Military Calls on Hospital
Burn Center Expert

When the nursing services section of the U.S. Army Reserve’s 325th Field Hospital wanted an expert to speak on severe burn injuries and treatment procedures, it came to the hospital recognized as the best in the region – The University of Kansas Hospital.

To help prepare troops and nursing personnel who were recently deployed overseas as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Rosie Thompson, RN, MSN, clinical nurse specialist, Burn Center, spoke to a large group of registered nurses, LPNs, aides and paramedics. Her presentation was made at Army Reserve headquarters in Independence, Mo.

Thompson was chosen by Lt. Col. Carol Kappelman, a KU School of Nursing graduate, practicing nurse and Army reservist, who is currently working on her graduate degree at the SoN.

“I asked around, and Rosie’s name came up every time because of her experience and the expertise of the Burn Center,” Kappelman said.

The Burnett Burn Center at The University of Kansas Hospital is the only facility in the region certified by both the American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons.

During her lecture, Thompson reviewed burn management principles, including immediate burn assessment, fluid resuscitation, wound care, airway and inhalation injuries and intubation procedures.

“Intubation of burn victims should be done by your most experienced person,” Thompson advised. “Because of swelling in the airway, you often don’t get a second chance.”

Thompson discussed the importance of protecting the patient from infection and further injury, preventing loss of body fluids and regulating body temperature. She also explained treatment options for various types of burn injuries, such as chemical and electrical burns, and special procedures used in caring for pediatric burns.

Thompson is a much sought-after speaker. She makes about 18 presentations a year to groups such as hospital emergency departments, paramedic and pre-emergency services and schools of nursing.

“As a nationally certified Burn Center, we are involved with burn care education in the community,” Thompson said. This was her first presentation to a military unit, and she found it to be a humbling experience.

“Seeing all those men and women, fellow nurses, in their uniforms preparing very soon to leave the U.S. to serve overseas was quite overwhelming,” she said. “There was such positive energy in the air and such a sense of purpose and dedication. I am very proud the hospital supports this type of program so that we are able to help those who serve.”
Two nurses at The University of Kansas Hospital received the second annual Riss Family Awards for Excellence in Neuroscience Nursing at a special recognition ceremony Feb. 4 in Hixson Atrium.

Chris Henderson, RN, Unit 15, was honored by nurse manager Stacy Smith, RN, and Erin Schehrer, RN, Unit 53, was honored by nurse manager Thu Janes, RN. The nurse managers spoke briefly about the accomplishments of the recipients before the awards were presented by Robert and Loretta Riss.

The Riss family of Kansas City, Mo., established the award last year. Robert Riss, a former patient, said the awards are a way he and his family can say “thank you” to the hospital for the outstanding care he received.

The awards, which include a check for $1,000, recognize nurses for their care of neuroscience patients and for demonstrating exceptional work in the Five Star Performance areas of service, people, quality, cost and growth.

After completing five years of college to become a medical technologist, Henderson switched to nursing. She graduated from the KU School of Nursing in 1983.

“I started talking to my microscope and decided it was time to change,” said Henderson, who has worked in various hospital units and enjoys the interaction with her patients. “I find neurosurgery to be interesting, challenging and totally fascinating work.”

Schehrer worked as a nurse’s aide on Unit 42 while completing her undergraduate degree in the SoN. She now serves as a preceptor to newly hired graduate nurses on Unit 53.

“Receiving this recognition is the ultimate compliment by my peers and physicians for doing something that I love,” Schehrer said.

HIPAA Compliance Q & A

This is the fourth in a series of articles answering specific questions about the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Q: How can I learn more about HIPAA at KUMC?

A: Check out the HIPAA Web site at www.kumc.edu/hipaa.

KUMC, which includes The University of Kansas Hospital, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas University Physicians, Inc., and KU HealthPartners, Inc., is committed to teaching its workforce and patients about the privacy rights guaranteed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

The HIPAA Web site provides basic information about patient privacy rights in “HIPAA 101.” A brief PowerPoint presentation outlines the fundamentals of the law, and “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) provides answers to common questions about HIPAA.

