

CENTER *express*

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL • UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER

Irene Cumming Resigns to Lead Healthcare Consortium

Irene Cumming, president and chief executive officer of The University of Kansas Hospital, announced Monday she has accepted a position to head one of the nation's leading academic

Cumming is no stranger to the consortium, as she chaired its board of directors in 2004. She has actively served UHC for the past 10 years on task forces and key committees, and is currently

“Quality patient care always has been my top priority as a hospital administrator, and in my new position, I will advocate for that to be firmly established as a priority of academic medical centers nationwide, alongside research and education. Academic medical centers cannot provide the best in education or research unless their hospitals continue to make the highest quality patient care their most important priority.”

The quality and safety of patient care in the 508-bed hospital (there were only 275 staffed beds when she began) has improved dramatically and gained national recognition during Cumming's stewardship. Patient satisfaction ratings have climbed more than 900 percent. In 2006, the hospital ranked No. 11 among the nation's 81 top academic medical centers in overall safety and quality rankings.

Cumming was instrumental in resurrecting the hospital's image. When she became CEO in April 1996, the hospital was losing one-



third of its staff annually, the financial outlook was grim and patient numbers and revenues were sliding sharply. She led a team that advocated for a change in the way the hospital was governed. When the hospital was removed from university control and placed under an independent state authority, it began one of the most impressive business transformations in the health-care industry.

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– George Farha, MD, chair of The University of Kansas Hospital Authority Board

medical organizations.

On July 2, she will become president and chief executive officer of the University HealthSystem Consortium in Chicago, which includes 97 academic medical centers and 153 of their affiliated hospitals.

“The national reputation of Irene Cumming could have easily brought her to lead any single academic hospital in the nation,” said **George Farha, MD**, chair of the Hospital Authority Board. “Now, she will have a leadership role for all of them.”

a member of UHC's Governing Board.

Cumming will stay through June to ensure negotiations continue around the University of Kansas Medical Center's plan to extend academic affiliations with St. Luke's Hospital. Her successor is expected to be announced before she leaves.

In a letter to hospital staff, Cumming noted that of all the hospital's many accomplishments, she takes most pride in the level of improvement in patient care.

The University of Kansas Hospital has undergone a transformation under Irene Cumming's leadership. See Center Express Extra, inside.

GI Researcher Honored for Diabetes Work

The Greater Kansas City American Diabetes Association recently recognized **Richard McCallum, MD**, for extensive contributions to diabetes research.

McCallum is director of the Center for Gastrointestinal Nerve and Muscle Function and GI Motility at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He has researched and treated digestive disorders associated with diabetes for more than 20 years.

His work focuses on gastroparesis, a disorder in which the stomach is unable to properly pass food on through the digestive system. He has researched treating gastroparesis through electrical stimulation to the stomach with an external device comparable to a pacemaker. McCallum hopes his studies

will lead to an implantable device that will be a permanent solution to gastroparesis.

Wall Street Journal Again Features Hospital

The *Wall Street Journal* has cited one of The University of Kansas Hospital's safety and quality efforts in a recent front-page article, "Vein Attempts? Making Needles Easier to Bear."

The article discusses how hospitals are reducing patient pain, stress and harm from vein puncture. **Tammy Peterman, RN, MS**, chief nursing officer, and **Roxanne Perucca, RN**, nurse manager for clinical excellence, were interviewed, along with the hospital's IV therapy team.

As a past president of the Infusion Nurses Society and chair of the Infusion Nurses Certification Corporation, Perucca is recognized nationally as a presenter,

School of Medicine Spring Formal Planned

Students from the KU School of Medicine will join faculty, residents and volunteer physicians in celebration of medical education at the ninth annual "A Grande Affair" spring formal and awards gala Saturday, March 31.

The event at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency at Crown Center will include opening remarks and a dinner, followed by the presentation of student-nominated awards.

