



Message from Dr. Sanford



Dear Colleagues,

As summer heats up, we are happy to be out in the community once again. We hosted our 10th annual Strike Out Stroke night at Dickey Stephens Park, home of the Arkansas Travelers to promote awareness and education about stroke symptoms and risks. Lori Berry, Director of Operations for the Stroke Program, was able to assist stroke survivor, Ray Robinson

III, to the mound to toss out the first pitch to start the ball game.

The Trauma Rehabilitation Resources Program continues to stay busy developing a resource facilitation guide, hosting TBI workshops, creating a Return to Learn team and implementing the program within the Little Rock School District, and much more. The South Central Telehealth Resource Center hosted a national webinar with the National Consortium of Telehealth Resources Centers on the topic of telehealth disparities in rural hospitals. The Grants Teams has been excelling on multiple proposals and awards, including a \$1 million award from the CDC for COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities.

We are also proud to announce that several of our IDHI colleagues have received awards this year:

- Roz Perkins received the UAMS Excellence in Best Practice Award
- Hari Eswaran received the UAMS Research Excellence Award
- Baylee Field received the UAMS Staff Excellence Award in Education
- Renee Joiner received the ThinkNurse Outstanding Nurse Educator Award
- Terri Imus was nominated for the Mary Helen Forrest Legacy Award
- The Association of American Medical Colleges awarded a Telehealth Equity Catalyst award to the IDHI for our Arkansas Telemedicine Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (TeleSANE) Program

Please join me in congratulating them for this much deserved recognition of their work.

As we approach the peak of summer here in Arkansas, please remember to stay hydrated, stay cool, and stay safe as you enjoy all that our state has to offer.

Sincerely,

Joseph Sanford, M.D.
Chief Clinical Informatics Officer, UAMS Health
Director, UAMS Institute for Digital Health & Innovation

Digital Health Grants Wish Survey

We want to hear from you! Fill out this brief survey to let us know your digital health needs. This survey seeks to identify your greatest need for grant funding in 2022-2023. Your response will guide IDHI's grant-seeking efforts. Click on the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/wrBGEp3iD>



Stroke Program

2022 IDHI Stroke Program Nurse Facilitator Retreat



Reunited and it feels so good! The IDHI Stroke Program held their annual Nurse Facilitator Retreat on May 18-19th in Little Rock at the Robinson Center. More than 100 people were in attendance from the stroke program sites across the state. Attendees came together to discuss a broad range of topics including processes, clinical best practices and community outreach.

2022 Strike Out Stroke Night/UAMS Night



Nurse Facilitators showing off the stroke face shirts that were handed out to attendees.

Following the adjournment of the Nurse Facilitator Retreat, the stroke program crossed the Arkansas River to Dickey Stephens Park for Strike Out Stroke Night. The first 1000 attendees in the gate received a stroke face t-shirt and were met with various stroke education stations throughout the night. Stroke survivors were in attendance and participated in a pre-game ceremony. Mr. Ray Robinson III threw the ceremonial first pitch.

Click on the link below to read more:

<https://news.uams.edu/2022/06/03/survivor-throws-strike-against-stroke-says-family-history-number-one-thing/>



Nurse Facilitator, Tim Tanner, from Saint Mary's Regional Hospital in Russellville explains a thrombectomy to the community through the Save the Brain game.

Promotions



Baylee Field has accepted the position of Telemedicine Project Manager effective June 20, 2022. This position works with all ED clinical consult support services: Stroke, Trauma Hand and Burn, Trauma Image Repository, Traumatic Brain Injury, TeleSANE programs, as well as new urgent clinical consult services/projects.

New Team Members



Cynthia West

Outreach Nurse Educator
Stroke Program



Brittany Savage

Community Health Educator
Stroke Program

Terayia Bryant, RN

Call Center

IDHI Grants Team

Busier than ever, the IDHI Grants Team has submitted multiple grant proposals and award nominations this year, with more on the horizon. This year's awarded grant proposals (with start dates between March and June 2022) include the following:

1. CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities; PI Joseph Sanford: Joseph Sanford was awarded a \$1M subgrant for this opportunity through a collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Health. The subaward will assist charitable clinics, community health centers, and other rural health clinics develop their telemedical infrastructure and offerings.

2. AAMC Telehealth Equity Catalyst Award; PI Sherrie Searcy: Sherrie Searcy received a one-year award of \$15,000 in recognition of TeleSANE standing out as a "prime example of effective efforts to advance health care equity and telehealth." The award money will assist efforts in gathering needed evaluation information for a sustainability white paper.

