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http://RegionalPrograms.UAMS.edu
Message from the Vice-Chancellor

When Chancellor Rahn asked me to serve as Interim Vice Chancellor for Regional Programs, the response was an immediate yes. My recent years at UAMS and Center for Rural Health, allowed me to engage quickly in rich and familiar territory. My appointment was made permanent, effective August 1, 2015.

Rapid changes occurring in the healthcare marketplace, and the demands coming from virtually every segment of the system cause us to take a hard look at our model. UAMS, as the state’s only academic medical system, can effectively become an integrated health delivery system. Regional Programs is critically important to making this happen due to our geographical coverage and our long-term partnerships with some of the strongest hospitals and health systems across the state.

The current year will have us focused on:

1) **The Epic Project**: As we work through the design/build phase of this new EMR, to launch in Fall 2016, it is critically important to focus on functionality, work flows, and standardization of processes. This IT system will serve as the backbone for an integrated health delivery system across Arkansas.

2) **The Center for Health Literacy**: In September 1, 2015, the Center will shift into Academic Affairs under the new Provost, Dr. Stephanie Gardner with the continued leadership of Dr. Kristie Hadden.

3) **Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH)**: As we move toward population health, our PCMH clinical models position UAMS Regional Centers well for taking on shared risk/savings arrangements. Equally as important is our preparation of the next generation of clinical providers for advancing models of team-based care delivery.

4) **Regional Center Facilities**: UAMS Northeast in Jonesboro moved into new space this year. UAMS Southwest will soon move into a new building in Texarkana, and new facilities for UAMS West (Fort Smith) and South Central (Pine Bluff) are in the planning and design phase. These facilities will be more efficient and conducive to learning for our residents, students, faculty and staff, and will allow for expansion and growth with additional clinic space.

5) **Residency Program expansion**: We continue to focus expansion efforts on two areas where we hope to start new Family Medicine Residency programs. The first is North Central (Batesville), where we plan a 4/4/4 program working with White River Medical Center. The second is East (Helena), where we are beginning analysis for an after-hours clinic as a precursor to a Rural Training Track (RTT) program, to be hosted by UAMS South Central in Pine Bluff, similar to our UAMS South/Southwest program in Magnolia. If these new sites launch successfully, they will help to alleviate rural provider shortages.

6) **Partnerships & Collaborations**: One of many unique strengths of Regional Programs is our strategic partnership with nine hospitals and health systems in six critical markets across Arkansas. These hospitals believe in and support our programs and invest in our current and future providers. Equally important are our partnerships within UAMS, including the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Health Professions and Public Health. Together, we can provide multiple inter-professional training environments across the state that support excellent clinical services and learning opportunities for all participants.

I am excited about the challenges and possibilities that we will encounter in both the short and long term. Regional Programs is well positioned to be a significant influence in the way healthcare will be delivered to Arkansans in years to come. As we build an integrated health delivery system, strengthen our partnerships, and grow our programs, we will not lose focus on our primary mission -- preparing a competent and caring healthcare workforce for tomorrow. I have every confidence that, collectively, we will become an even more significant part of the UAMS network, in ways which we can all be very proud.

Timothy E. Hill
Vice-Chancellor for UAMS Regional Programs

Introduction from the Chancellor

Tim Hill earned his bachelor’s degree in business, finance and accounting from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota in 1982, and has over 30 years of health care finance and operational management experience in nonprofit and proprietary settings. From 1998 to 2009, Hill served as president and CEO of the North Arkansas Regional Medical Center in Harrison, AR. The Arkansas Hospital Association named him Administrator of the Year in 1996 while running Southwest Hospital in Little Rock, and named him the A. Allen Weintraub recipient in 2009. Since October 2013, he has served as director of the UAMS Center for Healthcare Enhancement and Development and for two years before that, as director of the UAMS Center for Rural Health.

“Tim has done an exceptional job in leading Regional Programs at UAMS during the transition. He has clearly demonstrated that he has the skills, knowledge and inclusive and transparent management style needed to provide excellent leadership of Regional Programs in the future.”

~UAMS Chancellor Dan Rahn
History of Regional Programs

UAMS Regional Programs, formerly Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), were founded in 1973, through combined efforts of the Governor, the State Legislature, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), as a means to encourage UAMS medical school graduates to remain in Arkansas, and help address the state’s shortage and maldistribution of primary care physicians.

UAMS Regional Programs serve as an educational outreach network for UAMS and the principal means to decentralize medical and other health professions education throughout the state. Eight teaching centers in Fayetteville/Springdale, Fort Smith, Jonesboro, Pine Bluff, Texarkana, Magnolia, Helena-West Helena, and Batesville expose future health professionals to underserved communities and provide more varied hands-on experiences than they might receive in a traditional urban, academic environment.

What began with medical and residency training 40 years ago now also encompasses nursing, pharmacy, mid-level and allied health professions training, as well as a statewide network for health careers pipeline programs, continuing professional education, library resources, patient centered quality care initiatives, and telehealth connections to cutting-edge medicine. Each center serves a multiple county region.
Mission and Approach

To improve the supply and distribution of health care professionals in Arkansas, with an emphasis on primary care, through community and academic partnerships, to increase quality health care for all Arkansans.

Quality training experiences in settings away from the academic medical center expose trainees to opportunities in underserved communities, helping encourage rural practice choices.

The teaching atmosphere, library services, and continuing education offerings enhance the rural professional environment, aid in provider retention, and ultimately strengthen the participating community health care systems.

2014-15 Trainee Overview

This year, the regional centers provided structured training for:

- 705 health professions students
- 154 medical residents
- 5,477 junior high, high school, and college students

Specific program goals:

- Enhance the quality of health professions education by using the best academic resources available statewide
- Retain Arkansas graduates of health professions schools within the state
- Improve the supply and distribution of primary healthcare providers in Arkansas
- Increase the number of individuals from rural, minority, and other underserved populations entering health careers
- Supply professional support and continuing education for healthcare providers statewide
- Provide quality health care services and educational programs to the public
- Promote cooperation among providers, educational institutions, and health-related organizations

Regional Programs employ 680 people statewide, operating as important economic forces in their communities
Dr. Mark Mengel Retires

Mark B. Mengel, MD, MPH, Vice-Chancellor for UAMS Regional Programs since 2005, retired at the end of May. During his time as Vice-Chancellor, Regional Programs grew substantially. The statewide network previously known as Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) was rebranded as UAMS Regional Programs. All six Family Medical Centers adopted the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model of care and all centers achieved the highest level of accreditation, Level III. UAMS South moved to Magnolia and UAMS Northeast moved into a new, larger building in Jonesboro. Facility improvements and upgrades are underway at other centers. Dr. Mengel also established new pre-health recruitment positions at all eight centers in 2010, recognizing an urgent need to grow and strengthen the state’s long-term homegrown healthcare pipeline and to increase the qualified applicant pool for the UAMS College of Medicine in order to meet Arkansas’ future needs for primary care providers.

During Dr. Mengel’s time at UAMS, the number of family medicine residency positions at regional centers increased through federal grant funding, and the number of medical students matching into the six regional programs family medicine sites also increased. In fact, in March 2015, a record 30 UAMS College of Medicine students matched into Family Medicine residencies and, of those, 20 matched at our regional centers. Last year alone, 154 Family Medicine residents and 705 Health Professions students received training through UAMS Regional Programs. UAMS Regional Programs residencies have produced nearly half of all the family physicians currently practicing in the state of Arkansas. We thank Dr. Mengel for his leadership and service to UAMS and wish him all the best in the future.

UAMS West Named Best Regional Center for 2014

UAMS West was again awarded the Best Regional Center award for FY 2014, making this the fourth time in six years that UAMS West has earned this award!

The award is based on an annual assessment of 55 performance measures, including clinical, financial, and educational goals, as well as patient, student, and employee satisfaction. UAMS West has excelled consistently in all of these areas of performance. They have also set a system-wide standard for patient care goals and for implementation of evidence-based clinical protocols related to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and chronic heart failure. This work has led to excellence in both patient outcomes and overall population health. UAMS Regional Programs is proud to recognize UAMS West for their commitment to excellence, which is accomplished consistently only through the engaged and hard-working leadership of faculty and staff and their universal commitment to inter-professional communication and teamwork as the “secret sauce” to achieving the center’s mission of exceptional training and patient care. Congratulations!
New Facility for UAMS Northeast

In April 2015, UAMS Northeast celebrated the grand opening of a new, larger and more accessible location at 311 E. Matthews St. in Jonesboro. Made possible by support from the Middleton Family and the Judd Hill Foundation, the new 36,612 sq ft facility features 20,753 sq ft on the ground floor for clinic space, enabling drop-off access for patients. The Family Medical Center’s interprofessional teams of physicians, nurses and pharmacists also have meeting space to confer before seeing patients. Planning also is underway to begin providing urgent care services within the next 12 months.

“UAMS is grateful to the Middleton family and the Judd Hill Foundation for their generosity in making this move possible. Their investment in Jonesboro demonstrates that not only is the presence of UAMS statewide, but its partnerships are too. Our reach is broad and our roots only grow deeper in places like Jonesboro as we reach to achieve our goal of a better state of health for all Arkansans.”

~UAMS Chancellor Dan Rahn, M.D.

Building Campaign

Architectural plans for the new FMC and residency program at UAMS Southwest in Texarkana have been finalized, and construction has begun. UAMS Southwest will open its new location right off Interstate 30, on U of A Way, next door to UACCH Texarkana and across from the new pavilion at Bobby Ferguson Park. Their innovative PCMH facility design (right) has inspired others at UAMS to consider a similar design.

