The Hearing and Balance program at UAMS brings together the best of audiology and ear, nose and throat care for a truly interdisciplinary approach that best suits patient needs. Hearing and balance issues are common, especially in older adults. About one in three people between the ages of 65 and 74 has hearing loss. That number increases to nearly half of those over 75. Symptoms are often ignored or dismissed as part of the natural aging process. However, disruptions to hearing and balance can touch on almost all aspects of a person’s health and quality of life — from social interaction to cognition to dangerous falls and accidents. Difficulty hearing and understanding what is being said can create a significant barrier to providing care. In many cases, early intervention can halt or delay serious declines in overall health.

All-In-One Service
The UAMS Ear, Nose, and Throat and Audiology clinics offer patients a comprehensive and integrated approach to treating and rehabilitating their hearing loss. Both are conveniently located in the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute on the UAMS campus in Little Rock. Options range from non-surgical treatment with hearing aids to a full surgical array of middle and inner ear procedures, including cochlear implants. Your patient’s needs can be covered in this one location, from start to finish.

The Hearing and Balance Team treats:
- Ear-related vertigo
- Meniere’s Disease
- Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV)
- Superior canal dehiscence syndrome (SCDS)
- Chronic ear disease — cholesteroloma, tympanic membrane perforations, chronic mastoiditis
- Acoustic neuromas, glomus tumors, lateral skull base tumors
- Tinnitus

Adult Cochlear Implant Program
UAMS is home to the largest cochlear implant program in the state. The Hearing and Balance Team partners with all three cochlear implant manufacturers: Advanced Bionics, Cochlear Americas, and MED-EL. UAMS offers options for all hearing impaired patients, regardless of the severity of their loss. Medicare guidelines provide cochlear implant coverage for patients with bilateral moderate to severe hearing loss whose word understanding ability is moderate to poor. Most private insurance plans provide coverage for cochlear implant devices as well, making them accessible to a large population of patients. The audiologists, nurse practitioners and surgeons work together to assess the needs and abilities of these patients in order to ensure a successful experience throughout the process.

Hearing Loss Surgeries
UAMS offers the highest quality hearing device implant surgery by fellowship-trained physicians available in the state.

(Continued on page 2)
John Dornhoffer, M.D., FACS, professor and chair of the Department of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery at UAMS, has performed more implant surgeries in Arkansas than anyone else working in the state. He lectures and trains fellows in implant surgeries on an international level. The Department of Otolaryngology as a whole is recognized by U.S. News & World Report as among the top 50 programs nationwide.

David D. Walker, M.D., has joined the Hearing and Balance Program at UAMS. Walker completed fellowship training in otology, neurotology and skull base surgery at Michigan Ear Institute, Farmington Hills, Michigan. Surgical treatments include:
- Cochlear implantation
- Middle ear ossicular reconstruction
- Canalopasty/Meatoplasty
- Otosclerosis surgery
- Baha® implantation
- Acoustic neuroma surgery

Non-surgical Options for Hearing Loss
Most patients do not need surgery and are well served by the highly trained audiologists on the Hearing and Balance Team. The audiologists provide complete diagnostic hearing evaluations to assess function and communication needs. These results — along with thorough counseling — allows the audiologists to recommend appropriate hearing devices. Devices are fit using the most advanced verification measures. The UAMS Audiology Clinic offers a vast array of hearing devices, providing a solution for every type and severity of hearing loss. With advancements in technology, most of the hearing devices on the market today allow for connectivity to smart phones and other smart devices such as televisions and computers, improving patient comprehension in numerous environments.

The Audiology Clinic provides:
- Adult diagnostic hearing exams
- Hearing aid evaluations and fittings, including probe microphone verification measures
- Contralateral Routing of Sound (CROS) hearing aids to treat single-sided hearing loss
- Smartphone-compatible hearing aids
- Cochlear implant evaluation
- Cochlear implant device programming
- Balance studies

Looking Forward
On the forefront of a new decade, the UAMS Otolaryngology and Audiology programs find themselves on the forefront of growth and progress. The doctorate-level audiology academic program is preparing to merge into the outpatient clinic setting with the existing team. These shared efforts will be the foundation for a new clinical and research institute. This merger will open the door to new research opportunities and clinical trials for faculty and students, while allowing for new findings to be tested and implemented directly into a clinic setting.

