Shedding Light on Gray Matter

Learning Together to Work Together

Meeting the Health Care Needs Around the World

INSIDE UK Cancer Specialist at Forefront of Research
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Collaboration

This issue of UK Medicine provides prime examples of how collaboration across departments and colleges enables the University of Kentucky to generate exciting research findings, spearhead innovative educational initiatives and deliver advanced patient care. Behind these scientific findings and significant advancements is a UK quality that fosters an environment to achieve. It is this ability to work together across disciplines – to collaborate – that makes UK unique.

In order to succeed, we find ways to synergize our personal endeavors and set our sights on what is best for the future physician or scientist we are training, what is best for the patient we are treating and what is best for the research findings we need to discover. We bring together the work of many to achieve our goals as a College and University.

We leverage the fact that we have all six health science colleges on the same campus as the rest of the University. Our Inter-Professional Education Committee is working together across the health science colleges to educate in an interdisciplinary fashion. UK’s new Center for Clinical and Translational Science is working across 15 colleges, including Agriculture and Engineering. Many of our clinical services deliver patient care as a team approach.

Our aspirations may seem ambitious, but we have created an environment conducive to our success – this will only drive us to continue. I am proud to say that at the University of Kentucky, our sights are set high on collaborative endeavors.

Sincerely,

Jay Perman, M.D.
Dean, College of Medicine
Vice President for Clinical Affairs
University of Kentucky
Many physicians can cite the statistics: As many as 98,000 lives are lost each year due to preventable medical mistakes. While this pivotal report from the Institute of Medicine spurs the health care industry to invest millions of dollars in technology to make more procedures and treatments foolproof, one of the most glaring issues—lack of inter-professional communication and teamwork—may go unaddressed. This is not the case at UK.

UK College of Medicine is leading an effort to change the way the health disciplines interact. Taking advantage of the fact that it is one of only a few in the nation to have all six health science colleges on one campus, UK teaches students the importance of inter-professional teamwork from the very start.

“It's unrealistic to think we can take physicians, pharmacists, nurses, therapists and the many other health care professionals we so value, put them in a clinical environment and expect them to miraculously understand each other, respect one another and efficiently work together,” said Jay Perman, M.D., dean of UK College of Medicine and vice president for clinical affairs. “Respect comes from positive interactions and that’s what we’re offering at UK—an experience for all six health colleges to learn from one another and respect what each discipline brings to the table.”

Starting out with two representatives from each health science college, Dean Perman formalized the Inter-Professional Education Committee. This committee, which now includes residents and students from each of the six colleges, meets regularly to uncover more ways they can jointly educate the students.

“From the moment you arrive at UK, it is evident that all of the colleges want to work together,” said Linda Lesky, M.D., assistant vice president for medical education at the Association of American Medical Colleges. Lesky recently presented best practices in inter-professional education to the committee. “I believe they have some forward-thinking ideas on
how to integrate the health disciplines and a true desire to make this work which will ultimately foster their success.”

In less than six months, the Inter-Professional Education Committee has already uncovered the following opportunities to deliver inter-professional education.

**INTER-PROFESSIONAL SIMULATOR EXERCISES**

Human-patient simulators have been used for several years to provide opportunities for students to practice clinical skills before interacting with real patients. However, until now, colleges have taught with patient simulator activities relevant to only their discipline. This, however, is rarely the case in the clinical setting, where all of the disciplines must effectively work together to save the patient. Therefore, UK is taking a unique approach by pioneering simulation scenarios that mimic real world teamwork.

Giving each student different bits of information, such as a unique fact about the patient’s history that was only disclosed to the nurse or an allergic reaction that only the pharmacy student was told, the students must work together to save the human-patient simulator.

“Having the students experience the need for one another firsthand is a much more effective learning mechanism than lecturing to them about the importance of working together,” said Darrell Jennings, M.D., Medicine ’77, senior associate dean for medical education and leader of the inter-professional simulator trial. “While the simulator allows the students to experience life and death situations, our trial is set up so their collaboration is vital to the success of saving the patient simulator’s life.”

**ELECTIVES**

Electives such as Medical Spanish and Medical Ethics are currently taught on an as-needed basis within each individual college. The Inter-Professional Education Committee proposes whenever possible to make these electives available to all six health science colleges to increase interaction between the students from different disciplines.

**COMMUNITY-BASED OUTREACH**

Each college has social responsibility projects, but yet again the projects are limited to individual colleges. One community service project in the public schools, which began in October 2006, begins to break down these barriers by including the colleges of Nursing, Public Health and Medicine. However, it is the committee’s goal that they find ways to expand current community projects so that all six colleges can participate.

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**TUITION GUARANTEE**

**Pilot Program Allows Students to Plan for Future**

UK College of Medicine joined a very small group of universities offering a revolutionary way to help students overcome sticker shock when applying for medical school – a tuition guarantee.

On average, UK’s tuition rises anywhere from 5 to 9 percent each year, which is a standard increase for virtually every university across the nation. And while UK remains very competitive in its College of Medicine tuition, it is still daunting for incoming students who worry about the unknown potential increase in their four years of medical education.

Starting this fall, each entering class will pay an increased amount, but an amount that remains stable for all four years.

“I think this represents very progressive thinking, and one that is sure to transform the way medical students pay for their education,” said Owoicho Adogwa, incoming UK medical student Class of 2011. “It’s an absolutely fantastic move. One that shows UK genuinely cares for its students by helping them achieve their dreams.”

