



UAMS Orthopaedics Expands Services and Locations, Becomes OFFICIAL ORTHOPAEDICS & SPORTS MEDICINE PROVIDER FOR RAZORBACK® ATHLETICS

There's no bones about it.

From breaking ground in Little Rock for the UAMS Health Orthopaedics and Spine Hospital, to buying land in Springdale for a new development, to becoming the official orthopaedics and sports medicine provider for the Arkansas Razorbacks, UAMS is rapidly increasing its status as a statewide leader in orthopaedic care.

UAMS has long been renowned for its expertise in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal pain, conditions and injuries, and already has 40 orthopaedic and sports medicine physicians who provide care at four hospitals and 10 clinics across the state.

Now, "We look forward to showcasing that talent and caring on a wider scale," said C. Lowry Barnes, M.D., chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

The new Orthopaedic and Spine Hospital, which broke ground April 12, is currently under construction near Hooper Drive and West

Seventh Street on the UAMS campus in Little Rock.

Once completed in spring 2023, the 158,000-square-foot, four-story facility will include 12 operating rooms and two orthopaedic procedure rooms; 24 private inpatient rooms; 12 examination rooms for orthopaedic trauma, orthopaedic oncology and physical medicine and rehabilitation; and an additional eight examination rooms and four procedure rooms for pain management services. The facility will also house administrative offices for the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, along with educational space for orthopaedic surgery residents and fellows in training.

Once it opens, UAMS' on-campus clinics for orthopaedic trauma, orthopaedic oncology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and pain management will move into the new facility. UAMS will continue to operate its three off-campus orthopaedic clinics in Little Rock.

The design of the new hospital brings together the latest advancements in patient care and

technology to promote the highest levels of surgical outcomes. The facility will be equipped with state-of-the-art surgical equipment and feature the newest and most advanced imaging technology, offering unparalleled comfort for patients and the highest quality images for providers.

UAMS Health is the first hospital in Arkansas to offer the CurveBeam HiRise, a weight-bearing CT imaging system for the lower extremity that allows patients to stand naturally on both feet during a scan. This innovative technology is currently available in the outpatient surgery center in Little Rock but will make its permanent home in the new Orthopaedic and Spine hospital.

"Our new hospital will transform patient care by combining the subspecialty expertise of our fellowship-trained surgeons and the latest, advanced technologies in a comfortable, modern facility," Barnes said. "Patients will receive the highest quality of care in a hospital that is designed for orthopaedic surgery which has been

(Continued on page 2)

shown to be a key driver in lowering infections, speeding recoveries and getting patients back to the activities they enjoy. This will only improve upon the high-quality musculoskeletal care that is already yielding remarkable nationally recognized patient outcomes.”

“With the beginning of this exciting new project, UAMS is growing physically to meet the expanding volume of orthopaedic surgeries at UAMS,” said Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, chancellor of UAMS and CEO of UAMS Health. “The need for this space is evidence of the success and the reputation of our orthopaedic surgeons and the overall orthopaedic team in patient care.”

Three months after construction began in Little Rock, UAMS began laying the groundwork for a new orthopaedic and sports medicine facility in the northwest part of the state. A University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees committee approved a \$13.6 million land-purchase agreement for roughly 31 acres of land near Interstate 49 in Springdale for the site’s construction.

Located just south of Arkansas Children’s Northwest Hospital, the new facility will feature clinical and surgical space, advanced imaging, and specialized physical therapy and sports performance services.

When it opens, UAMS will continue to offer orthopaedics services at Arkansas Children’s Northwest in Springdale, but the

orthopaedics and sports medicine clinics now on leased sites in Lowell and Fayetteville will move to the new facility.

The Springdale Chamber of Commerce boasts that the new facility will help put the city on the map as a site for world-class care. It will treat athletes and community patients alike.

The expansion of orthopaedic and sports medicine care in northwest Arkansas has also afforded UAMS the opportunity to serve as the official Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine provider for Razorback Athletics.