After approval from the UA System Board regarding architectural selection, UAMS West in Fort Smith will begin comparing several options to re-design their clinical space and start the design process.

As other regional centers purchase and renovate facilities to become more conducive to the PCMH model of care, the lessons learned from these building projects will be extremely valuable to guide other regional centers during their future renovations.
UA Clinton School of Public Service Project

This year, a team of four University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service graduate students worked with Regional Programs staff to conduct research to identify the most successful strategies to recruit, retain, and graduate more rural and racial minority students into health professions. They presented their findings and recommendations in April to an audience of more than 50 attendees, including the UAMS Chancellor, vice-chancellors, and numerous other faculty and department leaders.

Key recommended strategies for recruiting and supporting rural and racial minority students included: 1) early clinical experiences in rural settings, 2) early investment in a small number of candidates, 3) community support, 4) a supportive institutional culture, 5) flexible admissions criteria, and 6) programs targeting students at the critical junctures of their entry to both college and medical school.

For information, contact howellrobina@uams.edu

Center for Health Literacy

On July 1, 2014, the health literacy program that was originally established in 2012 was launched as a new UAMS Center for Health Literacy (CHL). A primary objective for the center is to improve understanding of health information by empowering patients and community members to take charge of their own health and live healthier lives, while also reducing unnecessary health care costs associated with low health literacy. The Center for Health Literacy has made tremendous progress in addressing the needs of health care providers and their patients through 1) research to increase understanding of how health literacy can be improved, 2) outreach activities that promote health literacy in our health systems, 3) working with other state agencies and partners to ensure messages are understandable for all Arkansans, and 4) by supporting health care policies that promote best practices in health literacy.

Notable opportunities for the center to continue to improve health care and the patient experience, and to reduce healthcare costs through better self-management, engagement, and empowerment of patients, include online plain language services through PlainPages®, using patient level health literacy data to drive initiatives in primary care, population health, prevention, and leveraging relationships in the commercial health industry. In September 2015, the CHL team will be joining UAMS Faculty Affairs and transitioning into the infrastructure of UAMS Academic Affairs, reporting to new Provost, Dr. Stephanie Gardner.
Excellence in Teaching

Derrick Gray, MD, family medicine faculty at UAMS Northwest in Springdale, was selected as recipient of the 2015 Excellence in Teaching award for his contributions to resident and medical student education. Dr. Gray received his undergraduate degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA and his medical degree from St. Matthew’s University in 2006. He has been full-time faculty at the Springdale FMC since completing his Family Medicine Residency at the UAMS Northwest Family Medicine Program in 2010.

According to Dr. Linda McGhee, UAMS NW Residency Director: “Dr. Gray has proven that he can be successful in any teaching role. He is a gifted teacher on the inpatient hospital service and is especially sought after by PGY1 residents. Dr. Gray’s greatest contribution to students’ and residents’ professional development is his gift for coaching when they are preparing for exams. He has developed study groups, does individual assessments, and meets with them regularly. During the past two years, all of the PGY3 residents enthusiastically participated in and prepared well for the Board Exam, and as a result, all 21 of the residents who took the exam passed in 2014 and 2015! Dr. Gray is a dynamic teacher and inspirational coach and a much appreciated faculty member and partner.”

Dr. Gray’s special interests include endoscopy, chronic disease management and healthcare for the homeless. Dr. Gray leads a test taking study group for PGY-2&3 residents monthly. Dr. Gray and wife, Michelle, have two sons. His hobbies include reading, running and football (he is an LSU fan).

Other Accolades!

- UAMS Northwest received ACGME accreditation for the state’s first Sports Medicine Fellowship, offering a year of advanced training for primary care physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of sports-related illness and injury, management, and prevention. The program will accept its first fellow in July 2015, partnering with the UA Athletics Department and other clinical partners. Dr. Linda McGhee and UAMS Northwest Family Medicine Residency will serve as the sponsoring program, with Dr. Ramon Ylanan of Advanced Orthopaedic Specialists, fellowship director.
- Scott Dickson, MD (NE) was elected to the Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Board of Directors in June, and is also serving as secretary of the organization.
- Katherine Irish-Clardy, MD (West), Ron Brimberry, MD (UAMS NW), and Russell Mayo, MD (UAMS SW) were named among the “Best Doctors in Arkansas” by the Arkansas Times, April 23, 2015 edition.
- Matthew Nix, MD (SW) was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission for the period 2015-2017.
- John Vinson, PharmD, (FS/Central) is serving as President of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association for 2015-2016.
- Lauren Monteith, MD (South) is resident representative to the Arkansas chapter of the AAFP Board of Directors.
- Tasha Starks, MD (NE) will serve on the AAFP Commission on Membership & Member Services Committee.

New Faculty

Welcome new faculty! NE: Leah Fryar, MD, Angela Pierce, LPC; NW: Brittany Vaughan, MD, Leigh Wade, LCSW; SA: Fred Murphy, MD, Stephen Attebery, MEd; SC: Temika Rogers, MSW, SW: Ashley Boyd, MSW.

Career Employees

We gratefully acknowledge the faithful dedication of the following faculty and staff who mark this year with long-term service to UAMS Regional Programs.

- 40 Years: Linda McGhee (NW)
- 35 Years: Elizabeth Bausinger (NW)
- 30 Years: Mark Attwood (SC)
- 25 Years: Janice Huddleston (NW), Susan Aycock, Sandra Davis, Shirley Herron & Sara Sherman (SC)
- 20 Years: Jackie Terry (NW), Phyllis Skaug & Elaine Gillespie (NE), Lilly Roberts (NC), Brenda Morris (WE), Stephanie Loveless (EA), Phyllis Louther (SC)
Pre-Health Professions Recruitment

Pre-Health Professions Recruiters continue to travel their regions to encourage students across the state to become Arkansas’ health professionals of tomorrow, this year reaching 34,283 students statewide.

Medical Application of Science for Health (M*A*S*H)

In Summer 2014, 414 high school students participated in one of 29 M*A*S*H camps across the state. During this two-week program for entering junior and senior high school students, participants are certified in First Aid and CPR, while learning healthy lifestyles and how to apply science concepts in “real life” health career situations. A total of 13 medical students served as M*A*S*H program assistants.

Community Health Applied in Medical Public Service (CHAMPS)

Last spring and summer, 99 students participated in CHAMPS. This week-long program provides hands-on experiences in health careers and community service for students entering grades 8, 9 and 10, with 71% coming from either rural communities or minority backgrounds.

Advancement Into Medicine (AIM)

During 2014-15, 191 students participated in AIM at UAMS East, Northeast, Northwest, and Southwest. This initiative follows former M*A*S*H students and continues to engage them through seminars, pre-professional clubs, mock interviews, hands on activities, tours, mentoring relationships, and volunteer service.

Hands-On Health Care and Health Explorers

Hands-On Health Care gives students a glimpse into health careers by exposing them to fun, hands-on educational activities such as injections, drawing blood, and physical therapy. In 2014-15, 150 students participated at several of our Regional centers. Additional programs for younger students reached another 3,614 students through other age-appropriate hands-on activities through Health Explorers offerings.

A Day in the Life

These one-day events give a more in-depth look into a specific health career, such as nursing or radiology, and include both lecture and hands-on activities. In 2014-15, 268 students participated at East, Northeast and Northwest.

Club Scrub & Med Pro-Ed

School-based clubs that encourage exploration of health careers through regular meetings and activities were supported by East, Northwest, and Southwest this year, with 369 students participating.

Pre-Professional Training and Support

Students from high school through college age can arrange mentor/shadow experiences and community service opportunities through any of the Regional Centers. College/Pre-Med students also receive help applying for medical school including advising, mock interviews, and MCAT preparation. This year 341 high school and college students participated in some aspect of these programs.

Group Presentations and Events

In addition to the structured programs described above, the Recruiters reached another 28,806 students across the state through school presentations, booths at career fairs, facility tours, and other groups and venues to increase awareness about health careers, workforce demands, salary potential, training opportunities, and academic pre-requisites. Another, 1,763 students, parents, and faculty were contacted through general networking.

Further information is available at www.arkansashealthcareers.com
Growing Our Own Medical Applicant Pool is Urgent!

Research consistently shows that those who come from Arkansas, attend medical school in Arkansas, complete residency training in Arkansas are the most likely to remain and practice in Arkansas, and those who come from rural areas are far more likely to return to rural areas to practice.

Thus, producing an adequate number of physicians to care for Arkansans in future years will depend on how effectively we recruit and train promising young medical students from our own rural areas.

• Each year, the UAMS College of Medicine receives fewer than 340 applications from Arkansas students for the 174 available first-year medical school slots.

• In 2016, two new osteopathic medical schools will open, adding 265 new slots for incoming first-year medical students. That means a combined total of 439 first-year medical school openings in Arkansas.

If the number of Arkansas applicants does not increase, most of the new medical school slots will have to be filled by out of state applicants. Arkansas only has 192 first-year residency slots, including just 52 in Family Medicine, so most of these medical school graduates will then have to go back out of state for residency training. Considering the fact that 55% of physicians practice within 100 miles of where they completed their residency training, it is likely that very few of these new doctors may actually remain or return to practice in Arkansas.

This is why Regional Program recruiters are focused on growing Arkansas’ qualified applicant pool!

Targeted recruitment efforts combined with rural practice scholarships and incentives are our best long-term investments to ensure healthcare for the citizens of Arkansas in the future!