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*Savings based on annual increases of 9 and 6.5 percent per the UK Business Plan.*
Scheduled for completion in 2011, the new one-million-square-foot hospital will be the cornerstone for a new 20-year, $2.5 billion plan to construct a new academic health science campus on the south side of UK’s campus. UK is one of a few universities in the nation to have all six health science colleges on one campus. Even more unique, UK has its academic health science campus next to the main university campus. This, along with the vision of executive leadership, makes UK well positioned to pursue inter-professional health care education and collaborative research.

The new health science campus will feature a Health Sciences Learning Center, which will serve as the hub for shared learning experiences between the six health colleges. This facility will provide state-of-the-art simulation labs and assessment facilities, an integrated library, a bookstore, classrooms and auditoriums for the UK colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Health Sciences and Public Health. Students and faculty across all disciplines will have the opportunity to learn together in shared facilities that will offer unprecedented opportunities for educational and research experiences. Medical center students will learn together in this facility preparing them to work in multidisciplinary teams to deliver the best patient care and collaborate in research.
In 1962, after recommendation and authorization from Governor A.B. Chandler, the Albert B. Chandler Medical Center opened its doors with state-of-the-art care for Kentuckians and residents of outlying states. Nearly 50 years later, plans are under way to break ground in 2007 on the new $450 million University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital. Appropriate for the 21st century, the new hospital will include space for emergency care, interventional care, imaging and surgery, and two towers of private patient rooms. The size and design of the new patient rooms will allow many levels of patient care to take place within the patient’s room and will be a model for state-of-the-art clinical practice. This will provide more flexibility than what exists at most hospitals around the nation.

Scheduled for completion in 2011, the new 1.1 million-square-foot patient care facility will have approximately 507,000 square feet of space in the initial phase of the project.

The new hospital will include:
- three floors of patient care areas in the bed towers;
- a new Emergency Medicine Department on the south side of the building easily accessible and visible from Limestone;
- radiology services to support the Emergency Medicine Department;
- eight new operating rooms to complement the operating rooms in the existing hospital; and
- a same-day surgery, post-anesthesia care unit and recovery area.

New UK Chandler Hospital to Open in 2011

Above left: Lobby and public areas, including a coffee shop, gift shop and waiting areas, will also be completed in the first phase of the project.

Above right: The UK Chandler Hospital, expected to cost $450 million, will be funded through existing hospital revenue and a bond issue financed by UK HealthCare. Throughout all phases of the project, philanthropy will play a significant role with opportunities for supporting the enhancement of public spaces, the chapel, a multipurpose auditorium and the art-in-healing program.

Below right: Private patient rooms have been designed to allow multiple visitors and will also allow a family member who desires to stay overnight.
Since 1997, the University of Kentucky has made enormous progress toward its goal of becoming a Top 20 public research university. Among these advances, the UK College of Medicine now ranks 30th among all public medical schools according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and all of the College of Medicine basic science departments rank in the NIH Top 20.

This remarkable growth is fueled, in part, by the increased recruitment of top faculty and staff in the areas of clinical and translational science. Since 2001, the College of Medicine has recruited 91 new faculty and funding has risen steadily from $50.6 million to $65.5 million, a 29 percent increase. This growth is especially impressive in the current tight federal funding environment where only 10 percent of all grants submitted to the NIH are funded.

To build on its record of success, UK recognized that an innovative strategy was needed to accelerate the pace of discovery of new medical knowledge, and thereby to improve the health of the Commonwealth. The strategy was quickly determined — centralization of the governance, administration, educational programs and operational infrastructure to support clinical and translational research.

At the same time, the NIH was addressing these questions on a national front. The NIH and the national research community sought new avenues to remove existing barriers between basic and clinical research in order to accelerate the development of new therapies and drugs to prevent and treat disease. As part of its Roadmap Initiatives, the NIH launched the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) to encourage and assist institutions in transforming their existing research programs into one central “home” for clinical and translational science.

UK’s strategy paralleled the NIH vision embodied in the CTSA initiative and stimulated the planning for and inauguration of UK’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS). UK’s emerging CCTS is structured to support the many key functions required to enhance the speed and efficiency of the University’s clinical and translational research. This endeavor, currently being spearheaded by the College of Medicine, enjoys university-wide support, with participation of all six health science colleges, including Dentistry, Health Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy, Public Health and Nursing; the colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Communications, Engineering and Social Work; the Offices of the President and Provost; UK Libraries; and UK HealthCare.

UK’s CCTS extends beyond the campus borders to foster collaborative research partnerships with both the public and community health providers through such
Macular Degeneration Research Earns Grant for Clinical Trials

Jayakrishna Ambati, M.D., is the first University of Kentucky researcher ever to receive the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF) Clinical Scientist Award in Translational Research — one of only 11 scientists in the nation to receive the award this year. His research into macular degeneration, which causes blindness among hundreds of thousands of people each year, has been heralded by Science as one of the most exciting scientific breakthroughs of the year.

Ambati recently discovered a new class of compounds to inhibit blood vessel growth and the $750,000 grant that comes with the award will help him narrow down one or two lead candidates in this class to test clinically in patients with age-related macular degeneration.

“The number of people in the U.S. with macular degeneration is greater than that with all types of cancer combined,” Ambati said. “With the help of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, my colleagues and I are eager to advance new preventive and therapeutic strategies to hasten the day when blindness from macular degeneration is no longer inevitable. While it is extremely gratifying to be individually recognized with this prestigious award, it rightly belongs to my entire highly talented laboratory.”

