A new way to attract more students into nursing

Novel program shares curriculum of KU, community college

When Makayla Dunn and Nichole Armintrout walked down Campanile Hill last Sunday, they did so as true pioneers – the first graduates of the Kansas University-Community College Nursing Partnership’s shared-curriculum program.

In the groundbreaking endeavor, students simultaneously receive their Associates Degrees in Nursing (ADN) from Kansas City Kansas Community College and their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees from the University of Kansas.

The new program is being closely watched by the nation’s healthcare industry. With the number of baby boomer nurses retiring soon, combined with the healthcare needs of an aging general population, there is an unprecedented demand for new nurses, especially those with BSNs.

To address the need, KU School of Nursing officials in 2013 met with leaders from the state’s community colleges that have accredited nursing programs to discuss a combined curriculum. By 2014 the schools had received approval of the pre-licensure partnership model from the Kansas Board of Nursing and the Kansas Board of Regents.

Kansas City Kansas Community College was selected as the pilot school. “This program in nursing education will benefit not only our students and the community, but it will potentially affect nursing education in general,” said Anita Krondak, interim dean of the college’s Allied Health and Nursing.

About 20 students at the college are in the program, with more enrolling each semester. David Martin, RN, director of the RN-to-BSN and Shared Curriculum Program at KU, said the program currently is limited to about 50 students, but the potential for growth is unknown.

Discussions are underway with other Kansas community colleges to provide similar programs in the hopes it will open doors for many more students to enter the nursing profession.

“The partnership makes the transition much smoother for the student, while building relationships and capacity between the university and community college nursing efforts,” said Nelda Godfrey, PhD, RN, associate dean for undergraduate programs at KU School of Nursing.

“Ultimately, students can move easily through the pathway and achieve both degrees,” she added. “Simply said, it’s a better, more efficient pipeline for educating nurses.”

By the Numbers: Uncompensated Care

The University of Kansas Hospital is committed to care for the region’s medically underserved patients.

$283 MILLION

Uncompensated care provided to medically underserved patients since 2010

Uncompensated care (by fiscal year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>dollars</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>36.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>41.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>59.9</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>51.9</td>
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Uncompensated care (by patient residence)

- 2.2% Other states
- 14.9% Johnson County
- 15.1% Other Kansas counties
- 40.0% Wyandotte County
- 27.8% All Missouri counties

The University of Kansas Hospital receives no state or local funding.
Events

- **Metastatic cancer support group** – Discuss, give and receive support about managing issues related to living with metastatic cancer. The class, which is only for people living with metastatic or advanced cancer, is 10:30 a.m.-noon Wednesdays at Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing. Call 913-574-0900 to register; you must speak with an adult program manager before attending.

- **Building resilience** – A diagnosis of cancer, heart disease or other serious illness brings a series of stressors. Learn how to use resilience to neutralize that stress, draw on internal resources and bounce back. The class is 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, May 31-July 5, at Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing in Leawood. Call 913-574-0900 to register.

- **Heart Walk** – The University of Kansas Hospital again is forming a team to participate in the American Heart Association’s annual Heart & Stroke Walk/5K, which is Saturday, June 18, at the Power & Light District. The team is open to staff and the public. Email Nichole Kempf (nkempf@kumc.edu) to join.

- **London calling** – The second annual “Party of the Summer” is Saturday, June 25, under the 12th Street Bridge in downtown Kansas City. The evening, which features a range of London-themed food and entertainment stations, benefits programs at The University of Kansas Hospital’s Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing. Go to turningpointkc.org for details.

More events are at turningpointkc.org.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Treating the hearts of cancer survivors

Surviving cancer is monumental – and so is surviving its treatment complications.

Certain chemotherapy and other cancer treatment drugs can cause cardiovascular disease. Survivors with elevated cholesterol, a history of smoking, left chest radiation, hypertension and other factors also are at higher risk.

It’s why The University of Kansas Hospital has developed one of the few programs in the country focused on warding off heart disease in cancer patients.

“The No. 1 cause of death in breast cancer survivors is cardiovascular disease,” said cardiologist Charles Porter, MD, “It’s not recurrent cancer.”

He and breast oncologist Carol Fabian, MD, started the program in 2008. Jennifer Klempp, PhD, MPH, has also been instrumental. Along with several cardiology nurse practitioners, they established the cardiovascular disease component of the breast cancer survivorship program.

