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THE TRIbune

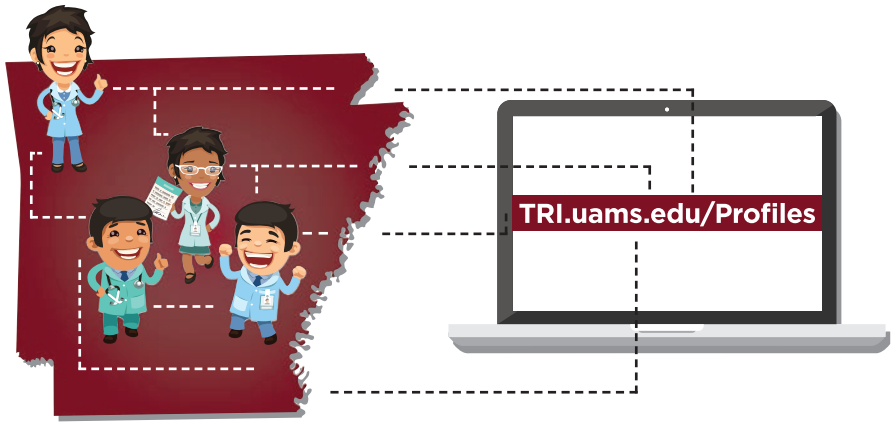
UAMS University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

ACCELERATING DISCOVERIES TOWARD BETTER HEALTH

September 2015

Collaboration Station

Discover Your Next Collaborator With UAMS Profiles



Finding collaborators doesn't have to be a scavenger hunt. UAMS Profiles, a new online research networking tool, eliminates the mystery and the miles separating researchers from potential collaborators.

Created at Harvard University, Profiles was obtained and customized for use at UAMS by the Translational Research Institute (TRI), the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute and the Department of Biomedical Informatics. Through its service to researchers, UAMS Profiles delivers on a key team science objective of the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), which oversees 62 Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) institutions across the United States, including TRI.

Profiles (TRI.uams.edu/Profiles) combines a key-word directory with illuminating interactive visualizations that show each faculty member's collaborations or networks with other researchers, and it shows how those networks have evolved over time.

UAMS faculty information is currently shared within the UAMS network and may be viewed by Profiles members at the main UAMS campus, Arkansas Children's Hospital and its Research Institute (ACHRI), the UAMS Northwest Arkansas campus, and by faculty at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System. In 2016, UAMS Profiles will be linked nationally with other research institutions that use Profiles or similar networking programs.

Profiles accounts were automatically established for all UAMS faculty with information imported from UAMS FacFacts (Faculty Facts), TRACKS and PubMed. Each faculty member's Profile Page includes biographical information, contact information and their researcher networks. A researcher's network may be viewed on the website as:

- Concept clouds, which highlight the person's area of research
- Map views, which show where co-authors are located
- Publication timelines, which graph the number of publications of different types by year

Message from Dr. James

Dear Colleagues,

This month, the Translational Research Institute (TRI) is submitting its re-application for an NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). As many of you are aware, our previous score was competitive, and I believe our new submission will hit the mark thanks to the dedicated efforts of our institutional leaders, faculty and staff.

In the meantime, TRI continues to support key initiatives that are helping our research community thrive. This month, we're very excited to introduce UAMS Profiles, an online tool to help you find research collaborators. For the first time, we have an easy-to-use medium for finding collaborators. UAMS Profiles can enhance our efforts to address complex research challenges through team science – a priority at NIH, NCATS and TRI.

I encourage you to visit the UAMS Profiles website, TRI.uams.edu/Profiles. I think you'll be pleased with its functionality and the dynamic displays of our researcher-to-researcher interactions. TRI, along with the Department of Biomedical Informatics, will offer hands-on instructional opportunities this fall as well as other face-to-face presentations to UAMS college faculty groups. These sessions will be promoted on our website, TRI.uams.edu, and our email announcements listserv. Support is also available by emailing DBMI@uams.edu.

Laura James, M.D.
Director, TRI

Collaboration Station

- Radial network views, which illustrate clusters of connectivity among publication authors and their co-authors
- Concept timelines, which depict how a person's research focus has changed over time.

"The Profiles website provides a very direct way of seeing a researcher's existing collaborations, who they've worked with in the past, and what kind of projects they worked on," said TRI Director Laura James, M.D. "This is a very important tool for the research community, particularly for new or young research faculty who want to establish research collaborations. It will also allow researchers to build multidisciplinary research teams, which is a major priority of NCATS."

Today nearly all CTSA institutions have Profiles or similar research networking programs. The Profiles Research Networking Software Users Group has more than 300 institutional members worldwide. NCATS and CTSA consortium members such as UAMS anticipate that Profiles will facilitate more team-oriented science as collaboration becomes an increasingly important priority for government funding agencies.

"I believe that team science is becoming the primary approach for success in biomedical research," James said. "Working in teams strengthens the impact and sustainability of research programs."

TRI plans to expand UAMS Profiles' networking capacity through the DIRECT2Experts platform in 2016. As part of this federated network, UAMS faculty will be linked with 75 other institutions to help identify research collaborators.

Want to see your individual Profiles page? Go to **tri.uams.edu/profiles**. Use your UAMS ID and password to login. Once logged in, click "View My Profile." If you have questions, email **DBMI@uams.edu** (Department of Biomedical Informatics). Stay tuned to TRI's website, **TRI.uams.edu,** this fall for announcements about upcoming Profiles demonstrations and hands-on training opportunities!