Ambati is associate professor and vice-chair in the UK College of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and is the Dr. E. Vernon Smith and Eloise C. Smith Endowed Chair in Macular Degeneration.

In 2003, Ambati and colleagues were responsible for discovering the first animal model of age-related macular degeneration. More recently, Ambati and his brother, Balamurali Ambati, M.D., of the Medical College of Georgia, jointly published a paper in Nature identifying their discovery that a protein known as sVEGFR-1 is singularly responsible for warding off blood vessel growth in the cornea, which was cited by Science as one of the breakthroughs of 2006.
Shedding Light on Gray Matter

Greg Gerhardt wasn’t yet born when his grandfather died of a massive brain tumor, but the death left a lasting impression on him.

“My family was greatly affected,” Gerhardt recalled. “They were devastated because there was very little doctors could do back then.”

This childhood experience would eventually propel him on a quest to unravel the mysteries of the brain, seeking treatment strategies for once untreatable diseases. For the past 25 years, Gerhardt, Ph.D., a professor in the UK Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, has focused his efforts on Parkinson’s disease.

“My goal is an understanding of the brain systems destroyed in Parkinson’s disease and how they work,” said Gerhardt, who serves as director of the UK Morris K. Udall Parkinson’s Disease Research Center of Excellence and the Center for Microelectrode Technology.

Gerhardt and his colleagues have been hard at work for years perfecting state-of-the-art microelectrode techniques for in vivo studies of brain function. This technology is pivotal in his group’s investigation of new therapies that have the potential not only for treating Parkinson’s, but perhaps halting or even reversing the progression of the neurodegenerative disease.

A PEEK INSIDE THE BRAIN

“The brain communicates largely by chemicals,” Gerhardt said. “Illneses such as Parkinson’s are really a destruction of this communication. That’s why these sensor techniques we’re working on are so important for understanding how the brain works.”

Tiny microelectrodes developed in Gerhardt’s lab can be implanted in various regions of the brain to measure neurotransmitters – molecules involved in brain signaling. Dopamine is considered one of the major neurotransmitters lost in Parkinson’s. The devices also measure other neurotransmitters, including serotonin, norepinephrine, glutamate, acetylcholine and nitric oxide.

The measurements of these molecules are transmitted from the electrode through a headset, which then converts the data into electronic signals processed by a computer in real time.
Until recently the electrodes have been used in animal studies only. However, Gerhardt is refining a version that will be used in epilepsy surgery and possibly along with deep brain stimulation. He hopes to move forward with this clinical application later in 2007.

**DEVELOPING TREATMENTS FOR PARKINSON’S**

“Once we learn through microelectrode technology how neurotransmitters are affected in Parkinson’s disease, we can develop drugs and treatment strategies to try to repair the pathway,” Gerhardt explained.

He received new funding for this drug research in 2005 in a $6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. He and his team are focusing on delivery of growth factors such as glial cell-line derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) to restore function to damaged dopamine neurons.

“The goal of these factors is to stop the progression of Parkinson’s and repair the damaged neurons – which has never been done before – and to enhance the functioning of the remaining neurons,” he said.

GDNF has been the best candidate to-date for the job, but new molecules with potential for greater potency and therapeutic benefits have since been uncovered, Gerhardt said. He hopes to have a clinical trial of a new drug within the next five years.

Meanwhile, UK is patenting a new series of these molecules and is in the preclinical development of the new drugs. They may be delivered to the brain through a small pump implanted in the abdomen. However, Gerhardt believes there is a strong possibility the drugs could be taken orally or inhaled.

**SERIOUSNESS OF PARKINSON’S**

There are 1.5 million people living with Parkinson’s in this country, and 50,000 new cases are diagnosed annually. The task of finding a cure is compounded by the fact that no cure has been found for any major neurodegenerative disorder, including Alzheimer’s disease and ALS.

However, Gerhardt pointed out, “Parkinson’s is the ‘best of the worst’ because it is considered the best candidate among these diseases for being arrested or cured.”

The UK Udall Center – one of only 12 in the nation – is devoted to scientific research designed to improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients with Parkinson’s disease. Along with the Michael J. Fox Foundation and the proliferation of Parkinson’s support groups throughout the nation, these centers have contributed to a growing awareness of the seriousness of the disease and the need for research, Gerhardt said.

“There is still so much to be learned about Parkinson’s,” he added. “Every day, there are new frontiers to explore.”

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**Research Grant Focused on Neurological Emergency Treatment**

The University of Kentucky has been selected by the National Institutes of Health as one of 11 academic medical centers designated as a Clinical Site Hub for the Neurological Emergencies Treatment Trials (NETT) Network, thanks to the mutual efforts of the departments of Emergency Medicine, Neurology and the division of Neurosurgery. The total cost of the five-year NETT Clinical Site Hub grant awarded to the University is $1,396,324. UK will interact with regional community hospitals functioning as “spokes” to conduct large, simple clinical trials focused on treatment of acute neurological emergencies. Hospitals from regions across the Commonwealth have been selected, including Veterans Affairs Medical Center, St. Claire Regional Medical Center, Highlands Regional Medical Center, Ephraim McDowell Medical Center, Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Kentucky River Medical Center and Hazard Appalachian Regional Healthcare Medical Center.

