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Express Scripts, Research Grants – More of Your Questions Answered

On a daily basis, I continue to receive questions from you. The following are a select few that seem to apply to the majority of the College community:

Question: *Do you actually read all your own e-mail, or is it filtered for you by your staff? Do you personally see all of these anonymous questions, or do you just see what your staff passes on to you?*

Answer: *I do, in fact, read my own e-mail. Likewise, I respond to my own e-mail. It is extremely important to me that I address everything I receive from faculty, staff and learners. Yes, I see every anonymous question that is submitted to my office.*

Not to say that I don't enlist the assistance of others to obtain appropriate responses. Often times, I will forward messages to members

of my staff who can – more appropriately – answer the questions I receive.

Question: *A couple months ago, I received a letter informing me that I must contact Express Scripts either to participate in or to opt out of some program connected to my maintenance-type prescriptions. However, I recently received a secondary letter on this topic that said I do not have to contact Express Scripts. Can you please clarify what employees are required to do?*

Answer: *Due to employee concerns and confusion related to the initial Express Scripts letter, UK has worked with Express Scripts and modified the program. You must no longer opt out of the program – which is designed to assist employees in filling prescriptions regularly taken to treat ongoing*

conditions – that may or may not offer financial savings. Therefore, if you wish to participate in the Express Scripts Home Delivery program, you must contact them to enroll.



Jay Perman, M.D.

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Q&A with Dean Perman

Upcoming Session:
Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m.
College of Nursing Building
Lecture Hall 201

This session will address results of the Press Ganey Employee Satisfaction Survey as well as tackle other topics on the minds of faculty and staff, particularly those at Kentucky Clinic. If you have an item you wish to discuss during this forum, anonymously submit your request via the [online form](#).

Legislative Mini Medical School a Success

Twenty Kentucky legislators, the mayor of Lexington, and the secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services experienced medical school firsthand as “students” in the College of Medicine’s inaugural Legislative Mini-

Medical School on Monday, Oct. 19. Legislators experienced – in one day – examples of the events and milestones medical students encounter in four years of training, from white coat ceremony to graduation.

In just nine hours, legislators attended lectures on metabolism, diabetes and obesity; toured the gross anatomy lab; learned about the difference between a normal and a fatty liver in a histology small group study session; toured radio telemetry labs, metabolic chambers and other research labs to learn how UK studies the effects of hypertension, diabetes and obesity; participated in clinical rotations with UK physicians, residents and medical students; and graduated and received their “match

“I am thankful that so many of our legislators took time out of their busy schedules to spend some time and learn a little more about what is happening in medical education and research at the University of Kentucky,” said UK President **Lee T. Todd Jr.**

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Grant Will Help Recruit Leaders in GI Cancer

The UK Markey Cancer Center recently received \$1.4 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to recruit two junior tenure-track faculty members to conduct translational research focused primarily on gastrointestinal (GI) cancer.

"The two-year P30 grant will help to build expanded capacity in the development of prevention and treatment strategies," said **B. Mark Evers, M.D.**, professor of Surgery and director of the Markey Cancer Center.

"Our goal is to develop a cadre of future GI cancer investigators who can participate at the intersection of molecular biology, drug discovery and clinical care," Evers said. "We need to build leaders in integrative and team approaches who understand the complex issues of gastrointestinal cancer as they relate to potential prevention and treatment strategies."

The new faculty members will be integrated into a highly collaborative, interdisciplinary group of investigators fo-

cused on the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of GI cancer.

Earlier this year, the Markey Cancer Center became one of only six cancer centers nationwide to be designated by the NIH as a Specialized Program in Research Excellence (SPORE) in GI cancer.



B. Mark Evers, M.D.

College of Medicine Blood Drive a Success

Five of UK's health science colleges – Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Health Sciences – recently participated in a friendly blood drive competition hosted by the Kentucky Blood Center (KBC). The College of Medicine's blood drive was held Sept. 14.

A total of 21 College of Medicine volunteer donors including students, faculty and staff were able to suc-

cessfully donate 21 units of blood to the KBC.

"The Kentucky Blood Center appreciates every unit donated. The Health Science Colleges at UK have proven to be willing to save lives in more than one way," said Kayla Kolb, Kentucky Blood Center donor recruitment specialist. "That is an attribute you want to see in current and future health care professionals."

The College of Medicine received a certificate of appreciation for their participation. The College of Nursing won this year's competition with 40 units of blood donated and received the Overall Participation award. For this honor, they were presented an 18" hand blown glass "blood drop." The KBC noted that 140 units were collected from the health sciences colleges.

LCME Reaccreditation Begins: Institutional Self-Study

When the site survey team appointed by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) comes to Lexington Nov. 14-18, 2010, the College of Medicine should be ready and fully prepared for a successful reaccreditation visit. That is the charge to the LCME Steering Committee, as **Dean Perman** noted when he officially kicked off the institutional self-study on Oct. 7.

