

IN THE CENTER

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It's "Hip, Hip, HIPAA!" As Deadline Nears

Are you hip to HIPAA? Do you know what HIPAA means to you as an employee of a health care organization and to our patients?

HIPAA stands for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The law was designed to make health insurance portable, so that people changing jobs and health plans could keep their health insurance coverage. It also increases health organizations' and providers' accountability in safeguarding health information and simplifies health care administration.

"We hope HIPAA is a household word to KUMC employees by April 14," said Bob Spaniol, PhD, RN, director, HIPAA Commitment, KU Med.

Over the past year, Spaniol has



HIPAA privacy officials (from left) Bob Spaniol, PhD, RN, Julie Roth, JD, Karen Blackwell, Don Branson, Rich Sahlfeld, director, KU Med Medical Records, and Rachel Dalthorp, assistant director, HIPAA Compliance, review materials during a recent meeting.

worked with fellow privacy officers Karen Blackwell, director, HIPAA Compliance, University of Kansas Medical Center, Don Branson, KU Physicians, Inc., and Julie Roth, JD, KU HealthPartners, Inc., to establish privacy and confidentiality standards and safeguards at KUMC and to educate all employees on federal privacy requirements that go into effect April 14.

The privacy section of HIPAA gives patients access to their medical records and more control over how their records are used and disclosed. It also holds institutions accountable for compliance and establishes civil and criminal penalties for violations of patient privacy.

Beginning April 14, all patients coming to KU Med or campus clin-

ics will receive a Notice of Privacy Practices. It tells patients about their privacy rights and explains our practices regarding their personal health information.

With new patient rights come increased responsibilities for all KUMC employees, Spaniol said. It's easy for employees to unintentionally share patient information in these ways:

- Did you share a patient's medical condition with a concerned friend?
- Did others overhear as you discussed a patient's condition in the elevator?
- Did you leave patient information on your computer screen when you left your workstation?

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Executive Forum

HIPAA Compliance Is Everyone's Responsibility

Beginning April 14, new federal regulations will control the use and disclosure of health information. These regulations, part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), will require us to notify our patients about our privacy practices and to use patient information only as allowed by law.

It's important to remember that the new privacy regulations apply to all of us, even if our jobs do not involve patient care. Everyone in the KUMC community is responsible for respecting the privacy rights of our patients and following the requirements of this new law.

Protecting the privacy of patient records is nothing new at KUMC. Long before HIPAA became law in 1996, we instituted procedures that allowed patients to access and view

their medical records. We also took steps to secure patient privacy and the confidentiality of health information.

In recent years, however, all of us have become more concerned about privacy due to faxing and increased computer transmissions of health care information. While technology offers more efficient and effective health care delivery, it also creates some risks and concerns.

The new privacy regulations codify some of KUMC's long-standing practices and hold all health care institutions and providers to the same standards.

Over the past few years, the University of Kansas Medical Center, KU Med, KU Physicians, Inc., and KU HealthPartners, Inc., have worked in partnership to address the complex challenges these new regulations represent to

an academic medical center.

These affiliated organizations have shared resources, coordinated procedures, educated employees and communicated information to both patients and employees. And they will continue to do so in the weeks and months ahead, creating a seamless experience for our patients as they move among the various KUMC health care entities.

We seek your full support of HIPAA regulations and of our continued commitment to protect the privacy of patients and health information at KUMC. Compliance with the regulations will play an important role in preserving our patients' trust and in ensuring the quality of health care, education and research at our institution.



Donald Hagen, MD
KUMC executive vice
chancellor



Irene Cumming
KU Med president and
chief executive officer



Kirk Benson, MD
KU Physicians, Inc.
president



Karen Miller, PhD, RN
KU HealthPartners, Inc.
chief executive officer

Honoring Those in Service

A banner in the lobby of the Mid-America Cardiology (MAC) offices at KU Med displays the names and locations of 21 men and women who are serving in the military – all relatives of employees of Mid-America Cardiology.



Jeannette Powers, a transcriptionist, created the banner with her son, Brandon.

“I believe that these young people are true heroes of our time,” said Powers. “Seeing the panel gives you a sense of the enormity of the war and just how many fine people it has touched – in our practice alone.”

Do you have a family member who is stationed in the Middle East? E-mail *In the Center* editor Barbara Jaekel at bjael or fax information to 8-1063. Include your name and extension, the name of your family member, branch of service, rank and where he or she is stationed.

Names on the MAC Banner:

(Relatives' names appear in parentheses.)

