

DEAN'S HONOR DAY

2024

Tuesday, April 16
4:00-5:00 PM

Fred Smith Auditorium

& livestream | medicine.uams.edu

UAMS | College of Medicine

Welcome from the Dean
Welcome from the Master of Ceremonies

AWARDS & HONOREES

Staff Excellence | Education
Jessica Bursk

Staff Excellence | Research
Caroline Miller Robinson, B.S.

Staff Excellence | Clinical
Chris Cathcart, DPT, MBA

Staff Excellence | Administration
Robin Rogers, B.A.

GME Educator | Program Coordinator
Angela Warr

GME Educator | Program Director
Priya Mendiratta, M.D., MPH

Master Teacher
Steve Schexnayder, M.D.

Educational Innovation
Ahmed Abuabdou, M.D., MBA

Educational Research
Karen Dickinson, MBBS, M.D., M.Ed

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine
David Kelley, M.D.

Excellence in Research
Lorraine McKelvey, Ph.D.

Promotion & Tenure Tribute |
Associate Professors

Clinical Excellence | Outstanding APP
Ashley Wilson, DNP

Clinical Excellence | Quality & Safety
Tabasum Imran, M.D.

Clinical Excellence | Service & Professionalism
Chenia Eubanks, M.D., MPH

Clinical Excellence | Best Consulting Physician
Sarah Cobb, M.D.

Clinical Excellence | Collaborations & Teamwork
Lyle Burdine, M.D., Ph.D.

Clinical Excellence | Rising Star
Dinesh Edem, M.D.

Clinical Excellence | Physician of the Year
Ronda Henry-Tillman, M.D.

Promotion & Tenure Tribute | Professors,
Distinguished Professors & Emeriti

Distinguished Faculty Service Award
Eduardo Ochoa Jr., M.D.

Steven Webber, MBChB
Renee Bornemeier, M.D.

PRESENTERS

Leslie Stone, M.D., MPH

Jerry Ware, Ph.D.

Mary Katherine Kimbrough, M.D.

Mathias Brochhausen, Ph.D.

Molly Gathright, M.D.

Dr. Gathright

William Steinbach, M.D.

Carol Thrush, Ed.D.

Dr. Kimbrough

Diane Jarrett, Ed.D., M.A.

Nicola Edge, Ph.D.

Dr. Bornemeier

Lawrence Greiten, M.D., Ms.C.

Shashank Kraleti, M.D.

Sarah Sobik, M.D., MPH

Franscesca Miquel-Verges, M.D.

Ronald Robertson, M.D.

Manisha Singh, M.D.

Dr. Robertson

Dr. Bornemeier

Dr. Webber & Dr. Eubanks

Dean's Honor Day 2024: Meet our Honorees

The UAMS College of Medicine is pleased to introduce the recipients of the 2024 Dean's Honor Day awards. The faculty and staff members highlighted on this page were recognized at an April 16 ceremony for their outstanding work and service in clinical care, research, administration and humanism.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the Dean's Distinguished Faculty Service Award to **Eduardo R. "Eddie" Ochoa Jr., M.D.**, a professor in the Department of Pediatrics who has strived to improve the health and quality of life of children in Arkansas and nationally since joining the faculty in 1999. He also has held impactful roles such as helping the college identify and select promising future physicians as a multi-term member of and chair of the college's student admissions committee.

Read more about Ochoa and the ceremony overall in the 2024 Dean's Honor Day [main feature story](#).



Nominator Chenia Eubanks, M.D., MPH, presents a commemorative art glass bowl to Eduardo Ochoa Jr., M.D., the 2024 Dean's Distinguished Faculty Service Award honoree (right). (All photos by Bryan Clifton)

Congratulations to the following 2024 award winners!

Staff Excellence Awards

Staff Excellence – Education

Jessica Bursk

Program Education Manager
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine

Jessica Bursk has been a tireless champion for medical education in a variety of roles with the College of Medicine Department of Family and Preventive Medicine (DFPM) and UAMS Regional Campuses since 2015, including Program Education Manager since 2023.

"She has been an indispensable contributor to our department's medical student programs, and that is saying a lot, because our department has activities and programs across the curriculum and really in every corner of the state," Leslie Stone, M.D., MPH, assistant professor and director of the Family Medicine Clerkship, said when presenting the award.

Bursk works closely with current medical students and potential students participating in UAMS pipeline programs. Stone said Bursk is always approachable and supportive for both students and faculty and a skilled communicator and facilitator who remains "relentlessly positive." In his nomination letter, he included a comment from a grateful medical student who spoke of Bursk's "passionate" advocacy of family medicine.