Student Voice Awards recognize the most outstanding educators and courses from the basic sciences and third-year clerkships, as determined by student vote.

The Professionalism in Residency Award honors a resident who is an exceptional student mentor exhibiting altruism, accountability, excellence, duty, honor, integrity and respect for others.

The Rainbow Award honors a physician who students deem a "hero in medicine."

instructor, writer and researcher on IV therapy.

Celebrate Gift of Sight in March

March is National Eye Donor Month. In 2006, eye donors from The University of Kansas Hospital gave "the gift of sight" to 41 transplant recipients.

Nationwide, more than 46,000 people receive a

corneal transplant each year to help regain sight that has been lost due to an eye disease, disorder or injury. Through eye donation, Heartland Lions Eye Banks assist in the sight restoration process, bringing new vision to five people each day.

For more information on eye donation and National Eye Donor Month, visit hle.org or restoresight.org.

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Poison Control Center Saves Lives in Kansas

The Mid-America Poison Control Center is part of The University of Kansas Hospital and is located in the basement near the in-patient pharmacy. In its 25th year, the center handled more than 32,000 calls in 2006 as the hotline for Kansas. **Jennifer Lowry, MD**, right, is center director and the only medical toxicologist in the state of Kansas. She and **Lisa Oller**, a poison center specialist for 18 years, promoted Poison Prevention Week, March 18-24, with an information table.

Please send news, classified ads and calendar items to centerexpress@kumc.edu or contact Marli Murphy at 8-0446. Items must be received by noon on the Thursday prior to publication.

eXtracurricular

GI GRAND Rounds: 5-6:30 p.m., B018 School of Nursing.

Wednesday, March 28

INTERNAL MEDICINE Grand Rounds: "Liver Transplantation 2007," Mojtaba Olyaei, MD, professor, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, 8-9 a.m., 3015 Sudler Auditorium.

FREE TAX preparation services: AARP Tax Aide Program, must be 62 or older, Wednesdays through April 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 210 Landon Center on Aging. Make appointment with Hallie Kates-Calloway, 8-0606.

BROWNBAG LUNCH Series: "Natural Aging: What Is Normal Aging and What Is Disease?" Jerry Old, MD, 200 Landon Center on Aging. Register: 8-3094.

Thursday, March 29

CANCER AND Developmental Biology Seminar: "Development of the Kidney Glomerular Capillary," Dale Abrahamson, PhD, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Lied Auditorium.

FAMILY AND Caregiver Training: American Red Cross, Visiting Nurse Association and Landon Center staff provide free instruction for the community every Thursday in March, 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m., 200 Landon Center on Aging. Call Hallie, 8-0606, to reserve a free lunch.

their "hands-on" training at the University of Kansas Medical Center or the KU School of Medicine-Wichita, or at approved private practices in rural areas across the state. Attending physicians hold faculty appointments and work closely with the university administration throughout the program.

Students have enrolled in 148 weeks of rural clerkships

Thursday, March 22

FAMILY CAREGIVER'S Support Group: Myra Hyatt, facilitator, fourth Thursday each month, 1-2 p.m., 210 Landon Center on Aging. Lunch provided.

Friday, March 23

LAST DAY of Spring Break.

EDUCATOR'S BREAKFAST Series, Block 2, Professionalism and Communication Skills, for speakers and topics, visit kumc.edu/som/facdev/educators.html, 7-9 a.m., 1025 Orr-Major.

NEUROLOGY/Neurosurgery Grand Rounds: "Management of Severe Head Trauma," Neal Haynes, MD, 7-9 a.m., Lied Auditorium.

PEDIATRIC GRAND Rounds: "Cystic Fibrosis: Respiratory Care in the 21st Century," Mitzi Scotten, MD, 8-9 a.m., Wahl Hall West Auditorium.

Tuesday, March 27

SAFETY TRAINING for new employees: Environment, Health and Safety Office, 8 a.m., Lied Auditorium. Call 8-1081 for more information.

