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Some articles included are submitted by UK Public Relations.



Reflections on 2011

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that 2011 is quickly drawing to a close. It has been a year of accomplishments and milestones for our College of Medicine. Here are just a few of the highlights that made this year so memorable:

— In February, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) reaccredited the College for another eight-year term. We received seven institutional strengths which included everything from praise for our multiple research opportunities for medical students to our extensive array of pipeline programs aimed at increasing diversity.

— May marked the grand opening of the new 1.2 million-square-foot patient care pavilion at UK Albert B.

Chandler Hospital. This pavilion includes the UK Chandler Emergency Department and the Makenna David Pediatric Emergency Center and is paramount in the plan to become a premier regional medical center.

— UK's Center for Clinical and Translational Science was granted a \$20 million all-important Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health in June. This award is paramount to becoming a top 20 research institution and part of a select national biomedical elite. Quality research, specifically translational research, is of utmost importance to our success as a College.

Since I was named dean in July, it has become evident to me that the College of Medicine is headed in a

positive direction. We are committed to educational, research and clinical excellence, all in an ambiance of collegiality and respect.



Frederick C. de Beer, M.D.

To the entire UK College of Medicine family, have a joyful Christmas/holiday season and a happy New Year.

Listen to Dean de Beer's "UK Perspectives" Interview

Dean de Beer was recently featured on WUKY's "UK Perspectives" radio program. To listen to a podcast of Dean de Beer's thoughts on educating the next generation of physicians and scientists for Kentucky, [click here](#).

Daugherty Receives Accolades

Alan Daugherty, Ph.D., senior associate dean for research in the UK College of Medicine and director of the UK Saha Cardiovascular Research Center, has recently received two major honors from the American Heart Association, including being named editor-in-chief of a major scientific journal.

Daugherty has been named the new editor-in-chief of the AHA journal *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology*

(*ATVB*). He will assume this role during the first half of the 2012 calendar year. *ATVB* is a pre-eminent peer-reviewed academic journal chronicling the latest advancements in cardiovascular research.

Daugherty also recently accepted a 2011 *ATVB* Special Recognition Award in Vascular Biology. This award honors an outstanding member of the American Heart Association's Council on Arteriosclerosis,

Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology. Presented during the recent AHA Scientific Sessions in Orlando, Fla., the award recognizes major

contributions to the affairs of the scientific council over a continuing period of time, as well as substantial professional contributions to the field.



Alan Daugherty, Ph.D.

Medical Student's Research First of its Kind

Krishna Subhash Vyas, a second-year medical student at UK College of Medicine, was intrigued by a lecture taught by UK's **Neelkamal Soares, M.D.**, assistant professor of Pediatrics, on pediatric growth charts and the inconsistencies in pediatric care across the nation concerning growth.



Krishna Subhash Vyas

This curiosity led him to research the growth chart-related practices of Kentucky's pediatricians and health care providers, which explored specifically the recording of growth parameters by clinicians, and the adoption of electronic methods for recording growth progress. To date, it is the only U.S. research study of its kind.

Over the next several months, Soares and Vyas studied the practices of pediatricians in monitoring growth in children and explored awareness of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) suggested use of both the World Health Organization (WHO) growth charts for infants and children up to 24 months of age and

the CDC growth charts for children age two years and older.

Their research findings reveal only 17 percent of Kentucky pediatricians surveyed were aware and familiar with CDC recommendations to use WHO charts for children younger than 24 months of age. It was found that most pediatricians believed that EMRs could improve clarity and accuracy of patient information and allowed for better calculations and adaptation to patient characteristics and fewer errors.

To learn more about this research, [click here](#).

Ambati Elected AAAS Fellow

Jayakrishna Ambati, M.D., professor and vice chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the UK College of Medicine has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Each year, the Council elects members whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished.

Ambati is being honored for distinguished contributions to age-related macular degeneration and ocular angiogenesis; particularly for revealing surprising functions of chemokines, noncoding RNAs, and toll-like receptors in their pathogenesis.

This year's AAAS Fellows will be formally announced in the AAAS News and Notes section of the journal *Science* on Dec. 23. Ambati, and the other new fellows, will be

recognized for their contributions to science and technology during the AAAS Fellows Forum at the association's annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Feb. 18, 2012.



