An experiment in collaboration

Research groups team up to form biobank network

Innovative lab experiments are not the only way medical researchers discover breakthrough treatments. Innovative partnerships can lead to important medical advances, too.

The University of Kansas Cancer Center and Truman Medical Center have partnered to form the first link in a potential network of regional biospecimen repositories—banks of biospecimens, such as blood, saliva and tissue, necessary to support translational cancer research in the region.

Andrew Godwin, PhD, deputy director of the cancer center and director of its repository, believes cancer research across the country will benefit significantly from a network of regional biobanks representing more geographic and population diversity.

“Translational research takes what we learn in our labs and applies it to studies that can help patients,” he said. “Research like that can’t happen without a diverse collection of carefully annotated biospecimens.”

The Midwest Cancer Alliance (MCA) helped coordinate the partnership. Truman already is participating in a triple-negative breast cancer registry project with the cancer center, and it has strong surgical and clinical lab teams.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better partner to help kick off a regional biobank network,” said Hope Kребилл, MCA executive director. “The teamwork and dedication to improving cancer research from both Truman and KU is a clear indication of a mutual commitment to putting patients first.”

The new biobank, which is located at Truman and supported by a gift from The Bloch Family Foundation, opened at the end of 2014. It already is working well.

“In a few short months we’ve already expanded the numbers and types of samples being collected and shared with other researchers in the region,” said Jo Beth Herrick, Truman’s medicine specialty director.

Hanluen Kuo, previously the cancer center’s biorepository development leader, is now MCA biobank coordinator, which puts him at the heart of the unique partnership. Among his work so far: training prospective staff and designing a collection process that fits each institution’s needs.

Said Kuo: “The opportunity to be a liaison between two terrific lab teams has been a remarkable experience.”

More information about the partnership is at kumc.edu.

By the Numbers: Fan first aid

Staff at The University of Kansas Hospital are gearing up for another big year caring for fans at Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas Speedway, Kauffman Stadium and Sprint Center. But first, a look back at 2014.

151 Number of events at the four venues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fans treated at first-aid stations</th>
<th>Hours devoted to fan first-aid stations*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sprint Center</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas Speedway</td>
<td>480</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,165 Arrowhead Stadium</td>
<td>1,161</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,067 Kauffman Stadium</td>
<td>4,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,438 Arrowhead Stadium</td>
<td>7,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,492 Kauffman Stadium</td>
<td>4,492</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes hospital staff and physicians; does not include player care

To suggest a By the Numbers, email Advances@kumc.edu.
Events

Mindful strategies – A diagnosis of serious illness can become all-consuming. Learn to step out of fear and into inspiration. Enjoying every moment is a skill you can find through mindful meditation practices. The session is 1-2:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing in Leawood. Call 913-574-0900 to register.

Neurological disease – For people living with a neurological condition such as Parkinson’s or multiple sclerosis, and for their families and friends, controlling emotions can be difficult. Learn practical skills for managing these ups and downs. The class is 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing in Leawood. Call 913-574-0900 to register.

Heart nutrition – Learn the three simple steps toward a heart-healthy diet. A registered dietitian will discuss the importance of vaccinations and a wide range of other public health issues. Watch the video at youtube.com/kuhospital.

JayRock – The 10th annual concert is 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Uptown Theater. The concert benefits JayDoc Free Clinic, a health clinic run by students at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Tickets are $15 general admission or $35 VIP. Tickets and details are at jaydocfreeclinic.org.

Medicaid and Medicare – Learn the do’s and don’ts of Medicaid and Medicare coverage for living with illness, disability, assisted living and skilled nursing care. Also learn about eligibility for Medicaid and Medicare. The class is 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing in Leawood. Call 913-574-0900 to register.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Hair Quarters salon lifts patient spirits

A specialty team of four practitioners with more than 75 years of combined experience operates four days a week on The University of Kansas Hospital’s main floor.

The beauty team at Hair Quarters – co-owners Sarah Goldbeck and Samantha McClanahan, and stylists Erica Carter and Beada Rosser – offers decidedly different patient care. The independently owned, full-service salon has operated across from the cafeteria since soon after the “new hospital” opened in 1979. Hospital and medical center staff make up at least half the salon’s clientele.

“I truly think there’s something about having your hair and nails done that just makes you feel better,” Goldbeck said. “Some patients live hours away. Others are hospitalized for weeks or months. These folks are ecstatic to find out they can get a haircut or color, manicure or pedicure – without leaving the hospital.”

What’s more, for a small up-charge, patients can receive many of the salon’s services, such as a haircut, style and nail treatments, without leaving their rooms.

