

UAMS News Bureau

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**UAMS Diabetes Study Gets \$400,000
to Meet COVID-19 Restrictions**

LITTLE ROCK — COVID-19 hit as UAMS’ Pearl McElfish, Ph.D., MBA, and her research team were starting a major study comparing diabetes education interventions with diverse populations.

The five-year, \$3.73 million Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) award was to support in-person type 2 diabetes prevention education in rural UAMS Regional Campus Family Medical Centers.

Given social distancing restrictions due to the coronavirus, McElfish, vice chancellor for the UAMS Northwest Campus, applied for and recently received an additional \$400,000, which will allow the study to continue using interactive video.

The PCORI-funded study involves 600 people with type-2 diabetes and 600 family members. It will compare her team’s Diabetes Self-Management Education models – one for individuals and one for families.

The enhanced funding will pay for the purchase of an iPad for each participant.

“This will allow the study to begin and remain consistent throughout the project period,” McElfish said. “The only thing that will change is we will use telehealth.”

The UAMS Translational Research Institute provided pilot funding and other support for development of the diabetes education models. The institute is supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at the National Institutes of Health – Clinical and Translational Science Award TL1 TR003109.

UAMS is the state’s only health sciences university, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; hospital; a main campus in Little Rock; a Northwest Arkansas regional campus in Fayetteville; a statewide network of regional campuses; and seven institutes: the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, Psychiatric Research Institute, Donald W.

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Reynolds Institute on Aging, Translational Research Institute and Institute for Digital Health & Innovation. UAMS includes UAMS Health, a statewide health system that encompasses all of UAMS' clinical enterprise including its hospital, regional clinics and clinics it operates or staffs in cooperation with other providers. UAMS is the only adult Level 1 trauma center in the state. *U.S. News & World Report* named UAMS Medical Center the state's Best Hospital; ranked its ear, nose and throat program among the top 50 nationwide; and named six areas as high performing — COPD, colon cancer surgery, heart failure, hip replacement, knee replacement and lung cancer surgery. UAMS has 2,876 students, 898 medical residents and four 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, 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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