

**UAMS News Bureau**

Office of Communications & Marketing  
4301 West Markham # 890  
Little Rock, AR 72205-7199

uamshealth.com/news



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**Media Contacts:**

Leslie W. Taylor, 501-686-8998  
Wireless phone: 501-951-7260  
[leslie@uams.edu](mailto:leslie@uams.edu)

Liz Caldwell, 501-686-8995  
Wireless phone: 501-350-4364  
[liz@uams.edu](mailto:liz@uams.edu)

**Laura James, M.D., Named UAMS Associate Vice Chancellor  
for Clinical and Translational Research**

LITTLE ROCK — Laura James, M.D., has been named associate vice chancellor for clinical and translational research at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

James will continue as director of the UAMS Translational Research Institute, a position she has held since 2014, while expanding her role over the institution's clinical and translational research efforts, said UAMS Chancellor Dan Rahn, M.D.

“Translational science is at the heart of our research mission,” Rahn said. “We want to ensure that our researchers have the tools they need to make discoveries and that new knowledge can be applied to improving health and health care as quickly and efficiently as possible. Dr. James is vital to this effort.”

James, as Translational Research Institute director, has overseen development of key services to help researchers achieve their clinical and translational science goals, including:

- An online researcher-to-researcher networking/collaboration tool called UAMS Profiles
- An automated services portal for researchers that ensures TRI's timely assistance with a range of research needs
- An updated website for researchers, TRI.uams.edu
- Creation of ARresearch.org, a website and registry for Arkansans who want to participate in research, which will help UAMS researchers more quickly identify research volunteers
- Creation of a new speaker's series to education UAMS researchers about opportunities for health sciences innovation and entrepreneurship

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- Decreased by more than 60 percent the time for launching clinical trials that utilize TRI assistance with budget development and negotiations
- Increased collaboration with other research institutions that are members of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) consortium.

James, a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, has a 22-year history of translational research in clinical pharmacology and toxicology at UAMS and Arkansas Children's Hospital. She has held continuous funding from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases since 1999. As a clinician-scientist and founder of the startup company Acetaminophen Toxicity Diagnostics, LLC, she and colleagues developed a rapid diagnostic test for acetaminophen liver injury. In 2014 she was named inaugural fellow of the Arkansas Research Alliance (ARA).

The Translational Research Institute was established with significant UAMS support after receiving a 2009 Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). The institute's research services also include biostatistics, biomedical informatics, community engagement, and clinical trials services ranging from budget development and negotiation, regulatory assistance, trial recruitment and research coordination.

James received her medical degree from the University of South Carolina and completed a pediatrics residency at UAMS. She completed fellowships in Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Pediatric Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and UAMS, respectively.

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](http://www.uams.edu) or [www.uamshealth.com](http://www.uamshealth.com). Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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