Though not hospital employees, the Hair Quarters team firmly adheres to the guiding principle of putting the patient first.

“We’ll do anything to accommodate our patients,” McClanahan said. “We’ll work around them so they can be as comfortable as they possibly can.”

Judy Newell, manager of Missys’ Boutique at The University of Kansas Cancer Center, co-owned the salon from 1975, when it was in the medical center’s student union, through 1989. She hired Goldbeck, 19 and fresh from beauty school. More than two decades later, Newell trained her as a mastectomy fitter/wig fitter at Missys’, where Goldbeck now works part time.

Like Goldbeck, McClanahan and Carter have spent most of their careers at Hair Quarters. “It’s a very humbling job and just so rewarding to be able to help people feel better,” McClanahan said. “That’s why we’ve all stayed so many years – for the love of the patients and their families.”

Hair Quarters can be reached at 913-588-2518, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, late appointments by request.

EXPOSURE

Surgeon General pushes vaccinations

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD, the nation’s senior public health official, visited the University of Kansas Medical Center Jan. 28 as part of his cross-country tour. During his meeting with medical center, hospital and community leaders – as well as the media – he discussed the importance of vaccinations and a wide range of other public health issues. Watch the video at youtube.com/kuhospital.
In the News
A recap of recent articles, TV segments and other media coverage of the region's leading academic medical center

3D printer benefits surgeons – KCTV 5, Feb. 4. At The University of Kansas Hospital, neurosurgeon Paul Camarata, MD, used a 3D printer to create an exact replica of a patient’s skull and aneurysm. The replica allows him and his team to practice before her surgery. “I’ve done hundreds and hundreds of aneurysm surgeries. No one is exactly the same,” he said. “If I can say, I have rehearsed your surgery on your skull, I know exactly what it’s going to look like when I’m in there tomorrow, it will instill confidence” in the patient.

Google testing telehealth – Healthcare Informatics, Jan. 21. Google is piloting a “direct-to-consumer” telehealth service in Boston, San Diego and San Francisco. Some in healthcare, such as Ryan Spaulding, PhD, director of the Center for Telehealth and Telemedicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center, worry about the impact on coordinated care. “A lot of the patients who are served need to be connected to a health system,” he said. “When you bring in a third party like Google or another service, the care is moved outside the approved gatekeeper.”

Despite low effectiveness, flu vaccine still important – Kansas City Nursing News, Jan. 27. Although this season’s flu vaccine is just 23 percent effective, Lee Norman, MD, chief medical officer at The University of Kansas Hospital, said people should still get the vaccine. As he explained: If you have a life-threatening disease and access to a safe treatment with a 23 percent greater chance of survival – wouldn’t you opt for the treatment?

Construction details about new facility – The Kansas City Business Journal, Jan. 23. The build team for the new $75 million Medical Education Building at the University of Kansas Medical Center is taking shape. It will be designed by Kansas City-based Helix Architecture + Design Inc. and Los Angeles-based CO Architects. Construction will be managed by Kansas City-based McCownGordon Construction LLC. Lenexa-based Henderson Engineers Inc. will provide engineering services. Work is expected to begin by the end of summer and the building should be complete by fall 2017.

News Briefs

New MitraClip option for heart patients
Rose Buchan suffered from a condition called mitral valve regurgitation, which causes blood to flow backward in the heart. Besides causing shortness of breath, it can lead to stroke and heart failure.

Due to her age (83) and previous heart surgery, the Blue Springs woman was not a candidate for another risky heart procedure. She received good news when she met with Mark Wiley, MD, interventional cardiologist at The University of Kansas Hospital.

The hospital is the first in the region to offer a less-invasive procedure using a device called a MitraClip. While other surgeries require chest incisions and stopping the heart, the MitraClip procedure requires only a small amount of anesthesia and a catheter.

A metal clip is inserted into the heart through the femoral vein in the leg. The clip holds the two mitral valve leaflets together, allowing blood to move forward, not backward.

“I feel better. I have a good outlook on life now,” said Buchan. “My breathing is better, and I just feel with this I can go on forever!”

“I’m excited about the MitraClip,” said Wiley. “It gives us an opportunity for patients who were considered high-risk and wouldn’t have been operated on. They would have been managed with just medicine. Many times they would come back to the hospital with symptoms and signs of congestive heart failure, and now we have an option for them.”

KC Heart shirt supports Girls’ Night In
Charlie Hustle, a popular Kansas City sportswear company, is commemorating the 10th anniversary of Girls’ Night In with a new T-shirt designed for women’s heart health.

