will establish an operational endowment for the memory Research Center. The UAMS Memory Research Center was established in 2001 with a $4.9 million grant from the National Institute on Aging. It is one of only 29 centers in the United State and is directed by Cornelia Beck, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, UAMS professor of Geriatrics and Psychiatry.

“Funded with a grant from the National Institute on Aging, startup monies can only begin to cover the program’s most basic needs,” said David Lipschitz, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chair of the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatrics in the College of Medicine and director of the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging. “Monies generated from the endowment will be used to expand research projects, pay travel expenses for research participants, provide public education about early detection markers, and promote functional independence and/or decrease problem behaviors among older adults with the disease. We are grateful to the Walker Foundation, and through philanthropy such as this, we hope to be able to provide more information and one day the key to this devastating disease.”

“This wonderful gift from the Walker family will allow us to expand our focus on research participants,” Dr. Beck explained. “With funds generated by the endowment, we will be able to develop better diagnostic and intervention strategies for patients.” The ADC is evaluating a pool of up to 400 people, composed of those with Alzheimer’s disease, healthy normal older people, and people with certain other kinds of memory loss that is not due to Alzheimer’s disease. The Center shares its findings through collaborations nationally and internationally.

“Deaths due to Alzheimer’s disease are more prevalent in Arkansas than nationally, and deaths in Arkansas due to cerebrovascular disease are the second highest in the nation,” Dr. Beck explained. “Because Arkansans tend to ‘age in place,’ we can follow Alzheimer’s disease patients and their caregivers over an extended period of time. Our state provides a natural laboratory to study how to provide Alzheimer’s disease services cost-effectively in medically underserved areas.”

The Alzheimer’s Disease Association estimates that 4 million Americans have Alzheimer’s disease and 100,000 die of it each year. Alzheimer’s disease often occurs in mid and late life. The patient’s memory, thinking and behavior are affected because specific brain cells no longer work. Doctors look for these specific abnormal findings in the brain so that they can be certain that the patient has Alzheimer’s disease.

In normal aging, there is some mild and progressive memory loss as well as other minor problems in other types of brain function. However, in Alzheimer’s disease, there is a pattern of problems that can include short-term memory loss, as well as speech and vision deficits. This leads to the loss of personal and social skills. Over time the patients lose the ability to perform activities required for daily living.

Age is the major risk factor. The older a person gets, the more likely he is to develop the disease. About 7% of all people over 65 and perhaps 35-40% of persons over 80 develop Alzheimer’s disease.
Pat Walker and Bernice Jones didn’t get to know each other until later in life, but when they did they became close friends and partners in Arkansas philanthropy. One of the many institutions that they both supported is the Jones Eye Institute at UAMS.

Mrs. Jones’ first major gift to UAMS in 1988 was to support the Arkansas Center for Eye Research. The center was recently renamed the Pat & Willard Walker Eye Research Center in appreciation of the Walkers’ first major gift to the Jones Eye Institute. Mrs. Jones’ second gift established the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute in the early 1990s and was followed by another gift to endow the John P. Shock, M.D., Chair in Ophthalmology and Director of the Jones Eye Institute. Bernice Young Jones was born Oct. 31, 1905, to Allie May and Francis Fair Young. She had two sisters and one brother who were raised with her on a farm in Oak Grove. Mrs. Jones graduated from high school in 1924 and then attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to become a teacher. She taught at Harmon and Oak Grove Schools from 1926 to 1931. During that time, she met Harvey Jones, a young businessman who reportedly told friends the first time he saw her from afar that he was going to marry her someday. Bernice and Harvey did eventually marry in 1938. Harvey Jones had established Jones Truck Lines in Springdale in 1933, which later became the largest privately owned truck line in the United States. They sold Jones Truck Lines in 1980. After a long illness, Harvey died in 1989. Mrs. Jones died in 2003 at the age of 97. She had said, “When you serve others, you serve yourself. That’s where you get joy and satisfaction.”

Pat and Willard Walker met on the job in 1941 in the S.H. Kress Store in Coffeyville, Kansas. After a short courtship, they married in May of 1942. In 2002 they celebrated their 60th anniversary. After working at the S.H. Kress Store in Tulsa, Willard Walker was recruited by Sam Walton to manage his first five-and-dime store in Fayetteville and later one of the first Wal-Mart stores in Springdale. In 1972, Mr. Walker took an “extended leave of absence” from Wal-Mart, but Pat and Willard remained lifelong friends of Helen and Sam Walton.

