UAMS

Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health

Department Chair

Department of Epidemiology

POSITION PROFILE



University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Little Rock, Arkansas



UAMS

Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health

The Opportunity

The Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health (COPH) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) seeks an inspiring, strategic and accomplished scholar and collaborative leader to serve as Chair of the Department of Epidemiology. The next Chair will join the department at an important point in its evolution and will have the opportunity to shape its future in partnership with faculty, staff, students, College leadership, and collaborators across UAMS and throughout the state. The Chair will articulate and advance a compelling vision for the department, strengthen its academic and research programs, cultivate an environment in which faculty, staff, and students can thrive, and expand the department's contributions to the College, UAMS, and the broader public health community.

The successful candidate will be an accomplished scholar and collaborative academic leader with a record of achievement commensurate with appointment at the rank of professor. The Chair will bring transparent and inclusive leadership, strong administrative and organizational skills, and a commitment to excellence across the department's research, education, service, and public health practice missions.

SEARCH CHAIR

Igor Koturbash, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental Health Sciences
Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health | University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Leadership Priorities

Working collaboratively with the department and College leadership, the Chair will:

1 Strategic Leadership and Vision:

Engage faculty, staff, and students in developing and advancing a shared vision for the department that aligns with the College's mission and strategic priorities.

Champion a culture of integrity, collaboration, mentorship, and academic excellence that enables faculty, staff, and students to achieve their full potential.

2 Faculty Development and Academic Excellence

Foster a collegial, inclusive, and intellectually vibrant environment that supports the success and professional growth of faculty, staff, and students.

Promote excellence and accountability across the department's research, education, service, and public health practice missions.

3 Research Leadership

Strengthen the department's research enterprise by supporting faculty scholarship, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, recruiting and developing outstanding faculty, and expanding extramural research funding.

Maintain an active, externally funded program of epidemiologic research and support the development of research programs across the department.



Leadership Priorities

4 Educational Leadership

Advance the quality, visibility, and reach of the department's MPH and Ph.D. programs while identifying opportunities to strengthen enrollment and educational offerings.

5 Administration and Operational Excellence

Provide effective stewardship of departmental resources through sound administrative, financial, and operational leadership.

6 Service and External Engagement

Expand collaborations across UAMS and with public health, health care, community, and other partners in Arkansas and beyond.

The Chair will have the opportunity to build on the department's existing strengths while establishing priorities for its future growth and impact. For an accomplished academic leader interested in advancing epidemiologic science while connecting scholarship, education, and public health practice to meaningful population health challenges, the Department of Epidemiology offers a compelling opportunity to help shape the future of the department and expand its impact in Arkansas and beyond.



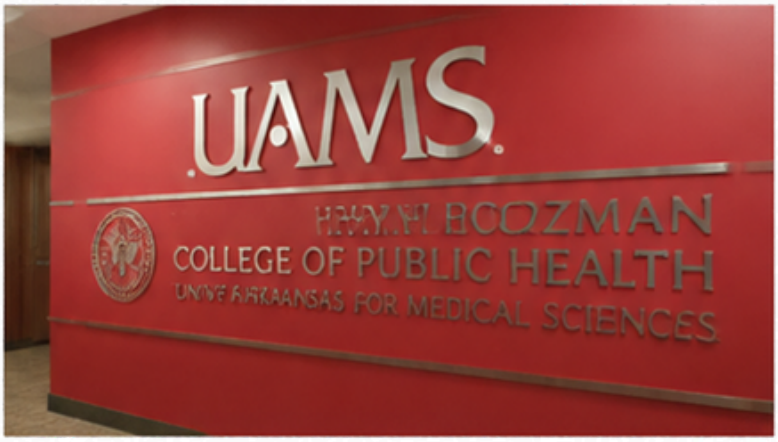


The College and Its Setting

The Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health was established in 2001 by voter-initiated Act 1 of 2000 Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act, which mandates that all funds received by Arkansas under the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement be used solely for health-related programs.

The college was renamed in 2005 in honor of Fay W. Boozman, M.D., MPH, who led the Arkansas Department of Health from 1998 until his death in 2005. Boozman championed public health efforts that seek to change attitudes and promote healthier lifestyles statewide.

As Arkansas' leader in public health education, the college is committed to developing innovative solutions that further its mission to improve the health and promote the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through education, research, and service. The college is the state's only school of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. It is also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education and is a member of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health.



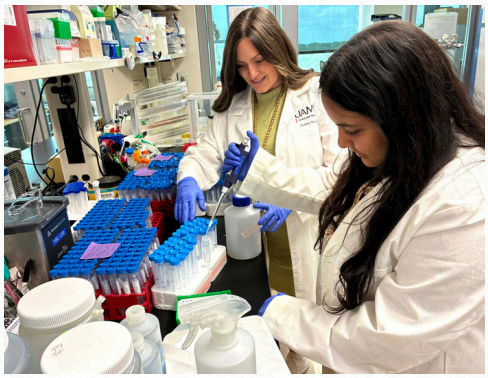
ACADEMIC PROFILE

- 62 full-time faculty | 4 part-time faculty
- 148 MPH | 74 MHA | 13 Dr.PH | 57 Ph.D. | 8 MS | 70 certificate students
- Student-to-faculty ratio: 6:1
- $10.5 million in NIH funding in 2025
  Ranked #26



About the Department of Epidemiology

The Department of Epidemiology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health is a vibrant academic community committed to advancing population health in Arkansas and beyond through excellence in epidemiologic research, education, and service. The department offers an MPH concentration in Epidemiology and a Ph.D. in Epidemiology, preparing the next generation of epidemiologists to address complex and evolving public health challenges.



