

**UAMS News Bureau**

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**Sickle Cell Symposium Sept. 18 to Focus  
on 'Mind, Body and Soul'**

LITTLE ROCK — People with sickle cell disease, their families, health care professionals and the public are invited to the 2018 annual Sickle Cell Symposium at 6 p.m. Sept. 18 at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). The symposium is free.

The topic of the symposium is “Sickle Cell: Mind, Body and Soul.”

Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the UAMS Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, the Sickle Cell Symposium is presented by Future Builders Inc. and Arkansas Black Nurses Association in collaboration with the UAMS Adult Sickle Cell Clinical Program.

Registration is required. To register in advance for the symposium and for more information, go to [sicklecell.uams.edu](http://sicklecell.uams.edu), or email Leigh Ann Wilson at [LAWilson2@uams.edu](mailto:LAWilson2@uams.edu). Registration and networking at the symposium will start at 5 p.m.

Shamonica Wiggins, a patient living with sickle cell disease, will share the story of her personal journey and her experience with depression. Wiggins is one of the founders of Bold Lips for Sickle Cell.

Rev. Johnny Smith Jr. will be the pastoral speaker at the symposium. He serves as the pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Pine Bluff and as the chaplain for the Pine Bluff Police Department. A certified religious assistant with the Arkansas Department of Correction, Smith is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Christian University-Morris Booker College in Dermott.

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Leigh Ann Wilson, a licensed clinical social worker, will discuss local resources that can help patients cope with sickle cell disease. She has worked in the UAMS Adult Sickle Cell Clinical Program for four years. Wilson has a master’s degree in social work from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

UAMS is the state’s only health sciences university, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; hospital; northwest Arkansas regional campus; statewide network of regional centers; and six institutes: the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, Psychiatric Research Institute, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging and Translational Research Institute. It is the only adult Level 1 trauma center in the state. UAMS has 2,834 students, 822 medical residents and six dental residents. It is the state’s largest public employer with more than 10,000 employees, including 1,200 physicians who provide care to patients at UAMS, its regional campuses throughout the state, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the VA Medical Center and Baptist Health. Visit [www.uams.edu](http://www.uams.edu) or [www.uamshealth.com](http://www.uamshealth.com). Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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