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UAMS Invests Mauricio A. Moreno, M.D., in Josephine T. McGill Chair in Head and Neck Cancer Research

LITTLE ROCK — The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine invested Mauricio A. Moreno, M.D., FACS, professor and vice chair for clinical operations in the Department of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery, in the Josephine T. McGill Chair in Head and Neck Cancer Research during a Nov. 16 ceremony.

"I would like to thank UAMS for this amazing opportunity and the McGill family for making this chair possible — I am excited about all the amazing work that will be produced from this chair," said Moreno. "I would also like to express gratitude for my family, friends, and many colleagues who have supported me through my career."

Moreno has led the department's Head and Neck Division since 2010. At the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, he also serves as the medical director of the Head and Neck Oncology Clinic, director of the Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Tumor Board, and chair of the Disease-Oriented Committee for Head and Neck Research. Further, he serves on the UAMS College of Medicine's Promotion and Tenure Committee and the UAMS Academic Senate.

"Those who hold an endowed chair are among the most highly regarded clinicians, scientists, and professors in their field," said UAMS Chancellor C. Lowry Barnes, M.D. "I'd like to congratulate Dr. Mauricio Moreno for the accomplishments that have merited this great honor. You have already done so many great things at UAMS, and I am excited for what you will continue to do for this institution."

An endowed chair is among the highest academic honors a university can bestow on a faculty member. A chair is established with gifts of at least $1 million, which are invested and the interest proceeds 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.

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“Endowed chairs help us recruit and retain world-class educators, scientists, and clinicians, like Dr. Moreno, and they support the vital work and vision of the faculty who hold them,” said Ron D. Robertson, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine. “We are also here to honor the legacy of those who made these chairs possible. Because of the McGill family’s extraordinary generosity and investment in otolaryngology research, the holders of the chairs that they’ve endowed have advanced discoveries, developed new treatments, and improved the health of people across Arkansas and beyond.”

The chair is named after Josephine Tate McGill. She and her siblings created the McGill Family Otolaryngology Research Endowment Fund for head and neck cancer research in memory of their parents. Together, the McGill siblings donated nearly $5 million to the fund over the years. After Josephine McGill’s death in November 2012, her brother, Thomas McGill, decided to use part of the family research endowment fund to establish an endowed chair in her honor.

A native of Chile, Moreno earned his medical degree from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in Santiago. He completed residencies in general surgery at the University of Valparaíso in Chile and otolaryngology — head and neck surgery at the University of Chile, followed by three fellowships in Houston at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in head and neck surgical oncology, microvascular reconstruction surgery, and surgical endocrinology. In 2009, he joined UAMS, where he has helped shape the department’s growth and advance its clinical and academic missions.

He is board certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a graduate of Johns Hopkins Carey Business School’s Strategic Healthcare Leadership Program.

Moreno’s research focuses on clinical outcomes and innovation in care delivery. His more than 120 publications include 75 peer-reviewed articles, 45 book chapters, and three co-edited textbooks: “Neck Dissection,” “Matrix Head and Neck Reconstruction,” and the forthcoming “Illustrated Atlas of Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery.”

Moreno serves on the executive board of the American Head and Neck Society (AHNS) Reconstructive Section and chaired its Research Committee from 2021 to 2024, leading practice-defining multi-institutional studies. He has served on multiple AHNS and American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery committees, including scientific planning committees for three AHNS International Conferences. A past president of the Arkansas Society of Otolaryngology, he has delivered invited lectures throughout the Americas and Europe, most recently at the 2026 IFOS World Congress in Istanbul.

UAMS is the state’s only health sciences university, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; hospitals in Little Rock and Bryant; an orthopaedic hospital; a main campus in Little Rock; a Northwest

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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 the Institute for Community Health Innovation. UAMS includes UAMS Health, a statewide health system that encompasses all of UAMS' clinical enterprise, including affiliated hospitals in Pine Bluff, Helena-West Helena, Mena, and Warren. UAMS is the only adult Level 1 trauma center in the state. UAMS has 3,813 students and 1,030 medical residents and fellows, and two dental residents. It is the state's largest public employer with about 12,000 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 or uamshealth.com. Find us on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube or Instagram.

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