Delivering the Best Medical Education for a Lifetime

The accomplishments of 2012 are a firm foundation for the University of Kentucky College of Medicine’s future aspirations and goals. Our students are a consistent point of pride, and we make every effort to ensure these future physicians receive the best medical education in preparation for a lifetime of commitment and service to those in need.

50 Years of Progressive Education
Two major achievements of the 2010–2011 year were the college’s successful reaccreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and its 50th anniversary.

After an extensive review during the reaccreditation process, the LCME found many institutional strengths. These strengths ranged from our numerous research opportunities for medical students to our wide array of pipeline programs to promote diversity. The LCME reaccreditation is for an eight-year term after which another full-site survey will be conducted in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Our yearlong 50th anniversary celebration gave us a clearer understanding of our roots as a college as well as a chance to honor those who played a role in making this institution great. The yearlong events that surrounded this milestone were a true celebration of where we have been and where we are going in the future. Additionally, thanks to the generous support of 844 individual contributors, our 50th anniversary giving campaign garnered $3.25 million in donations.

Meeting the Need for Physicians in Rural Areas
The Commonwealth has unique health care needs, especially in rural areas where the physician-to-population ratio is alarmingly low. In response to the need, the college instituted the Rural Physician Leadership Program (RPLP), which trains students in rural areas, during the last two years of medical school. The concept is quite simple: Take students who have an expressed interest in rural practice, train them in rural areas and, hopefully, they will move back to a rural area to practice.

The college’s inaugural group of four third-year students in the RPLP began clinical rotations at Morehead, Ky., in fall 2010, with clinical training at St. Claire Regional Medical Center. Physicians in northeast Kentucky served as faculty and preceptors.

Research Productivity Reinforces Our Clinical Ventures
Research—specifically translational, collaborator research—is my passion. Quality research reinforces our advanced clinical ventures. The productivity of the college’s faculty has led to impressive gains in research funding. Grants and contracts in the College of Medicine reached $151.9 million in fiscal year 2011, including in excess of $70 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding. Almost 39 percent of the total grants and contracts awarded to the university are located in the College of Medicine.

In June 2011, the NIH awarded UK’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science $28 million to move research discoveries to health care solutions more quickly. This all-important designation makes UK’s CCTS part of a select national biomedical research consortium. Accomplishments such as this, along with others, mean more opportunities for students and faculty to participate in valuable, collaborative research endeavors. It also confirms that we are well on our way to becoming a top 20 research institution.

Social Mission Propels Us Into Top 20
Education, research and service missions are enriched by a community of people of diverse backgrounds and cultures. In 2010, UK College of Medicine was ranked among the top 20 medical schools in the United States based upon our “social mission score” representing the percentage of graduates who practice primary care, work in underserved areas or are underrepresented minorities. The national study, conducted by researchers at George Washington University, ranked UK College of Medicine 24th, and was published in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

The University of Kentucky Medical Education Development (UKMED) annual recruitment program instituted in 2010 also fosters college diversity. Sixteen minority and underrepresented students from universities across Kentucky and the region participated in this two-day event allowing participants to experience life as a UK medical student. We hope programs such as UKMED will encourage these students to consider applying to our college and further our goals of instituting diversity, acceptance and tolerance.

Moving From Very Good to Great
My involvement with UK HealthCare dates from its very inception. I view the intimate interface between its health care operations and the college’s academic ventures as inseparable. In today’s economic climate, with state support dwindling, the one reliable financial resource to drive the college forward in both research and teaching is the support of UK HealthCare. With our academic and clinical operations working together synergistically, we are on the verge of pushing the College of Medicine from very good to great.

Transition to the Dean’s Office
On a personal note, 2012 marked a significant and meaningful transition for me. In June, I was honored to be named dean of UK College of Medicine. On behalf of the faculty and staff of the college, I would like to thank former dean Emery Wilson, MD, for his return as the college’s interim dean much of the 2010-2011 year. I have spent the last 22 years of my academic life at this institution in several capacities including, most recently, chair of internal medicine. As I look to the college’s future, I consider serving as the dean of this college more than an honor, it is a responsibility. The position is not about power. I care about this college and my greatest responsibility is to serve the faculty, staff and students, so they can maximize their potential and enrich the college’s academic ambiance. After serving in this position for numerous months now, I am confident we are boldly moving into the future with the expectation we will propel our college to even greater heights.
The University of Kentucky College of Medicine celebrated its 50th anniversary during a year-long series of special events that recognized the shared accomplishments of faculty, staff and students, both past and present. Among the events, the 50th Anniversary White Coat Ceremony mixed the past, present and future as alumni representatives from the past five decades coated the incoming class.