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS
Anndi Cranford, APRN:
501-256-9041
AECranford@uams.edu

Brenda Speed, APRN:
501-707-7023
BOSpeed@uams.edu

David Walker, M.D.:
DDWalker@uams.edu

John Dornhoffer, M.D.:
DornhofferJohnL@uams.edu

Audiology Clinic: 501-686-5940

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic: 501-686-5878

Clinic Fax: 501-686-8644

Transfers and Consults: 501-686-6080

April 2020
Message from Dr. Seupaul

Dear Colleagues,

It’s been a busy new year at UAMS, where we have unveiled a couple of major initiatives to better serve a wider number of Arkansans and their health care needs.

Firstly, we launched UAMS Health. This is an organizational consolidation of all of our clinical enterprises across the state under one umbrella. We recognized that UAMS was more than a hospital, more than a university, and more than a research facility. We are a statewide health system, with programs and clinics reaching every county in Arkansas, and we needed a name and organizational focus that truly reflects that reach.

Secondly, we launched UAMS HealthNow, a service that provides 24-hour digital health access to convenient, real-time care for Arkansas patients using the internet through mobile devices or computers. We know that Arkansas physicians are overtaxed and overextended as they attempt to treat the underserved populations of rural Arkansas. We believe HealthNow and other services being piloted by our Institute for Digital Health & Innovation have the potential to fill that gap, helping patients avoid long, late-night drives to the emergency department or waiting hours to see a physician for a simple diagnosis.

Thanks as always for all you do to promote better access to health care for all Arkansans. We at UAMS think the future is bright.

Sincerely,

Rawle A. Seupaul, M.D.
Chief Clinical Officer
UAMS Medical Center
Stanley E. Reed Professor & Chair
Department of Emergency Medicine
UAMS College of Medicine
Jay K. Bhama, M.D., Joins UAMS as Cardiac Surgeon, Heart Center Leader

Jay K. Bhama, M.D., has joined UAMS as a heart surgeon and chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery in the Department of Surgery. Bhama leads the cardiovascular program at UAMS by working alongside Paul Mounsey, M.D., director of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Bhama is a nationally recognized heart surgeon with a special interest and expertise in heart valve surgery as well as mechanical circulatory support.

He divides his time between UAMS and Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock, where he serves as the Heart Failure and Transplant Institute’s surgical director for heart transplantation and co-director for mechanical circulatory support and left ventricular assist devices.

Bhama completed cardiothoracic surgical training at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He also completed an advanced cardiac surgery fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and a fellowship in cardiothoracic transplant and mechanical circulatory support at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

To make a referral, call 501-296-1200.

Tyler L. CarlLee, M.D., has joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery as a sports medicine orthopaedic surgeon practicing at the clinic. He joins Wes Cox, M.D.; Chad Songy, M.D.; and Ramon Ylanan, M.D.

CarlLee completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and is finishing a sports medicine and shoulder elbow fellowship with OrthoCarolina. To make a referral, call 479-966-4491.

Katy A. Marino, M.D., Joins UAMS as Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgeon

Katy A. Marino, M.D., has joined the Department of Surgery as a thoracic surgeon specializing in minimally invasive surgery.

She completed her training in thoracic surgery at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Louisville, Kentucky. To make a referral, call 501-296-1200.

UAMS Opens NWA Sports Medicine Clinic, Adds Tyler L. CarlLee, M.D., to Team

UAMS is operating at a new location in Northwest Arkansas: UAMS Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine at 201 W. Van Asche Loop, formerly the Shoulder Center of Arkansas, in Fayetteville.

AR-IMPACT Offering Free Continuing Ed On Pain Treatment and Opioid Misuse

UAMS AR-IMPACT is offering a series of free continuing medical education presentations about pain treatment and opioid misuse for health care providers across the state.