Under the partnership agreement, which began Jan. 1, UAMS provides comprehensive care for more than 465 Razorback student athletes and daily medical coverage for all 19 Razorback sports programs. Services include advanced care ranging from primary care physicians trained in sports medicine and orthopaedic physicians trained in sports medicine to first-class surgical services.

UAMS’ sports medicine specialists in Central Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas include primary care sports medicine physicians, orthopaedic surgeons, sports-certified physical therapists, certified athletic trainers and strength coaches, and experts in women’s health, sports nutrition and sports psychology.

September 2021 Message from Dr. Seupaul



Dear Colleagues,
We’ve been through a lot lately as we’ve been forced to watch so many of our patients suffer and even die from

COVID-19 and its complications, despite our best efforts.

We entered this profession to help people, to save people, and can easily become overwhelmed with sadness, exhaustion and feelings of hopelessness when up against a virus that seems determined to multiply and mutate faster than it can be contained.

When these feelings arise, I ask you to remember, first, that you are human, with human limitations no matter how skilled and dedicated you are.

For the sake of yourselves, your coworkers and your patients, I encourage you to open up to others and seek relief when it starts getting to be too much. Remember, it’s not a sign of weakness to seek help; it’s a sign of ensuring you will remain strong for those who depend on you.

So before you follow the path of the increasing number of healthcare workers experiencing burnout and post-traumatic stress disorder and start considering early retirement or a career change, you might look into some of the resources available at **UAMS.Health/SelfCare.**

And always remember that this cannot last forever and we’re all in this together.

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

NEW! UAMS Baptist Health Cancer Center

Two of Arkansas’ most trusted names in health care are now delivering comprehensive cancer care together.

Introducing the **UAMS Baptist Health Cancer Center** — with its first location on the Baptist Health North Little Rock campus. We offer advanced cancer treatments with the academic medicine difference, including unique clinical trials led by cancer specialists from the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.

Services include:

- Medical Oncology
- Infusion Services
- Radiation Therapy

For more information, visit UAMSBaptist.Health/StrongerTogether

Regional Leader in Urology Joins UAMS as Department Chair



Timothy Langford, M.D., a highly regarded urologic surgeon and a leader in urology in Arkansas and regionally, has been named the new chair of the UAMS

Department of Urology as of Oct. 3.

He comes to UAMS from Arkansas Urology, P.A., which he joined in 1993 after graduating in 1988 from the UAMS College of Medicine, where he underwent his general surgery internship, residency training in general surgery and his urology residency, serving as chief resident.

In his 28 years at Arkansas Urology, the state's largest urology practice, Langford was president from 2011 until January 2021.

He replaces Rodney Davis, M.D., who is retiring after serving as the department chair since 2012.

UAMS Recognized for Maternity Care

UAMS is the first Arkansas hospital to be recognized as a Blue Distinction Center + for Maternity Care by Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The designation signifies expertise and efficiency in delivering specialty care while meeting both quality and cost-efficiency standards.

UAMS provides comprehensive obstetrical care, including care for high-risk pregnancies. Its team includes obstetricians, nurses and central Arkansas' only maternal fetal medicine physicians to care for mother, baby and family.

New UAMS Robot Improves Lung Biopsies

UAMS has recently acquired Arkansas' first lung biopsy robot,

which makes it easier to diagnose lung cancer in its early stages.

The groundbreaking technology in the Intuitive Ion Endoluminal Robotic Bronchoscopy System provides minimally invasive peripheral lung biopsies.

It includes an ultra-thin, easily maneuverable catheter that can move 180 degrees in all directions and pass around very tight bends, allowing it to collect tissue in all 18 segments of the lung. About 70 % of nodules reside in the farthest reaches of the lung.

