UAMS Regional Programs
(aka, Arkansas AHEC Program)
Arkansas’ AHEC Program was established in 1973 with State Legislative action.

*The Mission: To retain medical school graduates in Arkansas.*

- Our first FM Residency programs were established in 1975
- Has expanded from 6 to 8 regions, now with 9 clinical sites
- 6 FM residency programs now train 138-140 residents annually, with other residency programs/tracks planned
- $65 million total program budget, over half is self-generated
- 150,000+ patient visits and 400 student rotations annually
- First received federal AHEC funds in 1986
- 600 staff statewide, including 42 faculty members
- Rebranded in 2012 as UAMS Regional Programs
Statewide Impact of AHEC Family Medicine Residency Programs

Our graduates account for 46% of ALL Family Physicians in Arkansas, and 50% of Family Physicians practicing in RURAL (non-SMSA) counties.

810 physicians trained by our FM Residency Programs now practice in 132 Arkansas communities*, including 69 of the state’s 75 counties.
Two Vital Pillars: Education & Clinical Care

Our mission today…

To improve the health of Arkansans by training skilled and caring health professionals and delivering high quality patient-centered care.

- Training for students from many disciplines;
- Health career pipeline programs;
- Statewide telemedicine network;
- Continuing professional education.

In 2017-18, we trained:
138 Family Medicine Residents
35,000 pre-health pipeline students
378 Health Professions Students

2017-2018 Trainees
- Medical Students, 219
- Nursing, 79
- Pharmacy, 42
- Residents, 139
- Allied Health, 37
A Homegrown Physician Workforce Requires LONG-Term Investment


To ensure students take all the classes needed in high school so they don’t miss the boat, 9th grade through residency completion is a 15-year pipeline!

We offer programs at every level.
Effective Pipeline Programs

Our Pre-health programs reach more than 35,000 Arkansas students annually to encourage them to consider health careers.

- **Three Key Junctures**: Grades 8-9, Grades 11-12, and College students applying to professional schools
- **Target Populations**: 70% are either rural or minority students

**M*A*S*H (Medical Applications of Science for Health)**

A survey of participants in 2016 revealed that, after this 2-week summer camp:

- 95% were more likely to pursue a health career;
- 58% were more likely to pursue primary care;
- 52%-57% were more likely to serve a rural/underserved area;

Good programs are important, but hiring *eight regional recruitment specialists* in 2010 really made the difference. These recruiters have been KEY in tracking and retaining students long-term by investing in personal relationships, ongoing support, advisement and coaching.

*30% of the COM entering classes 2016 & 2017 were students that had been coached by our recruiters.*
Effective Approaches to a Homegrown Physician Workforce

1. Recruit Arkansas students toward medicine, with support at key junctures.
2. Retain and train students in an Arkansas medical school.
3. Apply holistic admissions process giving preference to Arkansas students.
4. Offer Preceptorships and Field Placements in rural settings.
5. Nurture a supportive peer and faculty network throughout medical school.
6. Recruit into community-based Family Medicine residency programs.
7. Enact State Legislation to ensure:
   a) Distribution of student enrollment from ALL districts, to maintain regional and rural/urban balance;
   b) Financial Incentives for RURAL and Primary Care practice.
Arkansas’ Undergraduate and Graduate Medical Education (UME/GME) Retention

- AAMC ranks UAMS among the nation’s top 10 medical schools consistently for Percent of Physicians Retained in State:
  - 59% retention of those graduating from the UAMS College of Medicine (UME)
  - 56% retention of those completing residency training in Arkansas (GME)
- **81%** retention if BOTH med school AND residency in Arkansas!

AHEC FM Residency Outcomes:
- 63% have remained in Arkansas to practice.
  - Of these who remained in Arkansas:
    - 51% of them remain in their training region;
    - 37% practice in rural counties and small towns

Arkansas’ Changing Healthcare Landscape

- **Inter-Professional Education (IPE) and team-based care** – This new national initiative requires a complete change in facilities teaching, and practice models.

- **Retiring Physicians** - 33% of Arkansas’ Family Physicians are nearing retirement.

- **Two new DO Schools in Arkansas** - adding 270 new medical school slots to UAMS’ 174 MD slots, but no parallel increase in residency positions.

- **Change in reimbursement models** - Transition from physician-centered “fee for service” to patient-centered “value-based reimbursement” models.

- **Rapidly evolving telemedicine technology** – both opportunities and challenges.