

# UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY College of Medicine

## Dean's Newsletter

November 29, 2006

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### Q & A with Dean

*The department administrators had their first official retreat in November and Dean Perman addressed the group. Here are Dr. Perman's responses to questions presented to him at this meeting.*

**Q:** Do you feel the development of cores of expertise for operative tasks and management of processes would be a potential cost saving opportunity? An example would be departmental partnerships to facilitate such tasks such as payroll, human resources or develop new business opportunities.

**A:** Yes. We need to move our thinking from small

departments and staff that try to support themselves independently to thinking about what is best for every department – basic science and clinical. We need to have support across the enterprise – whether it is human resources, information technology, marketing and many other support functions.

On the clinical side, we are working with the revision of the KMSF bylaws to develop committees to address some of these issues. For instance, we have 42 different phone systems in the Kentucky Clinic. Today, a patient cannot be trans-

ferred from one phone system to the next. We need to have an overall solution to our phone issues – one that is best for the patient and works for all departments.

**Q:** Would you be OK with people working together to develop ideas to solve some

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

### FDA Approves New Use for Breast Cancer Drug

A new use for the breast cancer drug Herceptin was approved by the FDA Nov. 16, 2006, a move that means more treatment options for the 25 percent of the breast cancer patients with early-stage HER-2 positive breast cancer.

**Edward Romond, M.D.,** professor, Internal Medicine, was instrumental in researching and analyzing the results of two massive clinical trials of early-stage

breast cancer patients who received Herceptin in combination with chemotherapy. The results indicated a 52 percent decrease in the risk for breast cancer recurrence compared with patients who received the same chemotherapy without Herceptin.

“In terms of a single leap forward, this is probably the most dramatic we’ve had in a long time,” Romond said.

The study revealed the use of Herceptin in early-stage HER-2 positive breast cancer was effective. Herceptin was previously only used in late-stage breast cancer or cancer that had spread to other sites. The effectiveness of this new treatment therapy offers hope to the 25 percent of breast cancer patients who have HER-2 positive breast cancer, which is an extremely aggressive and fast-spreading cancer.

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**Edward Romond, M.D.**



## Dean Announces New Diversity Committee

The Faculty Council recently approved the Dean’s proposal to create a Diversity Committee as an Ad Hoc committee, reporting directly to the Dean. The new group will then develop a work plan to be presented to the Faculty Council in about six months.

The Diversity Council will be composed of:

- Two staff;
- Four faculty;

- Two residents;
- Four students;
- Two graduate students; and
- One post doctoral student.

Initial nominations will be self nominations and should be submitted to:

**C. Darrell Jennings, M.D.**, senior associate dean for Medical Education for staff.

These nominations will

then be forwarded to the Dean, who will make the final decision on membership. The Dean will also receive recommendations from the faculty council, the staff oversight committee and administrative leaders during the selection process. Nominations are due January 3 and should be a short paragraph including why you want to be on the Committee and what unique elements you could contribute.

## The Future of UK Child Care

As the University of Kentucky and the College of Medicine strive to reach Top 20 status, an important goal is to attract, develop and retain distinguished faculty and staff. Studies have shown one way to do this is through new or additional child care services.

**Dean Jay Perman, M.D.**, currently serves as the executive champion and is working with administra-

tors from the rest of campus to address the need for additional child care for UK College of Medicine, the Medical Center, house staff and students as well as for the main campus.

A recent feasibility study illustrates 41 percent of UK HealthCare employees have children under the age of 18. Many of these individuals have trouble finding care in emergencies and during

overtime, weekend, evening or holiday situations.

The child care committee is currently reviewing child care facilities as well as exploring other possible sites on campus. The committee is also reviewing and developing a request for proposals for enhancing child care services and facilities, which will be announced to child care providers.

Rose Street Construction Update— Details on page 3.