Leslie Stone, M.D., presents the Staff Excellence Award for Education to Jessica Bursk (right).

Collaborations & Teamwork

Lyle Burdine, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Surgery
Director, Solid Organ Transplant Surgery

Lyle Burdine, M.D., Ph.D., has fostered an environment of collaboration at UAMS Medical Center and around Arkansas to ensure that transplant patients receive the comprehensive, coordinated care they need.

“Dr. Burdine is the epitome of clinical collaborations and teamwork,” said nominator Ron Robertson, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Surgery. “He has led the Transplant Program to unparalleled heights.”

Robertson noted that UAMS recently received the best possible five out of five bars for both the kidney and transplant programs from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients. “The Transplant Program has the distinction of being first in the United States in patient survival for those awaiting transplantation,” he said. “We are second in the United States for the speed at which patients receive a deceased donor liver.”

Burdine’s leadership also has been instrumental in developing satellite clinics across the state to provide accessible care for transplant patients. “These clinics are not just centers of excellence for transplant medicine; they also serve as vital access points for dialysis access, hepatobiliary cancer treatment and general surgery, especially for those unable to travel to Little Rock for care,” Robertson wrote in his nomination letter.



Ron Robertson, M.D., presents the Clinical Excellence-Collaborations & Teamwork Award to Lyle Burdine, M.D., Ph.D. (right).

Rising Star Clinical Faculty

Dinesh Edem, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine-Endocrinology
Director, Medical Weight Management

Dinesh Edem, M.D., is providing compassionate care for Arkansans struggling with obesity while gaining national recognition as an expert in endocrinology, diabetes and obesity.

“Dr. Edem exemplifies everything that a rising star would be,” said nominator Manisha Singh, M.D., associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Nephrology. “Like a light in the dark skies, he decided to take on the challenge of obesity and diabetes in our state. I find that extremely inspiring.”

Edem directs the popular and impactful Medical Weight Management Program at UAMS. As an expert on obesity, he has been featured in numerous state and national media articles and broadcast interviews on issues relating to obesity and treatments for obesity. Singh noted that Edem has authored or co-authored 12 publications in peer-reviewed journals in the past two years. He is a prolific peer reviewer for nine medical journals.

“Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dinesh exemplifies the qualities of a true leader and role model within our institution,” Singh wrote in her nomination. “He consistently demonstrates integrity, humility and a



Manisha Singh, M.D., presents the Clinical Excellence-Rising Star Award to Dinesh Edem, M.D. (right).

collaborative spirit, earning his colleagues' and peers' respect and admiration."

Physician of the Year

Ronda Henry-Tillman, M.D.

Professor and Executive Vice Chair, Department of Surgery
Division Chief, Breast Surgical Oncology
Muriel Balsam Kohn Chair in Breast Surgical Oncology

Ronda Henry-Tillman, M.D., is a nationally and internationally renowned breast surgical oncologist, leader in the Department of Surgery and UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, and devoted champion of patients in Arkansas and around the world.

Ron Robertson, M.D., chair of the Department of Surgery, lamented the difficulty of trying to convey Henry-Tillman's many accomplishments in a short award presentation.



Ron Robertson, M.D., presents the Clinical Excellence-Physician of the Year Award to Ronda Henry-Tillman, M.D. (right).

"First of all, she is nationally and internationally recognized as a breast surgeon who has pioneered many of the operative techniques in breast oncoplastic surgery," Robertson said. "And her patients absolutely adore her."

Henry-Tillman is chief of breast surgery oncology and executive vice chair in the Department of Surgery at UAMS, where she has served on the faculty since completing her clinical breast fellowship in 1999. She also serves as director of UAMS Health Initiative and Disparities Research in the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.

Henry-Tillman is a national leader in surgery, serving on numerous boards including the American Board of Surgery and the American Society of Breast Surgeons. She has received many honors, including the UAMS Dr. Edith Irby Jones Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Lifetime Achievement Award, induction into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, and election to the Halsted Society, one of the most prestigious surgical societies in the world.

[Watch the video recording of the ceremony here.](#)

[Watch the video tribute to associate professors.](#)

[Watch the video tribute to professors, distinguished professors and emeritus faculty.](#)

[Download a list of the 2024 promotion and tenure honorees.](#)

All photos by Bryan Clifton

Posted by [Tamara Robinson](#) on April 29, 2024

Filed Under: [News](#)

4301 West Markham Street, Little Rock, AR 72205

Phone: (501) 686-7000