In the “Training” section, members of the KUMC community...
Heart Team Offers Tips for National Heart Failure Awareness Week

Are you or someone you know at risk for heart failure?

Feb. 8-14 is National Heart Failure Awareness Week. The physicians of Mid-America Cardiology at The University of Kansas Hospital can provide you information on heart failure, symptoms and treatments.

Some people with heart failure do not show signs, while others may experience one or more of the following symptoms:

- Progressive, unexplained fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Shortness of breath while lying flat
- Awakening with shortness of breath
- Swollen ankles, legs, belly and/or lower back

Heart failure affects nearly five million Americans. As more people survive heart attacks but are left with weakened hearts, it is the most important major form of cardiovascular disease whose occurrence is still on the rise, according to cardiologist Charles Porter, MD.

“Heart failure is much more common than many people realize and is often under-recognized,” Porter said.

It is a progressive condition in which the heart muscle weakens and gradually loses its ability to pump enough blood to supply the body’s needs. It can be caused by coronary artery disease (blocked arteries to the heart), high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, smoking, alcohol consumption, viruses, heart structure abnormalities, thyroid malfunction, use of illicit drugs such as cocaine or other conditions.

There are several medications that can help control heart failure when taken as directed by a physician.

“Implantable devices based on pacemaker systems have recently been developed that can help prevent sudden cardiac arrest and death, as well as contribute to improved heart function and quality of life,” Porter said.

“What was standard, appropriate treatment for heart failure a few years ago may no longer provide the best results now,” Porter added. “The physicians of the Heart Failure Clinic at The University of Kansas Hospital are happy to review the medical programs of any patients with heart failure to help assure they are getting the best possible treatment.”

While there is currently no known cure for heart failure, recent scientific advances in treatment offer patients a more normal life expectancy. For more information about heart failure and other cardiac diseases, visit the “Cardiac Health” section of www.kumed.com or call the Health Resource Line at 8-1227.

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can complete required tutorials on the ways HIPAA affects their jobs.

The “Research” section of the site provides information about the impact of HIPAA on research activities, as well as instructions and documents researchers may need to prepare for their studies.

In the “Patient Rights” section, patients can obtain an online version of the KUMC Notice of Privacy Practices, which outlines the ways we protect patients’ privacy. It also discusses how we may use and share our patients’ health information.

The KUMC HIPAA Web site contains extensive information about patient privacy rights, and the site will continue to grow.

Forms, more FAQs and HIPAA-related links are being developed to create a true one-stop site for patient privacy rights. Also, contact information for HIPAA privacy officials at KUMC is listed on the Web site. The privacy officials are always available to discuss and answer questions about the protection of patient privacy.
Winter in the Garden

A lack of flowers, bubbling fountains and outdoor diners did not diminish the beauty of the hospital’s Auxiliary Garden last week. Not a footprint disturbed the eight inches of newly fallen snow that created beautiful patterns of light and dark on tables and benches.

Employees “Go Red for Women”

Connie Williams (left), administrative assistant, Medical Staff Affairs, showed her support for women’s heart health Feb. 6 by wearing red and getting a health screening in the hospital’s Clinical Labs. Cathleen Jane, medical technologist, performed the blood tests in the Boley Conference Room. About 100 people donated $10 to receive health screenings, which included blood pressure and cholesterol checks. The event was part of the American Heart Association’s national Go Red for Women campaign.

Tracie Hammond, hospital wellness specialist (below left), helped staff a women’s heart health table outside the cafeteria Feb. 6 for the Go Red for Women campaign. The information included the warning signs of a heart attack and stroke and steps to take to improve your heart health.
Black History Month Speaker

Daryl Davis, author of the book "Klan-Destine Relationships," spoke Feb. 6 about "winning over his enemies" and developing personal relationships with members of the Ku Klux Klan. His presentation was part of the Black History Month lecture series, sponsored by the KUMC Diversity Initiative, Students Educating and Advocating for Diversity and the Student National Medical Association. Davis, a pianist, initially established relationships with members of the Klan through his music. He then decided to write a book on racism and interviewed Klan members. Over time, several Klan members resigned as a result of their friendship and respect for Davis.

