

# UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY College of Medicine

## Dean's Newsletter

May 25, 2006

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### Dean's Letter

By now, I hope most of you have heard about my initiative to make our medical students not only sought-after clinicians but *nice* doctors.

Well, this is really my goal for everyone within the College of Medicine.

So, I thought I'd take this opportunity to encourage you to review the graduation speech I delivered on May 13.

You'll find cited national studies on how being nice reduces malpractice claims,

how nice doctors finish first, as well as studies conducted by our own **Drs. Chipper Griffith, John Wilson, Shelby Langer and Steven Haist.**

It has been proven that patient satisfaction is greater when physicians use better nonverbal communication — greater facial expressiveness, more open body posture and a more pleasant tone of voice.

Yes, it is embarrassing that we need to make an issue of imploring doctors to be *nice*. But this has become a

public issue — a matter for the lay press. The coarseness of society has crept too much into our profession.

We are never too old to learn. And, we're especially never too old to be *nice* to our patients and colleagues.

[Dr. Perman's graduation speech may be found online.](#)



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

### Class of 2006 ... with honors

On May 13, 88 physicians graduated from UK's College of Medicine. Of those graduates, 33 percent have chosen to stay at UK for their residency with another 6 percent staying in the Commonwealth. Students also matched in excellent out-of-state residency programs, including:

- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center,
- Tulane University,
- Duke University,
- Medical University of North Carolina, and
- Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

The following is a list of awards presented to the 2006 graduates.

**The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award: Michael Barnett**



From left to right, **Kojo Abbeyquaye M.D., Michael Barnett, M.D., Jennifer Robinson, M.D. and Clint Wood, M.D.,** each received awards for their service to the Medical Student Government Association.

**Arnold P. Gold Humanism Honor Society: Kojo Abbeyquaye, Nate Averill, Michael Barnett, Agatha Critchfield, Amy Frisch, Sandra Green, Holly Hall-Cox, Alison Johnson, Regan Ladenburger, Adam**

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## UK Cardiovascular Research Center researchers study AAAs

**Lisa A. Cassis, Ph.D., Alan Daugherty, Ph.D., D.Sc., Nancy R. Webb, Ph.D., Debra L. Rateri, B.Sc., and Victoria L. King, Ph.D.** were awarded a five-year Program Project Grant for \$8.5 million to study mechanisms of initiation and development of abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAAs).

AAAs are a significant health problem, ranking as the 10th leading killer in the United States. The team has created a reproducible

animal model of AAAs by subcutaneously infusing angiotensin II into hyperlipidemic mice. The goal is to form a sufficient understanding of the condition to move into clinical trials, and eventually into the implementation of a pharmacological treatment for AAAs.

The team will direct their research toward understanding three separate facets of AAAs. Cassis will lead a group to focus on gender effects, particularly

why the condition is more prevalent in men. Webb's team will look at the role inflammatory processes in the disease. Daugherty will investigate why abdominal aneurysms are always located in a specific location of the abdominal aorta.

More information about this Program Project Grant may be found on the [Cardiovascular Research Center's Web site](#).



**Natasha Kyprianou, Ph.D.**

## Kyprianou becomes first recipient of a new national urology award

**Natasha Kyprianou, M.D., Ph.D.**, was selected as the first recipient of the Woman in Urology Award for Excellence in Urology Research 2006. Kyprianou is a professor of Urology and the James F. Hardyman Chair in Urologic Research. She holds adjunct professorships in the De-

partments of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and Toxicology.

This new award honors a leading female investigator who has made outstanding contributions to the field of Urology and pioneering work in Urologic research.

The award established by the Society of Women in Urology, the Society for Urologic Research and the American Urological Association, was presented to Kyprianou at the annual AUA meeting in Atlanta earlier this month.

## Griffith awarded prestigious fellowship at Harvard

**Joan R. Griffith, M.D.**, assistant professor in Pediatrics, was one of five in the nation to be awarded The Commonwealth Fund Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy.

During this one-year fellowship, Griffith will learn about the major health issues facing minority, disadvantaged and underserved populations. The Commonwealth Fund Fellowship is designed to pre-

pare physicians to become future leaders in implementing and developing public health policy, whether it be on a local, state or national level.

**Tim Bricker, M.D.**, chair of Pediatrics, and **William Balke, M.D.**, senior associate dean of research, helped nominate Griffith for this award. **Mae Marie Quan, AHEC** associate administrator, encouraged Griffith to apply.

"During the past three and a half years at UK, I have had many wonderful experiences, some of which I never envisioned," Griffith said. "I am truly honored and excited about this opportunity to learn more ways that I can help the children from underserved communities."

Griffith has been a pediatrician at UK since 2002.



**Joan Griffith, M.D., M.H.A.**

## News of Note

### Six nominations for the Sarah Bennett Holmes Award

The following College of Medicine staff and faculty were nominees for the Sarah Bennett Holmes Awards, which honors someone who has achieved professional and personal accomplishments while promoting the growth and well-being of women, despite the adversities along the way.

