

THE TRIBUNE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2019

Integrating Plans TRI Aligns Goals With UAMS Vision 2029



Research leaders from across UAMS discussed key research goals during a recent TRI retreat.

With the help of nearly 70 UAMS research leaders, TRI spent a recent half-day taking stock and setting the course for the next 10 years.

Updates on exciting new research initiatives and integration of TRI's mission with the UAMS Vision 2029 Strategic Plan were key parts of the planning retreat hosted by TRI.

"We want everything we do here to be successful - to meet the research needs at UAMS, but also, more importantly, meet the needs of Arkansans," TRI Director Laura James, M.D., told participants.

The group included research leaders from across UAMS, including faculty from Arkansas Children's Research Institute, as well from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS).

The retreat's timing was a perfect opportunity to dovetail TRI's efforts with UAMS' plans. TRI received a five-year \$24.2 million Clinical and Translational Science Award in July.

"I'm excited about the new UAMS strategic plan," James said as she previewed the group's goals for the day. "It has a lot of strong research initiatives and we have a unique opportunity to integrate what we're doing with what the UAMS campus plans to do over the next 10 years. We're in a great position, and we have some resources, plans and strategies that will have a big impact on the UAMS campus as well as Arkansas."

(Continued on page 2)



Dear Colleagues,

We have a lot to celebrate this holiday season as a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) institution. You might say Christmas came early for anyone wishing to see improved health in Arkansas. Our five-year, \$24.2 million CTSA from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

arrived in July. We immediately invested in innovative new programs, such as the Implementation Science Scholars and the TL1 Health Science Innovation & Entrepreneurship (HSIE) Postdoctoral Scholars Program.

Programs like these, as well as pilot study awards, KL2 Scholar awards, robust community engagement, and systemic research innovations will help us speed the pace of research to address Arkansas' most pressing health issues.

We highlighted some of these efforts at our November fall planning retreat, including an announcement of the inaugural class of Implementation Science Scholars (see Page 3). Nearly

70 research leaders attended and helped us align TRI's goals with the UAMS Vision 2029 Strategic Plan.

We have our eye on the ball as we look to 2020 and beyond. Our focus is on research-driven approaches to tackle seemingly intractable health issues in rural Arkansas. Stay tuned for news of exciting opportunities that will help the UAMS, Arkansas Children's Research Institute and Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System research communities take on the challenge!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura James, M.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laura James, M.D.
Director, TRI
Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical
and Translational Research, UAMS

Integrating Plans

(Continued from page 1)



Kristie Hadden, Ph.D., instructed participants on the process for aligning TRI strategic objectives with UAMS Vision 2029.

Before diving in to the strategic plan, participants heard updates on new programs and forthcoming initiatives in implementation science, community engagement, rural health research, and health science entrepreneurship.

The retreat's participants represented a cross-section of UAMS' research enterprise and included new faculty and staff who previously had not been part of TRI's activities. The aim was to engender inclusiveness and creative thinking as they considered TRI's future plans, James said.

Each of the room's seven tables included a mix of disciplines and were led by a faculty member most familiar with the strategic objective for their table.

Kristie Hadden, Ph.D., facilitated the exercise and referred participants to a four-page, 11 X 17 strategic map, which included strategic objectives to align with the UAMS Vision 2029. Their task was to set targets and activation timelines through 2021, based on the plans spelled out in TRI's CTSA grant application.

The retreat ended with each table leader presenting slides that matched the TRI 2021 targets with a UAMS Vision 2029 outcome measure. The table leaders and 2029 outcome measures were:

- **John Arthur, M.D., Ph.D.,** Expand the number of funded investigator initiated clinical trials.
- **Hari Eswaran, Ph.D.,** Increase the number of grant submissions for digital health research.
- **Brooks Gentry, M.D.,** Expand the number of faculty across the translational spectrum, especially clinician scientists, participating in multidisciplinary, team-based research.
- **Carolyn Greene, Ph.D.,** Increase the number of interdisciplinary teams awarded extramural grants.
- **Tiffany Haynes, Ph.D.,** Increase the number of community-based participatory grants.
- **Kevin Sexton, M.D.,** Increase the percent of students engaged in entrepreneurship training opportunities.
- **Kristin Zorn, M.D.,** Increase patient participation in clinical trials.