Paul Boring Jr., Marines (Paul Boring)
Christine David, Air Force (Jacqui Rose)
Howard Evans, Army (Connie Schupp)
Jimmy Hall, Marines (Denetta Nelson)
Aaron Hattabaugh, Marines
(Kelly Hattabaugh, RN)
James Hill, Navy (Shaunna Ruble)
Dan Huber, Air Force (Jacqui Rose)
Jeremy Huber, Air Force (Jacqui Rose)
Eric Jacobson II (Erik Jacobson)
Alan Johnson, Army
(Catherine Bajkowski)
Steve Kaja, Navy (Connie Schupp)
Brian Keagy (Lori Wright)
Anthony Lipari, Air Force (Angie Lipari)
Denver Mantooh (Twyla Willard)
Ryan McCoy, Navy (Susan McCoy)
Ryan McFarland, Marines
(Erica Stevenson)
Dan Myers, Army (Stephanie Chaparro)
Christopher Pitman, Navy (Laurell Kurtz)
Matthew Rickard (Pamela Rickard)
Andrew Taylor (Janice Farris)
Steven Werths, Army
(Marilyn Bloomquist)

KU First Family Campaign

Donor values good education

Many of the technologists on Marsha Wilson's staff are KU graduates. And that's fine with her.

As the medical technologist supervisor in the microbiology section of KU Med's Clinical Labs, she appreciates graduates of good training programs.

Wilson said that the KU School of Allied Health's program in clinical laboratory sciences gives students an excellent background in microbiology – something they'll use every day when identifying bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses.

Wilson received bachelor's degrees in microbiology in 1973 and medical technology in 1974 from

KU. She's been working in the Clinical Labs at KU Med ever since.

“I feel like I received a good education at KU,” she said, “but when I went to school it was less expensive.”

Wilson gives to the KU Endowment Association to help defray the cost of education in these economically challenging times. And if more KU grads want to apply to work in her lab, that's just fine.

Her gift counts toward the \$500 million goal of KU First: Invest in Excellence, the largest fund-raising campaign in KU history.

KU Endowment is conducting KU First on behalf of KU and KU Med through 2004 to raise funds



for scholarships, fellowships, professorships, capital projects and program support for the university, and capital projects, program support and patient services for the hospital.

Rehab Unit Certification

Rehabilitation Unit staff members celebrated passing the credentialing exam for the Functional Independence Measure (FIM). The national certification program assures that data measuring patient improvement and outcomes after treatment is reliable and valid and compares favorably with other institutions nationally. Unit members include (clockwise from top left) **Jamie Wilson**, **Lori Allen**, **Cathy Abel, RN**, **Brian Mills**, **Marilyn Morgan**, and **Cathy Yonker, RN**.



Front & Center

It's About Time

Anesha Simmons (below left) practices using KU Med's new time clock system, while **Pam Hancock** watches. The two Radiology film library clerks joined many other employees at the display outside the cafeteria March 25. It provided information on KU Med's new time and attendance system, which began testing this week and goes into effect May 11.



SoN Student Scholarship

David Benson (below right), senior bachelor's degree student at the University of Kansas School of Nursing, was recently awarded a scholarship from Arthur Davis Publishing Company, publisher of the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) newsletter. Benson's scholarship application included a 250-word essay titled "How to Recruit Students into Nursing." Also pictured (from left) are **Mary Blubaugh**, KSBN executive administrator, and **Karen Gilpin**, KSBN board



president.

Live from KUMC

Four-year-old **Caitlyn Viets** (below center) was on the air with Mix 93.3 morning show hosts **Rocket** and **Teresa** (below right) as they broadcast live from the cafeteria March 27. Caitlyn, who has cystic fibrosis and receives care at KUMC, is one of many children who benefit from con-

tributions raised by the annual radiothon for the Children's Miracle Network. Caitlyn was accompanied by her parents, **Dawn** and **Otto Viets**, and her sister, **Mackenzie**. **Dawn Viets, RN**, works in KU Med's Neonatal ICU. The three-day radiothon raised more than \$367,000.

Doctor's Day Celebration at KU Med

Lila Martin, RN (left), Nursing Education and Development, presented **Mike Gaume, MD**, resident, Anesthesiology, a Top Doc award during KU Med's Doctor's Day celebration March 31. Gaume was accompanied by his daughter, **India**, and wife, **Tessa**.



Bart Lindsley, MD (left), Allergy/Clinical Immunology, Rheumatology, talked with Top Doc winners **Michael Gorton, MD**, Cardiothoracic Surgery, and **Jeffrey Bissing, DO**, Cardiology.

