

UAMS News Bureau

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Top Marshallese Physician Joining UAMS' Northwest Campus

LITTLE ROCK — Sheldon Riklon, M.D., one of only two Marshallese physicians in the world who was trained in the United States, is joining the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Aug. 1.

Riklon will serve as an associate professor in the UAMS College of Medicine's Department of Family and Preventive Medicine and as the inaugural holder of a Distinguished Professorship for Health Disparities. He will be based at UAMS' northwest Arkansas campus in Fayetteville.

He will also oversee residents at the UAMS Family Medical Clinic-Fayetteville, and will treat patients at the UAMS North Street Clinic.

UAMS North Street Clinic is a student-led free clinic on UAMS' northwest Arkansas campus for Marshallese patients with diabetes. There are approximately 11,000 Marshallese in northwest Arkansas, the largest population outside of the Marshall Islands. About 50 percent of the Marshallese in northwest Arkansas has diabetes.

“The growing Marshallese population in northwest Arkansas has specific health needs; however, they remain chronically underserved when it comes to health care,” said Peter Kohler, M.D., vice chancellor of UAMS Northwest Campus. “We believe that Dr. Riklon will be able to help UAMS better care for these members of our community.”

Riklon joins UAMS from the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where he is an assistant professor and the family medicine clerkship director in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. He was recently inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha, the honor medical society at the University of Hawaii.

He received both his bachelor's degree in biology and his doctor of medicine at the University of Hawaii.

UAMS is the state's only comprehensive academic health center, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; a hospital; a northwest Arkansas regional campus; a statewide network of regional centers; and seven institutes: the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, the Myeloma Institute, the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, the Psychiatric Research Institute, the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging and the Translational Research Institute. It is the only adult Level 1 trauma center in the state. UAMS has 3,021 students, 789 medical residents and two dental residents. It is the state's largest public employer with more than 10,000 employees, including about 1,000 physicians and other professionals who provide care to patients at UAMS, Arkansas Children's Hospital, the VA Medical Center and UAMS regional centers throughout the state. Visit www.uams.edu or www.uamshealth.com. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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