"This enables us to visualize and precisely biopsy lung nodules so we can catch lung cancer in its early stages and increase survival rates," said **Nikhil Meena, M.D.**, an interventional pulmonologist and associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. *To make a referral, call 501-296-1200.*

UAMS Health Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic in Conway Focuses on Sleep Issues

The former Ear, Nose & Throat Center of Conway and its two board-certified otolaryngologists, **Jeffrey P. Kirsch, M.D.**, and **Patrick L. Fraley, M.D.**, officially became a part of UAMS on Aug. 1. Now called the UAMS Health Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, it is located at 2425 Dave Ward Drive, Suite 101.

It is a general otolaryngology practice offering specialized expertise in sleep-related issues including sleep studies and sleep endoscopies, multi-level airway surgery for sleep apnea, and the Inspire implant to address sleep apnea. It also offers conventional endoscopic



Jeffrey P. Kirsch, M.D.



Patrick L. Fraley, M.D.

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CONSULT

Quiz of the Month

QUESTION

An obese patient complains of pain and tingling on the lateral aspect of the left thigh on standing for the past few weeks. It is intermittent. There is no history of injury. What is the possible diagnosis?

Meralgia paresthetica - a mononeuropathy of the lateral cutaneous nerve, a sensory nerve arising from the L2 and L3 roots. The disorder is benign and goes away spontaneously.

ANSWER

News to Know: Updates from UAMS

(Continued from page 3)

and balloon sinus surgery, as well as nasal airway surgery. Both physicians, now associate professors in the College of Medicine's Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, have active practices in general ENT, thyroid disease/surgery, pediatric ENT and voice/swallowing issues. A full audiology department offers comprehensive hearing testing and advanced hearing aid options on-site.

To make a referral, call 501-932-7600.

Chrystal Fullen, Psy.D., joins UAMS faculty, offers cognitive rehab program

Chrystal Fullen, Psy.D., a neuropsychology post-doctoral fellow in the College of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry for the past two years, has joined the department as an assistant professor and clinical neuropsychologist. She is offering a comprehensive cognitive rehabilitation program this fall featuring individual and group services for patients and



their caregivers. The multi-tiered program is designed to improve cognitive functioning for adults with neurologic conditions.

Fullen received her doctorate degree in counseling psychology at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio and completed her internship in clinical neuropsychology at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System.

To make a referral, call 501-526-8284.

Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D. invested in Westbrook Chair

Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D., vice chancellor and director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at UAMS, was invested July 15 in the Kent C. Westbrook, M.D., Director's Chair at the institute.

The internationally recognized medical oncologist leads all cancer-related activities for UAMS, where there are about 150 UAMS faculty members engaged in cancer-related research and clinical activities. He was named director in 2019 to lead the effort to obtain



For a list of new physicians, visit

UAMShealth.com/MD

National Cancer Institute designation.

Westbrook was instrumental in developing the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, the institute's predecessor, and was its founding director for 14 years.

Jennifer Laudadio, M.D., invested in Hough Chair

Jennifer Laudadio, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Pathology at UAMS, was invested July 22 in the Aubrey J. Hough Jr., M.D., Distinguished Chair in Pathology.

The chair was established in 2004 to honor Hough, who chaired the Department of Pathology from 1981 to 2002 and transformed it into a nationally known program. In 2015, Hough became the only person at UAMS to be named a university professor.

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

Co-Director of Comprehensive Spine Program / T. Glenn Pait, M.D. Endowed Chair in Neurosurgery: UAMS' Department of Neurosurgery is seeking a highly qualified neurosurgeon and leader to join the faculty and to serve as the co-director of the Comprehensive Spine Program.

Emergency Medicine in Northeast Arkansas: St. Bernards Five Rivers Medical Center in Pochontas has immediate openings in Emergency Medicine.

Radiology: Baxter Regional Medical Center in Mountain Home has immediate openings in Radiology.