The Walkers have always been known for their generosity, but Mrs. Walker has always said her greatest joy is her children and grandchildren and being married to Willard.

Mr. Walker died in February of 2003.

“If I have seen further, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.”
– Sir Isaac Newton
Dr. John Shock likes a challenge. He has encountered several during his 25-year tenure at UAMS. This year, Shock, professor and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, director of the Jones Eye Institute and executive vice chancellor of UAMS, celebrated his 25th anniversary at UAMS and the 10th anniversary of the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute. Shock didn’t begin his career at UAMS; he came to us after an illustrious 20-year career in the military, having served as chief of Ophthalmology at Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio before his appointment as chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at UAMS.

How did he find his way from San Antonio to Little Rock? Each summer two Arkansas ophthalmologists, Jim Landers, M.D., and Ed Hankins, M.D., participated in the National Guard training in San Antonio. “They knew I was about ready to retire from the military, so when Fritz Fraunsfelder, M.D., (the Ophthalmology Department head) moved to Oregon they gave my name to the dean, Tom Bruce, M.D., who forwarded it to the search committee,” Shock said.

Although there was only one full-time faculty member at the time and departmental offices were in an old chemistry laboratory, Shock was looking for an opportunity to build a program and felt that UAMS offered that challenge. With the help of Dr. Gissur Petursson, the only other full-time faculty, he hoped to recruit more full-time faculty, improve the facilities and educational programs, and build a strong research program. “Ultimately, I also wanted to build an eye institute,” he said. “Fortunately for me, Dr. Petursson bought into my vision 100%. There couldn’t have been a better partner than Pete.”

“Early on when it was just us, I remember Dr. Shock talking about an eye institute. He dreamed about it. He even made a model,” Petursson said. Shock had seen how a renowned eye institute was built from humble beginnings when he was a fellow at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. “All during my training I was fortunate to have excellent role models and mentors such as Jack Passmore, M.D., and Bob Penner, M.D., of Walter Reed, Froncie Gutman, M.D., of the Cleveland Clinic and Ed Norton, M.D., and Donald Gass, M.D., at Bascom Palmer,” Shock said. “I think they were all visionaries and builders in some way.”
Success did not come easy in the beginning. It was three years before he successfully recruited another full-time faculty member and about as long before the department received its first big gift, which was a $100,000 unitrust pledge from Stella Boyle Smith.

“Mrs. Smith’s recognition gave us some credibility,” Shock said. Petursson had removed Stella Boyle Smith’s cataracts, and as a result, she received 20/20 vision. “Other doctors thought she had macular degeneration, so they would not remove her cataract,” Petursson said. Both Petursson and Shock did not think macular degeneration was ever a major factor, and the surgery completely restored her vision.

Her pledge established the Gissur Petursson, M.D., Lectureship and a few years later, Mrs. Smith established a second unitrust worth $500,000 that helped create the Arkansas Center for Eye Research. Shock’s vision for an eye institute was finally realized when he met Bernice Jones. She gave $1 million initially and then $5.5 million. The groundbreaking of the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute occurred in 1992, and its dedication was in 1994.

“Any success that we have experienced is due to our very strong and loyal staff and faculty, a wonderful Advisory Board and hundreds of donors led by Mrs. Bernice Jones and Mrs. Pat Walker,” Shock said. In fact, approximately 1,200 donors have contributed $40 million to the Jones Eye Institute during Dr. Shock’s tenure.

Shocked has never been a man without a vision. Adding five floors to the present building and establishing a large endowment to secure the future appeared next on his plan. Now the extra floors will become a reality due to the recent extraordinary gift of $15 million from Mrs. Pat Walker.

When asked what the most rewarding part of his job is, his response is immediate – to see the growth and development of the individuals who work at the eye institute as well as the growth and development of the eye institute itself.

He’s not one to back away from a challenge.
Most people know that they will never have the ability to give millions of dollars to a charity, their alma mater, or a department in a College of Medicine who helped a loved one. No matter what our individual circumstances, we do individually have the ability to make a difference. That’s the mindset of G. Richard Smith, M.D., Marie Wilson Howells professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry.