New Rural Scholarship Awarded

In August 2014, Sarah Franklin of Gurdon, AR, was named the first recipient of the Arkansas Mutual Medical Student Award, a scholarship for third-year UAMS medical students who want to practice primary care in rural Arkansas. The $10,000 scholarship is funded by the non-profit Arkansas Mutual Insurance Co. in partnership with the UAMS College of Medicine to encourage more medical students to enter primary care and to practice in rural Arkansas where access to physicians is limited.

Franklin is active in the UAMS Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) and has served as the organization’s secretary. As co-president of the Rural Medicine Student Leadership Association (RMSLA) in 2013-2014, she helped organize a health screening in Arkadelphia, where she eventually hopes to practice. Dr. Franklin grew up in Benton her husband is from Gurdon, AR.

“We plan to raise our children there. I want to serve in a small town where I am most needed and can do the most good.” ~Sarah Franklin
Family Medicine Residency Programs

This year, the highest number of UAMS medical school graduates in over a decade matched to a residency program in Family Medicine! Of the 32 who matched in Family Medicine, 62% (20/30) of them matched to a residency program at one of our regional centers.

During 2014-15, Regional Programs provided training for 154 residents, including 48 first-year positions, and 53 who completed their 3-year residency to become board eligible in Family Medicine.

Of these graduates, 62% (33/53) remained in Arkansas to practice, with 70% (23/33) remaining in their training region to practice. Of the 2014-2015 graduates 21% (7/33) are practicing in small towns of <15,000 population.

Our residencies continue to fine tune their Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model of care and all of the Family Medicine Centers (FMCs) have achieved the highest level of accreditation, Level III.

The UAMS South Arkansas’ Rural Training Track (RTT) continues in Magnolia, with Martha Garrett-Shaver, MD, serving as RTT director. Russell Mayo, MD, Residency Director at UAMS Southwest oversees and serves as the RTT parent program.

Five HRSA grants that allowed an increase in our residency program slots ended this year. Consequently, in 2015-16, a reduced total of only 52 PGY1 slots will be available statewide, including 46 for Regional Programs and 6 at the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in Little Rock.

Check us out! Our residency websites can be viewed at www.familymedicine.residencies.com

UAMS Regional Centers’ Residency programs have trained nearly HALF of all the Family Physicians practicing in Arkansas’ small towns.

UAMS Regional Centers’ Family Medicine Residency Graduates
Ten-Year Totals (2005-2015)

65% (286/437) remained in Arkansas
35% (101/286) are in small towns
The map at left shows locations of UAMS Regional Center-trained family physicians across the state, and below is a list of counties and communities where they practice.

**757 UAMS-trained family physicians practice in 127 Arkansas communities, including 69 of the state’s 75 counties.**

*Of these, 52% remained in their training region, 38% practice in small towns (<15,000), 36% practice in a rural county (non-SMSA)*

Highlighted COUNTIES are designated as “RURAL” (non-SMSA). Underlined cities indicate UAMS Regional Center locations.

http://RegionalPrograms.UAMS.edu
Community-Based Training

All Regional Centers offer rotations at multiple clinical sites to prepare students and residents for practicing in a variety of community-based primary care settings, especially in rural and underserved areas.

Regional Programs sponsored training took place in 37 counties and 55 different communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arkansas</th>
<th>De Witt (3,292)</th>
<th>Craighead</th>
<th>Brookland (1,642)</th>
<th>Independence</th>
<th>Batesville (10,248)</th>
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<td>Ashley</td>
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<td>Alma (5,419)</td>
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<td>Altbeimer (984)</td>
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<td>(22,791)</td>
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<td>Faulkner</td>
<td>Lamar (1,605)</td>
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<td>Ozark (3,884)</td>
<td>Little River</td>
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<td>Batesville</td>
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</table>

Highlighted Counties are designated as “RURAL” (non-SMSA). Underlined cities indicate UAMS Regional Center locations.

Rural Medicine Student Leadership Association

The Rural Medicine Student Leadership Association (RMSLA) is sponsored by Regional Programs and Arkansas Farm Bureau to provide fellowship and support for Rural Practice students, to inform state policy, to create links between students and communities, and to provide regular meetings and speakers to discuss issues of importance to future rural physicians. This year, 43 students are involved in RMSLA.

Rural Practice Loan & Scholarship Program

Medical Students who participate in the Rural Practice Scholarship program are required to perform a Family Medicine Preceptorship through a Regional Center, and complete a portion of their Junior Clerkship in a rural community. They also complete at least one senior rotation (Acting Internship or Primary Care Selective) at a Regional Center. In 2014-15, 14 students had a Rural Practice Scholarship commitment. Eight first-year medical students participated in the Summer 2015 Preceptorship program.
Medical Student Education

Family Medicine Preceptorships
During Summer 2014, 51 medical students participated in the Family Medicine Preceptorship program, involving 4-week extra-curricular clinical shadowing opportunities for entering M2 medical students to work with family physicians in towns across Arkansas.

Service Learning Preceptorships
Eight-week Service Learning Preceptorships were completed by 6 students in Summer 2014. Projects included: injury prevention/summer safety programs through Boys and Girls Clubs, health screening “fairs” sponsored by local churches, nutrition and healthy snacks awareness for pre-school or day care centers, and Health Literacy research.

Junior Clerkships in Family Medicine
In 2014-15, 77% (121/157) of the junior class performed family medicine clerkships in UAMS Regional Centers. This mandatory experience, at a time when students are beginning to make decisions regarding specialty and practice location, is the most effective recruitment tool to date for our residency programs. There were an additional 17 Longitudinal Clerkships (6 month) that took place at UAMS Northwest.

Senior Electives/Selectives
In 2014-15, 41% (67/165) of the senior class completed rotations in the UAMS Regional Centers. The senior year of medical school allows students to design a program of study to meet personal career goals. Acting Internships are 4-week required rotations that focus on clinical skills and instill confidence in preparation for the first year of residency. The Senior Selective in Primary Care is a 4-week rotation required of senior students, with an outpatient, or clinical, focus. Electives in most specialties can also be taken in the UAMS Regional Centers.

This year, 3 out-of-state medical students performed rotations at a Regional Center.

Family Medicine Interest Group
This year, 76 students were registered with the Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) and met monthly. Guest speakers offer diverse perspectives to increase student awareness of various aspects of medicine, practice models, financial management, health care policies, and personal stories.

National Primary Care Week was held October 6-10, 2014, using the national theme “We Are Not Yet Equal: Primary Care Advocacy for Underserved and Marginalized Communities.” During the week, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, and Family Medicine provided lunch for medical students with speakers highlighting what makes their fields an essential part of primary care. Eight medical students attended the 2014 AAFP National Student and Resident Conference August 7-8, 2015, in Kansas City, KS. This is a record number of UAMS students active in this organization. The UAMS FMIG also won 3rd place in the National “Tar Wars” Community Service competition! “Tar Wars” engages medical students to teach elementary school children the dangers of tobacco, as well as overall healthy lifestyle habits.
Pharmacy Education

Teaching
During 2014-2015, Regional Center pharmacists served as preceptors to 51 senior pharmacy students and 3 pharmacy residents. Several provided educational experiences to family medicine residents during all three years of the residency curriculum. Lectures to junior medical clerkship students on chronic health conditions are provided monthly via IVN to all clinical sites as well as classroom-based didactic teaching to College of Pharmacy students.

Service
Pharmacy specialists in each center continue to provide quality care and have an ever increasing role in managing complex patients. Transition of Care clinics/services as well as Complex Care teams are being developed that incorporate an interprofessional approach to patient care. The successes of such teams within the Regional Programs and the role of the clinical pharmacist have been highlighted at national pharmacy organization meetings. Pharmacy specialists also provide direct patient care and education in specific disease states such as diabetes, asthma, and anticoagulation as well as general medication management services.

Scholarly Activity
Pharmacy specialists have been very busy with scholarly activities this year including podium presentations at national (American Society of Health System Pharmacists, American Drug Utilization Review Society) and regional (Arkansas Pharmacist Association, Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians) meetings as well as posters at national (Society for Teachers of Family Medicine, American College of Clinical Pharmacy) and regional (Arkansas Health Systems Pharmacy) meetings.

Pharmacy faculty have co-authored Help Desk Answers published in Evidence-Based Practice as well as manuscripts published in the Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society and American Journal of Health System Pharmacists. Our pharmacists also served as co-investigators and research mentors to pharmacy residents.

Academic Citizenship
Our pharmacists continue to contribute to Regional Programs committees such as the Clinical Leadership Committee and the Medical Committee; College of Medicine committees such as the Dean’s Senior Advisory Counsel; and College of Pharmacy committees such as the Curriculum and Residency Evaluation. Pharmacy faculty were also appointed to the Arkansas Medicaid Retrospective Drug Utilization Committee, the UAMS Evidence-based Drug Program Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, and the University of Arkansas Pharmacy Advisory Committee. Nationally, our pharmacists have served on the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Review committee for the pharmacy licensing exam and regionally as the President-Elect for the Arkansas Pharmacists Association. Community involvement involves participation in local free clinics, Area Agency on Aging, Red Cross, Rotary Club and church organizations.

New Faculty
Two new pharmacy faculty will be joining the Regional Programs in July-August 2015. Dr. Jessica Binz at West and Dr. Lauren Glaze at South. Dr. Binz received her PharmD at UAMS then completed a PGY-1 Community Pharmacy Practice Residency in Arkansas followed by a PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency at Triad Health Care Network in Greensboro, NC. Dr. Glaze received her PharmD from UAMS and completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Center for Health and Wellness in Louisville, KY. We welcome them both!
Nursing Education

In 2014-15, 318 nursing students from various educational institutions, ranging from nursing assistants to masters level practitioners, participated in educational courses and practicum experiences at our regional centers.