Jayakrishna Ambati, M.D.

UK First in Kentucky to Use Tomosynthesis for Breast Cancer Detection

The Comprehensive Breast Care Center at the UK Markey Cancer Center recently announced it will begin offering state-of-the-art digital tomosynthesis for breast cancer screening. UK will be the only medical center in the state with this new technology.

Tomosynthesis is 3-D technology that allows radiologists to see individual breast structures without the confusion of overlapping tissues. In

addition to providing the traditional top and side images of the breasts taken during a regular mammogram, tomosynthesis also allows the technician to take multiple X-ray pictures of each breast from many angles. A computer then combines all this information into one 3-D image.

Margaret Szabunio, M.D., associate medical director of the Comprehensive Breast Care Center (CBCC) and division chief of women's radiology at

UK HealthCare, specializes in using tomosynthesis for the early detection of breast cancer.

"Tomosynthesis produces images in tiny slices that can be reconstructed into a 3-D image of the tissue, similar to way a CT scanner works," Szabunio said. "It allows us to look at breast tissue in a way we've never been able to before."

To learn more, [click here](#).

UK is First in State to Offer Groundbreaking Stroke Care Study

The University of Kentucky will be the first site in the state and one of a select few in the entire country participating in the first stages of a groundbreaking study to investigate the effects of MultiStem, a human adult stem cell product, on patients with acute ischemic stroke. The phase II clinical trial, known as Athersys

stroke protocol B01-02, was recently approved by UK's institutional review board.

“Adult stem cells may have great potential in stroke treatment, and we need to approach it scientifically. We are excited to be the first to bring a clinical trial of stem cells for stroke to

Kentucky,” said **Michael Dobbs, M.D.**, associate professor and vice chair of Neurology and director of the UK HealthCare Stroke Affiliate Network and principal investigator on the stem cell trial.

To learn more, [click here](#).

New Study Shows Promise for Preventing Preterm Births

A new study co-authored by **John O'Brien, M.D.**, associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, found that applying vaginal progesterone to women who are at a high risk of preterm birth significantly decreased the odds of a premature delivery.

The new study, published in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, described a two-prong strategy used by doctors: participating pregnant women underwent a meas-

urement of the cervical length via transvaginal cervical ultrasound to define risk for preterm birth; and those found to have a short cervix were successfully treated with vaginal progesterone. A short cervix — defined as a length of 25 millimeters or less — is a major risk factor for preterm birth.

“For too long, little progress has been made in the prevention of premature births,” said O'Brien. “However, this

new large study shows that it's possible to both help women determine if they are at risk for preterm birth, and provide a safe and effective treatment to help prevent preterm births.”



**John O'Brien,
M.D.**

To read more, [click here](#).

College Grants and Contracts for November

Grants and contract awards for November 2011 have been reported. The following is an overview through November 2011:

COM awarded funding totaled \$66.9 million through November 2011, which is a 5.5 percent decrease from the \$70.8 million awarded through November 2010.

COM NIH funding totaled \$34.6 million, which is a \$6.6 million (15.9 percent) decrease compared to the same period of 2010.

Significant new grants and contracts during the month of November 2011 include:

— **Eric Durbin**, director of Cancer Informatics at the Markey Cancer Center, was awarded a total of \$374,206 for fiscal year 2012 as part of

a three-year grant totaling \$1,122,618 from National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health for “Enhancing Regional Infrastructures For Early Case Capture of Pediatric and Young.”

— **Sarah D’Orazio, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, was awarded a total of \$366,565 for fiscal year 2012 as part of a one-year grant from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Systemic spread of *Listeria monocytogenes* after oral infection.”

— **James Norton, Ph.D.**, associate dean for Educational Engagement, was awarded a total of \$300,388 for fiscal year 2012 as part of a one-year grant from University of Louisville for “Model State Supported AHEC.”

— **Donna Wilcock, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Physiology, was awarded a total of \$242,395 for fiscal year 2012 as part of a two-year grant totaling \$242,395 from Baxter Healthcare Company for “A proposal to determine whether IVIg acts as an immune modulator to treat Alzheimer’s disease.”