Smith had a lofty goal – to build a comprehensive psychiatric center on the UAMS campus. Knowing the arduous task that lay ahead, he enlisted help from friends, acquaintances, foundations – anyone who would listen to his vision. Soon, he had assembled a stellar capital campaign committee made up of members of the UAMS Psychiatry Advisory Board, colleagues, and faculty. Spirits were high and the stage was set to begin a $4 million capital campaign. It was August 2001. Two weeks later, on September 11, the World Trade Center fell, and the world was shattered, yet the committee refused to give up. Mental health care was going to be needed more now than ever.

“The campaign committee co-chairs, Don Munro of Hot Springs and Ellon Cockrill of Little Rock, forged ahead despite a shaky economy; despite philanthropy dropping to new lows,” notes Smith. “Donations began to steadily trickle in. We owe so much to these co-chairs for their leadership and determination to see the campaign succeed.” The committee believed that a populous campaign would be the foundation on which they would continue to build and Smith agreed. “In many building programs such as this, one major donation kicks off the campaign,” he notes. “This campaign was the exact opposite.”

Dr. Smith has great appreciation when he tells you that 80% of his faculty and staff made contributions to the campaign. Then he will tell you about over 400 contributors who raised the $2.5 million – individuals, families, corporations and foundations. The campaign finally reached its goal when the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation generously
provided the $1.5 million that would allow groundbreaking on a three-story center to begin in early fall. Then, in late spring, a $1.5 million gift from Fred and Louise Dierks of Hot Springs added plans for a much-needed fourth floor to the Center.

With the majority of the department's employees operating out of 13 locations in central Arkansas and serving as many as 1,200 patients daily, including those at Arkansas Children's Hospital, Arkansas State Hospital and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, you can quickly see what a central facility will mean to patients, faculty and staff.

“Our vision to provide a modern and convenient facility where researchers, clinicians, teachers, and students can interact in a centralized synergistic environment that will allow us to help an estimated 5,000 more Arkansans each year is fast becoming a reality,” says Smith. The building will be fast-tracked and should be open in just under two years.

Located at the corner of Capitol Avenue and Cedar Street, the center will house research laboratories as well as educational and clinical space. The Dierks Research Laboratories will honor the gift of Fred and Louise Dierks, while the Walker Family Clinic will honor Pat and Willard Walker’s generous donation.

Dr. Smith is overjoyed about the Psychiatry Center, and continues to beam with pride over the many people who have made this campaign a success. To this day, he can still open his billfold and pull out the talking points about his vision of the center that he no doubt memorized long ago.

Borrowing a title from a notable Arkansan's book -- it takes a village. “And families like the Walkers and the Dierks,” notes Smith.

One in five people in the U.S. suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. Nearly 19 million of these individuals have some form of depressive disorder. In fact, depression results in more absenteeism than almost any other physical disorder. Over two million people suffer from schizophrenia, the most disabling of psychiatric conditions, with those ranks almost evenly divided between men and women. Nearly $63 billion is lost in employee productivity each year as a result of mental illness. Many people avoid seeking treatment because of the stigma of mental illness. However, advancements in research have made treating mental disorders highly effective.
Dr. Bart Barlogie’s career has taken him to many far-flung locations but always in the same direction. Finding a cure for multiple myeloma has been Barlogie’s prime motivation for almost 30 years. It was with that goal in mind that the International Myeloma Foundation honored him with the Robert A. Kyle Lifetime Achievement Award May 8 at a special event held at the Peabody Little Rock.

The director of the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy at UAMS’ Arkansas Cancer Research Center, Barlogie was recognized by numerous colleagues and officials over the course of the evening. Among the highlights was an announcement by Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson that UAMS planned to raise funds to invest a chair in myeloma research in honor of Barlogie and his efforts toward curing the rare but deadly form of cancer. Dr. Ernest Ferris, chairman of UAMS’ Department of Radiology, presented him with a $40,000 donation to the Myeloma Institute’s Patient Awareness Fund.

A video presentation by Governor Mike Huckabee touched on Barlogie’s commitment to his work and his patients. Dr. Robert Kyle of the Mayo Clinic, for whom the award was named, complimented him for his ability to recognize his patients’ needs and put them before his own.

