



University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

**Director for Data Coordinating and Operations Center
ECHO IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network
UAMS College of Medicine
Position Profile**



*Prepared by:
UAMS Executive Search Group
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Arkansas Children's Hospital*

The Position

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is recruiting an individual at the Associate or Full Professor rank to serve as one of the multiple principal investigators (MPIs) of the Data Coordinating Center of the ECHO IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network (ISPCTN). ISPCTN is a component of the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO), which is funded by the National Institutes of Health. There are 18 clinical awardee sites in the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) states participating in the ISPCTN research program. In addition, as funding is through a cooperative agreement, the NIH actively participates in ISPCTN governance and scientific decision-making. Policies and procedures have been developed to define how the network is governed and makes decisions.

The incumbent will serve as the MPI responsible for general administration and clinical operations and collaborate with the other MPI. We are seeking an individual who has experience directing clinical operations for multicenter clinical trials and overseeing trial implementation, preferably pediatric clinical experience and research project leadership including management of grant funds.

The [Data Coordinating and Operations Center](#) of the ECHO IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network (ISPCTN) at UAMS provides scientific, operational, administrative and logistical infrastructure support to the ECHO ISPCTN to facilitate the development, implementation and dissemination of clinical trial activities and to build pediatric clinical research capacity in the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) states. This is meant to enhance the potential for conducting clinical trials that address health issues of relevance to children in these areas. The populations in the 18 ISPCTN clinical sites are disproportionately rural and/or underserved. Focus areas for ISPCTN clinical trials are obesity, neurodevelopment, upper and lower airway diseases, pre-, peri-, and post-natal outcomes and positive child health.

Network clinical trials that have been recently completed or are underway are shown below:

- Feasibility Trial of the iAMHealthy Intervention for Healthy Weight in Rural Children Recruited from Primary Care Clinics (NCT04142034).
- Vitamin D Oral Replacement in Asthma (NCT03686150).
- Eating, Sleeping, Consoling for Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal (ESC-NOW): a Function-Based Assessment and Management Approach (NCT04057820).
- Pragmatic, Randomized, Blinded Trial to Shorten Pharmacologic Treatment of Newborns with Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) (NCT04214834).
- Improving Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake Using an mHealth Tool (NCT05386355).

The DCOC's activities are organized into five areas as shown below:

- General administration: communications, Network program management (governance, meeting support, etc), capitation funds management and dissemination of study results.
- Clinical operations: clinical trial protocol development and implementation, site management, and regulatory affairs, and oversight of quality control.

- Data management and informatics: design, configuration and implementation of systems for secure collection, transmission, management and storage of data, integration of data from external sources and data sharing.
- Biostatistics: study design, sample size/power estimation, randomization and masking, analytic plans, analysis, and reporting.
- Clinical trial skill development: implementation of a curriculum to train investigators and research team members on core concepts in clinical trials to enhance workforce development to support clinical trials.

The DCOC uses a multiple principal investigator approach with one MPI taking responsibility for general administration and clinical operations and the other MPI taking responsibility for data management and informatics, and biostatistics. Both MPIs participate in clinical trials skill development. The DCOC Principal Investigators serve as voting members of the Network Steering and Leadership Committees as well as the ECHO Executive Committee. The DCOC team includes over 50 staff members and engages faculty throughout the institution. The DCOC MPIs are actively engaged in all Network activities, including frequent communication with NIH Program Office, Network leadership structures, and site teams.

The DCOC infrastructure facilitates the potential to respond to funding initiatives for supporting coordinating center activities for other extramurally funded programs.

This is a tenure-track faculty position, with 50% effort support by ECHO ISPCTN DCOC grant funding, negotiable. Other research and/or institutional opportunities may be available depending on candidate experience and interests. The faculty appointment will be in the Department in the UAMS College of Medicine best aligned with the candidate's background and academic rank will be commensurate with experience.

The College of Medicine

The UAMS [College of Medicine](#) has educated and trained more than 10,600 physicians since 1879, preparing physicians and scientists to transform health in Arkansas and make their mark around the world.

The college is nationally recognized for providing quality education in primary care, graduating a high proportion of physicians who practice primary care, and for generating much-needed doctors for rural Arkansas. UAMS is ranked 36th for Primary Care in the 2022 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Graduate Schools list. The college administers 65 ACGME-accredited residency and fellowship programs and is working with hospitals across Arkansas as they establish and maintain residency programs to help build the state's physician workforce.