- **Leslie Crofford, M.D.**, professor of Internal Medicine/Rheumatology and Women's Health
- **Caroline E. Reid, MSW** and Ph.D. candidate, program director for the Girls in Science and Girls in Research programs, Behavioral Sciences and the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research
- **Patricia Reid**, administrator, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
- **Sara Rosenthal, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, Bioethics in the Department of Behavioral Science, director of UK's program for Bioethics and Patients' Rights and co-chair of the Hospital Ethics Committee
- **Edythe Tevelson Lach**, assistant director of the Markey Cancer Control Program
- **Deborah Whitehurst, M.S. ARNP**, Pediatric Gastroenterology

### Eight accepted into the 2006-07 Circles of Power Leadership Program

- **Rosemarie L. Conigliaro, M.D.**, associate professor, Department of Internal Medicine
- **Sarah E.F. D'Orazio, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, & Molecular Genetics
- **Heather Hanson Pierce, Ph.D., M.S.**, clinical assistant professor of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant
- **Kristine Y. Lain, M.D., M.S.**, assistant professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
- **Rina Plattner, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology
- **Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.**, Internal Medicine, division of Cardiology
- **Alice Thornton, M.D.**, medical director of the Bluegrass Care Clinic associate professor of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases
- **Donna R. Weber, Ph.D.**, academic medical educator, Department of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology

### Casey receives honorary degree

**Baretta Casey, M.D.**, received an honorary degree, the Doctor of Humane Letters, from Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine on May 13. Casey is the director of the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health and the director of the East Kentucky Family Medicine Residency. She delivered the commencement speech at Pikeville's graduation ceremony prior to accepting this honor. Casey received her bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry from Pikeville College.



Baretta Casey, M.D.

### Patchell delivers lecture at Massachusetts General Hospital

**Roy A. Patchell, M.D.**

professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Internal Medicine, was the keynote for "The Brian D. Silber Lecture" at the Ether Dome at Massachusetts General Hospital. Patchell discussed the new developments in the treatment of metastatic epidural spinal cord compression.



Roy A. Patchell, M.D.

Patchell also lectured on "Brain Metastases" at the Harvard oncology grand rounds.

## Have a question for the Dean?

Is there a question that you've always wanted to ask Dean Perman but never had the opportunity?

Periodically, the Dean's Newsletter will begin featuring Q&A sessions with Dr. Perman. While we may not be able to answer every inquiry, we would like to answer as many of your questions as possible. Don't worry, names will not appear. Please send your questions to Julane.Hamon @uky.edu. Selected questions will be answered in upcoming issues of the newsletters.



## Class of 2006 ... with honors

(Continued from page 1)

**Lyles, Jessica McFarlin,  
Jamie Messer, Ann Mary  
Robertson, John Sallee**

**Albert B. Chandler  
Award: Shawn A. Ryan**  
*Highest GPA throughout all 4 years*

**D. Kay Clawson Award:  
Michael Barnett**  
*For demonstrating personal qualities of  
both a scientific and caring physician,  
academic superiority, improving the  
academic environment of the College, and  
statesmanship as a student leader.*

**The AOA Good Physician  
Award: Michael Barnett**  
*The classmate that possesses the intangi-  
ble qualities that make a great physi-  
cian—selected by class.*

**Peter P. Bosomworth  
Excellence in  
Anesthesiology Award:  
Amy Murray**

**Arthur Lieber Senior Ra-  
diology Award:  
Adam Lyles**

**Carey Cup Excellence in  
Emergency Medicine  
Award: Chrystal Potter**

**Society for Academic  
Emergency Medicine  
Excellence in Emergency  
Medicine Award:  
Jason Reaves**

**Kentucky Academy of  
Family Physicians Award  
for Outstanding Interest  
and Application to  
Family Practice:  
Nathan Averill**

**Dr. Richard W. Emerine  
Memorial Award:  
Kojo Abbeyquaye**  
*Family Practice*

**Outstanding Fourth  
Year Student for Aca-  
demic Performance in  
Internal Medicine  
Award:  
Amy Schell**

**Outstanding Fourth  
Year Student for Schol-  
arship and Humanism  
in Internal Medicine  
Award:  
Michael Barnett**

**The David B. Clark  
Award for Excellence in  
Neurology:  
Donita Lightner**

**AAN Medical Student  
Prize for Excellence in  
Neurology: Sandra Green**

**Louise Perkins McHenry  
Award: Stephanie Ann  
Freeman**  
*Obstetrics and Gynecology*

**John Greene, Jr., M.D.  
Clinical Excellence  
Award: Kevin Schuler**  
*Obstetrics and Gynecology*

**R. Von Myers, II Award:  
Regan Ladenburger**  
*Pathology*

**Dr. John H. Githens  
Award for Excellence in  
Pediatrics: Lindsey Fox**

**Outstanding Medical  
Student in Physical Medi-  
cine and Rehabilitation  
Award: Ryan Donegan**

**Myron G. Sandifer, Jr.  
M.D. Award to the Out-  
standing Student in Psy-  
chiatry: John Sallee**

**The Francis M. Massie  
Award for Excellence in  
Surgery: Jamie Messer**



John Greene, Jr., M.D. Clinical Excellence Award recipient Kevin Schuler, M.D. left, and Louise Perkins McHenry Award recipient Stephanie Ann Freeman, M.D., right, with Wendy Hansen, M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology, who presented their awards.

**Medical Student Re-  
search Award:  
Xuan Nguyen**

**Community Service  
Awards: Jessica McFarlin,  
Nate Averill, Kojo Abbey-  
quaye**

*Members of class who have exhibited  
outstanding community service to the  
class, college and/or community—chosen  
by the class.*

**Merck Manual Awards:  
Megan Bale Nelson,  
Kevin Schuler**

*Awarded on the basis of high academic  
performance as well as service to his or  
her class and college.*

**American Medical  
Women's Association  
Awards: Janna Neltner,  
Amy Schell, Erika Music,  
Chrystal Potter, Melanie  
Bradley**

*Given to women in the top 10  
percent of the class.*

**Dorothy and Edwin Mu-  
nich Memorial Schol-  
arship Award: Shannon  
Haggerty**

*Academic excellence throughout their last  
year of school*

**The Endocrine Society  
Award: Michael Manning**