

THE **TR**IBUNE **UAMS** University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

May 2016

ACCELERATING DISCOVERIES TOWARD BETTER HEALTH

Nurturing Engagement TRI Sets Stage for Community Scientist Academy



UAMS' Victor Cardenas, Ph.D., discusses his work during a May 5 research information session for the public.

On a recent evening, three UAMS researchers went table to table, taking 10 minutes each to explain their work to small groups of people.

Their audience was rapt. The 23 attendees with diverse backgrounds had come to learn something about research at UAMS, including how

non-scientists can play a role. Tamiko Johnson, of Benton, recalled afterward her fascination with the heart research conducted by Jean McSweeney, Ph.D.

"To learn that we are trying to do more for women with heart disease and that our symptoms are different than men is new to me," Johnson said

"The Academy will **CREATE** a cadre of community members who can **INFLUENCE RESEARCH** by **SERVING** on steering committees, **MENTORING** committees, **REVIEW** committees, **RESEARCH PROJECTS**, and in other **LEADERSHIP CAPACITIES.**"

- Kate Stewart, M.D.

Message from Dr. James



Dear Colleagues,
This issue of *The TRiBune* is devoted to sharing some of the recent community engagement activities and successes that have been supported

by our CTSA award. Our cover story highlights an innovative approach to increasing community involvement in our translational research. This fall, TRI will launch the Community Scientist Academy (CSA) to train community members to participate in advisory and decision-making activities needed to ensure that translational research addresses the priorities of diverse communities across Arkansas.

The Academy is the brainchild of Sarah Facen, a member of TRI's Community Advisory Board (CAB) and longtime community advocate with deep ties to her South End neighborhood in Little Rock. We are privileged to highlight Sarah with our TRI & Me feature inside.

I commend Kate Stewart, M.D., M.P.H., who leads our Community Engagement program, staff members Camille Hart and Nicki Spencer, and TRI CAB members Anna Huff Davis, Charles E. Moore and Sarah, for their outstanding work developing the information sessions that promote the Academy.

We're also very excited to report on the recently funded community engagement work of two of our KL2 graduates, Keneshia Bryant, Ph.D., and Tiffany Haynes, Ph.D. Congratulations Drs. Bryant and Haynes. We are proud of your accomplishments!

Sincerely,

Laura James, M.D.
Director

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Nurturing Engagement *(Continued from page 1)*



Tamiko Johnson

of McSweeney's groundbreaking findings that identified unique heart attack symptoms in women. "I think it's good to put that information out there so we as women know what to look for."

Jeff Jenkins, a real estate agent from Sherwood, also enjoyed learning about the different types of research from McSweeney (community-based/survey), Laura Hutchins, M.D. (cancer/clinical) and Joseph Su, Ph.D. (community-based/survey).

"I liked the opportunity of learning directly from the doctors who spoke during the roundtable sessions," Jenkins said.

The TRI-sponsored event was the first of multiple sessions being planned this spring and summer, including one held May 5, said Kate Stewart, M.D., M.P.H., who leads TRI's community engagement program. In addition to informing the public about research, the sessions will help get the word out about UAMS' first Community Scientist Academy being piloted this fall. The Academy will be a multi-week program for participants to develop a knowledge base and help engage the public in UAMS' many research endeavors.

"We're looking for people who want to learn even more



Jeff Jenkins

about our research beyond these information sessions," Stewart said. "The Academy will create a cadre of community members who can influence research by serving on steering committees, mentoring committees, review committees, research projects, and in other leadership capacities."

Johnson and Jenkins said they are both interested in building on what they learned in April through the Community Scientist Academy.

"I work at Pulaski Technical College so I would like to learn anything that might help our students, my coworkers and the community as a whole," said Johnson, a receptionist who has also worked as a medical assistant.



Kate Stewart, M.D.

"The information session really opened my eyes to the importance of community involvement in research," Jenkins said. "I think if more people could attend sessions like this one, UAMS would increase participation in not only the Community Scientist Academy, but also help provide candidates for future UAMS research projects."

New Website Helps Arkansans Volunteer for UAMS Research



Arkansans are now able to volunteer for research studies through a new UAMS website developed by the Translational Research Institute.

Called **ARresearch.org**, the website includes a registry for anyone who would like to be contacted about UAMS studies that are enrolling participants. The site is being promoted to the public to help build a database of potential research participants.

Local publicity and promotion of ARresearch.org at public events has helped TRI register more than 1,000 potential research volunteers.



Register Today!



TRIBUTARIES

KL2 Alums Gain Traction, Funding for Community-Based Initiatives



Tiffany Haynes, Ph.D., and Keneshia Bryant-Moore, Ph.D.

Keneshia Bryant-Moore, Ph.D., F.N.P., R.N., and Tiffany Haynes, Ph.D., began their research careers as KL2 scholars in 2011 and 2012, respectively. Today they are on solid footing as federally funded researchers.

Bryant-Moore, an associate professor in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, is the principal investigator of a \$110,000 Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

award. The funding complements her \$1 million 2014 Health Resources and Services Administration grant supporting her effort to bring together Arkansas faith leaders, educators, researchers and health care providers on June 17 for the second annual Community-Campus Partnership Conference to Address Health Disparities.

“The TRI KL2 scholars program launched my research engagement with the faith community which inspired the theme of this year’s conference,” Bryant said. She noted the

assistance of Kate Stewart, M.D., M.P.H., and Camille Hart, M.P.H., from TRI’s Community Engagement program. Her collaborators also include Haynes and KL2 alum Brooke Montgomery, Ph.D.

“I am truly grateful for TRI’s support,” she said.

Haynes, an assistant professor in the College of Public Health, was recently awarded \$2.1 million for a faith-based mental health intervention in the Delta. Haynes is co-principal investigator with Karen Yeary, Ph.D. Bryant-Moore is a co-investigator, and two other KL2 alums – Dennis Kuo, M.D., M.P.H., and Elvin Price, Pharm.D., Ph.D., are on the project’s steering committee. The five-year NIH grant will allow the team to test the intervention’s effectiveness as well as strategies for sustaining the intervention.

Haynes, a clinical psychologist, said the intervention is led by lay people, helping improve mental well-being through preventive approaches. Anyone experiencing depression or other mental illness will be guided to a mental health professional.

In addition to two years of KL2 support, Haynes said she was aided by TRI’s research forums.

“This intervention can improve the lives of many underserved people, and it wouldn’t have been possible without the support of TRI,” Haynes said.



Sarah Lou Facen, member, TRI Community Advisory Board, and past member: UAMS College of Medicine, Division of Internal Medicine Community Advisory Board; Arkansas Community Planning Group for HIV/AIDS; and Joshua Intervenors (Pulaski County desegregation lawsuit).

“My community involvement over the years has always been predicated on my desire to serve those with little or no voice. The Translational Research Institute (TRI) is important because it seeks to make communities aware of how research can benefit my community and others. I participate on the TRI Community Advisory Board

because I want to be part of a vehicle that informs and encourages community involvement in research, and that empowers the community to participate in its own health improvement. I appreciate that the TRI Community Advisory Board is convened in sincerity and the voices of the members are heard and acted upon.”

The *TRIBune* is produced by the UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI).

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TRI Main Number
 501-614-2287

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UAMS | Translational Research Institute



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

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