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

For a complete listing of job descriptions and opportunities, visit MedJobArkansas.com and follow **MedJobArkansas:**



UAMS Offers New Treatment for Brain Tumors

Gamma Tile Therapy, a new radiation treatment that gives patients new hope in the fight against brain tumors, is now available at UAMS.

The treatment also known as surgically treated radiation therapy (STaRT) is designed to delay brain tumor reoccurrences.

UAMS is the only place in Arkansas where it is available. The therapy begins with the placement of one or more



Analiz Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D.



Richard Crownover, M.D., Ph.D.

flexible collagen tiles, each embedded with a cesium radiation source, in the tumor cavity in the brain immediately after the tumor is removed. The tiles instantly begin to target residual tumor cells with radiation while limiting the impact on healthy

brain tissue. The small wafers are then slowly absorbed by the tissue as the radiation treatment is delivered.

“Gamma Tile Therapy is a welcome addition to our treatment options available to brain tumor patients,” said **Analiz Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D.**, a neurosurgeon who performed the first such procedure in Arkansas on June 14 with **Richard Crownover, M.D., Ph.D.**, a radiation oncologist.



This is a real-time 3D image of the patient's skull during the first Gamma Tile Therapy performed at UAMS.

Approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2019, Gamma Tile Therapy is the only radiation therapy specifically designed for use in the brain.

Following specialized training for the operating room and nursing staff, as well as extensive planning and coordination between the radiation oncology and neurosurgery teams, Rodriguez and Crownover used the tiles to treat a 63-year-old patient whose initial surgery to remove a brain tumor was incomplete because of the tumor's location near a large blood vessel. Despite radiation therapy, the tumor grew back.

“In this situation we can perform another surgery, but typically we are limited with giving any further traditional radiation,” Rodriguez said. “Thankfully, with Gamma Tile we can administer local radiation. Initial studies have been promising in reducing regrowth of brain tumors. For people who are reaching the end of their options, this is another option.”

Use of Gamma Tile Therapy allows patients to receive treatment while going about their daily lives and alleviates the need for them to return to the hospital or clinic for additional radiation therapy.

To make a referral, call 501-686-5270. ■

EDWARD YEH, M.D.

Chair, Department of Internal Medicine, UAMS College of Medicine



What inspired you to become a doctor? Medicine gives me the opportunity to help a person in need and to make sense of the mystery in life through medical research.

What do you like most about your specialty? There are so many things cardiologists offer patients. We make diagnoses through listening to patients' words and hearts. We have very accurate clinical tools that allow us to see the heart in motion and to identify blockages of arteries or the conduction system. We have many excellent medications that can keep our patients healthy for years. We also have sophisticated procedures to fix the heart valves and arteries through catheters without the need for open-heart surgery.

What makes you unique among your peers? I am a physician with a special interest in making medical discoveries through research. As a practicing physician, I am eager to find the causes of different medical ailments; as a scientist, I am able to use tools in biochemistry and molecular biology to discover new cures for our patients.

Why did you come to UAMS? UAMS is a premiere health care university with a strong tradition in providing high-quality medical care to Arkansans. I am privileged to lead more than 150 physicians in the Department of Internal Medicine to care for patients, to educate the next generation of doctors and to increase our knowledge of diseases and discover cures through research.

What are your clinical specialties? I am a cardiologist specializing in caring for cancer patients' heart problems. Modern cancer therapy has successfully cured many cancers, leading to a soaring number of cancer survivors. Because cancer patients often have coexisting heart diseases, expert advice from cardiologists can improve clinical outcomes. In addition, cancer therapy can damage the heart and the circulation system. As an onco-cardiologist, I am an expert in the diagnosis, prevention and management of the cardiovascular complications of cancer therapy.

Is there a way doctors can contact you if they have any questions? They can contact me through the Department of Internal Medicine at 501-686-7075 or email me at EYeh@uams.edu.