Automated Testing

The Clinical Labs’ new power processor automation line (above) processed about 100 additional blood specimens during the Go Red for Women campaign Feb. 6. The new state-of-the-art technology eliminates manual steps and mislabeling errors and significantly decreases lab turn-around times. The lab processes, tests and stores about 1,000 blood specimens each day.

Heart Hospital Construction

Tajquah Hudson (below left), senior vice president, Business and Strategic Development, Mark Tasker, project coordinator, and Keith Diercksen, construction superintendent, oversee progress on the hospital’s new heart facility. It is being built in the space north of the Emergency Department at the corner of Cambridge and 39th Streets.

To make way for the heart facility, a new ramp leading to the Emergency Department entrance and a new ramp down to the loading dock are under construction. The new ED ramp has also made it necessary to move and install new temporary cooling radiators for the hospital’s emergency generators, which are located in the loading dock.

So far, construction of the heart facility has included the removal of 2,000 yards of rock, the installation of two tons of concrete reinforcement steel and the pouring of 246 yards of concrete.
The Kansas Health Foundation has given $500,000 to establish a scholarship fund for University of Kansas School of Medicine students in honor of the foundation’s former chairman.

The gift from the Wichita-based foundation to the Kansas University Endowment Association will establish the John T. Stewart III Scholarship for MD/MPH Students. The scholarship will be awarded to five SoM students enrolled at either the KUMC or Wichita campuses who are pursuing master’s degrees in public health (MPH) in addition to medical degrees. The degree program is administered by the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health. Medical students can elect to add a year to their medical studies to complete the public health degree.

“With a master’s degree in public health, health care workers have the skills to assess health characteristics and risk factors in entire populations,” Frazier said. “They can plan, implement and evaluate an intervention to improve the overall health of a population or to handle an outbreak of an illness such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). They also may become involved in developing public policy.”

The Kansas Health Foundation is a private philanthropy dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans. Each year, the foundation awards grants totaling nearly $20 million to groups in Kansas. The organization’s primary funding areas are public health, children’s health and leadership. Since its inception, the Kansas Health Foundation has given more than $20 million to KU Endowment.

The grant from the foundation counts toward KU First: Investment in Excellence, the largest fund-raising campaign in KU history.
Researcher Publishes Hepatitis Findings

A KUMC researcher has published findings that could lead to a more precise treatment for Hepatitis C, the country’s most common chronic liver disease.

Curt Hagedorn, MD, professor and director of the Division of Gastroenterology/Hepatology in the Department of Internal Medicine, published the results in the December issue of *Virology*, a leading international journal on viruses. Hagedorn’s article was written in conjunction with a team of researchers at Emory University School of Medicine, where Hagedorn worked before coming to KUMC.

“What we found is a changed (mutant) protein that is likely to increase the spread of the Hepatitis virus in the liver and in the blood. While these results were in animal studies, the results could provide us with a road map in targeting treatments that stop or at least slow the progression of the disease,” said Hagedorn.

Leadership Series

The Department of Health Policy and Management’s 2004 Leadership Series continues with noon lectures on Fridays in Room 1050, School of Nursing.

- **Feb. 20** – “Emotional Intelligence: A Leadership Advantage,” James Dugan, PhD, licensed psychologist, Student Counseling and Educational Support Services.
- **March 19** – “Creative and Constructive Approaches to Conflict,” Cynthia Howard, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Health Policy and Management, School of Medicine.
- **May 21** – “Cultural Competence,” Patricia Thomas, MD, associate dean for Cultural Enhancement and Diversity and chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, KU School of Medicine; and Chuck Romero, diversity coordinator, chair of the Diversity Advisory Council and co-director for Center of Excellence for Minority Medical Education and Office of Cultural Enhancement and Diversity.