All can be viewed remotely via ARIMPACT.UAMS.edu/speakersbureau:

- April 2, 12:30-2:30 p.m. — UAMS West Regional Campus, Fort Smith — Leah Tobey, PT, DPT — “Alternative Pain Relief and Self-Management with Physical Therapy” and “Tips for the Busy Clinician: 5-Minute Lumbar Exam”
- April 16, noon-2 p.m. — UAMS Northeast Regional Campus, Jonesboro — Masil George, M.D. — “Opioid Free-Success Stories of Effectively Stopping Opioids” and “Managing the Difficult Patient Encounter”

(UAMS continues on page 4)
April 29, noon-2 p.m. — UAMS North Central Regional Campus, Batesville — Leah Tobey, PT, DPT, and Masil George, M.D. — “Opioids and Falls: Is There a Link?” and “Recognizing and Responding to Suffering”

For more information about AR-Impact (Improving Multi-disciplinary Pain Care and Treatment), contact AR-IMPACT@uams.edu.

Joseph Henske, M.D., Named Director of Diabetes Program

Joseph Henske, M.D., has joined the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism in the Department of Internal Medicine as an endocrinologist and director of the Diabetes Program.

Henske completed his internship and internal medicine residency at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago and continued his training with a fellowship in endocrinology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

To make a referral, call 501-526-1000 or 866-826-7362.

Hazel Kathryn Liverett, M.D., Joins UAMS as Infectious Diseases Physician

Hazel Kathryn Liverett, M.D., has joined the Department of Internal Medicine’s Division of Infectious Diseases.

Liverett completed a residency in internal medicine/pediatrics and a fellowship in adult and pediatric infectious diseases at UAMS.

To make a referral, call 501-526-1000 or 866-826-7362.

Outpatient Therapy Expands in Northwest Arkansas

UAMS has expanded its outpatient therapy services in Northwest Arkansas.

UAMS has offered comprehensive rehabilitation therapy in Fayetteville and Rogers and is expanding its clinical reach to Springdale. The locations are: Schmieding Center for Senior Health and Education, 2422 N. Thompson St., Springdale; Fayetteville Outpatient Therapy Clinic, 1125 N. College Ave.; 201 W. Van Asche Loop, Fayetteville; and 2530 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Suite 200, Rogers. To schedule an appointment, call 479-713-8630.

Patients who enroll and meet certain requirements can also receive services at PACE of the Ozarks, 813 Founders Park Drive, Springdale, 479-463-6600.

Services include physical, occupational and speech therapies. Experienced professionals provide advanced therapy services for patients recovering from injuries affecting mobility or speech and for older patients, veterans, athletes and those with chronic conditions.

Academic and Clinical Appointments

Paul H. Phillips, M.D., who has served on the UAMS faculty for 22 years, has been appointed chair of the Department of Ophthalmology in the College of Medicine and director of the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute at UAMS.

Myeloma expert Fenghuang “Frank” Zhan, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the Myeloma Center as director of research. Zhan was previously at the UAMS Myeloma Center from 2002 to 2008 as an assistant professor in the College of Medicine.

UAMS PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT & PROVIDER PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The UAMS Physician Recruitment & Provider Placement Program has a team of placement specialists dedicated to serving the recruitment needs of our partner communities, UAMS Regional Campuses and UAMS faculty. Physician/provider opportunities are available in all specialties throughout Arkansas.

FEATURED JOBS


Specialty Opportunities: New positions in cardiology, endocrinology, neurology, pulmonary and rheumatology now available.

Obstetrics/Gynecology: New positions available in Crossett, Forrest City, Dumas and Harrison.

Recruitment services contact: Carla Alexander: 501-686-7934 or carla@uams.edu

For a complete listing of job descriptions and opportunities, visit: MedJobArkansas.com
His Bundle Pacing More Closely Mirrors Natural Heart Rhythms

The UAMS Health Heart Center is a pioneer in Central Arkansas for the His bundle method of pacemaker treatment for arrhythmia.

The traditional method for treating patients with heart block or bradycardia calls for a pacing lead to be placed in the right ventricle.