L. Creed Pettigrew, M.D., Department of Neurology professor, applied for the grant and Roger Humphries, M.D., Medicine ’91, associate professor and chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, will act as the principal investigator of the UK NETT Clinical Site Hub grant. “I cannot emphasize enough that Dr. Pettigrew deserves credit for the NETT application and will be an enormously important part of this joint research project shared between Emergency Medicine, Neurology and Neurosurgery,” Humphries said.

Two clinical trials will be conducted during the five-year duration of the NETT Network. Craig Carter, D.O., assistant professor, Emergency Medicine/Pediatrics, will act as co-investigator and Byron Young, M.D., Medicine ’65, professor Surgery, Division of Neurosurgery, will serve as senior investigator. Joe Claypool, associate vice president for clinical network development, recruited the regional institutions that will serve as “spoke” hospitals.
Breast cancer treatment took a huge leap forward last year when a landmark study revealed the dramatic benefits of the drug Herceptin in early stages of the disease. At the forefront of this research was a UK medical oncologist and professor of Internal Medicine, Edward Romond, M.D.

The pivotal trial sponsored by the National Cancer Institute revealed a 52 percent reduction in recurrence of a particular type of breast cancer among women who took Herceptin along with chemotherapy following surgery. Participants in the study had HER-2 positive breast cancer – an aggressive form of the disease that is more likely to spread quickly to other organs. Three years after taking Herceptin, 90 percent of these women had no evidence of cancer in other parts of their body.

“The NCI-sponsored study has changed the practice of breast cancer management quicker than almost anything we’ve seen in a long time,” Romond said. “The treatment has been adopted very quickly by doctors who treat women with breast cancer because the results are so strikingly beneficial.”

The FDA stamp of approval last November for this new use of Herceptin was final validation of the drug’s dramatic benefits. Herceptin was previously approved for use only in late-stage breast cancer or cancer that had spread to other sites.

Herceptin is an example of targeted antibody therapy directed against a specific change in the cancer cell. It was the first in a growing class of anti-cancer agents known as TKIs, tyrosine kinase inhibitors. The goal of TKIs like Herceptin is to halt this progression as well as alleviate symptoms and improve the patient’s quality of life.

As an example of the drug’s amazing benefits, Romond tells the story of one of his patients who came to UK’s Markey Cancer Center several years ago when the study was getting under way. Prospects looked dim for the 31-year-old single mother from Eastern Kentucky. The cancer was HER-2 positive and already spread to 28 of her lymph nodes. Even after surgery, the likelihood of her survival was less than 5 percent, Romond said.

“She agreed to take part in the study and ended up in the Herceptin group,” he said. “Today, five years later, she’s remarried and has a new, healthy baby boy. There has been no evidence of her cancer recurring. I can’t say she wouldn’t have done as well in the group of patients who didn’t get Herceptin, but in my heart of hearts I think it was the drug that saved her.”

MORE BENEFITS FROM THE STUDY

Now that the NCI study has concluded, participants will be followed for the rest of their lives. Most are holding up well, Romond said, including those who experienced cardiac problems – a potential side effect of Herceptin. He has since identified features such as age, hypertension and baseline cardiac function that can predict who might be at risk for these problems.

In addition, Romond said, “We’re now working on trying to identify the minority of those women who have recurrences of breast cancer in spite of Herceptin. There isn’t anything yet that works for 100 percent of the patients. We’re trying to sort out what’s different about those patients and what new treatments we can develop to help them.”

New studies based on the results of the first trial are being formulated. And a whole range of TKI studies are also in the pipeline.

Romond, who was the principal investigator in the original NCI study, will serve as an advisor to researchers but wants to devote more of his time to developing the Comprehensive Breast Care Center at UK.

BREAST CANCER RESEARCH AT UK

The Markey Cancer Center has participated for more than two decades in NCI clinical trials as well as other
Clinical trials of a new anti-cancer drug developed by UK pharmacy professor Tom Burke are under way at the UK Markey Cancer Center. Just getting the drug, called DB-67, to the testing stage was a trial in itself as well as a triumph.

Burke died of colon cancer during the initial development and pre-clinical testing of DB-67, and pharmaceutical company Novartis subsequently released its licensing of the drug. With no developer to spearhead the testing, DB-67 seemed bound for obscurity.

Then a group of Burke’s colleagues and supporters who believed in the drug entered the picture. Led by Jeffrey Moscow, M.D., professor, Pediatric Oncology, and director of the Experimental Therapeutics Program at Markey, a team of experts completed all the necessary pre-clinical studies. Among them was Burke’s widow, Lori Latus, a senior staff associate at Markey.

In May 2006, Markey was granted FDA approval to begin testing the promising cancer treatment in humans. UK licensed DB-67 and now has more than $1 million in research contracts for its development. Additional funding has been provided by the National Cancer Institute.

Two patients at Markey have already received DB-67 in the first of three phases of the clinical development of the drug. This phase will determine the correct dosage of the drug. It is open to adults who have not responded to conventional treatments.

Pre-clinical testing of DB-67 showed that more of the drug’s anti-cancer properties could be delivered to the body as compared to other drugs currently in use, making it more potent.
The clinical services supplied by UK HealthCare extend far beyond the walls of UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital in Lexington. Providing much-needed support to rural physicians – and even underserved urban areas – is a major initiative for UK College of Medicine. College of Medicine physicians play an important role in these outreach efforts, working in local communities across the Commonwealth.