— **Donald Cohen, Ph.D.**, professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, was awarded a total of \$125,425 for fiscal year 2012 as part of a three-year grant totaling \$512,909 from Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America for “Resident intestinal dendritic cells - negative regulators of colitis.”

News of Note

\$3 Million NIA Grant Awarded to SBCoA to Create Multicenter Alzheimer's Database

UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging (SBCoA) researchers, led by co-principal investigators **Richard Kryscio, Ph.D.**, and **Frederick Schmitt, Ph.D.**, have been awarded a grant of more than \$3 million from the National Institute on Aging, to identify risk factors for multiple forms of autopsy-confirmed dementia.

Kryscio, who also serves as chair of the Department of Biostatistics in the UK College of Public Health, and Schmitt, who serves as a professor in the Department of Neurology in the UK College of Medicine, will collaborate with fellow SBCoA investigators **Erin Abner; David Fardo; Greg Jicha, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor of Neurology; **Peter Nelson, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; and **Stephen Scheff, Ph.D.**, professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology, to conduct a large-scale study that will merge data from seven existing databases.

To read more about this innovative study, [click here](#).

UK Researchers: Parkinson's Disease Risk Greater in Those Exposed to Trichloroethylene

A UK faculty member is a contributing author on a new study demonstrating a connection between a common solvent chemical and Parkinson's disease.



Franca Cambi, M.D., Ph.D.

Franca Cambi, M.D., Ph.D., professor of Neurology, collaborated with researchers from across the U.S. on a paper recently published in the *Annals of Neurology*.

The novel study looked at a cohort of human twins wherein one twin had

been occupationally exposed to trichloroethylene (TCE) and other chemicals believed to be linked to development of Parkinson's.

To learn more about this novel study, [click here](#).

Department of Radiology Celebrates "Firsts" in 2011

UK College of Medicine's Department of Radiology has recently celebrated many "firsts." Here is just a sampling:

Clinical Mission:

- All ten subspecialty divisions have chiefs and faculty;
- New Radiological Physics Division fully staffed with two medical physicists (**Jie Zhang, Ph.D. (Chief), Peter Hardy, Ph.D.**);
- Vascular and Interventional Radiology performed UK's first radioembolization therapy of liver tumor using Y-90 microspheres.

Education Mission:

- Education Vice Chair appointed (**Michael Brooks, M.D.**);
- Radiologists integrated into first-year Anatomy curriculum at the College of Medicine;
- Inaugural Harold D. Rosenbaum, M.D. Residency Graduation Address given by Jay Perman, M.D., former Dean of the College of Medicine;
- ACGME-accredited Fellowship in Musculoskeletal Radiology initiated.

Research Mission:

- Research Vice Chair appointed (**Patrizio Capasso, M.D.**);
- Andrew M. Fried, M.D. Education and Research Fund established to support resident scholarship in ultrasound.

Study Finds Warfarin Underutilized in Women

Rabab Mohsin, M.D., an Internal Medicine resident at UK College of Medicine, won the 2011 Young Investigator Award from the Kentucky Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, for research done with

Alison Bailey, M.D., assistant professor of Internal Medicine. Mohsin received the award at the Kentucky-ACC annual meeting held at UK.

To learn more, [click here](#)

Call for Applications: UK College of Medicine Physician Scientist and Clinical Scholars Program

To learn more about applying to the UK College of Medicine Physician Scientist and Clinical Scholars Program, [click here](#).

Mobile Device Security Program

To read a message from Dean de Beer regarding the mobile device security program, [click here](#).

Faculty, Staff and Students Invited to Participate in 2012 SGEA Conference

For Faculty/Staff: To register for the conference, visit the SGEA website at <http://www.cecentral.com/live/2874>.

For UK Medical Students: Up to 20 student poster submissions will be invited to participate in the SGEA Conference on Thursday, April 19. Submissions are due by Jan. 11, 2012. For more information on submission requirements for medical students, [click here](#).

The University of Kentucky's
Kentucky Medical Opportunities Website

UK
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
Kentucky Medical Professions Placement Service

kymedjobs.uky.edu

*Your best resource for
practice opportunities in Kentucky*



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