As the college reflected on its last 50 years, it also looked ahead during its academic convocation. During the convocation, the college also marked the anniversary of the original medical center and College of Medicine dedication in 1960. Alumni were again in the spotlight during the 50th Anniversary Signature Event, which capped off the golden anniversary celebration in October 2010.
Rigorous Accreditation Surveys Confirm Educational Quality

Basic, graduate and continuing medical education at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine underwent rigorous reaccreditation processes last year, and in all three areas, accrediting agencies found strong programs.

A Program Built on Multiple Strengths

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), after a thorough review process, in February 2011 reaccredited the UK College of Medicine for a full eight years.

“The LCME noted multiple strengths of the school,” said Darrell Jennings, MD, senior associate dean for education. “We are very pleased with the accreditation visit and very proud of the fact the UK College of Medicine received the maximum length for accreditation.”

Among the strengths the LCME noted: the array of research opportunities available to medical students; pipeline programs aimed at increasing diversity; a strong administrative team with faculty support; extensive curricular evaluation and strategic planning processes used to monitor and improve student learning; course directors and administration responsive to student feedback and concerns; a financial aid office held in high regard by medical students; and basic science and clinical faculty dedicated to teaching excellence.

The college’s space limitations were also noted and this finding may be useful in seeking support for additional facilities. The LCME process involved a self-study that lasted more than a year and a half, included more than 1,000 pages of documents, and involved more than 100 faculty members, students and staff.

While already strong, the college remains responsive to student feedback and concerns. “It is something we are confident we can do,” Jennings said the new approach should produce a more effective integration of basic and clinical science. The change, he said, “dovetails nicely with the changes in health care we are trying to get education at the undergraduate level to mirror and reflect the way care delivery is changing.”

Graduate medical education at UK is also undergoing change, according to assistant dean Susan McDowell, MD. “Through continuous quality improvement efforts, graduate medical education at UK provides its learners with an optimal training environment,” said McDowell. “We are optimistic that those efforts will be reflected in an excellent outcome from our most recent institutional site visit by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.”

The accreditation process took months to gather information and record all of the quality improvement efforts completed over the past five years since ACGME’s last visit.

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education reaccredited UK’s continuing medical education program with only one area of noncompliance.

“It is something we are confident we can address and, in fact, already have done so,” said James Norton, PhD, director of UK HealthCare CECentral, which is responsible for continuing education for health professionals. “In addition, we were one criterion away from being accredited with commendation, and we will fulfill that criterion the next go around.”

Crafting a Diverse, Accomplished Student Body

The success of these programs, however, all start with getting the right students in the door. As LCME noted, UK has built several pipelines aimed at attracting a diverse student body. Students take the lead in some of those efforts, starting with getting the right students in the door. After the 2011 entering class includes 85 Kentuckians from 34 counties; it also includes students from 16 other states, Puerto Rico and Canada.

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Research Funding Puts UK in Elite Group of Research Institutes

The University of Kentucky has received several major grants that place the UK College of Medicine within an elite group of the nation’s research institutions.

In June 2011, UK received one of the largest single research grants in its history—a $20 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA)—from the National Institutes of Health. With this five-year grant, UK joins a select national biomedical research consortium.

In addition, UK Markey Cancer Center received a five-year $12.35 million grant to establish the UK Cancer Nanotechnology Training Center; that grant is part of a $4.8 million boost in research funding over the past year, bringing the Markey Cancer Center’s research total to $36.3 million. With the funding, UK becomes one of six institutions nationwide to perform leading-edge nanotechnology research.

In total, these awards bring the College of Medicine research funding to $115.9 million.

CTSA Grant is One of 60 Across the Country

The CTSA grant will support research at UK’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CTCS), led by Philip Kern, MD, associate provost for clinical and translational science and director of the Barnstable Brown Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center. UK is one of 60 CTSA recipients across the country.

The CTSA program encourages collaboration across scientific disciplines and aims to spur innovative approaches in tackling research challenges. Kern said the grant is an infrastructure grant, not a disease-oriented grant. It’s intended to assist other researchers at UK in a collaborative effort aimed at improving the nation’s health. In fact, Kern said, 12 of UK’s 15 colleges participate in the CTCS in some way.

“One example of our work at UK is the integration of our research strengths in cancer, heart disease and diabetes with our strengths in pharmaceutical sciences and biomedical engineering to develop novel drugs and medical devices,” said Kern, when the funding was announced.