UAMS College of Nursing

UAMS College of Nursing faculty members at the Regional Centers teach courses and serve as faculty preceptors, while also assisting rural students with academic advising, registration, online and interactive video offerings, medical library access, and clinical preceptor assignments.

In 2014-15, 52 students were enrolled in UAMS College of Nursing programs and received services through our Regional Centers. Nurses throughout the state can remain in their home communities while earning credits toward a Masters of Nursing Science (MNSc) degree in a variety of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) specialties, including pediatric primary and acute care, adult-gerontology primary and acute care, family nurse practitioner, psychiatric-mental health, or nursing administration. The online RN-BSN, RN-MNSc and Doctor of Nursing (DNP) practice programs are also available to students throughout the state.

Nursing Assistants & Home Aides

In response to community needs, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Home Care Aide training is offered through UAMS North Central and Northwest, with 170 trained this year.

Other Nursing Programs

Students from other institutions performing clinical rotations through our centers included:

- 11 APRN/ NPs
- 1 Doctor of Nursing (DNP)
- 49 RNs
- 34 LPNs
Health Professions Education

UAMS Regional Centers offer programs or clinical practicum in several allied health professions. Center faculty also teach CPR, ACLS, PALS, and HeartSaver training. Some programs are being phased out due to loss of funding or market saturation. This year, 48 students were trained.

Health Information Management

The UAMS Health Information Management (HIM) Department offers an online AS degree in Health Information Technology and an online BS degree in Health Information Administration. The AS qualifies the graduate to take the RHIT certification exam; the BS qualifies them to take the RHIA exam. Texarkana is a clinical affiliate and exam location.

http://healthprofessions.uams.edu/programs/healthinformationmanagement/

Medical Laboratory Science

Graduates of the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program at Texarkana are prepared to sit for entry-level national certification exams. The full-time track requires 17 months, and the part-time track allows a maximum of 5 semesters. Upon completion, a BS degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences is awarded. An MLT-to-MLS advanced placement track is also offered for working medical laboratory technicians.

http://healthprofessions.uams.edu/programs/laboratorysciences/medicallaboratorysciences/

Phlebotomy

A Phlebotomy course is available in Texarkana, including both classroom and clinical portions where students must complete 100 successful venipunctures. Completers receive a certificate making them eligible to take the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) exam.

http://healthprofessions.uams.edu/programs/laboratorysciences/medicallaboratorysciences/continuing-education/

Radiologic Imaging Sciences

The AS in Medical Radiography is offered in Fayetteville at the UAMS NW Campus. Graduates are eligible to take the national certifying exam given by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

http://healthprofessions.uams.edu/programs/imagingandradiationsciences/radiologicimagingsciences/

Respiratory Care

The UAMS Cardio Respiratory Care program in Texarkana graduated one senior this year. Having graduated a total of 114 students since 1990, this program will be closing in May 2016.

The RRT program in Batesville, which has graduated 24 students to date, graduated its final class of 4 in December 2014. All students achieved a 100% CRT credential first time pass rate.

NEW! Physician Assistant Program

The first cohort of students from the new UAMS Physician Assistant program began their clinical rotations through our regional centers in July 2014. These experiences in the regional centers focus on the clinical aspects of family medicine and primary care in both outpatient and inpatient settings. Students participate in history taking, performing physical exams, developing differential diagnoses, formulating diagnoses, designing prevention and management plans, and documenting common medical conditions observed in family medicine outpatient and inpatient settings. Students have exposure to a variety of procedures, with emphasis on caring for patients across the life-span. We are pleased to welcome these students to our centers as the most recent addition to our teams.
Learning Resource Centers

The UAMS Regional Centers’ Librarians continually provide medical information and research to local physicians, students, residents and other organizations and individuals in their designated counties. The libraries underwent some major technical changes this year, which included changing the circulation program from Millennium to KOHA, requiring training and computer updating in some of the libraries. KOHA is a free program that will save the libraries money for other needed items.

Long time Librarian Assistant, Sandra Davis retired after 26 years at UAMS South Central (Pine Bluff). After serving Northeast Arkansas counties for 17 ½ years, Karen Crosser, Library Director for UAMS Northeast (Jonesboro) also retired at the end of May, with Donna Petrus assuming the role of Library Director. UAMS Northeast moved into a new facility this Spring and made some beautiful changes to their library.

Michael Gillespie, UAMS West (Fort Smith) Library Director, resigned at the end of May to take a position in a city library in Oklahoma City. UAMS West is in the process of hiring a replacement and, until then, Sandy Terwilliger will oversee library services for patrons.

Several of the librarians are either the coordinators or on the Reach Out and Read committees to promote reading at an early age. The Librarians will hold a Reach Out and Read book drive during the SCC/MLA Library Conference in October that will be hosted in Little Rock, AR. The librarians also attend many health fairs in their communities, as well as help with the MASH programs at their centers.

AHEC Library Patrons 2014-15

- 15,616 Health Professionals
- 21,851 Students and Residents
- 11,410 Consumers
- 48,877 Total Patrons

Reference/Resources/Services

- 10,891 Information/Manual Requests
- 5,238 Electronic Searches
- 3,142 Books Circulated
- 3,374 Journals Circulated
- 4,116 Audiovisuals Circulated
- 2,125 Interlibrary Loans Filled
- 14,783 Articles Photocopied

Pictured L-R: Jana Terry (SA), Elva Conditt (NW), Destiny Carter (SW), Karen Crosser (NE), Michael Gillespie (WE), Cathy Privett (EA), and Julie Dobbins (SC)
Continuing Education

The Center for Distance Health (CDH) provides most continuing education programming for UAMS Regional Centers. CDH Programs are available in a variety of formats including webinar, face-to-face, and interactive video. The CDH has a strong infrastructure in continuing education, particularly with learnondemand.org, which has grown to more than 3,000 users. Health care professionals are able to obtain continuing education credit online. The online programs include CME, CNE, and allied health. Live and online program topics this year included a focus on obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases. Additionally, health care trends, geriatrics, women’s health, pharmacology, safety, and pediatrics were frequent topics at educational programs. CDH provides OB Emergency Drills, NRP, and fetal monitoring at the Regional Centers on request and offers STABLE as a live interactive video program quarterly. CDH recently launched a patient education site called patientslearn.org which currently houses patient education on breastfeeding and childbirth, and diabetes modules for women with gestational diabetes.

### Continuing Education 2014-15

- **Number of Live Conferences & Teleconferences**: 23 & 313
- **Total Attendees**: 2,928
- **Learn On Demand Activities**: 275
- **Total Users**: 4,091

Faculty Scholars

The Regional Programs Academic Fellowship, changed its name to Faculty Scholars to reflect that the participants are faculty and not advanced residents, called “fellows.” This faculty development program is designed to position them as leaders in the rapidly growing field of healthcare quality improvement. This year emphasized skills in research, with each Scholar selecting a Center-focused idea to develop into a scholarly product. The academic year 2014-15 accepted four new Scholars to participate in the two-year program:

- **Elisabeta Avramescu, MD**, (South-Magnolia)
- **Jason Cobb, MD**, (South Central-Pine Bluff)
- **Kyle Diaz, MD**, (Southwest-Texarkana)
- **Sarah Holcomb, MD**, (Northeast-Jonesboro)
Public Service

UAMS Regional Centers’ faculty and residents are very active in their communities, serving on many national, state, and local advisory boards and committees. UAMS Regional Centers also provide a vast array of health care services and resources, some of which are listed below.

Physical exams and health services:
- Boy and Girl Scouts
- Church Health Clinics
- EPSDT/HIPPY
- Forensic Child Abuse/Sexual Assault Exams
- Medical Mission Trips
- Nursing Homes
- Pre-school/Immunization updates
- School Athletics
- Special Olympics
- Summer Camps
- Veterans CBOC

Specialty clinics:
- Asthma/COPD
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Diabetes
- GI/Colonoscopy/EGD
- HIV/AIDS
- High Risk Obstetrics
- Infectious Diseases
- Minor Surgery
- Telemed Pacemaker

Support Groups:
- Alzheimer’s
- Arthritis
- Breast Cancer
- Caregivers
- Diabetes
- Heart Club
- Huntington’s Disease
- Lupus
- Sickle Cell Anemia

Other clinics & counseling:
- Anticoagulation
- Childhood Obesity
- Colposcopy
- Developmentally Delayed
- Hyperlipidemia
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Prescription Assistance
- Prenatal Care
- Tobacco Cessation
- Tubal Ligation
- Vasectomies
- Weight Control

Health screenings:
- Asthma
- Blood Pressure/Sugar
- Breast/Cervical Cancer
- Cholesterol
- Colon-rectal Cancer
- Depression
- Hearing/Vision
- Lung Disease
- Prostate Cancer
- Scoliosis
- Skin Cancer

Community Education & Service:
- Aging Successfully
- Baby Safety Showers
- Blood Drives
- Breast Self-Exam
- Career Days
- Child Safety/Abuse
- CLASSICS
- CPR Instruction
- Diabetes Management
- Drug/Alcohol Abuse

Farm Safety
- Go Red for Women
- Growth & Development
- Health Fairs
- Heart Health
- Herbal Products
- Hormone Replacement
- Hypertension/Stroke
- Komen Race for the Cure
- Medical Reserve Corps
- Migraine Headaches
- Nutrition & Fitness
- Osteoporosis
- Parenting
- Parkinson’s Disease
- Pharmacy updates
- Poison Prevention
- Reach Out & Read
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Stress Management
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Tobacco Prevention

Clinic Patient Services 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient Visits</td>
<td>180,022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Babies Delivered</td>
<td>1,143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uninsured Care</td>
<td>$1.33M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital Visits</td>
<td>79,590</td>
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<tr>
<td>ER Visits</td>
<td>4,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Home Visits</td>
<td>2,137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinic Operations and Clinical Transformation

In response to the many changes at the national level in health care practice, policy, and reimbursement, our Regional Centers continue with comprehensive transformation in our residency clinical operations, not only to keep up, but rather, to set the standard for excellence and efficiency in primary care practice for Arkansas’ future health care professionals.

