

UAMS News Bureau

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**\$1.5 Million Estate Gift Creates Full Tuition Scholarship in UAMS
College of Medicine**

LITTLE ROCK — The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) has received a \$1.5 million gift from the estate of Carl R. Stout to create the R. Louise Stout Simmons, M.D. Endowed Scholarship in the College of Medicine, which is the first full-tuition scholarship endowment in UAMS' history.

“This incredible gift will provide for countless students in the College of Medicine and have an immeasurable impact for Arkansas,” said UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA. “UAMS is an academic institution as well as a health sciences center, and we take our job seriously to attract, teach and train tomorrow’s health care leaders. We are committed to making sure every Arkansan has access to quality medical care. The Stout family’s generosity ensures that we will continue to do that far into the future.”

The Simmons scholarship is unique since it is the first time in UAMS history that a scholarship endowment will pay for a full year of tuition. The \$1.5 million gift is invested, and the spendable earnings will generate the funds to cover the first year’s tuition for a freshman medical student every year.

“This is an amazing time for us as this endowment provides an additional tool to further the mission of the College of Medicine to continually recruit the best and the brightest for Arkansas,” said UAMS Executive Vice Chancellor and College of Medicine Dean Christopher T. Westfall, M.D.

R. Louise Stout, M.D., a 1949 College of Medicine graduate, passed away unexpectedly in 1970. Her father, Carl R. Stout, wanted his daughter’s love of medicine to be remembered, so he created a charitable remainder trust. When Carl Stout died in 1994, the trust provided income to his surviving daughter, Dorothy S. Aldridge, for her lifetime – with the College of Medicine named as the beneficiary of the remainder of the trust. Aldridge, a longtime supporter of UAMS, passed away January 30.

The College of Medicine has educated and trained more than 10,000 physicians since 1879, and has an annual enrollment of nearly 700 students. It is regularly listed in the top 10 nationwide for the percentage of its graduating class that pursue a career in family medicine. More than half of the practicing physicians in Arkansas are UAMS graduates.

More than two-thirds of Arkansas' 75 counties include federally designated Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas. Primary care physician shortages are projected to increase substantially as the state's population continues to age and require more medical care, and as more Arkansans seek primary care services.

The high cost of medical school and the burden of educational debt that most medical students face when entering their postgraduate residency training can be a factor in choosing higher-paying specialties instead of primary care and practicing in rural areas. The average medical school debt of recent UAMS graduates who have educational debt is about \$190,000.

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 or www.uamshealth.com. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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