Instead, His bundle pacing occurs at the His bundle region. It harnesses the power of the His-Purkinje system, the cells responsible for synchronizing the ventricles. The results physiologically mirror a more natural efficient beat than previous methods.

“This is an exciting and relatively new technique with a growing body of clinical evidence behind it,” said and Subodh Devabhaktuni, M.D., assistant professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine in the UAMS College of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine. “Not only does His bundle pacing leverage the body’s natural processes, it is available for a wider array of patients.”

The procedure is performed in a similar manner to a conventional pacemaker, but it is the most natural way of pacing the heart.

The procedure is performed with a deflectable catheter system, which allows for pacing in patients with a wide range of issues and challenging anatomes, for example, patients with a large right atrium. These new systems also provide enhanced support, stability and safety during the procedure.

UAMS’ arrhythmia team includes Devabhaktuni, Hakan Paydak, M.D., director of the UAMS Health Cardiac Electrophysiology Program and Laboratory, and Paul Mounsey, M.D., chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. All three are board-certified electrophysiologists.

“We are happy to bring the latest treatments for arrhythmia to UAMS Health,” Mounsey said. “From transcatheter leadless pacing using the smallest pacemakers available on the market to cyroballoon freezing ablation for eliminating unwanted electrical signals related to arrhythmia, we provide the best options for the best of individualized heart care.”

To refer patients to the Heart Center or to consult with our heart team, call 866-826-7362 or 501-526-1000.

LUANN RACHER, M.D.
Director, Vulvar Clinic
Director, Gender Clinic
Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
UAMS College of Medicine

What do you like most about your specialty?
I love the relationships I form with my patients. By treating women of all ages, I get to see patients through so many milestones. I see mothers and daughters, sisters and friends. I love to see women supporting women. I also love the variety. In a single day as an OB/GYN, I may get to deliver a baby, perform a surgery, offer cancer prevention, and help a woman with contraception. I also am sometimes a shoulder to cry on or the bearer of unwanted news — and while that can be difficult, it is also rewarding to know that everything I do in a regular day has great impact on my patients’ lives.

What makes you unique among your peers?
Three things come to mind. I am director of the UAMS Vulvar Clinic, where I treat vulvar and vaginal disorders that plague many women. Many of these women have seen multiple physicians without relief and come to this specialty clinic for answers. It is rewarding to help someone with a debilitating disorder who thought no one could help them. I also am so proud to run the UAMS Gender Clinic, where I provide hormonal and surgical treatment to transgender and gender nonconforming patients. This truly is a special honor, as the LGBTQ community often experiences bias and can feel they do not have a safe place to turn. I also specialize in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. I love a challenge and will often approach a difficult case either laparoscopically or robotically when other physicians would have done a laparotomy (or large, open incision). A minimally invasive surgery allows a patient to recover faster and experience less post-operative pain than a traditional approach, and I like giving my patients the option.

Why did you choose UAMS?
UAMS is home. I was born in Arkansas. I trained at UAMS both for medical school and residency. By staying here as faculty, I am honored to train future Arkansas physicians.

How can physicians make referrals to you?
UAMS appointment center: 501-686-8000
UAMS Women’s Clinic: 501-526-7425
INITIAL CONTACT
A 60-year-old female patient presented to the Breast Center at the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute on Aug. 9, 2019, after palpating a left breast mass in July 2019. She underwent a mammogram showing a speculated mass and got a same-day ultrasound to confirm a suspicious mass with other surrounding satellite lesions.

She had an ultrasound-guided biopsy at the Breast Center on Aug. 12, 2019, which confirmed the presence of invasive breast cancer, intermediate grade, with positive hormone receptors. She was referred to Ronda Henry-Tillman, M.D., FACS, at the UAMS Breast Cancer Clinic. Henry-Tillman is a fellowship-trained surgeon in breast oncology, with a special interest and experience in oncoplastic surgery, or safe cancer operations with excellent cosmetic outcomes.

