**UVA researcher receives NIH funding to plan clinical trial for new anti-parasitic drug**  
  
Debbie-Ann Shirley, MD, MPH, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, was awarded an R34 grant from the NIH to initiate clinical trial planning to determine if a repurposed alcohol-abuse drug can be used to treat amebiasis. Amebiasis remains an important cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. New drugs are needed given that only one drug class is available for treatment. This presents a significant public health threat as we are left with no option if resistance or intolerable side effects develop. Other collaborators include Drs Cirle Warren, Shannon Moonah, Mark Conaway, and Raul Destura.