Lila Martin, RN, handed a Top Doc award to **Christopher Walker, MD**, resident, Obstetrics and Gynecology. The annual poll, sponsored by the Department of Nursing, selects top doctors and residents based on the total number of nominations they received from hospital employees. Poll criteria were based on KU Med values and Five Star Performance standards.



Class Teaches Med Students How to Talk to High-Risk Patients

They are young, bright, energetic, confident and optimistic. Their minds are stuffed with the knowledge of medical textbooks and hours of lectures. They are beginning to understand the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

— one to play the physician, the other to play the patient. As they role-play a doctor-patient conversation, other students in the class analyze the interaction and make suggestions.

“We start with a potentially curable disease, then move to a patient

often reluctant to tell patients the truth about a diagnosis when the disease is not curable,” he said.

Doctors may not be comfortable thinking about death and dying in relation to their own lives, Jewell said. He believes they must first go through the same acceptance process they expect of their patients.

“Generally, we don’t tell patients whether they are going to live or die. But we may ask patients how they want to live out their lives, what’s important to them, and how we can assist them in making decisions.

“We want to try to get patients in the frame of mind that life is a precious experience, that every day is important and to focus on what they can do today.”



William Jewell, MD (left), mentors third-year medical students Ryan Payne and Anne O'Dea as they role-play a doctor-patient conversation.

But do they know how to communicate with patients? Do they know how to listen? Can they empathize? And, if the time comes, can they bring themselves to speak comfortably and with compassion about end-of-life issues and dying?

Those are some of the tough questions faced by third-year medical students in a class taught by William Jewell, MD, professor of Surgery and director of the Kansas Cancer Institute.

In a small, crowded classroom, students consider what it will be like to talk to high-risk cancer patients and others with life-threatening diseases.

Jewell begins by giving his students a patient scenario — a 20-year-old woman who is 23-weeks pregnant and is found to have a recurring case of melanoma. He then asks for volunteers from the audience

who is not curable, to see how well the students communicate the diagnosis and treatment options to the patient,” Jewell said.

“We can’t teach everything they need to know in a one-hour class, but we hope to get students to think about their actions and their words and to try to understand what is going through the patient’s mind.

“It’s important to be sensitive and to listen very carefully to patients and to their understanding of their conditions.”

Jewell said the class was developed many years ago as part of the cancer education curriculum. Its goal is to improve students’ psychosocial interaction skills. Cancer is used as a role model, but the skills students learn apply to many types of patients with high-risk diseases.

“We found not only students, but also residents and faculty, are

HIPAA Deadline

continued from front page

Under HIPAA, these types of privacy violations and misuse of health information can result in fines to employees and the organization, as well as possible imprisonment and loss of license to physicians, nurses and other licensed health care providers.

“The new privacy regulations apply to all of us, even if our jobs do not directly involve patient care,” said Blackwell.

She encourages everyone to review the HIPAA materials in today’s newsletter insert and to make patient privacy a top priority.

WHAT'S NEWS

AT KUMC

Seminar on Aging

“Aging Hearts, Aging Minds” is the theme of the fourth annual “New Approaches” spring symposium Friday, April 4, in Topeka, Kan. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Kansas Medical Education Foundation and the Central Plains Geriatric Education Center of the KUMC Center on Aging.

The conference will focus on two problems of aging adults: the growing incidence of heart problems and the deterioration of mental abilities.

The program will present an array of new understandings and treatments for congestive heart failure and dementia. It also will include the latest information on hormone replacement therapy and the cardiac status of older women.

For more information on the program and continuing education credits, please call 785-234-8148.

Funding Program

Research Administration and Research Compliance invite you to a program on “The National Science Foundation (NSF) as a Funding Source,” Wednesday, April 9, noon-1 p.m. in Clendening Auditorium.

Harvey Fisher, PhD, professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and recipient of NSF funding, will explore the NSF proposal process.

Topics to be addressed include the NSF mission, scope of funding, review process, proposal content, submission process, budgeting and funding process. Beverages will be provided. Please feel free to bring your lunch.

RSVP by April 8 to Kim Scarbrough at 8-5757 or *kscarbrough*. Please include your name, department and contact number.

Entrepreneurship Seminar

The second in a series of technology transfer seminars will be held Thursday, April 17, 1-5 p.m. in Lied Auditorium, followed by a reception in Hixson Atrium. The topic will be “Understanding the Basics of Entrepreneurship Within the University: Moving Your Idea into the Marketplace.”

The seminar is free and open to those in the health community here and at Children’s Mercy Hospital, University of Health Sciences, Stowers Institute for Medical Research and St. Luke’s Hospital.