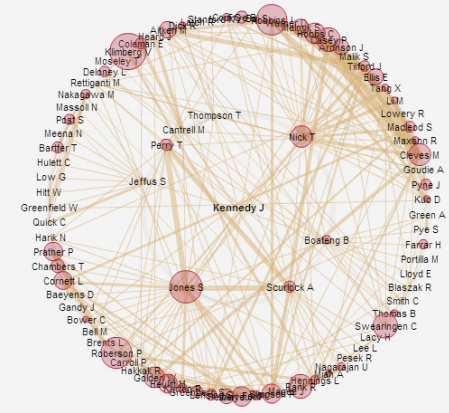
"Collaboration is essential in education, practice and research. The Office of Interprofessional Education has two responsibilities: To teach professionals the value of collaboration and to facilitate collaboration by reducing existing barriers. Profiles reduces existing barriers across disciplines and professions while making collaboration in research much easier. Profiles will improve our ability at UAMS to collaborate locally, regionally and nationally."

Lee Wilbur, M.D., F.A.A.E.M., *Director, UAMS Office of Interprofessional Education*

Early Adopter

Josh Kennedy, M.D., a UAMS clinician scientist studying rhinovirus and asthma exacerbation, thought he was the only person at UAMS to have published on rhinovirus. Then the TRI KL2 Career Development Awardee test drove UAMS Profiles, the new researcher networking software.

"Lo and behold I found a person named Richard Jackson (M.D.) who's got several articles on rhinovirus, and he's right here at UAMS," Kennedy said of the professor of surgery. "That could be great for me as a junior faculty to have another person in this field who could help."



The Profiles website includes dynamic displays of Kennedy's co-authors and their co-authors.

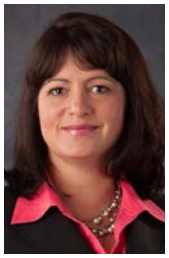
Kennedy also tried a key word search for "asthma," which produced six pages of UAMS asthma researchers.

"I was extremely surprised; I had no idea there were that many people in this field at UAMS," he said. "It really opens up a lot of great opportunities for collaboration that we wouldn't have known about otherwise."

Kennedy said UAMS Profiles offers a simple process for establishing an account and adding information.

"It didn't take me a lot of time," he said. "Most of this information you've already compiled at some point, like awards, honors, and an overview of your lab, so it's relatively simple to just copy and paste it. The other information, like publications, research interests and grants, are done automatically."

"It is imperative to have a means of finding and connecting with researchers across colleges, departments and research sites. As a researcher based in northwest Arkansas, I believe Profiles is an essential link to investigators based in central Arkansas and elsewhere. With such a dynamic platform to help facilitate team science, Profiles is harnessing technology that removes geographic and other barriers to finding collaborators."



Pearl McElfish, Ph.D., *Director, Office of Community Health and Research, UAMS Northwest Campus*

TRIBUTARY

'Guinea Pig' at TRI Research Forum Lands Genentech Stroke Award

UAMS' Aliza Brown, Ph.D., recently received a nearly $200,000 Genentech stroke research award after she incorporated ideas in her application from the first TRI Research Forum in June 2014.

The grant was one of only three community stroke pilots funded by Genentech in the United States. The study will enable Brown to determine paramedics' recognition of stroke and whether stroke patients are being taken to stroke-ready hospitals. In addition, she is developing an educational video for paramedics in partnership with the UAMS-led Arkansas SAVES (Stroke Assistance through Virtual Emergency Support) telestroke program and the Arkansas Department of Health's Arkansas Stroke Registry.

Her hope is that the study will provide data to support state sanctioned stroke guidelines and practices for emergency medical services.

"The Department of Health is very interested in this project because this will help promote legislation for the stroke guidelines and to create a stroke dashboard to guide EMS agencies to the appropriate hospitals," Brown said.

Brown, an assistant professor of radiology, joked that she was TRI's first Research Forum "guinea pig." The forums include established researchers and biostatisticians who provide feedback on investigators' grant applications.

"The forum panel was excited about the application and said it was very translational," Brown said. "They gave me some great advice. I learned a lot and I got a pretty good grant out of it."

A key recommendation came from Jean McSweeney, Ph.D., R.N., professor and interim dean of the College of Nursing. "Dr. McSweeney suggested that the study include utilization of the Simulation Center and an educational intervention, so I did that," Brown said.

Her study will validate the educational intervention – a training video – by measuring Pulaski County paramedics' stroke recognition rates following training. Garland County EMS will serve as the control, where EMS workers will not receive the training video and whose stroke recognition rates will be followed concurrently.

"I hope that this study can provide data the state needs to make these stroke guidelines a reality," Brown said.

To date, TRI has hosted nine Research Forums. To request a forum, email **TRIservices@uams.edu.**

TRI & me

Alison Oliveto, Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair for Research, Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine; TRI Team Leader, Research Processes and Methodology

"I see TRI delivering on its great potential as a catalyst for positive change and facilitating the translational research enterprise at UAMS. That's occurring on multiple levels, from its array of research services to assisting with education and pilot funds that help investigators build a foundation for success. In an age of increasing compliance and regulatory burdens, I see TRI as the creator of more investigator-friendly, efficient processes. My role with TRI has been a tremendous opportunity to facilitate translational research on a larger scale and work with very dedicated people. It has helped me see how like-minded we are in the goals we want to accomplish."

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Email: TRI@uams.edu

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Editor
David Robinson
Designer
Leslie Norris
TRI Director
Laura James, M.D.

UAMS Translational Research Institute

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4301 W. Markham St., #577
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TRIbutes

The following UAMS researchers cited the Translational Research Institute (TRI) in publications after utilizing TRI resources or funding:

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