Leadership Restructure: In January, Brian Barnett, MHSA was hired as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, and John Vinson, Pharm D was hired as the Statewide Medical Director of Regional Programs. In May, Carol Graham, MHSA was hired as Associate Vice Chancellor/Executive Director, Clinical. Physician Medical Directors were identified at each clinic to provide the local leadership and oversight for QI, safety, and clinic operations in their centers.

These changes were needed to provide better support for the leadership and teams in each center and to collaborate with all centers so key transformations can be attained. One key initiative is to determine “best practices” and “evidence based practices” and then standardize those practices across all centers. One of the biggest endeavors is to help drive the “build” and implementation of Epic as the new electronic medical record across all centers. The first two are underway and will be a focus throughout the upcoming year, with the implementation of Epic only in the beginning stages. With these initiatives all working together, Regional Programs is embarking on a true transformation.

Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH): All centers retained their Level III NCQA Recognition and will be working to maintain the status under the new 2014 PCMH standards.

Kryptiq CareManager (CM): An update of our patient registry for chronic disease has been implemented at all clinics. This product works in conjunction with the Centricity EMR to help identify care gaps in patients with chronic conditions and in health/wellness screenings for all patients. CM 4.5 updated the Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) and Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) modules into a Cardiovascular Risk Reduction (CVRR) module. The product also has a population health component that lets staff proactively identify and contact patients with care gaps. The product has proven to be instrumental in closing care gaps and ensuring important measures are not inadvertently overlooked during an exam. Central staff was able to travel to all the centers to be on hand for training and implementation.

Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative (CPCI): Five Family Medicine Centers (Fayetteville, Springdale, Fort Smith, Texarkana and Jonesboro) continue to participate in the CPCI, which is a multi-payer initiative to strengthen primary care. Medicare, along with commercial and State health insurance plans, offer enhanced payments to primary care doctors who better coordinate care for their patients. We are currently in year three of four, with the initiative scheduled to end in December 2016.

Meaningful Use (MU): After a lengthy delay, the State was finally able to accept MU attestation. All clinics successfully attested and received payment for providers. Thanks to the Flex Rule this year, we were able to attest using MU Stage One measures again. FMCs are now preparing for MU Stage Two.
**Medicaid PCMH:** All FMCs participated in the Medicaid PCMH initiative, which is part of the Arkansas Health Care Payment Improvement Initiative. Clinics are separated into two groups – CPCI (NW Fayetteville and Springdale, Fort Smith, Texarkana and Jonesboro) and non-CPCI (Texarkana AFK, Pine Bluff, Magnolia and UAMS Family Medical Center). The clinics participating in CPCI benefit through shared savings. The non-CPCI clinics receive monthly care coordination payments.

This year, we were expected to attest to 12-month and 18-month measures. Unfortunately, along with most clinics across the State, we were unable to successfully pull a care plan from the EMR with all the required components at the first mark, but we successfully passed our 18-month attestation. Dr. Liu is working with Dr. Vinson to design a care plan to pull all required components into a single document; this is currently in test systems at two clinics and will be shared with all clinics soon.

Other payers (ie, QualChoice, Arkansas Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Humana, Ambetter) have joined the Medicaid PCMH initiative and have sent attribution lists requiring the top 10% high risk patients to be identified and Care Plans developed. At this time, only UAMS Pine Bluff is participating in this pilot.

**Residency Training Grant:** The Residency Training Grant ended this year. A new proposal was submitted to continue development of an Advanced PCMH curriculum for residents, but unfortunately this was not funded. We hope to continue teaching the PCMH model to all residents in training.

**Addition of Behavioral Health and Health Coaching**

UAMS Regional Programs believes that educating and empowering Arkansans to make healthy lifestyle choices, equipping individuals with chronic diseases for better self-management, and dealing strategically with patients who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues are some of the most cost effective investments that can be made. Such efforts are also some of the best ways to improve patient outcomes, reduce health complications, and decrease hospital admissions and readmissions.

In January 2015, we began the process of integrating behavioral health into our six Family Medicine Clinics. Utilizing an integrating model known as Primary Care Behavioral Health (PCBH), PCBH faculty were hired and trained. The goal is to fully integrate these faculty into the clinical teams to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the primary care system by helping patients of all ages, with any preventive, acute, or chronic behavioral issue. They will also function as core faculty members to educate residents and students, working closely with other faculty and clinical staff to demonstrate PCBH through a patient-centered team-based care model within the Family Medicine Residency context.

In addition, the Outreach Directors began shifting their focus away from community-based outreach activities toward a more targeted patient-centered clinical health coaching role. This group successfully completed training through the Iowa Chronic Care Consortium (ICCC), and in June became certified as Clinical Health Coaches. They will be vital members of the PCMH team, working with the physicians, care coordinators, and behavioral faculty within their respective clinics to provide health coaching for preventative and follow up efforts to help patients meet their health goals such as weight loss, smoking cessation, and diabetes self-management. The health coaches will also connect patients and residents with available community services and resources to address barriers and other determinates of health, be they biological, socioeconomic, psychosocial, behavioral, or social in nature. They will continue to oversee health literacy efforts in their centers, and connect residents with community service options.
Research and Innovations

All clinical centers have ongoing internally funded studies and/or QI projects, and our two non-clinical sites have service projects that meaningfully impact their communities. Regional Programs have become active collaborators with strategic initiatives on campus to develop and expand inter-professional education and research initiatives. Moving forward, our priorities will be focused on clinical innovations that respond to the goals of the Triple Aim, which include 1) organizational change to improve patient care, patient outcomes, and/or reduce costs; 2) testing components of the PCMH model across centers; and 3) researching Regional Programs patient data on outcomes, quality and cost.

An inaugural Statewide Teaching Innovations Symposium was held in Little Rock in April 2015, attended by 12 faculty who presented new or innovative teaching, administration, QI, or research projects to share findings, ideas, and best practices through posters and podium presentations. This symposium will be conducted annually. A scholarly activity fund has been created to support travel expenses for the dissemination of successful research, quality, and innovative clinical changes and approaches.

Publications & Presentations

Arkansas UAMS Regional Centers’ faculty and staff are respected nationally in many areas of expertise. A sampling of their publications and presentations from this year is listed here.

Publications


Howell R, Mengel M (Central). The Importance of Continuing Arkansas’ Legislative Mandate for the UAMS College of Medicine Admissions from all Four Congressional Districts. The Arkansas Family Physician, Vol 18, No 4, July 2014.


National Presentations


Frank T (NE). Community Catalyst for Roundtable Discussion; American Society of Health System Pharmacists Annual Meeting-topic: Transition Care Management; Denver CO; June 8, 2015.


Vinson J, Mengel M (Central) Beyond the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Model of Care. The AAFP sponsored Program Directors Workshop (PDW) and Residency Program Solutions (RPS) Residency Education Symposium, Kansas City, MO, March 2015.

Family Practice Inquiries Network (FPIN) offers publishing opportunities for residents in training and supports a collaborative learning community for primary care clinicians, learners, and faculty to promote and disseminate evidence-based scholarship. The following are titles of some articles published by our faculty and residents through FPIN’s Evidence-Based Practice this year:

- Downs M, Cowan C, Campbell J. Does head CT assist in the diagnosis of an adult with syncope?
- Downs M, Do K. Is humidified air helpful in the management of croup in children?
- Goodspeed E, Coulter L, Hudson J. Spotlight on Pharmacy: Is modafinil safe and effective at improving mental performance in shift workers?.
- Lewis D, Hudson J, Coulter L. Spotlight on Pharmacy: Can metformin be used safely in a patient with elevated creatinine concentration?
- Mayo R, Esteva E, Viegas V. What bacterial pathogens are responsible for nursing home acquired pneumonia?
- McAuley, D., Coulter, L., Hudson, J. Can statin therapy be used in hyperlipidemic patients with baseline transaminase elevations?
- Over DR and Durairaj V. Does co-enzyme Q10 supplementation help reduce statin induced myalgia?
- Tantchou L, Coulter L, Hudson, J. What is the most effective method for screening for depression in nursing home patients?
- Wheeler K and Over DR. When is it recommended to transfuse the elderly?
Current & Future Priorities

1) **The Epic Project**: The launch of EPIC in our regional centers will begin rolling out in Fall 2016. This new EMR and IT system will serve as the backbone for an integrated health delivery system across Arkansas.

2) **Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH)**: We continue to improve our clinical processes to provide excellent patient-centered care, while moving toward a more pro-active and targeted population health model. This positions Regional Centers well for taking on shared risk/savings arrangements, and for preparing the next generation of clinical providers for advancing models of team-based care delivery.