Investigators in the Markey Cancer Center, for example, are partnering with the CCTS to leverage support for infrastructure that will directly benefit research efforts in the Appalachian eastern Kentucky region, according to Mark Evers, MD, professor of surgery and director of the Markey Cancer Center.

In addition to working with UK’s 12 colleges, the CCTS has led the formation of the Appalachian Translational Research Network with CTSA’s at the University of Cincinnati and The Ohio State University; it also works with Marshall and West Virginia universities. Kern said the goal of the network is to create an environment for sharing resources, mentoring and conducting collaborative studies.

“Overall, our goal is to promote and encourage interdisciplinary research that leads to creative new ideas and speeds the translation of scientific discoveries to health improvements for people in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Appalachian region and throughout the nation,” Kern said.

Markey Cancer Center Moves Closer to NCI Designation

The Markey Cancer Center also is keenly focused on Kentucky and the Appalachian region. Evers said a significant number of cancer center investigators have funded projects specifically focused on problems in Eastern Kentucky where the incidence rate of many cancers, including lung and colorectal, is the highest in the country.

“Markey Cancer Center investigators have spearheaded a number of prevention trials in lung and colorectal cancer that has led to a decrease in the incidence and mortality from these diseases,” Evers said.

The success of those investigators, Evers said, is one reason the Markey Cancer Center has seen an increase in research funding in the wake of shrinking budgets and research funding. “This is a testament to the quality of investigators in the center and also to significant and new collaborations forged over the past two years,” said Evers.

The Cancer Nanotechnology Training Center, for example, is the result of collaboration between investigators in the colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering and the Markey Cancer Center.

The additional funding will help the Markey Cancer Center as it applies for Cancer Center Support Grant designation. Application requires a threshold of cancer-related funding, and UK far exceeds those expectations, Evers said.

“The growth in research dollars further highlights the need for additional research space. The College of Medicine currently has about 250,000 square feet of research space, said Alan Daugherty, PhD, DSc, College of Medicine senior associate dean for research. “Our space continues to age,” Daugherty noted, saying that could be a hindrance in recruiting top-notch scientists to the college. “It’s going to be extremely expensive to renovate.”

Mike Reid, PhD, director of translational technologies and resources, noted increased research funding from not only the CTSA project and Markey Cancer Center, but also research by other investigators at the college. “Our space is completely filled and the ability to continue to grow is root-bound by the lack of research space,” he said.

A top priority for both the College of Medicine and the university administration is a second Biomedical/Biological Sciences Research Building that would provide the college an additional 60,000 square feet of research space.

“Overall, our goal is to promote and encourage interdisciplinary research that leads to creative new ideas . . .”

Philip Kern, MD
Associate Provost, Clinical and Translational Science
College of Medicine Reaches Out
to Address Needs of Community

"The university has long had a commitment to addressing the needs of Kentucky," said James Norton, PhD, associate dean for educational engagement, in reflecting on the attention the UK College of Medicine has given to issues of projected physician shortages, physical inactivity and healthy lifestyles.

**Shortage of Physicians, Especially in Rural Areas**

A UK College of Medicine study published in the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* estimates the state will need between 1,527 and 1,888 additional primary care physicians by 2020. The college is striving to address that need and has extended its educational offerings through the Rural Physician Leadership Program (RPLP).

Four third-year medical students in the RPLP took their clinical studies in Morehead during the 2010-2011 academic year. The RPLP is unique to UK and is designed to produce physicians in all specialties who can provide health care leadership.

The mission is simple: Create physicians who will address shortages in rural areas, said Anthony Weaver, MD, assistant dean for the Morehead regional site. "Frankly we can do a lot of good things, but if we don't address rural health care shortages, it won't be meeting the goals for the program," Weaver said.

RPLP students complete their first two years of medical school at the Lexington campus, then move their studies to Morehead State University's Center for Health, Education and Research, where they train primarily at St. Claire Regional Medical Center.

**Developing Interest in Health Careers**

The RPLP involves another program reaching out to all parts of Kentucky—Area Health Education Centers, a collaborative effort with the University of Louisville. Physicians in the Northeast AHEC serve as preceptors for the RPLP students.

Throughout Kentucky, physicians participating in the AHEC Community Faculty Program provide community-based learning experiences for health profession students. The program utilizes the services of community faculty throughout the state for fourth-year electives in a specific rotation.

The AHEC program also has expanded to include a health career pipeline, exposing middle school and older students to health careers. Medical school students serve as role models in visits to area schools "to encourage more people in rural Kentucky to pursue a career in health care," said Weaver.

UK brings 50 of those students onto its campus each summer for rigorous residential camps involving all of the health profession colleges for students interested in health careers.