The hospital’s cardio-oncology program now includes cardiologists, cardiac nurse practitioners, cancer researchers and oncologists treating a variety of solid tumors and leukemias. They work to ensure cancer patients receive the best possible treatment to cure or suppress malignancies while minimizing cardiovascular complications.

If a patient experiences an arrhythmia, chest pain or heart failure, oncologists can now count on the cardiology team to provide treatments tailored to the circumstances of the patient’s cancer treatment.

“The old paradigm in cardiology was to simply have the cancer specialist stop the treatment and go to a ‘Plan B’ treatment, which was easier on the heart but also less likely to defeat the cancer,” said Porter.

“The mind shift now is: ‘We’re fighting the primary disease, which is cancer, and the secondary issue is the heart.’”

Cardio-oncology remains an emerging science. Porter is working with colleagues around the country to develop treatment standards and educational programs. He also has co-authored a paper on advanced training programs in cardio-oncology.

Clinical research also is in developmental stages. Few randomized clinical trials in cancer patients are primarily focused on cardiac outcomes.

“Through my eight years in cardio-oncology,” Porter said, “I’ve developed a structured approach, but it remains a work in progress that provides a platform for future program growth.”

EXPOSURE

Topped out!

The University of Kansas Medical Center’s Health Education Building is officially topped out. During the May 12 ceremony, medical center leadership signed the final beam, which was then raised and put in place at the top of the building. The facility, located on the north side of the main campus, is scheduled to open in July 2017. It will support education of more physicians, nurses and allied healthcare professionals.
In the News

A recap of recent articles, TV segments and other media coverage of the region’s leading academic medical center

**Collaboration on cancer drug** - The Kansas City Business Journal, May 10. The University of Kansas Medical Center granted exclusive rights to CicloMed LLC for Ciclopirox Prodrug, a novel agent targeting bladder cancer. "This drug has real potential to become the first KU-invented cancer drug that will span the entire process, from discovery to development, and ultimately to patients," said The University of Kansas Cancer Center Director, Roy Jensen, MD.

**Share 35 prolongs transplant wait** – KMUW, May 3. In the legislative session’s final weekend, Kansas lawmakers passed a bill enabling patients with MELD scores (a measure of how sick they are) of 35 or higher. Liver allocation previously was focused more on local patients with that MELD score. "People here need to know," said Richard Gilroy, MD, "if fewer transplants are done in Kansas, more people will die on the wait list."

**Banning minors from tanning beds** – KMUW, May 3. In the legislative session’s final weekend, Kansas lawmakers passed a bill banning minors from using commercial tanning beds. The bill was a priority for The University of Kansas Cancer Center. Director Roy Jensen, MD, provided blunt testimony to help overcome opposition. "Indoor tanning causes cancer," he said. "There is no scientific dispute. There is no intelligent contradiction to that. It’s a fact." Studies show teenagers who regularly use tanning beds increase their chances of developing melanoma.

**Woman weds in hospital** – KMBC, April 30. Toni King was an expecting bride to be. She was due in June, her wedding scheduled for April 30. Her baby, however, had other plans. King had complications with her pregnancy and was quickly admitted to The University of Kansas Hospital. Instead of postponing the wedding, she and her finance decided to tie the knot in the hospital. "A miracle happened, and everybody was in it to make this happen," said King. She and her now husband are quick to thank hospital employees for helping them say "I do."

**Turning Point’s crowdfunding campaign**

Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing is turning to crowdfunding to provide its programs online. The programs will be available for those who are homebound or live far away. The goal is to raise $50,000 by Thursday, June 30. To donate, go to Indiegogo.com and search "Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing." You’ll find videos, updates on how much has been raised and a “Contribute Now” button. Donors receive a special perk, or incentive, with different levels of giving. You can also share this campaign with your family and friends.

Leawood-based Turning Point, which is part of The University of Kansas Hospital, is a gathering place for people with serious or chronic illness and their loved ones. All programs are offered free of charge.

**Celebrating rehab partnership in OP**

The University of Kansas Hospital last fall announced a partnership with the Rehabilitation Hospital of Overland Park, part of the Post Acute Medical network. To honor the partnership, representatives from the three organizations, and from the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony last month at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Overland Park.