The department is home to 14 primary, three secondary, and six adjunct faculty whose scholarship spans a broad range of areas, including cancer epidemiology; maternal and child health; chronic and infectious diseases; nutrition and obesity; substance use; health disparities; and social, molecular, and genetic epidemiology. Faculty have successfully secured internal and extramural support from the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, private foundations, and other sponsors, providing a strong foundation for continued growth in the department's research portfolio and scientific impact. Faculty also conduct genetic, environmental, and biomedical research in shared laboratory spaces, extending the department's capacity to address important population health questions through multidisciplinary approaches.

Collaboration is a defining strength of the department. Faculty work closely with the Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Children's Hospital, and investigators and clinicians across UAMS, creating opportunities to connect epidemiologic research with clinical care, public health practice, and community health. These collaborations extend to major institutional and statewide partners, including the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute and the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement. Faculty are also engaged with a range of UAMS research centers and institutes, including the Translational Research Institute, Arkansas Center for Excellence in Birth Defects Research and Prevention, Arkansas Prevention Research Center for Women's Health, Center for the Study of Obesity, and Center for the Study of Tobacco. Together, these partnerships provide a rich environment for interdisciplinary and translational research, graduate education and mentorship, and meaningful engagement with public health practice.

Situated within Arkansas' only academic health sciences university, the Department of Epidemiology offers distinctive opportunities to connect rigorous epidemiologic science with clinical care, public health practice, and the health needs of communities across the state. Its breadth of expertise, collaborative culture, strong institutional and community partnerships, and commitment to improving population health provide an excellent foundation for its next phase of growth and impact.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

LIFE IN ARKANSAS



Little Rock blends big-city opportunities with genuine Southern hospitality. As the capital of Arkansas, it's a cultural, economic, and government hub with diverse neighborhoods, a thriving arts scene, and abundant outdoor space — all with a welcoming spirit.

Little Rock

Little Rock is Arkansas' capital city and the cultural, economic, and government center of the state. It offers the amenities of a larger metro with a friendly pace and a strong sense of community.

Quality of Life

Little Rock is known for its welcoming communities, affordable living, and a pace that allows time to enjoy what matters most. Residents benefit from the convenience of city amenities along with access to outdoor spaces and a variety of neighborhoods.

Arts and Culture

From museums and galleries to live music and theater, Little Rock has a vibrant arts scene. The city is home to cultural institutions, festivals, and year-round events that celebrate creativity and community.

Outdoors and Recreation

The region offers abundant opportunities to stay active and connected to nature. Enjoy miles of trails, parks, and greenways, plus quick access to lakes, rivers, and scenic getaways across Arkansas.

Education and Community

Little Rock is home to respected schools, higher education institutions, and a collaborative community spirit. It's a place where families, professionals, and innovators come together to build a stronger future.

Access to Arkansas

Little Rock's central location makes it easy to explore the Natural State. Whether you're heading to the mountains, lakes, or small towns, adventure is always within reach.

Advance your career while enjoying a place that feels like home.

From the energy of Little Rock to the beauty of the Ozarks, Arkansas offers room to explore, connect, and feel at home.



Candidate Profile and Procedure for Candidacy

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- A doctoral degree from an accredited college or university and eligibility for appointment as a tenured professor at UAMS
- National recognition as a scholar and leader in epidemiology
- Sustained extramural research funding and significant scholarly achievement, including peer-reviewed publications
- Excellence in teaching, mentoring, and academic leadership
- Demonstrated experience leading faculty, programs, centers, or departments
- Strong communication, interpersonal, organizational, and collaborative skills, with a commitment to the success of faculty, staff, and students



THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

- A visionary and transparent leader who inspires trust and fosters collaboration
- Demonstrated ability to recruit and retain faculty and develop funded research collaborations
- A record of successful faculty mentoring, including support for promotion and career advancement
- An effective communicator who engages diverse stakeholders and builds productive partnerships across academia, government, industry, and among current and former students
- A strategic thinker who guides departmental growth while adapting to a rapidly evolving public health landscape
- An advocate for innovation, excellence, and continuous improvement across all aspects of the department's mission
- Experience managing personnel and budgets
- Someone who communicate openly, make decisions transparently, and address disagreements constructively

For full consideration, applications should include a curriculum vitae and a letter of interest providing a concise summary of qualifications for the position.

Workday Application link

Workday Job ID: R0092889

All inquiries and nominations:
EPIChairSearch@uams.edu.

UAMS Leadership Recruitment Group is facilitating this search

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is subject to the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act. Applications submitted for this role may be subject to disclosure under this law.

UAMS is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, or any other legally protected status. UAMS is committed to providing a workplace free from discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment and sexual violence, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.