SUPPORT GROUP: Diabetes and Kidney Disease – Keeping Your Kidneys Healthy, Wanita Walker, 1-2 p.m., 1107 Cray Diabetes Center.

More Students Train in Rural Communities

The number of University of Kansas School of Medicine students choosing to train with rural Kansas physicians has significantly increased in the past year.

Third-year medical students have the option of beginning

Hospital Will Honor Physicians

Physicians at The University of Kansas Hospital will be honored for their commitment to outstanding patient care on Doctor's Day, Friday, March 30.

A catered lunch for physicians, residents and the hospital executive team will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 4016 School of Nursing.

Jayhawk Clinic physicians and those at Mid-America Cardiology will get bags of snacks from the physician relations team.

Sexual Assault Is Documentary Topic

The University of Kansas Medical Center Diversity 2007 series features the documentary, "NO! Confronting Sexual Assault in our Community," at noon Monday, March 26, in Wahl Hall West Auditorium.

The film examines the impact of sexual violence on black women and girls. It features national violence prevention leaders and insightful analysis from sociologists, historians and scholars in women's and African American studies.

Contact **Charles Romero**, Diversity coordinator, cromero@kumc.edu, to reserve lunch or for more information.

Jayhawk Med Golf Tourney Set April 16

The registration deadline is approaching for the Fourth Annual Jayhawk Med Golf Tournament at The National, which benefits the KUMC International Outreach medical trips to Guatemala.

The event at The Deuce, a private course designed by **Tom Watson**, will be Monday, April 16, with a registration lunch at noon. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start for an 18-hole, four-person scramble with cart. A reception with food, gifts and prizes will follow. Registration is \$100 for students, \$120 for supporters and \$800 for corporate sponsors.

Register by April 1 online at KUMCIO.org. For a registration form or more information, contact **Andy Arther** at 913-710-6786 or aarther@kumc.edu.

Event proceeds will help KUMCIO treat hundreds of patients in clinics in Guatemala, perform surgeries and purchase medicine and supplies during medical outreach trips.

for the 2007 academic year, compared to 66 weeks in 2006.

"It is wildly successful with the students," said **Michael Kennedy, MD**, assistant dean for Rural Health Education. "They feel they receive more one-on-one experience with

the attending physicians and more hands-on experience with their patients. For the physicians who volunteer to take part in the program, they get to give back, and many of them say that mentoring students energizes their practice."

eXchange

Vehicles

2002 PONTIAC Grand Am GT, 67.5K, RamAir, sedan, white, automatic, power windows/locks, sunroof, CD/cassette, chrome wheels, \$10,300. 816-225-6567.

2001 F150 TRUCK, 71K, 5-speed, 4-wheel drive, \$9,800. 816-582-8288.

1987 MAZDA 323, rebuilt transmission, 5-speed, great gas mileage, runs, needs some work, \$700 OBO. 913-908-9821.

For Sale

ERIC CLAPTON concert tickets, 7:30 p.m., April 2, Kemper Arena, upper level, section 235, row S, seats 7-8, \$76.90 each. 816-322-1602 or 816-678-6649.

STEAM CLEANER Steam Mouse, new, portable, steams away mildew, grime, car detail, soap scum, etc., \$30. 816-591-1011.

RIDE-ON POLICE motorcycle, Fisher Price Power Wheels, great condition, \$75. 913-909-6998.

DINING ROOM table, glass and marble, 6 matching chairs plus side table, \$450 OBO for set, will sell separately, pictures available. 816-550-7485.

JOSEPH AND the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat tickets, 2 p.m. Sunday, April 1, Music Hall, 2 available, right orchestra, row G, \$45.50 each. 913-649-3871.

BUNK BED, sturdy white tubular frame, lower full-sized futon converts to couch, upper twin has guard rails and built-in ladders, mattresses included, \$170 OBO. 785-832-8885.