“While UK HealthCare is a resource for all the people of Kentucky, our goal is not to go into communities simply to bring patients back to Lexington,” said Joe Claypool, associate vice president for clinical network development. “Except for those in need of highly-specialized treatment and procedures, we are committed to keeping patients in their local facilities and local communities whenever possible. It’s simply what is best for the patient and for the family, and it serves to strengthen the health care delivery system throughout the state.”

This past year, UK HealthCare began placing special emphasis on expanding and developing clinical services at the local level, particularly in the areas of cancer, cardiovascular care and the neurosciences.

AFFILIATE NETWORK BRINGS CANCER CARE TO PATIENTS
The UK Markey Cancer Center established its first formal network affiliation agreement in March 2006, developing an association of health care providers throughout the state who collaborate with Markey Cancer Center clinicians and researchers. The goal of the network is to improve quality of care, as well as cancer prevention, education and research throughout the Commonwealth. As the Markey Cancer Center expands advanced cancer care on the Lexington campus with recruitment of internationally known cancer specialists, it is also ensuring the best cancer care is available in the Commonwealth and developing a link to local communities so that patients can stay in their hometown and still have access to specialized care from Lexington. St. Claire Regional Medical Center in Morehead, Ky., Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center in Mt. Vernon, Ky., and Harrison Memorial in Cynthiana, Ky., are currently part of the Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network.

Multidisciplinary team care is a key feature of the network. Cancer specialists, pharmacists, nutritionists, nurses, social workers and other experts are available to support families through every step of the
disease from screenings and diagnosis through treatment and recovery. The Markey Cancer Center Affiliates Network also offers additional continuing education opportunities, community-based research and clinical trials to communities as part of the agreement.

CARDIAC DIAGNOSTIC AND INTERVENTIONAL SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE IN DANVILLE

At the newly established Gill Heart Institute–Danville, UK physicians offer cardiac catheterization and intervention for primary angioplasty in cooperation with Ephraim McDowell Health. This clinic provides area physicians and patients convenient access to the Gill Heart Institute’s full range of cardiac diagnostic and interventional services. Home to some of the nation’s best cardiac specialists, the UK Gill Heart Institute also offers many patients the option to be among the first to benefit from exciting clinical research that is constantly improving heart care.

In addition to the facility in Danville, Ky., cardiologists from the Gill Heart Institute provide 30 clinic-days a month of health care at off-site clinics throughout the state.

NEUROSURGEON CARES FOR PATIENTS IN MOREHEAD, CYNTHIANA

For the past 26 years, UK Neurosurgeon Phil Tibbs, M.D., has been making the 130-mile round trip from Lexington to Morehead’s St. Claire Regional Medical Center twice a month, where from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., he sees up to 60 patients in a neurosurgery clinic. Tibbs has worked hard over the years to forge strong partnerships with regional hospitals and local physicians. Recently, he added a second regional clinic at Harrison Memorial Hospital in Cynthiana to his busy schedule.

“Our physicians’ outreach philosophy, commitment to service and good follow-up make them a model for how outreach and good service should be done,” said Jay Perman, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine and vice president for clinical affairs.

UK HealthCare also is responding to increased demand for digestive health, endocrinology, infectious disease and pulmonary services in outlying communities. Additional outreach programs are being developed, including a pediatric nursing preceptor internship program, to better serve patients and support all communities of the Commonwealth.

“We have a commitment to the rural providers of Kentucky – they are the front line of access to health care in their communities and are important economic factors for many rural parts of Kentucky,” said Michael Karpf, M.D., UK executive vice president for health affairs. “UK HealthCare has focused its clinical outreach programs to benefit those communities and at the same time provide our students with in-the-field educational training.”
For the past five years, Tom Young, M.D., professor of Pediatrics, has led a weeklong medical mission trip to Ecuador providing health care to more than a thousand Ecuadorians, mostly children. While volunteering in this part of the world is very challenging, the UK medical team finds this work brings many opportunities for international cooperation while granting them the joy of serving others.

Young began the medical mission trips to Ecuador as a service learning opportunity for pediatric residents. Now that the word has spread, the team includes other UK College of Medicine faculty, UK College of Public Health faculty, medical students, dentists and community leaders.

“We chose to help the people and children of Ecuador because Kentucky has had longstanding relationships with Ecuador. The need of the people there is high. Poverty rates are high and access to health care is poor in many areas,” Young said.

The team provided Ecuadorians with medical care in Quito, Mindo and Santo Domingo. They administered a total of 400 anemia screenings and 1,000 applications of dental fluoride. While there, they were also able to provide malnutrition and diabetes screenings and handed out hundreds of medications and vitamins.

The team’s first city to visit was the capital city Quito, where they treated children and families, many who were homeless. At the next stop at an orphanage in Mindo, more than 450 children were treated for medical and dental disorders, and thousands of vitamins were provided. The last two days of clinics were in Santo Domingo de los Colorados in a shantytown and at a children’s center for malnourished children. More than 600 children and their families were treated in these locations.

“Seventy-five percent of the children and pregnant women in Santo Domingo had anemia,” Young said, reflecting on the
For more than 40 years, there has been a strong partnership between the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and St. Claire Regional Medical Center, allowing many medical students and residents to rotate through St. Claire Regional in Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pathology and Family and Community Medicine. Some residents even spend their entire second and third year of residency at St. Claire Regional to complete a track in rural health. St. Claire Regional Medical Center also serves as the host site for UK’s Northeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center Program.

