



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY College of Medicine

Dean's Newsletter

April 25, 2006

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Dean's Letter

I am pleased to announce that the Dean's Letter has been resuscitated, and you will begin to receive important information from the College semimonthly.

I believe it is important for everyone within the College to be well informed of significant actions and accomplishments. It is vital that I share information and recognize accomplishments.

In order for us to do all of this Julane Hamon joined us April 11 as the director of communications for the College of Medicine. She has 10 years of communications and public relations experience. Julane will be responsible for the Dean's Newsletter, the College's annual report, some community projects and the day-to-day internal commu-

nication needs for the College. She will also serve as a liaison to the UK Public Relations staff and UK HealthCare marketing team so that our faculty's accomplishments have the greatest visibility possible.

I encourage you to send news items to Julane so she may share it with the rest of the College. As you've already noticed, she has revamped the Dean's Letter to be a true newsletter. She would love to have your feedback and ideas to make it an even stronger piece of communication.

Over the next couple of issues, you will see new items and ideas. Please let her know what you like most and what you could do without. We will not be able to include everything



Jay Perman, M.D.,
Dean, College of Medicine
Vice President for Clinical Affairs

that is newsworthy, but we will do our best. I want us to use this newsletter as a principal communications link across the College.

Julane Hamon may be reached at Julane.Hamon@uky.edu or by calling 7-6680.

UK's near death study gains international coverage

Kevin Nelson M.D., Michelle Mattingly, Ph.D., Sherman A. Lee, Ph.D., and Frederick A. Schmitt, Ph.D., have published a study on near death experiences that is gaining international attention from outlets such as news@nature.com, ABC News, BBC News, The

United Press International and Reuters.

The study was published in the April 11, 2006, issue of *Neurology*, the scientific journal of the American Academy of Neurology. UK's study compared 55 people with near death experiences to 55 people of

the same age and gender who had not had near death experiences.

The UK team's study found that people with near death experiences are more likely to have a sleep-wake system where boundaries between sleep and wakefulness are not as clearly regu-

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Bruemmer receives more than \$2 million for studies

Dennis Bruemmer, M.D., has received two grants totaling more than \$2.1 million.

The National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute has awarded Bruemmer's research more than \$1.8 million over the next five years.

This grant will support investigations of the regulation of smooth muscle cell proliferation by the orphan nuclear receptor Nor-1 during the development of atherosclerosis.

Bruemmer has also received a Research Award from the American Diabetes Association for \$100,000 for the next three years.

In this grant, Bruemmer will be studying novel mechanisms regulating smooth cell proliferation in diabetic vascular complications. He will attempt to define new treatment approaches by insulin-sensitizing thiazolidinediones used to treat hyperglycemia in patients with type 2 diabetes.



Dennis Bruemmer, M.D.

Bruemmer is an assistant professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology and Molecular Medicine and a faculty member of the UK Gill Heart Institute Cardiovascular Research Center.

Family and Community Medicine awarded \$362,000

The Department of Family and Community Medicine in collaboration with the College of Pharmacy and the College of Health Sciences has been awarded a \$362,000 grant to develop a specialized prescription drug curriculum for health care professionals.

The Attorney General Consumer and Prescriber Grant Program funds projects designed to provide health care professionals and consumers with information on prescription

drugs, including marketing practices.

"At times, more cost-effective drugs may be overlooked, partially due to pharmaceutical marketing ..."

effective drugs may be overlooked, partially due to pharmaceutical marketing," Dassow said. "We're optimistic that this curriculum will improve the prescriber's ability to evaluate and prescribe medicine in the most cost-effective manner."

The curriculum consists of five modules and will be taught both online and in the classroom. It will be tailored for medical students, physician assistant students and practicing clinicians.

Paul Dassow, M.D., assistant dean for Continuing Medical Education for the UK College of Medicine, serves as the principal investigator on the grant. "At times, more cost-

Robertson receives 2005 - 2006 Provost Outstanding Teaching Award

William C. Robertson, Jr., M.D., has been awarded the 2006 Provost Outstanding Teaching Award.

Joseph R. Berger, M.D., Ruth L. Works professor and chair of the Department of Neurology, stated in his nomination that Robertson's "contribution to the teaching of students and residents exemplifies the best in what we expect of an educator."

Berger went on to say, "His integrity, excellence, respect, service and compassion for students, patients, colleagues and others is unparalleled within our department, as well as the institution."