ASSESSMENT
In the clinic, her imaging was reviewed and an MRI was ordered to evaluate both of her breasts. Her MRI showed multifocal invasive left breast cancer in the 12 o’clock axis. She had no suspicious findings in the right breast. She returned to the clinic for surgical planning. She was offered both partial and complete mastectomy, with or without reconstruction. She elected to undergo a left breast ultrasound-guided partial mastectomy with left sentinel lymph node biopsy as well as right breast reduction mammoplasty for symmetry.

PROCEDURES
The patient was brought into the clinic the day before surgery for identification of her tumors via ultrasound and surgical markings. The new nipple location was carefully measured via a Wise pattern and marked bilaterally for symmetry. The ultrasound was used to verify that the cancerous lesions are encompassed in the excision specimen.

During the operation, the skin was removed over the lower portion of the breast, being careful to preserve the breast tissue and nipple-areolar complex. The remainder of the excision specimen was dissected sharply down to the chest wall. Ultrasound was used throughout the case to identify the biopsied lesions and keep them within the excision specimen.

The remaining skin and breast tissue is folded around the remaining breast pedicle and the new nipple position is secured with sutures. The excised breast tissue is weighed to confirm symmetry. The remainder of the incision is closed and the patient is examined in the sitting position to evaluate for any potential adjustments needed.

(Continued on page 7)
The patient remained in the hospital overnight and was discharged on post-operative day 1. She had excellent pain control with pills and was able to perform most household activities without assistance. On her final pathology review, her tumor was completely excised with negative margins and her lymph nodes returned as negative for malignancy as well. The patient was discussed at the weekly Multidisciplinary Breast Conference and was recommended for post-operative radiation therapy and endocrine therapy. Genomic testing on her tumor confirmed that there was no need for any chemotherapy.

This patient underwent a safe cancer excision with an excellent cosmetic outcome.

This is just one of the many oncoplastic techniques available at UAMS. To make a referral, call 501-296-1200.
LearnOnDemand.org

A resource of the UAMS Institute for Digital Health & Innovation, the LearnOnDemand.org web portal offers health care professionals the flexibility of earning continuing education (CE) on their own schedule, through an expanded array of teleconferences and online courses.

- Track all educational hours and credits earned inside or outside the program
- Ensure compliance with the CE requirements for the national accrediting organizations for physicians and nurses
- Earn certificates of attendance for a variety of other disciplines

LearnOnDemand.org
For information on LearnOnDemand, contact: cdheducation@uams.edu or 1-855-234-3348.

To request speakers or topics or to learn more about how the UAMS Physician Relations & Strategic Development team can help you, visit UAMShealth.com/MD

APRIL 7
Connecting Across Professions on Autism Spectrum Disorder: “Moving the Needle” Betty Jayne Bellando, Ph.D. Division of Pediatric Psychology

APRIL 14
Evaluation and Management of Acute Facial Paralysis David D. Walker, M.D. Department of Otolaryngology

APRIL 21
Non-Operative Fracture Care Steven Cherney, M.D. Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

APRIL 28
Health Care Finance Michael Cash, MHSA, FACMPE

MAY 5
PTSD Amy Grooms, M.D. Department of Psychiatry

MAY 12
Outpatient Joint Arthroplasty: It’s Not for Everyone Jeffrey Stambough, M.D. Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

MAY 19
Connecting Across Professions on Autism Spectrum Disorder: “Moving the Needle” Angela Scott, M.D. Division of Pediatric Psychology

MAY 26
Professional Development Ethical Reasoning: Non-Adherence Laura K. Guidry-Grimes, Ph.D., and Samidha Tripathi, M.D.

JUNE 9
Anticoagulation Kaci Thiessen, Pharm.D. College of Pharmacy

JUNE 16
Connecting Across Professions on Autism Spectrum Disorder: “Moving the Needle” Kimberly Macferran, M.D. Department of Pediatrics

JUNE 23
Sickle Cell Update Collin Montgomery, APRN

JUNE 30
Electronic Health Information Exchange (HIE): The Next Step in Interoperability Justin Villines, MBA, BSM, and William Golden, M.D. State Health Alliance for Records Exchange (SHARE)

All classes now FREE!