

Bringing a better state of health to all through research and innovation



Postdoctoral Fellow Recruitment

UAMS
Community
Health & Research

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GREETINGS FROM



DR. PATTERSON, DR. GARDNER, DR. MCELFISH AND DR. GANDY

From left: Dr. Jay Gandy, Dr. Stephanie Gardner, Dr. Cam Patterson, and Dr. Pearl McElfish

Northwest Arkansas is the 14th-fastest-growing metro area in the U.S., and it is also the state's fastest-growing region. Not surprisingly, this growth in population has created an ever-greater demand for health care in Northwest Arkansas.

Currently 75 percent of the health care providers in Northwest Arkansas were trained at UAMS. The need for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, therapists and other health care providers will continue to grow with the region's population, and the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus is committed to expanding our efforts to meet the community's needs.

As part of the state's only health sciences university, the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus was established in 2007 and has a \$50 million annual economic impact on the region. Its core mission areas are:

- Education
- Clinical Care
- Research

In addition to training on the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus, our students are trained throughout Northwest Arkansas in area hospitals, pharmacies and clinics by more than 1,000 community-based faculty who provide hands-on experience to the state's future doctors, pharmacists, nurses, therapists and other health care professionals.

As the only academic medical center in Arkansas, our researchers conduct groundbreaking research to create new knowledge that will help people live longer and healthier lives.

On the following pages, you can read about the exciting programs and initiatives that are happening on the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus to bring a better state of health to the growing population in Northwest Arkansas.

On behalf of the more than 600 UAMS faculty, employees, students and residents and the hundreds of thousands of patients and community members who receive care from UAMS or any of our UAMS alumni, we thank you for your continued support.

CAM PATTERSON, M.D., MBA
Chancellor
University of Arkansas
for Medical Sciences

STEPHANIE GARDNER, PHARM.D., ED.D.
Provost and Chief Academic Officer
University of Arkansas
for Medical Sciences

PEARL MCELFISH, PH.D.
Division Director
UAMS Community
Health & Research

JAY GANDY, PH.D.
Associate Provost
UAMS Northwest
Regional Campus



Community Health & Research

At UAMS Community Health & Research, we work with communities to identify, research, and implement innovative interventions to help people achieve their best health. Through research, innovation and community-driven action, we are creating a better state of health for all.

A highly successful and productive research office with a team of more than 150 full-time staff and faculty, Community Health & Research leads a variety of community-engaged research and programs focused on Disease Prevention & Management; Maternal & Child Health; Healthy Food Systems; Health Navigation and Mobile Health; Diabetes & Obesity; Implementation Science; and Data, Evaluation & Dissemination.

The pioneering work of the office has established a nationally recognized presence in Northwest Arkansas, engaging in innovative collaborations with regional, statewide and national organizations dedicated to eliminating health disparities and improving health outcomes for all.

“Community Health & Research faculty integrate a community focus across everything we do. We work closely with communities to integrate their perspectives to help answer research questions that are important to community members and to scientific stakeholders.”

Chris Long, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Research & Evaluation



focus on your **FUTURE**



- **Co-author multiple publications**

Through more than **250 publications** since 2015, Community Health & Research has measured, reported and disseminated the impact of our work. The results of this work has received recognitions from the **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention**, **National Institutes of Health**, the **Association of American Medical Colleges**, and more.



- **Work on multiple projects with a highly productive team**

Community Health and Research faculty and staff have a commitment to **impact**, which leads to a continuously growing range of sponsors and grant awards. This steady expansion into new funding arenas allows for **versatility** in growing **your research experience**.

- **Gain invaluable scientific experience**

Post-Doctoral Fellows work with diverse populations on a wide variety of community research projects that **impact communities across Arkansas**, as well as **communities around the world**, opening doors to a successful research career with respected scientific and medical institutions.

"I have gained, and continue to gain invaluable experience through unique post-doctoral training at Community Health & Research to advance my research career. This growth stems from the many opportunities to work with multidisciplinary investigators, to lead manuscripts, and to contribute to grant-writing, all while engaging in a wide variety of community-based research projects."

Eliza Short
Postdoctoral Fellow



state of the art **RESEARCH NETWORK**

You will work alongside multidisciplinary researchers and support staff in an exceptional scientific environment. UAMS's network of expert scientists and clinicians are available for support and collaboration, in addition to respected researchers and advisors from academic institutions across the United States.

Collaborations with the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute and its 160+ researchers provides Community Health & Research access to technology, services, and scientific consultation that enhances scientific interaction and productivity. Learn more about the Cancer Institute at cancer.uams.edu.

Our researchers also enjoy the benefit of the UAMS Translational Research Institute, which provides services and resources to ensure the swift translation of research into health care advances. Learn more about UAMS TRI at tri.uams.edu.

Our network spans far beyond the walls of UAMS and other academic institutions. We partner with more than 100 community organizations, schools, employers, faith-based organizations, and more. Advisory boards comprised of health officials and community stakeholders drive much of our work.

At UAMS, you will have access to the tools you need to conduct **meaningful research** and enact **lasting change**.

The impact of our work is felt across the country, thanks in large part to community and scientific partners who help drive our work. This map shows just a few of our partners.



\$150 MILLION+

in grant funding from a variety of sources, including NIH, CDC, PCORI, HHS, HRSA, USDA, and the Walton & Walmart Foundations

exceptional GROWTH

50+

active projects to reduce health disparities in Northwest Arkansas and around the globe

20+

program evaluations managed by Community Health and Research

150+

multidisciplinary faculty and research support staff from a variety of backgrounds

Since its creation in 2012, UAMS Community Health and Research has established itself at the forefront of impactful change in the health outcomes of populations in Northwest Arkansas and beyond.