MEDICAL CASE STUDY:

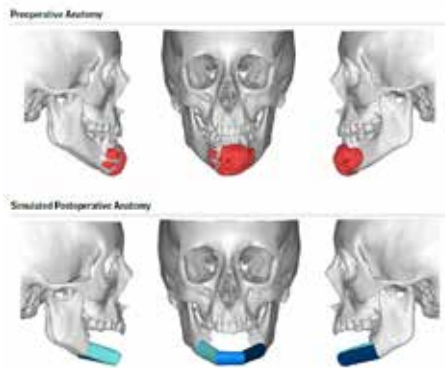
Mandibulectomy with Fibula Free Flap Reconstruction Using Virtual Surgical Planning

Initial Contact

A 12-year-old Arkadelphia girl visited the Head and Neck Oncology Clinic at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in March after being referred by her oral surgeon. Her dentist had referred her to the surgeon after discovering, during a routine exam with X-rays, that she had a large destructive bony lesion that had eroded the entire front of her jaw.



An X-ray image before the surgery



Images from the Virtual Surgical Planning session

Assessment

The lesion, believed to have been slowly growing for years, had gone undetected because the patient was relatively asymptomatic, and her parents thought the gradual protrusion of her chin was part of her normal development. Although the vast majority of lesions tend to be benign when they're primary to the bone, as this one was, without

surgery it would continue to grow, destroying additional bone, distorting the girl's features and affecting functions like speaking and swallowing. If not addressed now, it would eventually require more extensive surgery.

Because the anterior jaw had no remaining integrity, Jumin Sunde, M.D., a head and neck surgeon, recommended a segmental mandibulectomy. This involves resecting the lesion with a clear margin, to ensure that the entire damaged area is removed. The removal of the anterior jaw would be followed by reconstructing the jaw from a vascularized section of the patient's fibula – a non-weight bearing bone of the lower leg – in a procedure known as a free flap.

Procedures

At the patient's second visit, Sunde and Mauricio Moreno, M.D., director of the Head and Neck Surgery Division in the UAMS College of Medicine Department of Otolaryngology, reviewed images that had been taken during the first visit. They also discussed the final surgical plan with the patient and her family. The surgery was scheduled for June 1, when the girl would be out of school.

In April, Sunde and Moreno met virtually with engineers at a Colorado company to prepare for the reconstructive surgery using Virtual Surgical Planning, a tool that provides clear 3D visualization of a patient's anatomy.

While the pre-surgical planning process was once limited to measuring, cutting and bending the pieces by hand, the virtual surgical planning technology refines the process, allowing surgeons to precisely identify the angle and location of the bony cuts in the jaw and match them to the patient's ideal anatomy. Sunde and Moreno routinely perform fibula free flaps in the more traditional method as well when time constraints or special circumstances are less favorable for virtual planning.

The virtual sessions for adults can take as little as 10 minutes, but the situation is more complex and more time consuming when a child is involved because there are additional considerations related to the patient's facial skeletal growth.

"It's not removing the bone and matching what you're removing. It's removing the bone and matching what she's going to grow into," Moreno said.

The surgeons and engineers reviewed digital 3D scans of the girl's jaw and the section of leg bone that would be used to construct a new jaw. Then the engineers made calculations to enable them to design a structural framework for the new jaw that was customized to fit the contours of the patient's mouth.

"It's like putting a puzzle together," Moreno said.

Later, the engineers created templates that were shared virtually with a manufacturer in Germany, and about two weeks later, the custom-designed titanium plates arrived at UAMS.

During the surgery that followed, Moreno carefully removed the mass. Then Sunde, using the precise calculations from the virtual planning session, reconstructed the jaw by inserting the fibula free flap, cut into three pieces to accommodate the curvature of the jaw, side-by-side inside the structural titanium framework.



The patient's post-op X-ray

Within several months, the three segments will have naturally fused together by a stable bony union similar to how a fracture heals.

“We expect to see full fusion between those segments in the native jaw,” Moreno said. “It all becomes one single piece of bone.”