"What this allows TRI to do is not only demonstrate significant value to UAMS in achieving its mission, but it's another way to share what we're doing in the TRI CTSA grant," Hadden said.



Tiffany Haynes, Ph.D., led discussion at her table.

NCATS Leader Sees 'Excellent Positive Movement' at TRI



Michael Kurilla, M.D., Ph.D., visiting from NCATS, asks a question during the retreat.

A two-day visit with TRI helped Michael G. Kurilla, M.D., Ph.D., gain the insight he needs in his leadership role at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS).

NCATS, part of the NIH, awarded TRI a five-year, \$24.2 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) in July.

"It always helps us in terms of evaluating future iterations of the program," said Kurilla, director of the Division of Clinical Innovation at NCATS. He was joined on the visit by Mary Purucker, M.D., Ph.D., NCATS director of CTSA Program Hubs.

On the second day, following TRI's planning retreat, Kurilla was complimentary when asked for his observations about TRI.

"I'm seeing excellent positive movement in the direction of what we really expect the CTSA's to be doing, which is an engagement even beyond their institution. I'm very pleased to see particularly the focus here on rural health initiatives," he said, noting that rural health is a priority nationally and a focus area for NCATS.

"I think it's particularly instructive, UAMS is indicative of a number of other programs that are really coordinating health care research activities across an entire state and I think that really is a valuable addition."

The vast majority of academic medical centers are in large urban centers, unlike UAMS, he noted. "I think they (UAMS/TRI) offer some very unique opportunities to really demonstrate some of the real power of the innovation in medicine, particularly as evidenced by the CTSA in telehealth, telemedicine, mobile technologies and community engagement. I think it offers some very illustrative examples of how the entire CTSA community can work better not just for rural health but for all Americans."

Implementation Science

Awards to Help Move Research Findings into Practice

TRI and the Center for Implementation Research (CIR) have selected five UAMS/ACH clinical faculty as the first class of Implementation Science Scholars.

Implementation science is the study of methods to promote the uptake of research findings into medical practice. Using the principles of implementation science,

CIR faculty will guide the scholars through 10 educational sessions per year and provide oversight and mentoring for their implementation science projects. The two-year program will provide 20% salary support for these College of Medicine faculty.

Below are the scholars and their project titles:



Kapil Arya, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Neurology
Department of Pediatrics,

"Implementation of Newborn Screening (NBS) for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and Operationalizing Appropriate Patient Management"



Debopam Samanta, M.D.

Associate Professor and Interim Section/Service Chief, Division of Pediatric Neurology,
Department of Pediatrics

"Quality/Implementation Gap in Epilepsy Surgery Evaluation"



Johnathan Goree, M.D.

Assistant Professor and Director, Division of Chronic Pain, Department of Anesthesiology

"Implementation of Safe Post-Operative Opioid Prescribing at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences"



Megha Sharma, M.D., FAAP

Assistant Professor, Division of Neonatology,
Department of Pediatrics

"Minimizing Latrogenic Blood Loss and Reducing Cost of Lab Testing in Very Low Birth Weight (VLBW) Neonates by Raising Staff Awareness and Optimal Use of EMR"



Emily Kocurek, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine, Department of Medicine

"ICU Liberation Bundle"

Research on the Horizon: New TRI Study of the Month



Henry K. Wong, M.D., Ph.D., is assisted with clinical research coordination on the study by TRI's Susan Smith Dodson, RN.