Barlogie, upon receiving the award from Kyle, thanked his comrades as well as his patients, asking those in attendance to stand and be recognized for their contributions to his pursuit of a cure for myeloma. “I was born on May 10, 1944, in the ruins of World War II. My mother and my stepfather taught me that you had to work hard to build something from the ashes. Mother always told me that what I could get in my head no one could take away,” said a visibly overwhelmed Barlogie.

“In medicine and the scientific profession, we stand on each others’ shoulders. “We remember that we are not creating things out of nothing but out of a succession of scientists and clinicians whose work allows us to pursue our vision. “What we try and accomplish is about patients,” said Barlogie.
Please join the faculty and staff of the College of Medicine at UAMS for the 125th Anniversary celebration of its founding and the inauguration of the Hall of Fame.

October 2, 2004
Reception 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 7:30 p.m.

The Peabody of Little Rock, 3 Statehouse Plaza
Business Attire

Please RSVP to Carla Alexander at 501-562-6200 by September 20, 2004
A major breakthrough in food safety that originated in a research laboratory at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) has won the approval of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). UAMS and Safe Foods Corporation recently announced the notice of approval by the FDA for Cecure™, an antibacterial spray for poultry, which will soon be deployed in the war against food-borne illnesses.

A team of scientists at UAMS led by Danny Lattin, Ph.D., in collaboration with Michael F. Slavik, Ph.D., at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, discovered cetylpyridinium chloride (“CPC,” trade name Cecure) to be a highly effective biocide initially against Salmonella. It has subsequently been found to be very effective against E. coli, Listeria, and Campylobacter. Other College of Pharmacy faculty members who were part of that original research team include Phil Breen, Ph.D., Kim Fifer, Ph.D., and Cesar Compadre, Ph.D.

At a news conference at UAMS announcing the approval of Cecure™, Safe Foods president and CEO Curtis Coleman praised UAMS, where scientists discovered that CPC, the active ingredient in several over-the-counter mouthwashes and throat lozenges, could kill food-borne pathogens. “The preliminary discovery at UAMS has led to the next generation of food safety antimicrobial technology that has the ability to increase food safety around the world,” Coleman said.

Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., congratulated Coleman and the UAMS scientists who made the initial discovery on the FDA approval. He noted that scientific discoveries of new products and applications like Cecure™ should become an important source of revenue for UAMS.

Vice Chancellor and Dean, E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., expressed appreciation to the team as well as the College of Medicine’s BioVentures program.

Timothy O’Brien, Ph.D., the director of UAMS BioVentures, a biotechnology business accelerator and home to 15 start-up companies at UAMS where Safe Foods originated, believes the impact of this antimicrobial technology (Cecure) and the Safe Foods team can have a very positive impact on the future of biotechnology in Arkansas. Safe Foods is the exclusive worldwide licensee of UAMS’ use and composition patents for the application of CPC as an anti-microbial spray for foods. UAMS will receive income from the sale of Cecure™.
Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee praised “the most broad-based coalition I’ve ever seen” for creation of the College of Public Health at its recent dedication. “Hundreds of people deserve appreciation and accolades” for the drive to devote Arkansas’ share of the 1998 national tobacco settlement to health promotion, including establishment of the public health school, Huckabee said. Dean James M. Raczynski, Ph.D., and Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., praised Huckabee; legislative leaders; Attorney General Mike Beebe; Director Fay Boozman, M.D., of the Arkansas Department of Health; and Chancellor Emeritus Harry P. Ward, M.D., for helping create the college.

University leaders and University of Arkansas System President B. Alan Sugg, Ph.D., surprised the college’s first dean, Thomas A. Bruce, M.D., D.Sc., (honorary), by naming the atrium “Bruce Commons” at the dedication. They singled out Bruce for his vision that “community is the essence of public health” and declared that the atrium and balcony, which overlook Markham Street in midtown Little Rock, will be a gathering place for all who want to make Arkansas a healthier state. As the inaugural dean pro tem of the college, Bruce assembled a faculty and curriculum while plans for the building and recruitment of the first permanent dean were under way. Dean E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., congratulated the many College of Medicine part-time faculty who started the College of Public Health and commended them for their dedication to UAMS.