Darrell Jennings, M.D., senior associate dean for Medical Education and professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, will chair the Steering Committee and guide the self-study process. The LCME requires that the school engage in an in-depth self-study to determine its compliance with more than 120 standards for accreditation.

The self-study provides an opportunity to identify institutional strengths and accomplishments, as well as issues requiring attention and action.

Emery Wilson, M.D., director of Health Research and Development and dean emeritus, offered advice and guidance to the Steering Committee during the kickoff meeting. As a former LCME member and veteran of more than 50 site surveys, Wilson noted the standards where medical schools tend to fall short, and described the consequences of an unsuccessful site survey wherein a school is found to be out of compliance. He emphasized that medical schools must be in compliance with all LCME standards. If a school is cited for noncompliance with any standard, the Department of Education requires that the school must come into compliance

within two years, or be subject to adverse action (probation).

The preparation for the self-study actually got under way several months ago when a planning group began its work. The early planners – Jennings, Wilson, and **David Watt, Ph.D.**, professor in Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry—conducted an initial review of the standards to identify any areas of concern. From January through June they attended faculty meetings in all of the basic science and clinical science departments to present information on the LCME and the standards for accreditation.

Additional information on the institutional self-study can be found at: <http://www.mc.uky.edu/medicine/lcme/default.asp>

Legislative Mini Medical School a Success (cont.)

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day” placement information for their residency programs.

Medical students and residents were selected to represent the UK College of Medicine as ambassadors, guiding the legislators throughout the day’s activities and participating in their clinical rotations. Legislators were placed in different medical specialties, from seeing patients in the Department of Pediatrics to observing a neurosurgery.

A special focus for the day, diabetes and obesity research in the College of Medicine, allowed legislators to better understand the impact of the diseases, specifically in Kentucky, and the current research at UK on this subject.

“Kentucky is ranked seventh for obesity prevalence, hypertension, and diabetes. Unfortunately, obesity does not exist in a vacuum. Rather, obesity promotes the development of several types of disease, and when these diseases coexist their ability to cause problems is magnified,” said **Lisa Cassis, Ph.D.**, professor and director of the UK Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences.

To understand the different aspects of becoming a physician, legislators received their diploma, residency match information and their statement of cumulative debt, letting them know how much they had spent throughout their “four years.”

This event marks the official launch of the UK College of Medicine’s 50th anniversary. To read more about the event or to view a video with highlights from the day, visit:

<http://uknow.uky.edu/node/4979>.

You may also view photos and read more about the event at Chief External Affairs Officer **Mark Birdwhistell’s** [blog](#).



College Grants and Contracts for September

Grants and contract awards for September 2009 have been reported.

The following is an overview through September 2009:

COM awarded funding totaled \$62.1 million, which is a 31.5 percent increase from the \$47.2 million awarded through September 2008.

COM NIH funding totaled \$36.1 million, which is a \$14.8 million (69.6 percent) increase compared to the same period of 2008.

Significant new grants and contracts during the month of September 2009 include:

— **Louis Hersh, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry and senior associate dean for Basic Science Affairs, \$1,785,490 from the National Center for Research Resources for the “Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in the Molecular Basis of Human Disease - Administrative Core.”

— **Martha Peterson, Ph.D.**, professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, \$525,000 from the National Science Foundation for “Post

-transcriptional Control of Immunoglobulin Expression.”

— **Dennis C. Bruemmer, M.D.**, associate professor of Internal Medicine, \$412,695 from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute for “ARRA: Telomerase in Inflammation and Atherosclerosis.”

— **Lisa R. Tannock, M.D.**, associate professor of Internal Medicine and chief of Endocrinology, \$406,492 from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute for “ARRA: Role of Serum Amyloid A in Atherosclerosis.”

Look Who's Wearing Blue



Adrian A. Dawkins, MBBS
Assistant Professor
Radiology
Start Date: 7/1/09

Dennis F. Diaz, M.D.
Instructor
Surgery
Start Date: 7/1/09



Enrique Diaz-Guzman Zavala, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Internal Medicine
Start Date: 7/1/09

Angela R. Drake, M.D.
Instructor
Anesthesiology
Start Date: 7/1/09

John D. Drexler, D.O.
Instructor
Anesthesiology
Start Date: 7/1/09

Jamieson L. Duvall, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Behavioral Science
Start Date : 7/1/09

Brian S. Finlin, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Internal Medicine
Start Date: 7/1/09



Halemane S. Ganesh, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Radiology
Start Date: 7/1/09



Tianyan Gao, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry
Start Date: 7/1/09



Miranda Hollen, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Family and Community Medicine
Start Date: 7/1/09



Joe E. Kingery, D.O.
Assistant Professor
Family and Community Medicine
Start Date: 7/1/09



Virginia H. Luftman, LCSW, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Psychiatry
Start Date: 7/1/09