It is this strong linkage between the two entities that made UK and St. Claire logical partners, along with Morehead State University (MSU), to receive funding to develop a Center for Health, Education and Research. Currently, $26 million in state and federal monies have been appropriated for the project. Located on St. Claire Regional Medical Center’s campus, which is adjacent to MSU, this new center will expand the medical program offerings of UK, St. Claire Regional and Morehead State.

While the building is still in the planning stages, the following programs have been proposed for the new center:

- UK’s Area Health Education Center
- UK/St. Claire Family and Community Medicine Residency
- MSU’s Nursing programs
- MSU’s Imaging Sciences program
- UK/St. Claire TeleCare program
- UK Center for Rural Health (Morehead Campus)
- UK’s Physician Assistant Program (Morehead Campus)

Given UK academic medical center’s mission of inter-professional education, all six UK health science colleges have expressed interest in participating and offering courses at this new off-campus teaching center in Morehead.
The University of Kentucky formally accepted the most broad-based gift in the history of the University from E. Vernon Smith, M.D., UK ’37, this past summer. The majority of the gift will benefit College of Medicine programs, bearing fruit in areas of research and academics near to Smith’s heart.

The gift, made in the name of Smith and his late wife, Eloise C. Smith, totals more than $11.5 million, including matching funds, and will create scholarships in the areas of nursing, medicine and band as well as professorships in history, business, nursing and macular degeneration research.

The largest amounts of funding, $4 million each, will establish endowed research chairs in macular degeneration and Alzheimer’s disease. The significance behind these allocations lies in the personal history of Smith—he has been diagnosed with macular degeneration while Eloise Smith passed away in 1997 of Alzheimer’s disease. The College of Medicine already has strong research programs in both areas, with Jayakrishna Ambati, M.D., leading groundbreaking efforts to understand macular degeneration, and William Markesbery, M.D., Medicine ’64, heading the university’s renowned research program in Alzheimer’s and other age-related cognitive conditions. The Smith gift will further these efforts of research and help develop treatment for both diseases.

A native of Greenup County, where he was taught by famed Kentucky writer Jesse Stuart, Smith has designated medical and nursing scholarships specifically for students from his home county. Smith is a retired internist in Cincinnati and served as a malarialogist in the Pacific region during World War II. He has a keen interest in American history and etymology, and played saxophone in the marching band while a student at UK.
Smith had not sought publicity but was persuaded to go public with the gift by College of Medicine Director of Development Susannah Denomme and Dan Meyer, Smith’s close friend and attorney for more than 25 years. “The principal objective was to let other people know, with the idea of generating other gifts to the University,” Meyer said. “These endowments will provide important support in critical areas of Kentucky health care forever.”

Jay Perman, M.D., dean of the UK College of Medicine and vice president for clinical affairs, and Jane Kirschling, R.N., D.N.S., dean of the UK College of Nursing, traveled to Greenup County in January to talk to high school students, encouraging them to work hard and earn the Smith scholarships. Smith’s fondest wish is for these students to expand their horizons through medicine and nursing degrees from UK, then return to Greenup County to provide health care for their fellow citizens. From the expressed desires of the students and the greater community, Smith’s wishes are likely to be realized.

As the College of Medicine looks to the future, its donors have shown that great things are possible. Indeed, it is College of Medicine donors’ extraordinary generosity that has helped to transform the College over the past decade and their active leadership that promises new levels of achievement in the years ahead. The College gratefully recognizes the many alumni, patients and friends whose commitments during this past campaign have advanced key College of Medicine priorities and elevated virtually all aspects of academic life.
David M. Lawrence, M.D., M.P.H., ’66, will return to UK May 31 to speak at the “Health Care Delivery in the 21st Century” academic symposium, which is part of the groundbreaking celebration for the new UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital. He is the former CEO of the country’s largest not-for-profit health care organization, Kaiser Permanente. Lawrence is a widely published medical scholar and author of From Chaos to Care: The Promise of Team-Based Medicine. He has received numerous awards, including the UK Medical Alumni Association’s prestigious Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Carl Boyd, M.D., FACS, ’76, has been selected as a 2006 Georgia Hospital Association Hospital Hero Award winner. This prestigious annual award is given to only 11 hospital physicians or employees in the state of Georgia who have performed a heroic deed and/or given tirelessly of their time, talent or expertise to improve their organization or the world around them. Boyd, a member of the Memorial Health medical staff for more than 25 years, was instrumental in the creation of Memorial Health’s Trauma Center One in the early 1980s. Trauma Center One remains the region’s only Level 1 trauma center and one of only four Level 1 trauma centers in the state of Georgia. In 1984 under Boyd’s leadership, Georgia’s first computerized trauma registry was implemented at Memorial Medical Center. He also played a key role in implementing Memorial Health’s LifeStar emergency helicopter service and launched Memorial Health’s MedStar ambulance service. Boyd was named recipient of the Georgia Department of Human Resources Dr. Zeb L. Burrell, Jr. Distinguished Service Award in 2002, awarded the Georgia Medical Society’s Physician Community Service Award in 2004 and presented with a lifetime achievement award from the Memorial Health staff.

