Thousands showed their support for finding a cure for heart disease and stroke June 14 by putting one foot in front of another.

American Heart Association officials estimate 6,000 people participated in the American Heart Walk’s one- and four-mile walks, raising about $700,000. The final tallies may take several weeks as contributions continue to come in.

For the first time KUMC and KU Med joined forces to form a team of more than 550 walkers. Their contributions doubled those of last year, reaching nearly $60,000.

The top departmental fund-raiser was Clinical Labs. Led by team captains Shirley Weber and Ginger Gault, the department raised more than $11,000. Weber was the top individual fund-raiser with $2,846.

“I had a close friend, who was my age, who died unexpectedly a year ago of heart disease,” Weber said. “So this fund-raiser was a wonderful way to do something positive to remember my friend.”

As the Red Cap Survivor Sponsor, KU Med had its logo on caps worn by all survivors of heart disease who participated in the walk. Hospital and university walkers wore bright red team T-shirts and carried KU Med balloons. Many brought their children, pushed babies in strollers or walked with the family dog.

All KUMC and KU Med walkers also received fanny packs and water bottles prior to the walk and were treated to a pancake breakfast afterward.

(More photos appear on page 5.)

Clinical Labs’ walkers were (back row) Marsha Wilson, Cathy Yonkey, Kimberly Guess, Julie Guess, Marilee Means, PhD, and Peter Patterson, MD, director, and (front row) Liz Terra, Shirley Weber, Kassie Reynolds and Veronica Terra.
Kelly E. Lyons, PhD, was recently named director of research at the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorder Center and research associate professor in the Department of Neurology. In her new research-funded position, Lyons will oversee more than 29 ongoing clinical studies testing medications and surgical treatments that may relieve symptoms or help find an eventual cure for Parkinson’s disease and essential tremor.

Lyons also is responsible for writing grants, developing new projects and coordinating projects between KUMC and the KU campus in Lawrence. In addition, she is responsible for forming collaborations with other movement disorder researchers throughout the country.

Along with Rajesh Pahwa, MD, associate professor of Neurology and director of the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorder Center, Lyons edited the third edition of the Handbook of Parkinson’s Disease. The book was published in April 2003.

The Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorder Center began seeing patients at the Landon Center June 9. The rest of the Neurology Department will move to the Landon Center this fall.

The center provides patients with innovative treatment options while giving them an opportunity to take part in important research studies, Lyons said. For example, as a result of its pioneering research into deep brain stimulation begun in 1994, KU Med is one of the nation’s leading providers of this high-tech procedure that relieves patients of the debilitating symptoms of Parkinson’s disease and essential tremor.

Currently, the center is conducting three studies to determine if there are underlying genetic contributions to Parkinson’s disease.

The center is also participating in a multi-national study to determine the effectiveness of transplanting dopamine-producing retinal cells deep in the brain to replenish the 60-80 percent dopamine loss in Parkinson’s disease patients. Another study will research the effects of cortical stimulation of the outer brain on the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease patients.

Lyons said the center also plans to collaborate with the Hoglund Brain Imaging Center on MRI testing of Parkinson’s disease and essential tremor patients.

Previously, Lyons served as a research assistant professor in the Department of Neurology at the University of Miami Medical Center.

She received her undergraduate degree in psychology and master’s and doctoral degrees in experimental/cognitive psychology from KU. She did post-doctoral research in neurodegenerative disease at KUMC, where she also served as an instructor and assistant professor in the Department of Neurology. She is currently first vice president of the International Essential Tremor Foundation headquartered in Lenexa, Kan.
Nominations are currently being accepted for the 13th annual Nursing: The Heart of Healthcare awards, which recognize outstanding registered nurses in Kansas and the metropolitan Kansas City area.

The awards honor nurses for their dedication to patient care, their communities and the nursing profession. The event is coordinated by the University of Kansas School of Nursing as a public service.

The deadline for submitting nominations is July 30. To obtain a nomination form, contact the Nursing: The Heart of Healthcare hotline at 800-308-0890 or 8-1616.

Since the award program began in 1989, more than 5,000 nurses have been nominated. Ten winners are chosen annually from among nearly 500 nominations. The program offers patients, families, colleagues, community members and health professionals an opportunity to honor nurses who have touched their lives.

“Each winner and nominee has forged a distinguished career that combines outstanding professional knowledge with the unwavering capacity for caring that is the essence of nursing,” said Karen Miller, RN, PhD, dean of the SoN.

The award recipients and nominees will be honored at the annual banquet November 7 at the Westin Crown Center Hotel. The award winners are chosen by a selection committee made up of health professionals, past award winners, and community and business leaders from across Kansas and the Kansas City area.