ANTIQUÉ BARBER chair, good condition, \$350. 816-835-2057.

UPDATED HOUSE, 5532 Maple, Mission, 2 BR, 2 BA, finished full basement w/bonus room, less than 4 miles from KUMC, newly remodeled kitchen and baths, photos at myspace.com/5532Maple, \$161,850. 913-530-4687.

LAKE PROPERTY, Lake Pomme de Terre, 2 adjoining lots ready to build on, 4 acres each, wooded in established development, great for summer home or cabin, owner financing available. 816-454-9252.

NORTHLAND HOME, 4 BR, 3 BA, lots of extras, close to shopping and schools, \$279,900, vippropertychicago.com/7804nw77kcmo.html. Open house 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 816-591-0888.

Social Workers Help Support Patients

The Department of Case Management at The University of Kansas Hospital marked National Social Work Month in March by releasing statistics on the efforts 21 social workers make to support patients and their families.

Currently, 18 full-time and three part-time social

workers cover all hospital inpatient units and the Cancer Center, including Radiation Oncology, dialysis center and the Ryan White program. In addition, there is dedicated on-site weekend staff and on-call staff.

From October through December, hospital social workers followed 4,122 patients:

- Inpatient cases: 2,187
- Outpatient cases: 1,457
- Emergency cases: 77
- Rehabilitation cases: 117

Classified ads

Send or bring your ad, 30 words or less, to 2330 Shawnee Mission Pkwy., Suite E302, Westwood, KS 66205-2005, fax to 8-0241, or e-mail centerexpress@kumc.edu by noon Thursday of the week before it is to run. Ads run free of charge for employees, students and volunteers. All ads must include the advertiser's name and work extension (or student box number) for verification. Only home phone numbers – no pager numbers or work extensions – will be published. Please include area code. No ads for commercial services or pets for sale will be accepted. Ads will not be taken by telephone. Ads may be held a week if space is limited.

REFRIGERATOR, white, ice maker; stove, both in great working condition, 4-5 years old, \$300, will split up. 913-766-3298.

COLONIAL-STYLE house, 9708 Horton in Nall Hills subdivision, 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA, lots of space, huge yard, Shawnee Mission school district, FSBO, \$230,000. 913-660-5808.

For Rent

SPACIOUS HOUSE, 2 BR, sun porch, off-street parking, safe neighborhood, 5 minutes from KUMC, \$600 per month, \$600 deposit. 913-432-5248 after 5 p.m.

NEW HOUSE, 4708 Reinhardt Dr., Roeland Park, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 levels, fireplace, skylight, deck, washer hook-up on both levels, garage, off-street parking, \$1,200/month. 913-963-5472.

HOUSE, 2 BR, quiet street, 5 minutes from KUMC, \$550 per month, \$550 deposit. 913-432-5248 after 5 p.m.

REMODELED STUDIO apartment, 5 minutes from KUMC, \$300 per month, \$300 deposit. 913-432-5248 after 5 p.m.

Wanted

GIRLS BASKETBALL players, 6th-7th grade, 8-week spring session of competitive basketball, experienced players only. 913-593-9588.

Free to Good Home

INDOOR CATS, 2 playful 2 year olds, fixed, vaccinated, litter-boxed trained, owner can no longer care for them. 816-836-1102.

DECLAWED CAT, 6-month-old male, dark striped, lives indoors, calm and sweet, good with all ages, moving and can't take him. 913-927-8094.

eXtra: Find classifieds on the hospital intranet, intranet.kumc.edu, under "Quick Links."

CENTER eXpress

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- Psychiatric cases: 284

Social workers help patients and their families manage issues that can get in the way of medical care. They provide support and brief counseling, link patients and families with community resources, advocate for vulnerable children and adults, as well as those with financial hardship, and lead the way to arrange hospital discharges, especially to nursing care facilities and other hospitals.