Charles H. “Chipper” Griffith III, M.D., Residency ’94, has been honored by the Clerkship Directors of Internal Medicine (CDIM). The organization renamed the CDIM Educational Research Award the CDIM Charles H. Griffith, III, M.D., Educational Research Award. Griffith has served as Medicine Clerkship Director at the UK College of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine since 1994. Griffith has received more UK teaching awards and recognition than any other faculty member in the history of the UK College of Medicine. In 2004, he was one of only four medical school faculty members in the nation to receive the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society’s Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award.

Franklin McGuire, M.D., ’99, introduced a new concept — combining the use of cutting-edge technology and minimally invasive techniques—to diagnose and treat lung diseases, alleviating the need for major surgery in some cases. McGuire’s academic interests include interventional pulmonology and thoracic oncology.

Larry S. Fields, M.D., ’75, assumed the role of board chair of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) in September 2006. Fields previously served one-year terms as president and president-elect, as well as three years on the AAFP Board of Directors.

Forrest W. Calico, M.D., M.P.H., ’66, established the Family and Community Medicine residency program at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center after a decorated career in the Air Force. He served as president of Appalachian Regional Healthcare for seven years and in 1999 began serving the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy as health systems advisor. In his current role as senior advisor on quality for the National Rural Health Association, he works to increase access to quality care for rural communities across the nation.

Edward H. Oldfield, M.D., ’73, has served as chief of the Clinical Neurosurgery Department, surgical neurology branch, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke since 1984. His work with central nervous system tumors has been recognized internationally.
For his achievements, he has received prestigious awards from the Society of Neurological Surgeons and the American Association of Neurology Surgeons. He also serves as clinical professor of Neurosurgery at Georgetown University Medical Center and on the advisory board of the *Journal of Neurosurgery*.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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<tr>
<th>April 27</th>
<th>June 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>UK Medical Alumni Association Board of Directors</td>
<td>UK HealthCare Hospital Groundbreaking Gala</td>
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<td>Keeneland Day at the Races Dinner Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Embassy Suites Lexington, 6:30 p.m.</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>May 12</th>
<th>September 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Awards Day Brunch hosted by the UK Medical Alumni Association</td>
<td>UK College of Medicine Alumni, Faculty and Student Tailgate Party</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>UK Student Center Grand Ballroom, 10:30 a.m.</em></td>
<td>UK vs. Eastern Kentucky University Football Game, <em>Commonwealth Stadium</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>May 20</th>
<th>September 25</th>
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<tr>
<td>“Celebracion de Salad” hosted by the Medical Class of 2010</td>
<td>Kentucky Medical Association Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>E. S. Good Barn Field</em></td>
<td>UK College of Medicine Reception, <em>Hyatt Regency - Louisville, 4:30 - 6 p.m.</em></td>
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<td>Noon - 6 p.m.</td>
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<th>May 31</th>
<th>September 29</th>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care Delivery in the 21st Century Academic Symposium</td>
<td>UK Medical Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting</td>
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<td><em>Singletary Center for the Arts, 1 – 5 p.m.</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>Distinct Panel of Speakers</th>
<th>October 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.</td>
<td>University of Kentucky Fellows Banquet</td>
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<tr>
<td>David M. Lawrence, M.D., Medicine ’66</td>
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<td>Sue T. Hegyvary, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, Nursing ’66</td>
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<th>October 18-21</th>
<th>November 15</th>
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<tr>
<td>UK Medical Reunion Weekend, <em>Embassy Suites Lexington</em></td>
<td>UK Medical Alumni Association Annual Meeting</td>
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**2006 ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Baretta R. Casey, M.D., FAAFP, M.P.H., ’91**, serves as vice-chair of the UK College of Medicine Department of Family and Community Medicine for the East Kentucky Campus in Hazard. In 2005, she was named director of the UK Center for Excellence in Rural Health in Hazard. She is president of the Kentucky Medical Association and was recently elected to the Council on Medical Education for the American Medical Association.

**Michael D. Rankin, M.D., ’80**, funded his own education and is motivated to help today’s students do the same. He established a community scholarship fund for rural students and created a professorship in UK’s Family and Community Medicine Department. Rankin assists the College through recruitment and as a member of the Financial Aid Committee. Rankin currently serves as president-elect of the UK Medical Alumni Association.
2006 HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Loman C. Trover, M.D., formed the Trover Clinic in 1953 to provide quality health care to people in rural Kentucky. The clinic is now the largest group practice in Kentucky. In 1958, Trover worked with UK College of Medicine Dean William R. Willard to form the Field Professorship Program that placed UK medical staff members in rural sites all over Kentucky. Trover has become a nationally known figure in rural health care for his efforts.

Brian R. MacPherson, Ph.D., vice chair of the UK College of Medicine Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, came to the university in 1991 from the University of Alberta in Canada. He was promoted to full professor in 1999 and became professor in the UK College of Dentistry Department of Oral Health Science in 2004. He received the Holsinger Endowed Professorship in Anatomy and Neurobiology, earned the UK Great Teacher Award and has obtained all five stars in the Abraham Flexner Master Teacher Program.

Diagnostic Clinic of Longview – now the largest multi-specialty clinic in east Texas. He was the driving force in the construction of Longview Medical Center where he later served as chief of staff and board member. His American Heart Association initiative encouraging healthy lifestyles in children has become a regular part of school curriculum.

Nominations for the UK College of Medicine Alumni Association 2007 Awards are due May 31, 2007. For more information, visit the UK Medical Alumni Association Web site at www.mc.uky.edu/medalum.