If you want additional information about the program or the awards banquet, contact Kari Ziblut at 8-1616 or kzilbu@kumc.edu.

SoN Associate Dean Receives Computer Technology Award

Helen Connors, RN, PhD, associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Kansas School of Nursing, was recently awarded the Sixth Annual International Recognition Award for Advancement of Computer Technology in Healthcare.

The presentation was made at the 21st Annual International Nursing Computer and Technology Conference April 27-29 in Orlando, Fla. The award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of the use of computer technology in the delivery of health care.

“I am extremely honored to be recognized by Rutgers the State University College of Nursing, Center for Professional Development, because of its long-time commitment to fostering the advancement of technology in health care,” Connors said. “An award given by a peer group always is an exceptional tribute. I am proud to be listed with the previous award winners, whom I consider outstanding contributors to the use of technology in health care.”
Matthew and Molly Kirse began their Memorial Golf Tournament seven years ago after losing two children in infancy, one to sudden infant death syndrome. They were on hand to welcome guests.

KU Children’s Center Benefit Events

Regional managers of Costco stores presented a check to Carol Lindsley, MD, director of the KU Children’s Center. Area stores raised nearly $16,000 from sales of Paul Newman’s Grape Juice. The proceeds were donated to the Children’s Miracle Network, which divided the money equally between KU Children’s Center and Children’s Mercy Hospital. Costco representatives (from left) are Troy Rea, Mike Donaldson, Bruce Miles and Jeth Gonzales. The donation will be used to purchase equipment and fund programs for pediatric patients.

Chuck Cordt, Michael Johnson and Steve Gatrick, representing KU Endowment Association, were among 80 golfers who participated June 13 in the Seventh Annual Molly and Matthew Kirse Memorial Golf Tournament at the Adam’s Pointe Golf Club in Blue Springs. The benefit for KU Children’s Center raises about $15,000 annually for equipment for KU Med’s neonatal and pediatric intensive care units.

Suzuki Retirement

With his two sons by his side, Tsuneo Suzuki, MD, professor, Department of Microbiology, Molecular Genetics and Immunology, greeted guests June 13 during a reception in honor of his retirement. Suzuki, who becomes professor emeritus, served 33 years at KUMC. His sons are Aijiro Suzuki, MD, (left) of Portland, Ore., a 2000 graduate of the KU School of Medicine, and Yozo Suzuki (right), an artist from Santa Fe, N.M.
American Heart Walk

Above, KU Med team members Todd Ackerson and Teri Davis, Float Pool, walked with their dog, Mattie.

Below, walkers enjoy a well-deserved post-walk pancake breakfast.

Above, Irene Cumming, KU Med president and chief executive officer, Jeff Wright, executive director, Cancer Services, Donald Hagen, MD, KUMC executive vice chancellor, and Karen Hagen prepare for the walk.

Cardiology Conference

Sharon Hunt, MD, (left) director of Cardiovascular Medicine, Stanford University Medical Center, Palo Alto, Calif., was one of the presenters June 7 at the inaugural “Symposium on Heart Failure and Cardiac Replacement.” Charles Porter, MD, Cardiology, was course director of the conference held at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel. The symposium was sponsored by Kansas University Medical Center Continuing Education, Mid-America Cardiology and MidAmerica Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons.

Spicer Retirement

Connie Spicer was honored by Stephen Williamson, MD, and members of the Department of Hematology/Oncology for 28 years of service during her retirement reception June 9. In addition to serving as the department’s administrative manager, Spicer oversaw technical and administrative aspects of clinical research and fellowship programs.
Since 1993, concerned doctors, nurses and other professionals have provided missions of mercy to underserved populations as part of the Medical Missions Foundation.

Douglas Girod, MD, chairman and associate professor of Otolaryngology at KUMC, recently returned from his first Medical Missions trip to Greater San Jose del Cabo, Mexico. The trip was coordinated by Douglas Cowan, an incoming student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Adriane DeWitt, MD, a resident in Otolaryngology, also participated.

This mission group, composed of 44 volunteers and 12 doctors, treated more than 600 children and performed 61 operations during their seven-day stay.

“This was my first mission trip and I was very impressed with the amount of effort put out by the local community to make all the arrangements and orchestrate the patients for a very busy week,” Girod said.

“We learned a lot by making do with what we could bring with us in terms of equipment and medicines. While we were not able to do everything we do here at home, we were able to accomplish a lot. Mostly I really enjoyed the patients, the people we were working with in Mexico and the other members of the Missions Foundation. I would return in a heartbeat and plan to do so,” he added.