The new jaw was designed so that the patient can grow into it as she reaches skeletal maturity, typically at about 17 years of age.

Follow up

The patient was walking the day after surgery. Days later, the only obvious sign of her surgery was a single linear scar down her leg and a curved neck incision hidden in natural skin creases.

She was discharged to home five days after surgery, on June 6. At her first post-operative follow-up two weeks after surgery, she was placed on a diet limited to soft foods, to prevent her from chewing and to give the new jaw time to set and heal.

Because the removal of the anterior jaw also involved removal of some of the patient’s teeth, she will receive dental implants in four to six months.

At her second post-operative visit six weeks after surgery, she has resumed normal activities and is tolerating a soft diet without any difficulty. A CT scan shows that her new jaw is already well along in healing.

Discussion

Sunde said the lateral lower leg bone is often used in jaw reconstructions because it has significant bone stock that can support dental implants. Because it is located in a non-weight bearing section of the leg, it doesn’t generally affect a patient’s use of the leg unless the patient participates in certain sports involving fast turns that require extra ankle stabilization.

The expertise and experience provided by Moreno and Sunde has enabled UAMS to perform more than 55 free flap surgeries using virtual planning in the past three years – far more than any other institution or surgical group in the state.

Both doctors are fellowship-trained and are part of UAMS’ Head

and Neck Surgery team, which treats head and neck cancers, benign tumors, traumatic injuries and other conditions.

The team members also contribute to research and surgical innovation on an international scale. They treat squamous cell carcinoma, thyroid cancer, parathyroid tumors, vascular malformations, salivary gland tumors, skull base tumors, traumatic injuries and other complex issues involving the head and neck.

The department is a national and international leader, and its ear, nose and throat services are ranked among the top 50 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

To make a referral to the UAMS Head and Neck Cancer Clinic at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute in Little Rock, call 501-296-1200. ■



Patient Joslyn Cain before surgery



Joslyn Cain on her first return visit after the surgery on June 17



Joslyn Cain at her second post-op checkup on July 16

Mauricio Moreno, M.D.



Associate Professor
Department of
Otolaryngology - Head
and Neck Surgery

Education

Doctor of Medicine,
Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile
School of Medicine in Santiago, Chile

Residency

General surgery, University of
Valparaiso in Chile
Otolaryngology head and neck surgery,
University of Chile in Santiago, Chile

Fellowship

Head and neck surgical oncology,
microvascular reconstructive surgery
and surgical endocrinology, all at the
University of Texas M.D. Anderson
Cancer Center, Houston, Texas

Jumin Sunde, M.D.



Assistant professor
Department of
Otolaryngology - Head
and Neck Surgery

Education

Doctor of Medicine,
University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Medicine

Residency

Head and neck surgery, UAMS

Fellowship

Head and neck surgery, UAMS
Microvascular surgery, University
of Michigan

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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

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Heat and Hydration

Ramon Ylanan, M.D.
Department of Orthopaedics

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Syncope Update

Hakan Paydak, M.D.
Department of Cardiology

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Moving the Needle: Behavioral Interventions for Core Autism Features

Betty Jayne Bellando, Ph.D.
Department of Pediatric Psychology

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Crucial Conversations

Jamie Carlin Watson, Ph. D., HEC-C
Medical Humanities and Bioethics

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Interventional Approaches to Cancer Pain

Jalessa Jackson, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology

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Movement Disorders

Tuhin Virmani, M.D.
Department of Neurology

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Mark Edwards, Ph.D., and Jaimie Flor, M.D., *Department of Pediatrics, UAMS; Arkansas Children's*

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Healthcare Disparities

Creshelle Nash, M.D.
Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield

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Sickle Cell Update

Collin Montgomery, APRN
Adult Sickle Cell Disease Clinical Program

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Moving the Needle

Rodney Farley
Arkansas Department of Human Services

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Holiday Week