The facility, which opened in February 2015, features 45 private rooms, including a secured 14-bed Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, the only one of its kind in the metro. The state-of-the-art hospital is located at 5100 Indian Creek Parkway, several blocks northeast of our hospital’s Indian Creek Campus. It provides inpatient and outpatient care.

The partnership provides additional capacity for our hospital’s rehab patients. The University of Kansas Physicians also provides medical leadership to the Overland Park facility.

**Next bridge phase to alter traffic flow**

As part of The University of Kansas Hospital’s Cambridge North Tower project, more traffic changes are slated for this summer.

Starting Monday, May 23, work begins to enclose the two-story pedestrian bridge and install glass panels.

With the construction, southbound traffic entering Cambridge Drive from 39th Street will be reduced to one lane. The lane will shift and will be marked by cones. Ensure you pay attention to all signage and flagmen. This phase of construction is expected to last into mid-July.

The unique pedestrian bridge, which connects the new tower to the Center for Advanced Heart Care, is designed with patient privacy in mind. One floor will be dedicated solely to clinical staff and patient transport, while the other floor will be open to visitors and other hospital traffic.

NICU selfie

The University of Kansas Hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit hosted its annual NICU reunion last month. The event brings together NICU babies, parents, physicians and staff for a joyful afternoon. Among them: neonatologist Krishna Dummula, MD, MPH (from left); pediatric nurse practitioner Robert Fenton; and Erin Becker and her daughter Lena, 20 months. The NICU “graduates” approximately 350 babies each year.
Our People

Humanitarian honors for student group – The Kansas University Medical Center International Outreach (KUMCIO), which is operated by students, has been named Humanitarian Organization of the Year by Woodland Charity, a local agency that works with healthcare, religious, university and other institutions in the Midwest.

In Guatemala, School of Nursing students and faculty provided more than 400 check-ups to youths and their parents.

For the last five years, KUMCIO has partnered with Woodland Charity to provide medical care in Guatemala and Panama. A team of 10 volunteers from the medical center traveled to Panama in February to provide medical care in Cañita, Kuna, Buenos Aires and Bethel.

And in January, students and faculty from the KU School of Nursing traveled to Guatemala to care for the people of San Luis Patanatic, San Juan, San Pablo and Patanatic, Sololá Guatemala.

The nursing school also is establishing a program focused on community health education in the region of Sololá. The program will enable more students to travel to Guatemala for several weeks to offer medical care and learn more about the country’s cultures.

Celebrating excellence in electrophysiology – The Isenberg family, which founded and ran an electrical wholesale company in Kansas City for three generations, has expanded its generous support of The University of Kansas Hospital’s heart programs.

The family has created the Isenberg Family Award for Excellence in Electrophysiology Care, which recognizes an outstanding EP employee each year.

The inaugural recipient, Paul Wohletz, RN, was honored May 10 by co-workers and Isenberg family members. The tribute specifically is given in memory of their father and mother, Ernest and Vera Isenberg.

Wohletz joined the EP lab in 2013. Located on the second floor of the Center for Advanced Heart Care, the lab is staffed by physicians, nurses, technicians, support staff and others. They rely on ablations, pacemakers, defibrillators and other noninvasive methods to treat patients’ irregular heart rhythms.

Wohletz said he’s honored to be the award’s first recipient. “It’s wonderful to be able to do something you truly enjoy for a career,” he said, “but it’s even better knowing you can positively affect someone else’s life simply by doing what you enjoy.

“To be formally recognized for that,” he added, “is a great reminder that the care we deliver truly makes a difference in patients’ lives.”

Awards for nephrology nursing – Terry Bloomer, RN, and Denise Loftiss, RN, have received this year’s Judy Greathouse Merit Award in Nephrology Nursing.

Bloomer is a nurse coordinator in the Center for Transplantation; Loftiss is unit coordinator in inpatient Renal Dialysis. Throughout their long and distinguished nursing careers at The University of Kansas Hospital, they have exemplified excellence in nursing through compassion, dedication, professionalism and outstanding patient care, according to their nominations.

The award is given by the University of Kansas Medical Center’s Kidney Institute and Division of Nephrology. It honors the memory of Judy Greathouse, kidney transplant coordinator at our hospital for more than 40 years.