3) **Growing the qualified applicant pool for Arkansas’ medical schools**: Research shows that those students who 1) come from Arkansas, 2) attend medical school in Arkansas, and 3) complete residency training in Arkansas are the most likely to remain and practice in Arkansas. Further, those who come from rural areas are far more likely to return to rural areas to practice. Consequently, our eight regional pre-health recruiters will continue to focus on growing the qualified applicant pool within our borders by helping more Arkansas students prepare successfully for medical school.

4) **Regional Center Facilities**: We will continue to move toward securing and/or renovating our clinical facilities for maximum efficiency and conducive to learning for our residents, students, faculty and staff, and to allow for expansion and growth with additional clinic space.

5) **Residency Program expansion**: Family Medicine Residency expansion efforts will be focused in our two most rural regions: North Central and East. Working with local hospital partners and our existing residency programs to develop and establish rural-focused residency programs that are best suited and, ultimately, most beneficial to those regional healthcare systems.

6) **Partnerships & Collaborations**: We will continue to nurture and expand our vital and strategic partnerships and collaborative relationships across the state and within UAMS in order to bring cutting-edge, excellent, and compassionate services and providers to every corner of the state.
Becky G. Hall, EdD, Director

Since 1990, UAMS East has been serving 7 Delta counties with some of the worst health outcomes in the state and limited access to services. As a result of these challenges, UAMS East has expanded efforts to include chronic illness prevention and education, community wellness, and recruitment of health professionals, partnering with over 100 different agencies to meet the needs of the Delta residents.

During the past year, UAMS East in Helena has been working diligently toward establishing a Family Medicine Rural Residency Training Program. UAMS East has signed an MOU with the local hospital and financial calculations are being evaluated.

Obesity has been a primary focus this year, with many programs on nutrition, fitness, weight management and healthy lifestyles. UAMS East offered a new “Integrative Health Coaching” program for 15 participants, with weekly coaching sessions, through partnership with Duke Integrative Medicine Program. Additionally, “Group Lifestyle Balance™” programs were held in Marianna and Helena, with participants losing a total of 140 pounds. In collaboration with Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and the UA Division of Agriculture, a “Grocery Store Tour Event” was hosted in Helena, for 400 participants. Fitness Center encounters numbered 23,757 and exercise programs were held throughout the service area for more than 19,750 youth and adults. Various programs are offered including spinning, yoga, silver sneakers, and ZUMBA, as well as a Bootcamp for kids. A “Farm to You” program taught youth about healthy eating and exercise.

UAMS East has a very robust health education outreach. This year, Kids for Health, reached 18,154 youth. Baby Safety Showers were held for 249 expectant mothers, with staff correctly installing 94 car seats for parents. “Making Proud Choices”, “Making a Difference” and “Reducing the Risk” evidence-based curriculums were implemented at numerous high schools.

UAMS East pre-health professions recruitment activities include MASH, CHAMPS, A Day in the Life, Doctors for Tomorrow Club, AIM, and Club Scrub. A Destined to Be Doctors camp and a Funology Science Camp were also held, with summer camps serving 160 students.

UAMS East continues to host health professions students, interns, residents and RN to BSN students. This year, internships were provided for a Medical Office Technology student from PCC/UA, and an exercise physiology major from Arkansas State University. Collaboration continued with Washington Lee University and its Shepherd Poverty Alliance Internship by providing an internship for 2 students. Mentoring and assistance is provided to RN to BSN and BSN to MSN students, arranging clinical opportunities and community outreach hours. Continuing Education opportunities were provided through the Care Learning program for 495 healthcare professionals. The Library served 6,215 patrons including Health Practitioners, Students, and Consumers.

UAMS East in Lake Village received $2000 from the Minority Health Commission to expand worksite wellness events. UAMS East in Helena received $25,000 to provide Sickle Cell education and screening in Lee, Phillips and St. Francis counties. Two MPH staff are completing Clinical Health Coaching Certification in collaboration with other Regional Center staff. One employee attended a 40-hour Lean Leader Training Method for Healthcare and another employee attended a 12-hour tobacco free training.
During this past year, UAMS North Central has established groundwork to open a new Family Medicine Clinic for the explicit purpose of meeting the health care needs of the community, while also providing a clinical training facility for our proposed Family Medicine Residency Program. The new residency program will be made possible through partnership with White River Medical Center (WRMC). The year has focused primarily on funding and some unresolved issues of the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements concerning whether or not WRMC had been previously "capped" as to the number of Family Medicine Residents they could sponsor. It appears that most of the hurdles have finally been cleared and we are now ready to move forward with clinic development.

Our innovative certified nursing assistant (CNA) training program continues, in which we lend our expertise to the training of CNAs in the community. The training is conducted in several long-term care facilities, with those facilities paying for the instruction. Considering the aging of our communities’ population, the ability to improve the preparation and qualifications of these caregivers is critical for improving health outcomes and decreasing the costs of care. We have now trained 40 CNAs through this program, made possible through the support of participating nursing homes. Approximately 30% of the graduates to date have also elected to go on and pursue additional nursing training.

Our Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) program, the only certified DSME program in our community, continues to have an impact. We also provided support and expertise to another program in a distant county that was in danger of closing.

With the passage of the Private Option in Arkansas, we anticipated decreased demand for services from our Medication Assistance program. However, due to high co-pays, as well as the high cost of many prescription drugs, we have continued to have record demand for the program. This year, our program generated total savings of more than $1.7 Million in prescription drugs for residents in our region.

In anticipation of the establishment of a new UAMS North Central Family Medicine Residency program, we have begun the processes required for establishing such a clinic. While funding is very limited, we are working relationships with the UAMS Northeast program to assist our program with billing/coding and information technology (IT) issues, as well as overall program development. A practice manager/business manager has been identified, with their training being completed currently. Several providers have been interviewed, and we are hoping to have those faculty/practitioners in place within the next few months. With renewed interest in how UAMS North Central will ultimately fit into a larger WRMC/UAMS partnership, these are exciting times in program development. UAMS North Central is looking forward to all the possibilities that the future may hold through our expanded ability to better serve the healthcare needs of all the residents within our 11-county region.
On April 23rd Dr. Rahn hosted a dedication ceremony to celebrate UAMS Northeast’s new facility at 311 East Matthews. The Middle family of Little Rock, Mike Gibson, Judd Hill Foundation Trustee and Michael Givens, Vice President of St. Bernards Hospital were all recognized for their outstanding support.

The new facility has a total of 58,000 square feet, of which UAMS Northeast occupies the first two floors, comprising approximately 35,000 square feet. Work began in Summer 2014 with UAMS Northeast’s management team designing new team-based clinic spaces to accommodate newly adopted care delivery methods. By January 2015, the renovation was mostly complete. On February 13, 2015, UAMS Northeast began the move and began scheduling patients on February 17th.

The new facility includes an Express Care clinic, Care team work spaces, expanded service areas for behavioral health, patient education, drug & medication counseling and more. New spaces for residents, faculty, administrative staff, conferencing and interactive video networking are included as well.

UAMS Northeast was the recipient of a generous $1,000,000 pledge from the Judd Hill Foundation, which is the second $1,000,000 gift from this donor. Additionally St. Bernards hospital pledged to increase stipend support for six resident slots, totaling approximately $400,000.

UAMS Northeast and Arkansas State University (ASU) partnered for the 5th year to offer a four-week Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) review course at a very reasonable cost. Previous years have shown significant improvements in scaled scores. This year, AAMC has developed a new exam that is almost 3 hours longer, and social sciences are now included. There are few practice tests available, norms have not yet been determined, and scoring is completely different than previous years. Steps are being made to expand the course to cover new materials and adjust to the changes as needed.

Eighteen students from ASU, Hendrix, John Brown University, and Southern Arkansas University responded and began the four week intensive course on May 18th. Using the ExamKracker curriculum as a guideline, the class tackled a variety of subjects using lecture material to be studied at home, 30 minute classroom exams, and an ASU faculty member leading a lecture/discussion on each subject. Topics include physics, chemistry, biochemistry, organic chemistry, genetics, biology, verbal reasoning, psychology, and sociology. Lunch was provided daily with guest speakers offering advice and help. The students were able to learn more about premedical support from Pre-Health Recruiter Yalanda Merrell; UAMS College of Medicine from first year medical student, Veronica Hawes; medical school financing from an Army recruiter; residency programs from UAMS Northeast Residency Director Dr. Scott Dickson; and the hiring process from an NEA Baptist Physician Recruiter. The course culminated in a final AAMC online test on June 12th.

UAMS Northeast matched eight resident applicants slated to start July 1, 2015. Five of the eight residents are UAMS graduates; the remaining three are from Windsor University School of Medicine, William Carey University College of Medicine and University of Medicine and Health Sciences, St. Kitts, Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis.

These are exciting times in healthcare. We are very fortunate to be a part of UAMS and to work in Arkansas as we are leading many changes in healthcare. The staff of UAMS Northeast are dedicated to meeting the goals of the triple aim as we educate future healthcare professionals to meet our state’s healthcare needs.
UAMS Northwest

Robert R. Gullett, Jr, MD, Director

Our team at UAMS Northwest takes pride in the mission of improving the health care for residents in the northwest region and the entire state of Arkansas.

Ten residents graduated from our program as part of the Class of 2015, with all ten passing their Board Exams in 2015. Four plan to stay in northwest Arkansas; one has been selected as the first UAMS Northwest Sports Medicine Fellow.

Dr. McGhee, Residency Director, continues to serve as the Vice Chair of the Arkansas Minority Health Commission and as the Medical Director of the Hansen’s Disease Clinic in the Marshallese Outreach Clinic in Springdale. She also serves as Medical Director of the Washington County HIV clinic in Fayetteville.