The ceremony culminated with a christening of the building by the college’s first graduate, Suzanne G. McCarthy, who sprinkled Arkansas sparkling water on the balcony railing.
Shortly after arriving more than a year ago, the new Professor and Chairman of the College of Medicine’s Department of Surgery, Michael J. Edwards, M.D., F.A.C.S., knew he was going to be a busy physician, scholar, researcher, and administrator. He and E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., vice chancellor and dean, were making plans, big plans…to grow the Solid Organ Transplant Program by leaps and bounds. Their plans called for all solid organ transplantation to be consolidated, be it congenital heart, adult heart, pancreas, kidney, or liver, into an integrated solid organ transplant program.

“Dean Reece had the vision to expand our transplant programs, and I began the search to recruit a chief of the section for Solid Organ Transplantation and implement a program in liver transplantation,” according to Edwards. “We both knew this was an important program to the College of Medicine and the people of Arkansas that we serve.”

Dr. Edwards recruited transplant surgeon John A. Daller, M.D., Ph.D., to be associate professor of surgery, director of solid organ transplantation, and clinical director of kidney transplantation at Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH).

Daller has performed kidney, liver, and pancreas transplants, and came to UAMS from the University of Rochester/Strong Memorial Hospital in New York, where he was an assistant professor of surgery and director of renal and pancreas transplantation. He also served as medical director of the Fingerlake Organ Procurement Organization in Rochester. Prior to these appointments, he was an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston for five years. A graduate of the State University of New York-Health Science Center at Brooklyn, he completed a residency and a research fellowship in general surgery at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He served a fellowship in surgical critical care and a clinical fellowship in transplantation at the University of Pittsburgh. (It’s here at the University of Pittsburg that the pieces of the puzzle begin to come together.) Daller also earned a doctorate in pharmacology and toxicology, with a minor in microbiology and immunology, at the University of Arizona.

With Dr. Daller on staff since November 2003, kidney transplants have increased 40% in seven months, and heart transplants performed by Dr. Gareth Tobler, (trained by Norman Shumway, considered a pioneer in heart transplantation) have increased as well. The next step in the transplantation program was to bring in a senior liver transplant surgeon. Since Daller trained with the “father of liver transplants,” Thomas Starzl, M.D., Ph.D.,
who performed the first successful liver transplant in 1967 at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and quite obviously he wanted to add a surgeon who had also trained with the best...Dr. Starzl. The recruitment process began and the Pittsburgh transplant connection came to the forefront.

Youmin Wu, M.D., who also trained with Starzl, joined the transplant team as professor of Surgery and director of Liver Transplantation and the Hepatology Surgery Program in late summer. Dr. Wu, a native of China, is a graduate of Nanjing Medical University. He completed a transplant research fellowship and a transplant clinical fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. How did he come from Nanjing, China to Pittsburgh to study? He attended a seminar in China where the guest speaker was Dr. Starzl. “He (Dr. Starzl) casually invited anyone interested to join him in Pittsburgh, and I raised my hand and said I’ll come,” Wu said, laughing aloud. “This was during the Cultural Revolution in China and there were no residencies to be had, but I finished school, called Dr. Starzl in Pittsburgh, and 17 days later, I was there.” All the while Dr. Wu was planning to return to his home in China, but Tinneman Square changed his mind and he remained in Pittsburgh where he was assistant professor of surgery. From Pittsburgh Wu was recruited by the University of Iowa where he became director, division of transplant surgery and began their liver transplant program.

Bill Fiser, M.D., UAMS assistant professor of surgery, research director of Cardiac Surgery at Arkansas Children’s Hospital and medical director of Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency (ARORA), describes Wu as “one of the best liver transplant surgeons in the nation.” ARORA is an independent non-profit, federally funded organ procurement program. Fiser noted that as with all transplant programs, organ availability is a great factor that limits the number of liver transplants that can be performed each year. Currently there are approximately 40 Arkansans on waiting lists at out-of-state institutions who need a liver transplant. Each year there is an average of 60 livers in Arkansas made available through organ procurement. “We are fortunate to have Dr. Wu joining us here at UAMS,” according to Daller. Now with the puzzle pieces almost all in place, it’s an exciting and challenging time. Dr. Daller terms it “gelling and coalescing.” Soon, very soon, Arkansans and their families will be able to remain in their home state for a liver transplant.

