

UAMS News Bureau

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

uamshealth.com/news



**News Release
May 4, 2021**

Media Contacts:

Leslie W. Taylor, 501-686-8998
Wireless phone: 501-951-7260
leslie@uams.edu

Yavonda Chase, 501-686-8994
Wireless phone: 501-416-0354
yavonda@uams.edu

**Pearl McElfish, Ph.D., MBA, Named Associate Director
of Community Outreach and Engagement
at UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute**

LITTLE ROCK — Pearl McElfish, Ph.D., MBA, has been named associate director of community outreach and engagement at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

McElfish's position will involve creating a state-wide community network to support rural and minority communities for cancer prevention, education, navigation to treatment and survivorship.

She previously was vice chancellor for the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus in Fayetteville.

“Community outreach and engagement is a critical component of the Cancer Institute’s mission, particularly as we work toward achieving National Cancer Institute Designation. Dr. McElfish has a proven record of working in Arkansas communities and producing significant research findings. We are fortunate to have her bring this expertise to the Cancer Institute,” said Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D., UAMS vice chancellor and Cancer Institute director.

McElfish is the founder of the Office of Community Health and Research and the Center for Pacific Islander Health at UAMS. She has been awarded more than \$130 million in federal and private foundation grants for investment in community health in Northwest Arkansas and published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles.

Her research focuses on reducing health disparities among rural and minority communities. She also conducts methodological research related to the conducting community-based participatory research and dissemination of findings to community stakeholders.

She has a history of funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, the National Institutes of Health, the

United States Department of Agriculture, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and other private foundations.

McElfish holds a Ph.D. in public policy, a master's degree in business administration and a master's degree in community and economic development. She is a certified Project Management Professional and a Certified Community Developer and has more than 25 years of experience working in health care administration and community health.

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. 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](#).

Like us, we're social:    