UAMS Community Health and Research is a regional, national and global leader in community-engaged research and action. We hope that you will embark on our journey with us.

Together, we will create a better state of health for all.

"My time as a post-doctoral research fellow with Community Health & Research was so valuable to my career development. I was able to develop my skills as a scholar by participating in research projects and developing manuscripts in the areas I was most interested in, all within a highly collaborative team environment."

Jennifer Andersen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Previous Postdoctoral Fellow



key research ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Research Examples

- Development and implementation of a Family-Model Diabetes Self-Management Education Program shown to be effective in improving control of blood sugar levels among Marshallese populations
- Pilot of a diabetes management program in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

● Significant decrease in sodium at local schools through Community Health & Research Healthy Food Systems work

- Reduced impact of COVID-19 infection among vulnerable populations by working with community partners
- Named by the National Institutes for Health (NIH) as an exemplar to President Joe Biden's administration for COVID-19 testing accomplishments in 2021
- Winner of the 2021 Association of American Medical Colleges Spencer Foreman Award for Outstanding Community Engagement

“UAMS lives out its mission to ‘improve the health, health care, and well-being of Arkansans and others in the region, nation, and the world’ and has made community engagement central to its patient- and family-centered care, education, and research.”

- Association of American Medical Colleges
2021 Spencer Foreman Award
for Outstanding Community Engagement



Reducing Sodium Intake in Community Meals Programs: Evaluation of the Sodium Reduction in Communities Program, Arkansas, 2016-2019



Comparative Effectiveness and Maintenance of Diabetes Self-Management Education Interventions for Marshallese Patients with Type 2 Diabetes: A Randomized Controlled Trial



The Mediating Role of Sleep Quality and Quantity in the Link Between Food Insecurity and Obesity Across Race and Ethnicity



Marshallese Beliefs, Perceptions, and Practices Related to Child Feeding Among Marshallese in the United States: Implications for Childhood Obesity



For a full list of articles published by Office of Community Health and Research staff, scan the QR code to the left or visit nwa.uams.edu/chr/publications

“Community Health & Research is a real bridge between research and community health. Our collaborative approach relies on integrating diverse disciplines while promoting the participation of key members of the communities we serve. This leads to tangible impact and positive outreach that goes beyond research.”

Rachelle Narcisse Jean-Louis,
Ph.D., M.S.
Assistant Professor



A message from **Dr. Pearl McElfish**

Thank you for your interest in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

The UAMS Northwest Regional Campus was established in 2007 to meet the growing demand for health care professionals and to support the rapid growth in the Northwest Arkansas region. Northwest Arkansas is a collection of vibrant and rapidly expanding communities, and the need for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, and other health care providers will continue to grow with our region's population.

As part of our three missions (education, clinical, and research), in 2012, we founded the Office of Community Health and Research, which works to reduce health disparities and increase access to chronic disease prevention and management services in Northwest Arkansas. In 2015, we founded the Center for Pacific Islander Health, the first center in the United States that focuses solely on Pacific Islander health issues through research, community programs, training, and policy.

Since that time, we have been awarded more than \$150 million in federal and private foundation grants for investment in community health in Northwest Arkansas, including funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. We have also published hundreds of peer-reviewed articles.

Much of our research focuses on reducing health disparities within Pacific Islander and Latinx communities. We also conduct food systems research and methodological research related to the best methods for conducting community-based participatory research and for disseminating research results to participants and communities.

Our team at UAMS Community Health & Research works diligently to identify and understand health needs through research and programs, and strives to create an environment where every person has access to their best health. We hope you will consider joining us on this journey.



Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pearl McElfish".

Dr. Pearl McElfish, Ph.D.
Division Director
UAMS Community Health & Research

grow alongside one of the most promising areas in the country

Northwest Arkansas is the fastest growing region in the state, and one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. For four consecutive years, the Northwest Arkansas region has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 5 places to live in the U.S. In 2019, Northwest Arkansas was ranked No.4 as Best Places to Live in the U.S., No. 2 among medium-sized metropolitan areas, No. 17 overall in nation's Most Dynamic Metropolitans, and No. 4 of the 25 Best Affordable Places to Live in U.S.

Northwest Arkansas has become a center of culture, commerce and entrepreneurialism. The surrounding area is home to headquarters for several Fortune 500 companies, and the city boasts first-class performing arts centers, active farm-to-table food scene, vibrant festivals and live music venues. Nestled in the Ozark Mountain foothills, Fayetteville offers easy access to the Buffalo River – America's first national river – and nearby biking and hiking trails that were recognized last year by Outside magazine and National Geographic.

Fifty miles of beautiful trails for biking or hiking are available for everyone, from the seasoned mountain biker to the family using a stroller, as well as 70 parks and natural areas open to the public

This community has long been a mecca for artistic expression, as well as a dynamic music scene. An eclectic mix of musicians practice their craft here and can be heard all over the city. Fayetteville was named the No. 3 music destination for live music in the U.S in 2018.

We hope you will consider continuing your journey with us.

To learn more about Northwest Arkansas, visit nwacouncil.org or scan the QR Code to the right.



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nwa.uams.edu/chr

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UAMS[®]

Community
Health & Research

Northwest Arkansas is the fastest growing region in the state, and one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. Learn more at FindingNWA.com.