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**Estate of Thomas McGill Gives \$1.14 Million  
to UAMS Department of Otolaryngology**

LITTLE ROCK — The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) has received a \$1.14 million gift from the estate of Thomas McGill for the Department of Otolaryngology in the College of Medicine.

UAMS will honor McGill by creating an endowed chair in his name, said John Dornhoffer, M.D., department chair. A recipient will be named at a later time.

Thomas McGill, who died in March 2020, was one of four children — Josephine Tate “Dodie” McGill, Mary Helen McGill Adams and Samuel D. McGill Jr. — of Samuel D. McGill, M.D., and Helen McRae Watts McGill. In 1997, he and his siblings created the McGill Family Otolaryngology Research Endowment Fund in memory of their parents for head and neck cancer research. The family’s connection with UAMS started decades ago when Helen McRae Watts McGill was a patient under the care of James Suen, M.D., distinguished professor and longtime chair of the Department of Otolaryngology.

“Our department is grateful to Thomas, Samuel and Josephine McGill for establishing and contributing to the McGill Family Endowment, which supports many of our research projects,” Dornhoffer and Suen said in a joint statement. “They understood the importance of research and wanted this endowment to honor their parents. The funds from this endowment will allow us to make new discoveries that will improve the health care of future generations.”

Together, the McGill siblings donated nearly \$5 million to the fund over the years. In addition to the future Thomas McGill chair, the fund has created two other endowed otolaryngology chairs: the Samuel McGill Otolaryngology Research Chair, held by Dornhoffer, and the Josephine T. McGill Chair in Head and Neck Cancer Research.

Thomas McGill was born in Camden, Arkansas, in 1932. After graduating from Camden High School, he enrolled in Magnolia A&M (now Southern Arkansas University). After two years, he transferred to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where he received a bachelor’s degree in business. Upon graduating, he accepted a commission with the U.S. Navy Reserve and spent a tour of duty as a gunnery officer aboard the Gearing-class

destroyer USS Glennon. His business interests were in land and timber, and he spent considerable time outdoors, particularly at the family home at Mustin Lake.

An endowed chair is among the highest academic honors a university can bestow on a faculty member and is established with gifts of \$1 million, which are invested with the spendable distributions from the endowment used to support the educational, research and clinical activities of the chair holder. Those named to a chair are among the most highly regarded scientists, physicians and professors in their fields of expertise.

Created in 1969, the Department of Otolaryngology includes a team of faculty, fellows, residents and nurses at UAMS Medical Center, Arkansas Children's and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System. Otolaryngologists treat diseases and disorders of the ear, nose and throat (ENT) and related structures of the head and neck. For the second consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the UAMS ENT program in the top 50 nationwide.

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](http://www.uams.edu) or [www.uamshealth.com](http://www.uamshealth.com). Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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