3. ACL Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Aging and Disability Networks: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); PI Donna Elrod: Donna Elrod was awarded \$86,400 over three years to incorporate marriage counseling and neuropsychology support into traumatic brain injury care at UAMS.



Aside from these accomplishments, the IDHI Grants Team also has multiple pending grant proposals and is also currently working on several other proposals on which IDHI is either lead entity or a key partner. Additionally, interviews are underway to fill two contractor positions that will support pursuing even more funding for the institution.

Trauma Rehabilitation Resources Program

Dianne Campbell, LCSW has been working diligently to assist persons living with traumatic brain injury to find vitally needed services. She is in the process of developing a comprehensive and integrated resource facilitation program to track and assure persons living with TBI.

Amber Watson, MBA has expertly organized quarterly TBI resource workshops. We have seen the attendance increase dramatically since we brought the event to a teleconference format. Not only are the workshops informative and well received but her organizational skills add a signature of competence and professionalism each time.

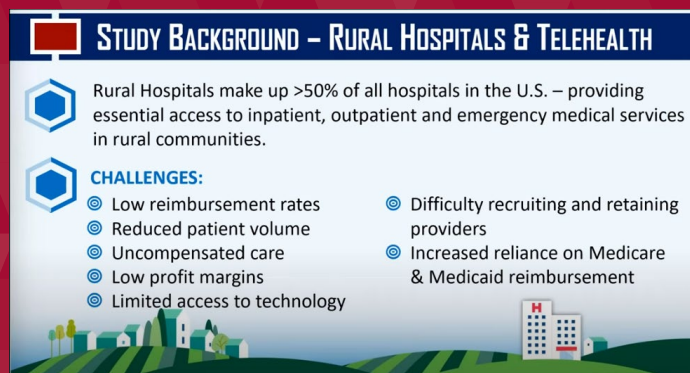
Kristen Alexander, MPH, MPS and Amy Goddard (Arkansas Department of Education) formulated the first Return to Learn team in Arkansas at the Little Rock School District. Return to Learn teams are focused on developing an integrated system of recognition and management of students who have sustained a concussion/mild traumatic brain injury. One primary concept is to use systems within the school that are already in place. Management includes gradually bringing the student back into the classroom, coordinating with medical professionals (school nurses and care providers), and educating parents. The goal is to develop a statewide system that will track concussion trends and target under-resourced and rural schools for support.

Eddie Williams, RN, has identified gaps and service failures for persons with TBI in the Arkansas Trauma System. He has located trauma centers that failed to provide TBI referrals and educated TBI Registry users to improve those processes. Eddie has also improved relationships with our out-of-state rehabilitation centers to further coordinate care. Chrystal Fullen, PhD, will begin work on an Administration for Community Living Public Health Workforce grant. Dr. Fullen will form outpatient cognitive therapy discussion groups for persons with TBI recently discharged from trauma centers.

Constance Tullis, LMSW, has worked diligently to update vital information on the resource webpage with particular attention to care providers often used by persons with TBI.

Kristen Alexander, MPH, MPS chairs the Administration for Community Living Return to Learn Workgroup and Danny Bercher, PhD, NRP, CBIs, chairs the Administration for Community Living TBI Advisory Board Workgroup. Both chairmanships last for one year as other states take turns sharing in this leadership role.

SCTRC Webinar



STUDY BACKGROUND - RURAL HOSPITALS & TELEHEALTH

Rural Hospitals make up >50% of all hospitals in the U.S. – providing essential access to inpatient, outpatient and emergency medical services in rural communities.

CHALLENGES:

- Low reimbursement rates
- Reduced patient volume
- Uncompensated care
- Low profit margins
- Limited access to technology
- Difficulty recruiting and retaining providers
- Increased reliance on Medicare & Medicaid reimbursement

The South Central Telehealth Resource Center hosted a national webinar with the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers in June where Dr. Saleema Karim discussed health disparities among rural hospitals and telehealth through her presentation, "Telehealth Adoption among Rural Hospitals: A Classic Tale of the 'Haves' and 'Have-Nots'"

"Telehealth is an option to improve access to rural hospitals by rural residents, however, not all rural hospitals have telehealth available to them," said Dr. Karim. "This study compares rural hospitals financial performance with and without telehealth from 2009 to 2019."



You can view the webinar here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEy_hifcHmw