

**UAMS News Bureau**

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**News Release  
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**UAMS to Hold Panel Discussions  
About Black Maternal Mortality**

LITTLE ROCK — The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) has partnered with the Little Rock (AR) Chapter of The Links, Inc. and the National Healthy Start Association to host virtual viewings and community discussion on Black maternal mortality rates and the short film *Toxic: A Black Woman's Story*.

The film follows Nina, a pregnant Black woman navigating her career, marriage and motherhood while dealing with race-related stress. Currently, Black women in the United States are three to four times more likely to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth than white women are.

The one-hour small group Zoom sessions will take place March 16 at 5 p.m. and March 29 at 6 p.m. During the sessions, participants will view the 20-minute film and engage in a discussion focused on health equity, and steps community members can take to lower the Black maternal mortality rate.

The community sessions are part of a smaller discussion series leading to a distinguished panel discussion on March 30 at 5 p.m. Panelists include Haywood Brown, M.D., of the University of South Florida Health; Veronica Gillespie, M.D., of Ochsner Health in Louisiana; William Greenfield, M.D., of the UAMS Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; and Deborah Frazier, RN, of the National Healthy Start Association.

To sign up for the community sessions, click [here](#). To sign up for the March 30 distinguished panel discussion, click [here](#).

UAMS is the state's only health sciences university, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; a 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. UAMS is the only adult Level 1 trauma

center in the state. *U.S. News & World Report* recognized UAMS Medical Center as a Best Hospital for 2021-22; ranked its ear, nose and throat program among the top 50 nationwide for the third year; and named five areas as high performing — colon cancer surgery, diabetes, hip replacement, knee replacement and stroke. *Forbes* magazine ranked UAMS as seventh in the nation on its Best Employers for Diversity list. UAMS also ranked in the top 30% nationwide on *Forbes*' Best Employers for Women list and was the only Arkansas employer included. UAMS has 3,047 students, 873 medical residents and fellows, and six 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, 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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