**Wu Firsts**

Dr. Wu holds several firsts in the world of liver transplants that include:

- oldest donor
- longest survival
- oldest recipient
- longest survival
- third smallest liver transplant recipient
- youngest (19 days)
- smallest living related liver transplant recipient

Youmin Wu, M.D., John Daller, M.D., Ph.D.
The geriatrics program at UAMS has moved from No. 9 to No. 8 in the annual ranking of “America’s Best Graduate Schools” by the news magazine, U.S. News & World Report. The UAMS primary care program – which includes the specialties of family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics – had its debut on the magazine’s list at No. 52. The Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatrics in the College of Medicine ranked in the magazine’s list of top 10 geriatrics programs, which also included Johns Hopkins, Duke, Yale, and Harvard universities. The Reynolds Department of Geriatrics is one of the country’s few academic medical departments dedicated to the care of senior citizens. David A. Lipschitz, M.D., Ph.D., is chair of the department and director of the affiliated Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging.

For the first time, UAMS joins the nation’s other top primary care programs, including Emory, Harvard, Duke, Johns Hopkins and Case Western Reserve universities, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and the University of California at Los Angeles.

The rankings by U. S. News & World Report are based on surveys of peers at accredited medical schools in the United States. The results appear in the new 2005 edition of the magazine’s special report, “America’s Best Graduate Schools.”
Career Celebration for Faculty With Distinguished Tenure

Celebration for Thomas Andreoli, M.D.

A career celebration was held this spring for Thomas Andreoli, M.D., Professor and Nolan Chair in Internal Medicine. Andreoli has led the Department of Internal Medicine since 1987, and under his leadership the department saw remarkable growth and advancement.

Andreoli has served on numerous editorial boards and scientific journals. He served as editor-in-chief from 1984-1997 for Kidney International and now retains the title of Editor Emeritus. His teaching distinctions include multiple Red Sash Awards for Teaching, and he has served as visiting professor and lecturer in locations around the world. Dr. Andreoli has been honored on numerous occasions for his leadership abilities, major accomplishments, and service to the field of internal medicine. A prolific writer for publications and textbooks, he served as editor-in-chief of Cecil Essentials of Medicine 2000, fifth edition. The text has now been translated into Greek, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish, Italian, and Chinese.

Andreoli now serves as the distinguished professor of medicine, physiology and biophysics.

Celebration for Donald E. McMillan, Ph.D.

Donald E. McMillan, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology for 26 years, was recently honored for building the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology of the College of Medicine into one of the leading research and educational programs in the nation.

McMillan is the retiring chairman and a Wilbur D. Mills endowed Chair of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. During his 26-year career at UAMS, he has obtained more than $11 million in external research funding, focusing his research on treatments for drug addiction and helping establish the UAMS Substance Abuse Treatment Clinic. He serves on the editorial boards of several prominent scientific journals and was a 2000 recipient of the Nyswander-Dole Award from the American Methadone Treatment Association.

You Didn’t Tell Us You Were Moving!

Send us your home and work address, phone, fax, and e-mail. Even if you think we have it all, humor us. We want to send you all the news and updates from your alma mater!

Arkansas Caduceus Club
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
4301 W. Markham St., #642
Little Rock, AR 72205-9985
In a March 2 history-making ceremony, T. Glenn Pait, M.D., an associate professor in the departments of Neurosurgery and Orthopaedic Surgery in the College of Medicine and director of the Jackson T. Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute, and Jack Vander Schilden, M.D., professor and head of the Sports Medicine Section in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, became the first recipients of two endowed chairs in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine, named for Little Rock businessman Jackson T. Stephens, who endowed the chairs. Pait was presented with the first Stephens Chair in Spine Surgery and Vander Schilden with the first Stephens Chair in Orthopaedic Sports Medicine. It marked the first time in UAMS’ history that a double investiture ceremony, at which the pair received medallions symbolizing their rank as chairholders in their departments, has been conducted.

E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., recommended the two recipients to Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., for investiture and installation. Representing the Stephens’ family were Warren and Jackson T. “Steve” Stephens, Jr., Jack Stephens’ sons. The strong philanthropic spirit of the Stephens family was highlighted, most notably the $48 million donated to build the Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute.