The agenda will include an overview of science and technology commercialization issues ranging from intellectual property and technology transfer concepts to business-formation strategies and experiences.

Joseph Kessinger, president, Enterprise Center of Johnson County, will speak on business assistance resources and services available to high-tech start-ups.

Charles Decedue, PhD, executive director, Higuchi Biosciences Center, Lawrence, will discuss how to move a product from academia to the business world.

Michael Peck, vice president of business development and portfolio management, Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation, will offer tips on financing for start-up tech companies.

The half-day event is sponsored by the KUMC Research Institute and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Space is limited. Please register by April 10 by calling 8-5721. For more information about the event, contact James Baxendale, executive director, Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property, 8-1495.

Symphony Night

The Medical Arts Symphony, conducted by Merton Shatzkin, will present a free public concert Saturday, April 25, at 8 p.m. in Battenfeld Auditorium. The program will include Symphony No. 1 in C Minor, Op 23 by Johannes Brahms, Five Mystical Songs by Ralph Vaughn Williams, and the Hansel and Gretel Overture by Engelbert Humperdinck.

Shatzkin will lead a pre-concert discussion of the program in the auditorium at 7:20 p.m.

Classifieds, etc.

Automotive:

1999 Ford ZX2, white, 38.5K, keyless entry, alarm system, AM/FM/tape, very good condition, \$6,300. 816-444-4389.

1999 Honda Passport, 4WD, 41K, white, gray leather interior, CD/cassette, sunroof, automatic, power windows/locks, remote keyless entry, \$16,500. 913-384-4417.

1997 Saturn SL2, 118K, clear coat dark blue, spoiler, factory tinted windows, AM/FM/tape, alloy wheels, good condition, \$4,200 OBO. 913-962-0185.

1995 Mitsubishi Galant ES, 89K, all power, good condition, AM/FM/CD, \$2,800. 913-362-9246.

1985 Oldsmobile Regency, good body, lots of new parts, needs engine and transmission work, \$400 or OBO. 816-356-0522 or 816-616-2727.

For Sale:

3BR, 1BA, ranch, on cul-de-sac near I-70, 525 N. 80th Pl., KCK, 2-year-old roof, A/C, built-in oven, hardwood floors, many perennials. \$77,500. 913-334-4666 or 913-220-9632.

4BR, 2½BA, 2-story house, Corando Hills, 10 minutes from KUMC, full basement, formal DR, huge LR, range, A/C, sunroof/deck. 913-334-2822.

Kimball console piano, \$500; aluminum topper for 6' compact pickup, \$100. 913-334-4666 or 913-220-9632.

Washburn guitar, black, acoustic, practically new, \$125. 913-384-4417.

Little Tykes toddler race car bed, blue, like new, \$100. 816-847-0428.

Free:

Piano, antique upright, BH Janssen. 913-334-4666 or 913-220-9632.

To Rent:

Overland Park townhouse, 2BR, 1½BA, basement, patio, 1-year lease, \$250 deposit, \$675/mo. 816-322-4388.

Wanted:

Study subjects, women 20-35 years of age to participate in non-invasive study of memory processes, maximum of 45 minutes. Call Jennifer or Tania at 8-5956.

Coming Up

Friday, April 4

- 53rd Annual Postgraduate Symposium on Anesthesiology, through April 6, the Fairmont Hotel on the Plaza.
- Psychiatry Grand Rounds, "Heteromodal Sensory Integration Revealed by ERP," Nathaniel Hurwitz, MD, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Sudler Auditorium.
- Caregiver Support Group, "Your Role as a Caregiver," 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Landon Center.

Saturday, April 5

- Medical students' spring formal and award presentation, 6:30 p.m., Overland Park Marriott.

Monday, April 7

- Minority bone marrow drive, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., information table outside cafeteria.

Tuesday, April 8

- National bone marrow donor speech, noon-1 p.m., Wahl Hall East.

Wednesday, April 9

- Minority bone marrow drive, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Hixson Atrium.
- Ophthalmology Grand Rounds, "Retinitis Pigmentosa," Neda Karimi, MD, 4:45-6 p.m., Lied Auditorium.

Thursday, April 10

- Internal Medicine Conference, "Probing Drug Interactions," Aryeh Hurwitz, MD, noon, Sudler Auditorium.
- Music at the Med, Ed Laut, cello, and Alice Downs, piano, noon-1 p.m., Battenfeld Auditorium.



"I think they're HIPAA compliance people."

IN THE CENTER

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