Gregory T. Marta, M.D.
Instructor
Anesthesiology
Start Date: 7/1/09



Erin N. Moore, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Internal Medicine
Start Date: 7/1/09



Gustavo X. Morales, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Internal Medicine
Start Date: 7/1/09



James S. Morgan, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Internal Medicine
Start Date: 7/1/09

Stephanie E. Murphy, D.O.
Assistant Professor
Internal Medicine
Start Date: 7/1/09

Rishi Pawa, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Internal Medicine
Start Date: 7/1/09

Christy F. Pearce, M.D.
Instructor
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Start Date: 7/1/09

If you are a new faculty member and have not had your photograph taken, contact Holifield Photography at (859) 276-2040 to schedule a photo session.

For more information, contact Nikki Sadler with UK HealthCare Marketing at (859) 257-5760 or nikki.sadler@uky.edu.

Answers to Your Questions (cont.)

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To view details about your options as well as a step-by-step enrollment guide, click the following link:

http://www.uky.edu/HR/benefits/documents/prescription_delivery.pdf.

If you have specific questions related to your individual needs, I encourage you to contact the benefits office at 859-323-1493, 800-999-2183 or benefits@email.uky.edu.

Question: I realize that budget restraints affect the ability of the University to give raises. If someone is paid off a grant, why can't that individual receive a raise? If you won't get a raise by getting more grants, than what is your incentive for doing a good job?

Answer: We are one university and must follow protocols that emphasize fairness. This requires we treat all employees the same regardless of the pay source.

The budget is flat. I hate to say this but it could be worse. Many public institutions – including many of our peers – have been forced to let people go. We, too, have had to do this, although it is a small amount. It is unfortunate that we cannot give raises for merit. On the other hand, it is important that we protect our university family as best we can.

News of Note

Crouch Voted Favorite Family Practitioner

Richard Crouch, M.D., assistant professor in Family and Community Medicine, was recently voted the 2009 Favorite Family Practitioner by the readers of the *Murray Ledger & Times*.

Gerhardt Named Alumnus of the Year

Greg A. Gerhardt, Ph.D., professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology, was recently named Alumnus of the Year by his alma mater, Truman State University.

Gerhardt, a 1979 graduate, received the award during the Truman State University Homecoming on Oct. 9-10. Truman President Darrell Krueger presented Gerhardt with the award for his academic/scientific accomplishments and service to Truman State University.

Kasarskis Re-elected to Serve Lextran

Edward J. Kasarskis, M.D., Ph.D., professor of Neurology, chief of Neurology Service at the VA Hospital, and joint appointment in the Graduate Center for Toxicology, was recently re-elected to serve a second term as chairman of the board of directors for Lextran. Kasarskis was appointed to the board by mayor Theresa Isaacs in 2005.



Greg A. Gerhardt, Ph.D.



Edward J. Kasarskis, M.D., Ph.D.

Oates Named Associate Editor of Radiology

M. Elizabeth Oates, M.D., professor and chair of Radiology, has been appointed an associate editor of *Radiology* by the Board of Directors of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). *Radiology* is the premiere journal in the field worldwide.



M. Elizabeth Oates, M.D.

Tibbs to Serve the KSCHIRB

Phillip A. Tibbs, M.D., professor and chair of Neurosurgery and the director of the UK Spine Center, was recently reappointed to the Kentucky Spinal Cord and Head Injury Research Board. Tibbs was reappointed by Governor Steve Beshear to serve a four-year term until Jan. 31, 2013.



Phillip A. Tibbs, M.D.

Recent Publications

Sara B. Police, Ph.D., 2008 graduate of the Center for Nutritional Sciences; **Sean E. Thatcher**, postdoctoral fellow in the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences; **Richard Charnigo, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Biostatistics; **Alan Daugherty, Ph.D., D.Sc.**, professor of Internal Medicine and senior associate dean for Research; and **Lisa A. Cassis, Ph.D.**, professor and director of the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences, recently published the article titled, "Obesity promotes inflammation in periaortic adi-

pose tissue and angiotensin II-induced abdominal aortic aneurysm formation." The article was published in *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology* 29(10): 1458-64, 2009, and will be featured as an interview on the Web site of the European Society of Cardiology as part of their working group on atherosclerosis and vascular biology.

In the News

The following articles were recently featured on [UKNOW](#). Click on the headlines below to view the entire article.

- [Cardiovascular Research Gets \\$1.4 Million](#)
- [UK College of Medicine First Class, Class of 1964, Reunites](#)
- [UK Medical Alumni Honored](#)
- [UK Chandler Hospital Reaches Construction Milestone](#)
- [Kentucky Students Attend UK Health Careers Camps](#)

Correction to the Dean's September Newsletter:

2009 Academic Convocation Awards
Patient-Centered Medicine Portfolio Award

Sarah Borders, Class of 2012