Both Pait and Vander Schilden thanked their families and co-workers for their support and the man for whom their honors are named. “Jack Stephens realized that most of us will have spine problems sometime in our lives,” said Pait, who admitted that a chair in spine surgery had long been a dream of his. “But dreams are often the starting point for reality,” he added, crediting Stephens for launching a legacy in spine treatment.
David A. Lipschitz, M.D., Ph.D., and Pham H. Liem, M.D., became the first recipients of two endowed chairs in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine. Both chairs are named in honor of Jackson T. Stephens, the Little Rock businessman and philanthropist who endowed them. Representing his father at the investiture was Jackson T. “Steve” Stephens, Jr.

Lipschitz was presented with the Stephens Chair in Geriatrics and Geriatrics Clinical Affairs. Lipschitz is professor and chairman of the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatrics and director of the Reynolds Center on Aging. Liem is professor and vice chairman for clinical affairs in the Reynolds Department of Geriatrics. E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., recommended the two recipients to Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., for investiture and installation. Chancellor Emeritus Harry P. Ward, M.D., paid tribute to Stephens during the ceremony. Chancellor Wilson spoke of how Liem attended medical school in Saigon during the Vietnam War, graduating at the top of his class in 1973 before coming to UAMS for postgraduate training in family and community medicine and geriatrics. Wilson also fondly recalled the exemplary treatment that this “wise and caring physician” gave his mother and his father-in-law in their senior years.

Martha W. Murphy, a member of the UAMS Foundation Fund Board and the Reynolds Center on Aging Advisory Board, introduced Lipschitz. She applauded his many accomplishments, including creating a geriatrics center that reached national prominence in six years and is currently ranked No. 8 in the country, and establishing seven satellite geriatrics centers.

Lipschitz, a native of South Africa, began his acceptance by saying, “Thank you, Arkansas! Of all the blessings I have been given, there is nothing I am more grateful for than the way this state has adopted me as if I were a native son. I continue to dig deep roots into Arkansas, which is indeed a land of opportunity.” He also thanked his patients, whom he said have molded his life and taught him humility.

Others in attendance included Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Ray Thornton and University of Arkansas System President B. Alan Sugg, Ph.D.
More than 300 College of Medicine alumni gathered June 11-12 at the Capital and Peabody Hotels in Little Rock to renew acquaintances, share fond memories, and reconnect with their medical school. This year alumni represented classes from 1939 – 1994. (Individual class reunions are held every five years.) A special reception honoring a record attendance of more than 70 “Golden Graduates” from the Classes of 1944, 1949, and the 50-year anniversary class of 1954 was held on Friday afternoon. Dean E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., presented “Golden Graduates” with a commemorative certificate and a souvenir photo of the UAMS campus.

The alumni/faculty banquet held on Friday evening was highlighted by the presentation of the Distinguished Alumnus Award to George L. Ackerman, M.D., and the Distinguished Faculty Award to A. Reed Thompson, M.D. Dean Reece took this opportunity to present the College of Medicine Distinguished Service Award (presented initially at this year’s Convocation) to Janet Honeycutt, director of Alumni Programs in the College of Medicine and executive director of the Arkansas Caduceus Club, so that reuniting alumni could share the honor of the award with her. President of the Arkansas Caduceus Club, Phil Stone, M.D., also surprised Janet with an album of photos, cards, and letters of congratulation.

Saturday was a busy day with scientific sessions that earned attendees Continuing Medical Education credit, a tour of the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, a luncheon, the annual Caduceus Club Board meeting, and culminated with individual class dinners and lots of laughter, fun, and memories.
It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of Janet Honeycutt, executive director of the Arkansas Caduceus Club. Janet passed away July 1 after suffering a stroke during Alumni Weekend 2004.

Janet was a person of great character and kindness and brought boundless energy to everything that she did. Janet served as executive director of the Caduceus Club for almost 20 years. We know that many of you knew Janet personally and recognized her numerous contributions, unwavering dedication and commitment to the College of Medicine. We will all miss her tremendously.
Philanthropy
A prescription for building the future of medicine

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. 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, and the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging. 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.”