

**UAMS News Bureau**

Office of Communications & Marketing  
4301 West Markham # 890  
Little Rock, AR 72205-7199

uamshealth.com/news



**News Release**  
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**Media Contacts:**

Leslie W. Taylor, 501-686-8998  
Wireless phone: 501-951-7260  
[leslie@uams.edu](mailto:leslie@uams.edu)

Liz Caldwell, 501-686-8995  
Wireless phone: 501-350-4364  
[liz@uams.edu](mailto:liz@uams.edu)

**G. Richard Smith, M.D., Named Chairman  
of UAMS Department of Psychiatry**

LITTLE ROCK — G. Richard Smith, M.D., has been named chairman of the Department of Psychiatry in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and director of UAMS' Psychiatric Research Institute.

Smith served as chairman of the Department of Psychiatry from 2001 to 2013, during which he oversaw the design and construction of the Psychiatric Research Institute, which opened in 2008. He was named dean of the UAMS College of Medicine and executive vice chancellor in 2013, a position he held for two years before stepping down to become a professor of psychiatry, medicine and public health.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to once again work with the faculty and staff of the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute and the Department of Psychiatry," said Smith. "There are many exciting challenges and opportunities in our field today and it is a privilege to join with these outstanding professionals to bring the best treatment to our patients and their families, train the next generation of clinicians and scientists, develop new knowledge in our field, and to be of service to our state."

A native of Jonesboro, Smith received his bachelor's degree in chemical biology from Rhodes College in Memphis. He graduated from the UAMS College of Medicine in 1977. He completed his residency in psychiatry at UAMS and continued his training with a fellowship in psychiatry and internal medicine at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York, before joining the UAMS faculty in 1981.

"Dr. Smith has dedicated his career to UAMS and ensuring the very best psychiatric care for Arkansans," said Christopher T. Westfall, M.D., executive vice chancellor of UAMS and dean of the College of Medicine. "His visionary work to integrate research, education and clinical care in the Psychiatric Research Institute has had a profound impact on the patients we care for today as well as those who will receive even better

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care by the psychiatrists and scientists we train for the future. Dr. Smith is an exceptional leader and ensures continued strong momentum for our psychiatric programs.”

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 2,727 students, 870 medical residents and five 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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