Dr. Ron Brimberry was named UAMS Northwest Medical Director. In a recent survey by the Arkansas Times, Dr. Brimberry was selected as one of the “Best Doctors in Arkansas”; this is his second time to receive the honor.

We are pleased to have two new faculty members join us in January 2015, Brittany Vaughn, MD and Leigh Wade, LCSW.

Dr. Derrick Gray and Dr. Michael Macechko became Medical Directors at the Arkansas Veterans Home at Fayetteville in May 2015.

UAMS Northwest pharmacy faculty participate in teaching, clinical practice, service and scholarly activity. They are involved in interprofessional education and are preceptors in the North Street Clinic, a student-run free health clinic.

We provide an after-hours clinic at the Family Medical Center-Fayetteville on Fridays, 5-7pm, which gives our patients more options.

It has been exciting to establish the Sports Medicine Fellowship (SMF) at UAMS Northwest. Accreditation was received in October 2014 from the ACGME. This is the state’s first SMF for family physicians. With cooperation from the University of Arkansas Athletics Department and clinical partners, the fellow will receive advanced training on diagnosis and treatment of sports-related illness and injury. Kyle Arthur, MD, has been selected as the first fellow. The SMF will begin July 2015.

Ana Sanchez, Recruiting Specialist, directs annual CHAMPS and MASH camps during spring and summer months, with great interest from both youth and community leaders. An additional MASH camp, CHAMPS camp, and two-day Hands-on Health Care program were held this year, allowing even more students in the region to explore careers in health care. Ms. Sanchez also piloted a Medical Interpreter Program for high school students interested in a health career. It proved very successful with 25 teenagers earning a medical interpreter’s certificate.

In partnership with the UAMS northwest campus, our Health Educator, Eleanor Hughes, provides interprofessional screenings in community churches and factories. She is very active with infant and child safety programs, with a focus on car seat installations and injury prevention. One specific goal is to offer support and self-management skills to clinic patients and community members in order for them to be more in control of their health.

Our UAMS Radiologic Imaging Sciences program served 21 students. Last year’s graduates passed their National Boards and have all either secured employment or are continuing their education. Four of our local radiography students competed in the Quiz Bowl at the State Convention for Radiologic Technologists and finished 4th out of 28 teams.

The UAMS Northwest Library is an excellent resource for students and health care professionals. They provide services for an estimated 10,000 people annually.
While UAMS South, a Rural Health Clinic, ends its second full year serving the residents of Magnolia, AR and the surrounding communities, the residency program continues to evolve and define its focus on rural medicine. As the smallest (a 3-3-3 family Residency Program) and most rural family medicine training program in the state, UAMS South is striving to improve the quality and scope of its training while preparing residents for the unique demands of a rural family medicine practice. Though more than 1,000 applications were received during the last MATCH season, program faculty focused on applicants who truly aspired to make a difference in a rural community. For FY 2015 UAMS South graduated three Family Medicine physicians, achieved NCQA PCMH Level III certification, and provided over 12,000 patient encounters.

In partnership with the UAMS Simulation Center, UAMS South served as a pilot location for a High Risk OB Simulation Training, and incorporated Standardized Patients as a training resource during new residents’ orientation. We plan to continue building a program that will become recognized as a source of well-trained, rural family physicians.

Our pre-health recruiting program continues to reach out to students in our 7-county region. We were able to accept 75 students into our six MASH camps this year, adding two new camps, including locations in Columbia, Ouachita, Ashley, Union, Bradley, and Dallas Counties. Nine CHAMPS students also learned about healthcare in Dallas County. Special thanks to the 19 MASH camp volunteers; half of whom were previous MASH participants. Our pre-health recruiter gave 20 civic club presentations and set up UAMS DAY at Southern Arkansas University, where several advisors from UAMS in Little Rock spent the day talking to students about health professions. UAMS South also formed a new partnership with Southern Arkansas University (SAU) in Magnolia to allow undergraduate students in pre-health majors to shadow residents in our clinic.

This was the first year that UAMS South hosted Jr. Family Medicine Clerkship students since the move from El Dorado to Magnolia, with 18 third-year medical students participating. Magnolia Regional Medical Center and local physicians, Dr. Alexander, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Davis and Dr. Chambliss have welcomed these students with open arms, allowing them to experience family medicine in our Rural Health Clinic as well as the physicians’ offices.

UAMS South also participated in the education of APN and PA students this year. Next year, we look forward to hosting junior and senior medical students, as well as pharmacy, APN and PA students.

Carroll Medical Library at UAMS South was busy proctoring tests for students, providing research for residents and faculty as well as physicians across our 7-county region. The librarian also provided access to health related information at several health fairs. She serves on the HEALTH Coalition of Columbia County and the TOUCH Coalition of Union County. UAMS South employees and residents offered blood pressure and cholesterol checks at a Columbia County Fair booth.

The staff and faculty of UAMS South are committed to excellence, and have gone above and beyond to deliver quality care to patients who call UAMS South their medical home. We remain dedicated to continuing excellent services for families our region.
It has been a year of exciting events and continued transition at UAMS South Central. The first site survey under new ACGME regulations was conducted at UAMS South Central and we are proud to report that the program received full accreditation. UAMS South Central Residency Program Director, Toni Middleton, MD, along with Dr. Darrell Over, faculty and staff worked diligently to ensure compliance with the new standards. This year we also welcomed a new Practice Administrator, Brent Harrison and a new Nursing Manager, Tammaria Murray.

UAMS South Central continues to be a leader in the Patient Centered Medical Home practice for the region. Care teams have been reorganized to improve the efficiency of care delivery. A new behavioral healthcare model has been adopted to augment our care teams and we welcomed Tamika Rogers, LCSW on board. UAMS South Central participates in the Medicaid Primary Care Initiative and the Arkansas Health Care Payment Improvement Initiative which is striving to improve health outcomes and reduce costs.

In affiliation with UAMS East, UAMS South Central continues to explore the establishment of a 1-2 Family Medicine Training Track. The program would provide the first year of a resident’s training at UAMS South Central and Jefferson Regional Medical Center, and then complete years two and three in rural east Arkansas facilities.

To provide for additional growth and to consolidate the three clinics operated by UAMS South Central under one roof, we are working with Jefferson Regional Medical Center (JRMCC) to build a new UAMS South Central facility on the JRMC campus. This opportunity will allow us to operate more efficiently and to expand our patient centered medical home (PCMH) model within a modern structure designed to facilitate resident and student training in the PCMH model of team-based care. UAMS South Central continues its affiliation with the Veterans Administration and manages the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Pine Bluff.

This year, we provided educational opportunities for Advanced Practice Nurses, for Physician Assistant students from UAMS, and for medical and pharmacy students from UAMS, Lincoln Memorial University, DeBusk College of Medicine, among others. A number of UAMS Medical Students performed Family Medicine preceptorships and senior medical student rotations.

This year, our program graduated 12 residents and we will train 30 residents in the coming year. Through our partnership with Jefferson Regional Medical Center, our Family Medicine Residency program remains one of the strongest programs in the state, with a focus on both patient centered outpatient care and intensive hospital training for our residents.

This year we welcomed Shannon Borchert, CHES as our Pre-Professional Recruiter. Shannon, along with Angela Turner and LaSonya Shelby coordinated another very successful MASH camp, with more than 24 high school juniors and seniors participating. Our pre-health recruiting program continues throughout the year to encourage students to pursue health careers, specifically targeting students who have an interest in rural and primary care medicine.

UAMS South Central has enjoyed a long relationship with the Southeast Arkansas Medical Information Consortium Foundation. We were the grateful recipient of a $12,500 donation to our UAMS South Central Foundation to help fund MASH and CHAMPS camps this year, as well as other resident, student and staff educational activities.

UAMS South Central proudly remains a vital part of the healthcare community in the eleven county area we serve.
Much has occurred since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act at UAMS Southwest. What was theory is now developing into practice and we are seeing benefits in the lives of our patients. Emergency Room care is an expensive alternative to seeing a primary care physician in the clinic. Through implementation of patient centered care, UAMS Southwest has seen a steady decline in the number of clinic patients obtaining care in the ER. Helping patients become empowered to “own” their health is the ultimate goal of patient centered care.

The full potential of training Family Medicine Residents in patient centered care will soon be realized. Renovation of the UAMS Family Medical Center building, located on U of A Way in Texarkana, Arkansas is progressing towards a December 2015 opening date. Located adjacent to the UACC-Hope campus and the Four States Fair Grounds affords easy access to the community for medical care. The facility will house a state of the art Patient Centered Medical Home clinic and the Family Medicine Residency Program. The design is unique because it integrates the care team of faculty, residents, nurses, and clinical support members into a central location, “Bee Hive”, where communications and activity will be more immediate to the needs of the patients that surround the “hive.”

Eight Family Medicine residents completed their residency training, and all eight passed their Family Medicine Boards on the first attempt. Of the graduates, five will stay in the local area; two will practice in central Arkansas, and one in Greenville, Texas. Eight new residents started July 1.

The connection between UAMS Southwest and UAMS South saw further development, with staff from Texarkana frequenting Magnolia to assist with clinical, business, and educational operations. James Gooch, Clinical Services Manager at UAMS Southwest, spent a significant amount of time in Magnolia and was selected to become the new Center Director in May.

With a limited number of faculty at UAMS South, the demands to support both the educational and clinical needs at times are overwhelming. To help relieve some of the teaching burden, Southwest faculty turned to interactive video conferencing, which allowed them to conduct Family Medicine resident training simultaneously at both sites. This ability to provide education to residents at a distance will help UAMS Regional Programs to expand Family Medicine Residency Programs into smaller communities of Arkansas.