## Announcing New Faculty



**Shivaiah Balachandra, M.D.**, Assistant Professor,  
Pediatrics  
Start Date: 9/1/2006



**Kristy S. Deep, M.D.**,  
Instructor, Internal Medicine,  
General Medicine  
Start Date: 7/1/2006



**Michael Dobbs, M.D.**,  
Assistant Professor,  
Neurology  
Start Date: 9/18/2006



**Zsolt Herberth, M.D.**,  
Assistant Professor, Internal  
Medicine, Nephrology  
Start Date: 10/1/2006



**Samuel H. Mardini, M.D.,  
M.P.H.**, Assistant Professor,  
Internal Medicine, Digestive  
Disease and Nutrition  
Start Date: 7/1/2006



**Richard A. Pellegrini,  
M.D.**, Assistant Professor,  
Diagnostic Radiology  
Start Date: 9/1/2006



**Brook A. Saunders, M.D.**,  
Instructor, Obstetrics and  
Gynecology  
Start Date: 7/1/2006

## Rose Street Under Construction

On Nov. 20, traffic on the south end of Rose Street was redirected to the recently completed Huguelet Drive extension. The extension runs between the UK College of Pharmacy building and the UK School of Biological Sciences building.

“The university has completed a comprehensive traffic study that determined the construction and transportation changes that

would be in the best interests of both Lexington and UK,” said **Micheal Karpf, M.D.**, executive vice president for Health Affairs.

The new route will allow safe and easy access to the new UK Chandler Hospital for ambulances and patients in personal vehicles. Currently, traffic on south Rose Street is restricted to vehicles traveling to the medical center and is closed to

through traffic.

Prior to the completion of the Huguelet extension, traffic to the Kentucky Clinic was redirected to Washington Avenue. At this time, Kentucky Clinic can now be accessed via Limestone and Huguelet Drive.

Please see diagram to the left for a detailed map.



Timothy Mullett, M.D.

## 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](mailto:Julane.Hamon@uky.edu). Selected questions will be answered in upcoming issues of the newsletters.

## American Lung Association Walk

The American Lung Association partnering with the University of Kentucky, held the 2006 Lung Cancer Walk/Run at the Kentucky Horse Park, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006.

The UK Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Program joined with UK HealthCare marketing to be a presenting sponsor for the event. There were more than 300 participants in attendance and six volunteers from the University of Kentucky.

The walk was part of "Lung

Cancer Summit Week," which also included various clinics and support group sessions for the Lexington community. The goal was to raise awareness about lung cancer, generate funds for lung cancer research, programs and services in the state of Kentucky, where the lung cancer deaths are higher than any other state.

**Timothy Mullett, M.D.**, associate professor, Surgery, was present at the walk. He represented the Univer-

sity of Kentucky by making a few remarks during the workshop and after the run.

In the future, the American Lung Association of Kentucky plans to continue the partnership with UK by offering information sessions lead by a UK lung cancer specialist as a service to the region.



## FDA Approves New Use for Breast Cancer Drug (cont.)

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"This study has changed the outcome from one of the most worrisome kinds of cancer to one that has a much better prognosis," Romond said.

The NCI-sponsored national clinical trial featured more than 500 testing sites throughout the United

States and Canada and included 3,351 women. Romond has since become the national spokesperson for this new use of Herceptin in treating early-stage HER-2 positive breast cancer.

Romond was the principal investigator for the Herceptin study, and also chaired the same study for the National Surgical Adju-

vant Breast and Bowel project.

He was also recently honored with the 2006 Celebration of Life Award from the Lexington affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation for his breast cancer research efforts and excellent patient care.

*Article courtesy of UKPR.*

## Q & A with the Dean (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

of the issues we find on the department level?

**A:** Of course. We want to hear from you and need your help in guiding our centralization and organization of particular areas. I encourage you to bring these ideas to your department chairs and department administrators.

**Q:** There was once talk of merging some of the clinical activities, such as primary

care. Is this still the case?

**A:** I've been places where primary care was a consortium. We need to find common ground, but primary care disciplines need to be independent. We plan on keeping the department structure. However, I do believe that we need to be more cohesive for better clinical care. We need to find things we can do better together across disciplines. We need to develop more multi-disciplinary teams

that are focused on comprehensive patient care.

**Q:** What are your ideas about getting more state support for faculty?

**A:** State dollars exceed \$40 million a year, which is perhaps a tenth of our revenue. This must grow. However, we clearly need to grow our resources given our reliance on multiple other sources of funds.