C. Darrell Jennings, M.D., senior associate dean for Medical Education, also nominated Robertson. Jennings

pointed out how Robertson instituted an internship, elective and fellowship in child neurology.

Robertson has received many awards during his career. Some of the more noteworthy are:

- 2006 Teacher Recognition Award from the American Academy of Neurology (national);
- 2005 GOLD Humanism Honor Society (national);
- 2005 Abraham Flexner Master Educator Award in the area of Educational Innovation and Curriculum Development;
- 2004 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award; and
- 2003 Abraham Flexner Master Educator Award in the area of Outstanding Teaching Contribution and Mentorship.

Robertson has also received awards from students — five in fact. He was awarded the Clinical Clerkship Teaching Award from the medical students in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Robertson has been a professor in the department of Neurology since 2001.

The Provost Outstanding Teaching Award is awarded each school year to one tenured faculty member, two non-tenured faculty and up to three teaching assistants.

Sidney Andrew Houff, M.D., Ph.D., Creed Pettigrew, M.D., Todd Cheever, M.D., and medical student, **Sandra D. Green** also contributed to the nomination.



William Robertson, Jr., M.D.

Near death study

(Continued from page 1)
lated, and the REM state of sleep can intrude into normal wakeful consciousness.

"During a crisis, loss of muscle tone that occurs with REM state intrusion could reinforce a person's sense of being dead and convey the impression of death to other people," Nelson said.

Of the people with near death experiences, 60 percent report having times of this REM intrusion, compared to just 24 percent of people who had not had near death experiences.

Nelson is the director of medical affairs and a professor in Neurology. Mattingly is an assistant professor and neuropsychologist. Lee, a recent

graduate from UK, is now an assistant professor in psychology at Christopher Newport University. Schmitt is a professor in the Department of Neurology and the Departments of Behavioral Science, Psychology and Psychiatry.

To view the entire study visit www.neurology.org and search by author using "Nelson."



News of Note

Mariana N. Nikolova-Karakashian, Ph.D., associate professor in physiology, will serve as a member of the Membrane Biology and Protein Processing Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2010. Nikolova-Karakashian was selected because of her quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, significant scientific activities and honors in physiology.

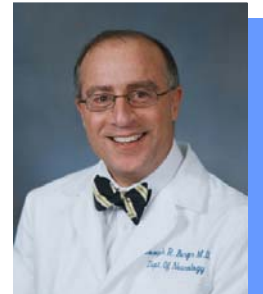
In this role, she will be responsible for reviewing grant applications submitted to the NIH, make recommendations to the appropriate NIH national advisory council or board, and survey the status of research in the fields of science.



Mariana N. Nikolova-Karakashian, Ph.D.

Joseph R. Berger, M.D., has been named treasurer of the American Neurological Association (ANA). Berger is the Ruth L. Works professor and chairman of the Department of Neurology in the UK College of Medicine. Berger had previously served as the chairman of the membership committee and as a councilor for the ANA.

The ANA is a professional society of academic neurologists and neuroscientists. The association works to advance academic neurology; train and educate other physicians in the neurological sciences; and to expand the understanding of nervous system diseases and the ability to treat them.

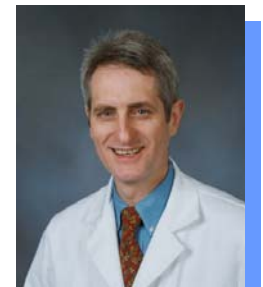


Joseph Berger, M.D.

Kevin Nelson, M.D., was recently appointed to the board of directors of the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM).

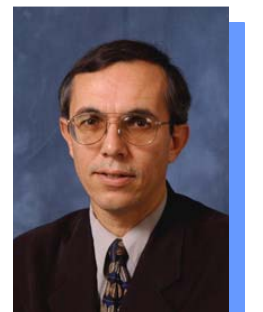
AANEM is composed of 5,000 member physicians and is the only national organization devoted to all aspects of Neuromuscular Medicine.

Nelson was also part of the near death study. See page 1 for the full article.



Kevin Nelson, M.D.

Dennis G. Karounos, M.D., an associate professor of Internal Medicine, has received the Community Service Award for Excellence in Diabetes Research. Karounos serves on the leadership council for the Bluegrass chapter of the Diabetes Association. He is director of the Diabetes Program, Clinical Diabetes Education and Management Service, Division of Endocrinology and Molecular Medicine for UK.



Dennis G. Karounos, M.D.