

UAMS News Bureau

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Gift of \$50,000 to UAMS Cancer Center To Benefit Leukemia Research

LITTLE ROCK – A donation of \$50,000 to the Arkansas Cancer Research Center (ACRC) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) will assist in equipping a lab dedicated to leukemia research.

The donation was presented by the Ryan Gibson Foundation of Dallas on July 14 during its annual One Particular Harbor fundraising event in Fayetteville, Ark. Peter Emanuel, M.D., ACRC executive director, was on hand to receive the donation.

"We are grateful to the Ryan Gibson Foundation for its dedication to furthering leukemia research," Emanuel said. "The work of the Gibson family in memory of their son and brother, Ryan, has made a lasting effect on countless others who experience this disease."

Emanuel, who assumed the role of ACRC executive director on July 1, is internationally recognized for his research into a rare childhood leukemia and how it can serve as a model for treating other types of cancer. Emanuel intends to recruit other leukemia scientists and clinicians as he builds the leukemia/lymphoma program at the ACRC. The donation will be used to equip a research lab at the ACRC for one of those recruits.

A Fayetteville native, Ryan Gibson died in 2001 at age 25 of a bacterial infection following a lengthy struggle with leukemia. Following his death, his family established the Ryan Gibson Foundation to support leukemia research.

UAMS is the state's only comprehensive academic health center, with five colleges, a graduate school, a medical center, six centers of excellence and a statewide network of regional centers. UAMS has about 2,435 students and 715 medical residents. It is one of the state's largest public employers with about 9,400 employees, including nearly 1,000 physicians who provide medical care to patients at UAMS, Arkansas Children's Hospital, the VA Medical Center and UAMS' Area Health Education Centers throughout the state. UAMS and its affiliates have an economic impact in Arkansas of \$5 billion a year. For more information, visit www.uams.edu.

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