Faculty physicians provide highly specialized care at UAMS' main and regional campuses and clinics, Arkansas Children's Hospital and Arkansas Children's Northwest, the VA Medical Center and Baptist Health. Faculty researchers are recognized for excellence in many areas including cancer, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, infectious disease, mental health illnesses and biomedical informatics.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is the state's only academic health sciences center, comprised of five health professions colleges (Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions, and Public Health), a graduate school, six institutes, eight Regional Centers (six of which include family medicine practices and residency programs), and a comprehensive Medical Center. Its College of Medicine has held a unique and vital role in Arkansas for more than 130 years. UAMS is the largest public employer in the state of Arkansas, with more than 11,000 employees. UAMS and its clinical affiliates, Arkansas Children's and the VA Medical Center, are an economic engine for the state with an annual economic impact of \$3.92 billion. Centrally located within the state, UAMS's Little Rock campus is a tertiary referral center and the only Level 1 Adult Trauma Center and Comprehensive Stroke Center for Arkansas.



In 2019, UAMS completed a 10-year strategic planning process resulting in *Vision 2029*. This document can be found at [UAMS Vision 2029](https://uams.edu/vision2029). Included in this plan was the organization of all of UAMS' clinical assets into a single entity termed UAMS Health. Information about UAMS Health is available at <https://UAMSHHealth.com>.

Arkansas Children's Hospital

Children are at the center of everything we do.



[Arkansas Children's](https://www.arkchildrens.org) is the only hospital system in the state solely dedicated to caring for children, which allows our organization to uniquely shape the pediatric care landscape in Arkansas. We are driven by four core values: safety, teamwork, compassion, and excellence. These values inform every decision and every action, from the aggressive pursuit of zero hospital infections to treating each family with dignity, kindness, and concern. These core values fundamentally guide our work at Arkansas Children's.

For more than a century, we have continuously evolved to meet the unique needs of the children of Arkansas and beyond. Today, we are more than just a hospital treating sick kids – our system includes two hospitals, a pediatric research institute, a foundation, clinics, education and outreach, all with an unyielding commitment to making children better today and healthier tomorrow.

Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI)

Advances in pediatric medicine begin with a vision for a future in which all children can grow up to be healthy adults. [Arkansas Children's Research Institute](https://www.arkchildrens.org/acri) (ACRI) researchers share this common vision and have devoted their lives to making this vision a reality. At ACRI, children are at the center of everything that we do. Researchers at ACRI are addressing a broad spectrum of children's health concerns, such as the biological mechanisms underlying birth defects; diabetes-related complications; and numerous

childhood diseases, including asthma and cancer. Research expertise is diverse, ranging from basic science to clinical and community-based research.

Little Rock, Arkansas

Where the Ouachita Mountains meet the Delta, you find the Arkansas River and the capital city of The Natural State, Little Rock. With a population of approximately 200,000, Little Rock is large enough to be culturally diverse and small enough to encourage a feeling of community among its citizens. Little Rock is full of modern innovation tempered by rich history. The city possesses breathtaking natural beauty thanks to its mountains, river valleys and miles of untouched woods. The landscape is ideal for hiking, biking, sailing, camping and more.

Candidate Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have the following professional qualifications and personal characteristics:

- M.D./Ph.D., or equivalent terminal degree.
- Excellent communication skills, oral and written, along with a track record of successful grant writing are essential.
- Independent research expertise in clinical trials, including multi-site, with accomplishments and national reputation appropriate for the rank of Associate or Full Professor in the College of Medicine.

Preferred Professional Experience

- Prior experience in an Academic Research Organization or Contract Research Organization.
- Excellent leadership and relationship management experience in complex organizations with multiple stakeholders.

Application Process & Requirements

To assure full consideration, applications must include:

- 1) a *curriculum vitae*
- 2) *Letter of intent*

The search committee will begin reviewing applications immediately and continue to accept applications and nominations until the position is filled. However, in order to assure the fullest consideration, candidates are encouraged to have complete applications submitted by December 31, 2022.

Nominations can be sent to the Search Committee Chair, Dr. Rick Barr via email at BarrFE@archildrens.org.

Inquiries can be sent to Carolyn Johnson via e-mail at JohnsonCarolynJ@uams.edu.

UAMS is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer of individuals with disabilities and protected veterans and is committed to excellence. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the employment process, please contact us by telephone at (501) 686-6432 and let us know the nature of your request. We will only respond to messages left that involve a request for a reasonable accommodation in the application process. We will accommodate the needs of any qualified candidate who requests a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The safety of our team members at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is our top priority. For this reason, successful applicants for this position must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 or have an approved medical or religious exemption on file with our Student & Employee Health Services dept. UAMS will adhere to all federal, state and local regulations and will obtain necessary proof of vaccination prior to employment to ensure compliance.