2006 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

John E. Greifenkamp, M.D., FACP, ’71, saw a need for quality health care in his community of Longview, Texas, and in 1975, along with eight other physicians, he established the Diagnostic Clinic of Longview – now the largest multi-specialty clinic in east Texas. He was the driving force in the construction of Longview Medical Center where he later served as chief of staff and board member. His American Heart Association initiative encouraging healthy lifestyles in children has become a regular part of school curriculum.

Nominations for the UK College of Medicine Alumni Association 2007 Awards are due May 31, 2007. For more information, visit the UK Medical Alumni Association Web site at www.mc.uky.edu/medalum.

ANNUAL PHONATHON PRODUCES RECORD PLEDGES

Thanks to everyone for being “On Call” for the annual College of Medicine Phonathon. Your shared commitment enabled us to reach an all-time record amount of gifts pledged as well as a new record for number of donors! This support from alumni and friends allows the UK Medical Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment to continue to grow toward its goal of providing increased support for deserving medical students. This endowment stands at more than $1 million and with your help is still growing. Your generosity has been realized in the ability of the UK Medical Alumni Association to award not one but two scholarships to qualified students in the incoming class. Today’s medical students face an ever increasing need for financial assistance and the UK Medical Alumni Association Scholarship is growing to meet that need.

UK College of Medicine Director of Annual Giving Named

A special welcome is extended to J. Lindsey Clem, director of annual giving, who joined the UK College of Medicine Alumni and Development staff this past summer. Clem comes to the UK College of Medicine after spending a year and a half in the UK College of Education’s Office of Advancement. She holds a bachelor’s degree in communications from Milligan College.
IN REMEMBRANCE

Don Edwards Cloys, M.D., ’67, passed away June 11, 2006, at UK Chandler Hospital. Cloys opened a private practice in general surgery in Richmond, Ky., in 1972, where he practiced until he retired in 2002. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Jo Helen Tucker Cloys and two sons.

Michael Joseph Kline, M.D., Residency ’95, passed away October 19, 2006, at his residence in Lexington. Kline was a pathologist with Ameripath and is survived by his wife, Florence Melio-Kline and three sons.

Maxwell Kimball Jr., M.D., ’64, passed away October 28, 2006, in Charleston, S.C. He was a member of the UK College of Medicine inaugural class, the American College of Anesthesiology, the American Medical Association and a Kentucky Colonel. Kimball served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Sampson World War II Navy Veterans Organization. He is survived by five daughters and three sons.

Charlene Robinson, M.D., ’68, passed away September 26, 2006. She had been in private practice in Barlow, Ky., since 1981 and served as the medical director of Life Care Center in La Center, Ky. From 1981 to 1989, Robinson served as Ballard County Coroner. She created March of Dimes’ first-ever bike-a-thon, held in Mayfield, Ky., in 1973 and started the Health Fair in Ballard County more than 20 years ago. She is survived by her husband, Judge Jimmy Don Robinson.

Kelvin Alexander Von Roenn, M.D., ’75, passed away October 10, 2006, in Chicago, Ill., after a brief illness. Von Roenn was a neurological surgeon at Rush Medical Center. One of his greatest endeavors, besides his devotion to his family, was educating innumerable residents in both the art and science of Neurosurgery. He is survived by his wife Jamie Hayden Von Roenn and four children.

George William Schwert, Ph.D., passed away September 19, 2006. Schwert served as the founding chairman of the UK College of Medicine Department of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry and acted as chairman of the department from its founding in 1959 until 1974. He served as a professor for 11 more years until his retirement. He was selected as a Scholar of Medicine of the John and Mary M. Markle Foundation while at the University. Schwert served as a consultant to the National Institutes of Health, was a member of the biochemistry panel of the Woolridge Commission of the Office of Science and Technology, and was a member of the Journal of Biological Chemistry’s editorial board. He is survived by his wife Jean Stubbs Schwert and two children.

John “Alex” Alexander, M.D., Ph.D., ’89, passed away September 17, 2006. Alexander was a lifelong Kentuckian who received his medical degree from Tulane and his doctorate in Microbiology from UK College of Medicine in August 1989. Alexander had a distinguished military career as a medical specialist with the Marines in Vietnam. After leaving the military, he worked with Drs. Ben Roach and Norman “Jack” Fisher in Midway, at the University of Kentucky and for the Frontier Nursing Service in Wendover, Ky. His work in the UK Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics focused on equine genetic polymorphisms, which has proved useful in equine DNA typing. Alexander also contributed to a testing practice that is still used today in thoroughbred racing. He later worked for the United States Army Research Institute for Infectious Disease.
“Health Care Delivery in the 21st Century”

An academic symposium celebrating the groundbreaking for the new UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital

Thursday, May 31, 2007
1 to 5 p.m.
Singletary Center
Rose St. & Euclid Ave.
Lexington, Ky.

Speakers:

Jordan J. Cohen, MD
Director, The Washington Advisory Group
President Emeritus, Association of American Medical Colleges
“Preparing Physicians for the 21st Century”

David M. Lawrence, MD
Alumnus, College of Medicine, Class of 1966
Chairman and CEO
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, Inc. (Ret.)

Sue T. Hegyvary, PhD, RN, FAAN
Alumna, College of Nursing, Class of 1965
Professor and Dean Emeritus, School of Nursing & Adjunct Professor
School of Public Health
University of Washington
“Health and Health Systems in Global Context: A 21st Century Perspective”

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