Caregiver Training

If you care for an aging relative or friend and are interested in learning more about giving the best care to your loved one, as well as taking care of yourself, a free five-week caregiver training session begins Wednesday, March 3. The classes are sponsored by the Center on Aging, the American Red Cross and Heart of America Family Services. You may register for one or all classes.

Classes will be held March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 from 9:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Topics will include:

- Six Principles of Care/Home Safety
- Normal Aging Process
- Assisting with Personal Care
- Assistive and Adaptive Devices
- Legal and Ethical Issues
- Community Resources
- Positioning and Transferring
- Healthy Eating
- Working with Health Care Providers
- Care for the Caregiver

All classes will be held at the Landon Center. Registration is required. Contact Matt Chandler at 8-3094 or mchandle@kumc.edu.

Rack ’Em Up

You can rack up a victory for the Kirsten Project Spinal Cord Injury Fund and help benefit The University of Kansas Hospital’s Rehabilitation Clinic by taking part in the first annual 8 Ball Singles Tournament. The benefit tournament begins at noon, Saturday, Feb. 21, at Side Pockets in Lenexa, Kan.

There is a $20 minimum donation required. Prizes include two round-trip tickets to Las Vegas and a two nights’ stay at the Orleans Hotel and Casino, an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Overland Park West, and a new pool cue stick and case. Players must register at Side Pockets by 11:30 a.m. the day of the tournament or in advance by calling 913-888-POOL.
Thursday, Feb. 12

• “History of Race and Medicine in America,” Evelynn Hammonds, PhD, reception 4:30 p.m., lecture 5 p.m., Clendening Auditorium.

Friday, Feb. 13

• Neurology Grand Rounds, “Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease,” James Galvin, MD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, 8:30-9:30 a.m., 1563 hospital.


• Wellness Program, “Understanding Alzheimer’s,” Brian Ghafari-Naraghi, RN, noon-1 p.m., Landon Center, Room 200.

• KUMC International Outreach auction, 6:30 p.m., Battenfeld Auditorium.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

• Student National Medical Association Soul Food Sampler, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Stoland Lounge.

For a more complete listing of campus events, go to http://www2.kumc.edu/calendar/.

Submissions Needed for Annual Creative Magazine

Feeling creative?

Synapse, the annual creative journal produced by the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine and funded by the Kansas University Endowment Association, is seeking submissions.

The 2004 edition is accepting works of art, photography and creative writing, both poetry and prose, of 700 words or less from KUMC students, faculty, staff and employees. Work should be submitted by 5 p.m. March 10 to Matthew Scanlon, 2025 Robinson, by campus mail or by e-mail at mscanlon@kumc.edu. Original works of art or slides are welcome. Or, work can be submitted by e-mail if the file is 8” x 10” and 300 dpi.

Entry forms are available in the Robinson office. If you have questions, contact Scanlon at 8-7042 or by e-mail.

Last year, the publication received more than 400 submissions. A panel of judges will select the works to be included in the magazine, which will be published in May.

Automotive:

For Sale:
Healthrider exercise equipment, like new, retail price $450, asking $150 OBO. 913-385-7670.

Dinette set, wood table top, black chairs with black and gray padding, rarely used, $100; matching baker’s rack, new, never used, black with wooden drawers, paid $80, asking $40; or $130 for both. 913-271-5175.

Wanted:
2004 graduate wants summer nanny job in or near Olathe, day care and lifeguard experience, wants to be a teacher, has car. 913-558-5279.

A reliable, good car, about $500. 913-488-9398.

Free:
To charitable organization, upright piano. 816-509-4429.

Free to good home:
2-year-old spayed female dog, 1/2 gold-ten retriever, 1/2 great Pyrenees, very friendly, housebroken. 816-532-9582.