- **UAMS Principal Investigator:** Henry K. Wong, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Dermatology, College of Medicine, UAMS
- **Summary:** A phase 2A study of REGN3500 monotherapy and combination of REGN3500 plus dupilumab in adult patients with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis
- **Significance:** Atopic dermatitis is a chronic skin condition affecting about 10% of the population. Patients report poor quality of life from persistent itch and stigma associated with disfiguring appearance of the disease. REGN3500, a monoclonal antibody that blocks the action of proteins involved in inflammation and certain allergic diseases, is a promising new investigational treatment.
- **TRI Services:** Medicare coverage analysis, study budget development and negotiation, IRB submission and maintenance of essential regulatory documents, training for study staff/investigators, and research nurse coordinator services.
- **Sponsor:** Regeneron

TRIBUTES

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

Cragle CE, MacNicol MC, Byrum SD, Hardy LL, Mackintosh SG, Richardson WA, Gray NK, Childs GV, Tackett AJ, MacNicol AM. Musashi Interaction with Poly(A)-binding Protein Is Required for Activation of Target mRNA Translation. *J Biol Chem*. 2019 Jul 12;294(28):10969-10986. doi: 10.1074/jbc.RA119.007220. Epub 2019 May 31. PubMed PMID: 31152063; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6635449.

Elton A, Stanger C, James GA, Ryan-Pettes S, Budney A, Kilts CD. Intertemporal Decision-Making-Related Brain States Predict Adolescent Drug Abuse Intervention Responses. *Neuroimage Clin*. 2019 Aug 5;24:101968. doi: 10.1016/j.nicl.2019.101968. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 31404876; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6699467.

Kennedy JL, Pham S, Borish L. Rhinovirus and Asthma Exacerbations. *Immunol Allergy Clin North Am*. 2019 Aug;39(3):335-344. doi: 10.1016/j.iacl.2019.03.003. Epub 2019 May 15. Review. PubMed PMID: 31284924; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6625523.

Kim HN, Chang J, Iyer S, Han L, Campisi J, Manolagas SC, Zhou D, Almeida M. Elimination of Senescent Osteoclast Progenitors Has No Effect on the Age-Associated Loss of Bone Mass

in Mice. *Aging Cell*. 2019 Jun;18(3):e12923. doi: 10.1111/ace1.12923. Epub 2019 Feb 17. PubMed PMID: 30773784; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6516158.

Landes SJ, McBain SA, Curran GM. An Introduction to Effectiveness-Implementation Hybrid Designs. *Psychiatry Res*. 2019 Oct;280:112513. doi: 10.1016/j.psychres.2019.112513. Epub 2019 Aug 9. PubMed PMID: 31434011; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6779135.

Narcisse MR, Long CR, Felix HC, Howie EK, Purvis RS, McElfish PA. Adherence to Sleep Guidelines Reduces Risk of Overweight/Obesity in Addition to 8-5-2-1-0 Guidelines among a Large Sample of Adolescents in the United States. *Sleep Health*. 2019 Oct;5(5):444-451. doi: 10.1016/j.sleh.2019.03.004. Epub 2019 Apr 22. PubMed PMID: 31023558; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6800819.

Stewart MK, Boateng B, Joosten Y, Burshell D, Broughton H, Calhoun K, Huff Davis A, Hale R, Spencer N, Piechowski P, James L. Community Advisory Boards: Experiences and Common Practices of Clinical and Translational Science Award Programs. *J Clin Transl Sci*. 2019 Sep 20;3(5):218-226. doi: 10.1017/cts.2019.389. eCollection 2019 Oct. PubMed PMID: 31660246; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6813515.

*Thank you for remembering to cite TRI in your publications resulting from studies that receive TRI support.
Find the appropriate citation language at tri.uams.edu/about-tri-2/cite-tri.*

*The **TRIBUNE** is produced by the UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI).
It is supported by grant ULI TRO03107 through the National Center for Advancing
Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The content is solely the
responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.*

WEBSITE:
TRI.uams.edu

EMAIL:
TRI@uams.edu

TRI MAIN NUMBER:
(501) 614-2287

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