The “KC Heart/Valentine” shirt is available at the Charlie Hustle website (charliehustleshop.com). The cost is $50, with $35 going to Girls’ Night In.

Charlie Hustle bills its sportswear as “vintage style with a fresh twist.”

The limited-edition shirt is available at several retail locations:
• Rainy Day Books – 2706 West 53rd St., Fairway (across from the Westwood Campus)
• Threshing Bee Boutiques at PrairieFire – 5501 W. 135th St., Suite 2320, Overland Park (135th and Nall, above Newport Grill)
• O’Home – 311 East 55th St., Kansas City
• Feng – 4553 119th St., Town Center Crossing, Leawood

Girls’ Night In is Feb. 26 at The Gallery Event Space in Kansas City’s Power & Light District. Speakers will share messages from their hearts, mixing humor, advice and experience while raising awareness of women’s heart health.

Funds benefit the women’s heart programs of The University of Kansas Hospital’s Adelaide C. Ward Women’s Heart Health Center and Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing. Go to girlsnightinkc.com for details and tickets.

Athlete outreach
At Royals FanFest Jan. 30, Brian Mills, an occupational therapist at The University of Kansas Hospital’s KU MedWest, met with fans at the hospital booth. He was one of numerous OTs, physical therapists and athletic trainers discussing injury prevention and promoting the hospital’s Sports Medicine & Performance Center during the crowded two-day event.

The hospital is the Official Healthcare Provider for the Royals.
Our People

Science students honored – Twenty students from Kansas and Oklahoma colleges were awarded for their scientific research presentations. They were honored at the 13th annual Kansas Institutional Development Award Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) symposium Jan. 17-18 in Topeka. The symposium is part of the K-INBRE initiative, led by the University of Kansas Medical Center, to identify and recruit promising college science students into careers in biomedical research in Kansas.

Two students from our medical center were among the award winners:

• Everett Hall, graduate student in anatomy and cell biology – “Compound mouse mutants of Specc1 hypomorphic alleles model human palate neural tube closure defects.”

• Heather Wilkins, post doc in neurology – “Bioenergetic influence of amyloid beta generation.”

Throughout the year, K-INBRE undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students work in laboratories alongside scientist mentors to develop research projects. The projects give students hands-on experience putting the scientific method into practice. Overall, 129 students presented their findings at the symposium.

“The symposium is a great opportunity for students to learn how to package and present their hard work and exceptional research to their peers and mentors,” said Doug Wright, PhD, principal investigator for K-INBRE and professor of anatomy and cell biology at our medical center.

K-INBRE is a collaborative network of students, faculty and staff at 10 campuses in Kansas and northern Oklahoma: our medical center, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Haskell Indian Nations University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, University of Kansas, Washburn University, Wichita State University and Langston University in Langston, Okla.

“This program is vital for the continued development and recruitment of biomedical researchers in Kansas,” Wright added. “With this program we hope to keep the biosciences in Kansas growing and thriving.”

Nursing research award – University of Kansas School of Nursing professor Phoebe Williams, PhD, RN, was named the Kansas Nurse of the Year in Research by the state chapter of the American Nurses Association. Williams’ current work focuses on outcomes research in oncology care for adults and children, mixed methods research, instrument development and international and diverse groups research.

“This award recognizes Dr. Williams for her research to help children with cancer and their families,” said Marge Bott, PhD, RN, associate dean of research at the School of Nursing.

The award recognizes her for excellent research capabilities, the impact of her research and the relevance of her research to the nursing profession, as well as her contributions as a role model.

Williams joined the School of Nursing faculty in 1992. Her earlier work focused on the care of families and children with chronic illness, and growth and development.

Williams teaches graduate and undergraduate honors research, and dissertation and Capstone advising. She has published books, book chapters, numerous peer-reviewed data-based articles and educational materials dealing with her areas of expertise.

Sharing Haitian customs – Jonathan Philippe, MD, a Family Medicine resident at the University of Kansas Medical Center, on Jan. 12 visited the second-grade class of Academie Lafayette, a local French-language immersion school.

Philippe, who is from Haiti, speaks Creole, French and English. He presented to the students in French, and the class’ entire Q&A was in French. His visit coincided with the fifth anniversary of the Haitian earthquake.

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Not all women who have heart disease experience symptoms. A personalized heart health assessment from our Adelaide C. Ward Women’s Heart Health Center can provide lifesaving insight about your heart health.

Schedule your appointment today.
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The University of Kansas Hospital

The signs of heart disease can be masked

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