The college also has a new tool to spark student interest in health professions: The AHEC program received a $292,000 grant to purchase three vans to develop a patient simulator program. One van will be housed in Lexington, one in western Kentucky and the other in eastern Kentucky.

"The simulator was designed to contextualize for students what they're learning in a classroom," said Carlos Marin, assistant dean for community and cultural engagement and the UK AHEC Program Coordinator.

**Lifelong Learning**

The learning doesn’t stop once a student graduates and completes a residency program. UK continues the education process through CECentral, which counts about 60,000 practitioners in its database who look to the professional development provider for some of their educational needs.

“It’s really the lifelong learning piece that we’re talking about beginning in middle school and ending with continuing education," said Norton, who directs UK HealthCare CECentral.

**Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles**

Medical students are involved in medicine well beyond the classroom. In 2011, 45 first- and second-year students volunteered their time twice a week in the UK Jumpin’ Jaguars program leading elementary students in fun physical activities like hip-hop dancing, Zumba and swimming.

"The College of Medicine remains committed to making a difference in the lives of these elementary students through this coalition and community partnership," said Todd R. Cheever, MD, assistant dean for student affairs and UK Jumpin’ Jaguars program director.

Jumpin’ Jaguars is expanding to two additional schools to reach more elementary students. Medical students have found other ways to touch the lives of Kentuckians. They organize and participate in an annual one-day Hispanic Health Fair in Lexington, providing health information and basic medical screenings to more than 200 people. They also volunteer at Lexington’s Salvation Army Clinic, gaining valuable interviewing, organizational and clinical experience through this service-learning project. More than 700 patients are seen annually.

"One of the goals of the university is to increase community engagement," said Norton. “The College of Medicine offers many avenues for its students to take their talents and skills out into the community for service-learning opportunities.”
Wilson Improves Connection Between College and Its Alumni

Dr. Emery Wilson touched the lives of many University of Kentucky College of Medicine students as a student and resident from 1964 to 1972, a faculty member starting in 1976, and dean of the college from 1987 to 2004.

So it seems only natural for Wilson, after completing a year as interim dean, to head up a renewed effort in alumni affairs. He’d like to see alumni more involved with current students, either through career chats with first- and second-year medical students or by helping fourth-year students as they travel around the country for residency interviews.

“We will be putting together a strategic planning process for the alumni affairs program with the idea of making it more service oriented,” Wilson said. “We want them to feel a part of the alumni organization and a part of the College of Medicine.”

By the Numbers

Education

Class of 2014 Mean Scores

College Grade Point Average
Science 3.69
Non-science 3.82
Total GPA 3.74

MCAT Sections
Verbal Reasoning 9.85 (1-15 scale)
Physical Science 10.45 (1-15 scale)
Writing Samples P (J-T scores)
Biological Science 10.72 (1-15 scale)
Total 31.02

Approximately 92 percent of all medical students receive some form of financial aid and 46 percent benefit from scholarship awards.

In 2011, UK medical students matched into 21 different specialties for residency. 24 percent elected to stay within the UK HealthCare system, and an additional 6 percent elected to stay in Kentucky for residency.

The college has one of 10 triple-board residency programs in the nation where residents can train in Adult Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Pediatrics.

The College of Medicine is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association.

Outreach

Community Faculty Program
1,133 total community faculty members
87 new appointments in the 2011 fiscal year
185 medical student rotations
732 weeks of student rotations

Revenue Sources

Clinical

Grants

State

Gifts and Endowments

Other

As of June 30, 2011.
As of start of 2010–2011 academic year.
As of 2011 spring semester. Includes students pursuing MS and PhD degrees.

Research

Grants and contracts in the College of Medicine reached $135.9 million in fiscal year 2011, (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011) including in excess of $70 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding.

In federal fiscal year 2010, (October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010) UK received 63 percent of the NIH research funding granted to Kentucky medical schools.

UK has 250,000 square feet of research space.
Research expenditures per net assignable square foot is $37,34.90, near the targeted average nationally.

Markey Cancer Center in FY11 received an increase of $4.8 million in research funding for a total of $56.3 million. The increase includes a five-year, $1.75 million grant to establish the UK Nanotechnology Training Center.

College of Medicine awarded sponsored projects as a % of UK total awards

FY10 39.9%
FY11 19.7%

Wilson Improves Connection Between College and Its Alumni

Former dean Emery Wilson, MD, has turned his attention to the college’s alumni and how to better involve them in the life of the college. Here, he talks to Jeff Hew, MD (‘98), director of the cancer program at Akron (Ohio) Children’s Hospital, during an alumni tailgate party.

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