“This is why I wanted to go into medicine,” said DeWitt. “In medical
Beginning in July, a new service of the University of Kansas Medical Center will assist the state’s rural communities in recruiting physicians and other health care providers.

The Kansas Recruitment Center, a service of Rural Health Education and Services (RHES), will match health care professionals with the right practice or career opportunity, make their relocation as easy as possible and ensure they receive the support and assistance they need.

The center believes the right match will create a win-win situation for the community and the health care professional.

“The Kansas Recruitment Center is committed to improving access to health care by placing health care professionals in our Kansas communities,” said Kathryn Stone, senior coordinator, RHES.

The center will work with hospitals, private physician practices, community health centers and other organizations that recruit physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners or other health care professionals.

In addition, the center serves as a free health care career service placement center. It assists candidates in finding communities and practices or career opportunities that meet their requirements. Matching professionals’ profiles with openings in Kansas increases retention.

The Kansas Recruitment Center will expand its services later this year to include recruitment readiness and feasibility assessment, individual background and reference checks, compensation package consultation and recruitment technical assistance.

Funding for the center is provided by the Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation.

To find out more about the Kansas Recruitment Center or to utilize its services, call toll free 1-888-503-4221 or visit the KUMC Web site at http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu.

Recruitment Center Will Match Health Care Professionals to Kansas Communities

Contest Winner

Terri Kirkland (right), School of Nursing master’s degree student, was the winner of the SoN’s first PROFITS (Professional Integrity System) poster contest. Sally Holkins Whitaker (left), a master’s student on the committee, originated the idea as a way to emphasize honesty and professional integrity among students. The poster contest will be an annual activity of the PROFITS committee.
Thursday, June 19
• “Look Good – Feel Better,” for women undergoing cancer treatment, 2-4 p.m., Cancer Center.

Friday, June 20
• “Sudden Cardiac Arrest,” Loren Berenbom, MD, noon-1 p.m., Room 200, Landon Center.

Saturday, June 21
• United Way “Day of Caring,” 8 a.m.-2 p.m., various locations in Kansas City, Kan. Call 8-1255 to volunteer.

Tuesday, June 24
• “Surfin’ the Net II,” 10 a.m.-noon, Senior Resource Center.
• “Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia,” Jeffrey Holzbeierlein, MD, noon, KU MedWest.

Wednesday, June 25
• AARP Driver’s Safety Program, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Room 200, Landon Center. Continues on Thursday, June 26.

Automotive:
1995 Dodge Neon coupe, strawberry red, power locks and mirrors, automatic, AC, AM/FM/CD player, clean, looks good, runs well, just passed Mo. state inspection, new tires, battery, $2,500 OBO. 816-229-8665.
1991 Honda Civic, 2-door, 5-speed, 110K, AC, new exhaust, needs clutch, some body damage, make offer. 913-381-8452.
1991 Dodge pickup, red, excellent condition, 2-door, hatchback, standard shift, $3,000. 816-241-6116 or 913-279-1015.
1983 Jamboree Rally RV, 29K, 1 owner, A/C, FM/tape, luggage rack, beds for 6, cabinets, gas stove, refrigerator, table and benches, 5’ x 3’ BA with shower/tub and mirror/vanity, $10,000 OBO. 913-403-9345.

For Sale:
5 acres, 23rd and Hollingsworth, Wyandotte County, $60,000. 913-789-9823.
3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, side-split floor plan, Prairie Village, 10 min. to KUMC, hardwood floors, new gutters, dishwasher, newer roof, 2-car garage, driveway, fresh paint inside and out, move-in condition, $162,000. 913-481-5884.
KCK 2 BR, 1 1/2 BA townhouse, full basement, quiet and friendly neighborhood, 2 window A/Cs, 2 ceiling fans, window coverings included, Berkshire Village Townhouses, a HUD housing cooperative, $4,975. 913-362-0574.
2 tickets for IRL race, July 6, Kansas Speedway, excellent aisle seats, face value OBO. 913-281-1078.
Room A/C, works well, $50; dehumidifier, 24 pints/day, excellent condition, $75; refrigerator, top freezer, $60. 913-384-3378.

To Rent:
Roommate wanted to share house in Overland Park, 3 BR, 1 BA, $400 plus 1/2 utilities/mo. 913-322-2877.
Roommate wanted to share house, 3 BR, 1 BA, private entry, parking, 3 blocks from KUMC, $300 plus utilities/mo. 913-630-4220.
4 BR house, basement, garage, C/A, large yard, close to KUMC, available 7/1, $475/mo. 913-722-0505.

Free to Good Home:
Abandoned, young female beagle-mix dog, good natured, friendly. 913-287-2344.