The 4 allied health and nursing education programs, extensions of UAMS College of Health Professions and Nursing, saw 10 graduates this spring, with 7 completing their MNSc to become Family Nurse Practitioners. The CardioRespiratory Care program graduated 1 senior this year; sadly, this program will be closing in May 2016. Since 1990, the program has graduated a total of 114 students. The Medical Laboratory Science Program is growing, with 5 students (1 senior and 4 juniors) in 2014-2015 to 5 juniors and 4 seniors in 2015-2016. Five students completed phlebotomy training program and are working in the community; 4 new phlebotomy students will start in the fall.

The Community Education and Prevention Department at UAMS Southwest continues to provide programs and events in the community to empower people to live healthy. Several team members are becoming certified Clinical Health Coaches and will use their teaching and patient engagement skills to help improve the health of UAMS Southwest clinic patients.
UAMS West

Don Heard, EdD, Director

UAMS West focused its efforts this year in two major areas - expanding medical education programs and improving the health care of our patient population. UAMS West expanded the number of residents in training from 28 in academic year 2013-14 to 30 in 2014-15 through a federal Graduate Medical Education Teaching Health Center Grant. This represents the largest number of residents in our program’s history. As a further expansion of our medical education efforts, we began collaborating with the UAMS College of Health Professions in July 2014 to train Physician Assistant students. UAMS West faculty also trained Advanced Practice Nurses through clinical rotations and didactic sessions. In relation to our clinical care activities, we strive to improve health care in Western Arkansas by creating systems that help us achieve the “Triple Aim” of simultaneously improving the health outcomes of our patient population, improving the patients’ care experience and satisfaction, and reducing per capita health care costs. Our care systems continue to evolve with more emphasis on information technology to help providers identify and treat patients’ chronic conditions, provide for their preventive care needs, and engage patients as active partners in improving their own health.

In all areas of our educational and medical care programs, UAMS West demonstrated the high quality of our programs and services. Examples pointing to excellence include: 1) continued recognition by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as a Level III health care clinic; 2) participation in Medicare’s Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative; 3) significant upgrades to our electronic Care Manager program which enables clinical staff and providers to better identify patient care needs; 4) all ten of our third year residents successfully passed their 2015 Family Medicine Board Exams; and 5) through the hard work of all faculty, residents, and staff, UAMS West was again named the “Best Regional Center of the Year for 2014,” the third year in a row and the fourth time in six years that UAMS West received this award.

After having been a faculty member since 2003, Dr. Katherine Irish-Clardy was this year promoted to Residency Director. Dr. Tabasum Imran was promoted to Medical Director and provides leadership in our quality improvement efforts, and Dr. Christopher Fortson, a current resident, will join our faculty in July 2015, upon graduation from our residency program. During the year, Ms. Elizabeth Petray was promoted to Patient Centered Behavioral Health Faculty, Ms. Darla Rowe joined our team as a Health Education Specialist, and Ms. Sherry Pullen became our clinical Health Population Coordinator. All of these positions will perform an integral role in helping us maintain excellence.

UAMS West has begun the planning process to build a new clinic and remodel our current facility to accommodate an increased number of trainees; to effectively service the acute, chronic, and preventive needs of our patients; and to train our residents and students in patient centered, team oriented, cost effective care. We hope to begin construction in 2015-16.

UAMS West faculty, residents and staff also participated in community health fairs, screenings, student career days, public education activities, and served on numerous community, state, and hospital boards and committees. Overall, we had a successful year and our Faculty and Staff look forward to the opportunities and challenges of a new year.
Financial Profile

Monies allocated by the State in FY 2015 decreased 4% from FY 2014. We continue to expand the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model at our Family Medicine Clinics by implementing technology and team-based approaches. These efforts will improve access and enhance quality of patient care, so funding allocations to complete those efforts are being directed to clinical services. Health literacy strategies have also been incorporated into our patient care delivery to improve patient communication and outcomes. New behavioral faculty and clinical health coaches in our clinics will further impact patient care through improved self-management of diabetes and other chronic diseases.

We are committed to allocating resources to pre-health recruiting programs, such as MASH and CHAMPS, along with programs that help prepare rural students to be successful with professional school applications, interviews and exams. Exposing Arkansas students to health careers and increasing the long-term pipeline of qualified applicants from rural areas is needed to ensure an adequate supply of doctors to care for Arkanans in the future.

Federal Residency Expansion Grants will be ending and we again anticipate no new state funding for FY 16. This will continue to put pressure on self-generated clinical income and will decrease our number of residency slots.
Key Partners
We are extremely grateful for the leadership of the Regional Programs Advisory Council, our Center directors, faculty, and hardworking employees, the dedication of our volunteer faculty, the support of affiliated hospitals and other community partners, and the commitment to educational outreach of the various UAMS Colleges.

Advisory Council
Internal and external advisory groups consult on various aspects of Regional Programs planning and implementation from a statewide perspective (page 36).

UAMS
Educational programs at UAMS Regional Centers are approved by the appropriate colleges at UAMS and coordinated through a central office on the UAMS campus. Regional faculty are involved in the medical school admissions process, teach classes on campus, and participate in medical student interviews.

Regional Center Faculty
Center Directors serve as regional health care leaders and are responsible for administering programs in their respective areas. Multi-disciplinary teams of physician, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health professionals oversee and participate in clinical training, including 200 paid and volunteer faculty.

Regional Partners
Regional Centers work closely with Community Health Centers, public health clinics, mental health, and other providers and facilities to promote cooperative solutions to local health problems. We are indebted to the Arkansas Farm Bureau, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Baptist Health Systems, and the Office of Oral Health of the Arkansas Department of Health for their ongoing support of our M*A*S*H programs, in collaboration with Regional Programs. Other important partnerships with the UAMS Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging and the Veterans Administration are meeting regional needs of the State’s elderly and our veterans.

Other Schools and Universities
UAMS Regional Programs collaborate with many schools, vo-tech and community colleges, and universities across Arkansas to provide health professions education specific to regional needs.
Affiliated Community Hospitals

The Regional Centers hold formal agreements with the community hospitals listed below as host institutions and training facilities. We extend our deep appreciation to our teaching hospital affiliates, which contribute facilities, funds, and staff in support of our programs.

**UAMS East**
Crittenden Memorial Hospital
Helena Regional Medical Center
Chicot Memorial Hospital

**UAMS North Central**
White River Medical Center
Baxter Regional Medical Center

**UAMS Northeast**
St. Bernards Regional Medical Center
NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital

**UAMS Northwest**
Washington Regional Medical Center
Northwest Medical Center –Springdale
Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks
Willow Creek Women’s Hospital

**UAMS South**
Magnolia Regional Medical Center

**UAMS South Central**
Jefferson Regional Medical Center

**UAMS Southwest**
CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital
Wadley Regional Medical Center

**UAMS West**
Sparks Regional Medical Center

“One of my daughter’s friends asked her why she would go to CHAMPS on her spring break, that it was like being at school. Olivia told her it was so much fun and it was helping her learn what she needed to become a doctor one day. This was an experience she will never forget. You have made a difference in my child’s life, and for that, you have no idea how very much you’re appreciated!”

~Jennifer White, parent
UAMS Regional Programs Advisory Council

The Regional Programs Advisory Council consults on various aspects of planning, implementation, and evaluation from a statewide perspective. The Council is comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of the advisory councils of the eight Centers and other members representing partner organizations that support and work with Regional Programs to achieve our statewide mission. We are deeply indebted to this capable group of advisors.

UAMS East
- P. Vasudevan, MD
- Rhonda St. Columbia

UAMS North Central
- Gary Bebow

UAMS Northeast
- Guy Patteson
- Mark Brown, MD

UAMS Northwest
- Gilda Underwood
- Curtis Shipley

UAMS South
- Margaret West
- John Tucker

UAMS South Central
- David Jacks, MD
- Sharon Theriot

UAMS Southwest
- Debbie Haak
- Vicki Huckabee

UAMS West
- Buddy McMahon

Partner Representatives
- Jennifer Victory, Rural Health Director, Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
- Leslie Taylor, Vice Chancellor
- Cherry Duckett, Vice Chancellor
- Kevin Ryan, JD, MA, Associate Dean
- Roxane Townsend, MD, Vice Chancellor
- Jennifer Dilliha, MD, Director
- Steven Collier, MD, CEO
- Brigitte Grant, Assistant Vice Chancellor
- UAMS Office of Institutional Advancement
UAMS Regional Programs 2014-15 Annual Report

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Amber Marshall, Statewide Pre-health Program Coordinator (not pictured)

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Melanie Clark, LPN Care Coordinator

Tim Hill, Vice Chancellor
Brian Barnett, MHSA, Assistant Vice-Chancellor

(L-R) Jessica Ellis, MBA, MA, Director of Finance and Administration
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Janet Hicks, BS, CPC, RHIT, Practice Manager
Marina Hicks, Department Business Coordinator
Kim Harris, Administrative Analyst (not pictured)

(L-R) Theodore Dimitrov, MSMIS, Director of Information Technology
Liu Smith, MD, MA, MS, Assistant Director of Information Technology
William Mitchell, Special Projects Manager
Chad Rhinehart, Application System Analyst (not pictured)

Not pictured: Carol Graham, MHSA, Associate Vice Chancellor/Executive Director, Clinical
John Vinson, PharmD, Statewide Medical Director

http://ruralhealth.uams.edu/regionalcenters
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