

IN THE CENTER

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Medical Telemetry Unit Opens Doors to Patients

Physicians, nurses and staff on the new sixth-floor Medical Telemetry Unit – Unit 66 – opened their doors to patients Sept. 3.

“We are opening with 12 beds but will soon add additional patients to the new 22-bed unit,” explained Chris Ruder, RN, director of critical and acute care, who is temporarily serving as the unit manager while a search for a permanent manager continues.

The acute care unit will primarily serve two populations, Ruder said. One is patients with non-cardiac-related conditions who require heart monitoring.

General medicine patients will also be cared for on Unit 66, as well as on Unit 41.

The unit features a centralized telemetry monitoring room, where highly skilled technicians will monitor up to 85 patients on Units 66, 45 and 46 on a 24-hour basis.

“This provides us another set of



Janet Walsh, cardiac monitor technician, monitors patients from the centralized telemetry monitoring room of Unit 66.

‘eyes’ to monitor changes in patients’ heart rhythms in addition to the nurses who are already caring for them,” Ruder said. “The centralized telemetry monitoring helps us pick up very subtle changes in heart rhythm well in advance of when a monitor might signal an alarm.”

The environments in Unit 66 and its neighboring Unit 65 are also very different than traditional units.

Large patient rooms are organized into “zones” that meet the specific needs of patients, visitors and hospital staff. In the center of the room is the patient zone. The unique design provides privacy when hospital staff members need to examine or care for patients while visitors are in the room.

The visitor area at the back of the room includes a sitting area and desk near the window where guests can relax, work and make telephone calls. A large reclining chair turns

into a bed, allowing a visitor to spend the night.

The staff zone is located near the door. Directly outside each room, large glass windows and new computer equipment allow hospital staff to observe patients and chart and view patient information without returning to the nursing station.

“At this point, I think everyone on Unit 66 is just eager to get started,” said Timothy T. Dwyer III, MD, assistant professor of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and medical director for the unit.

“There has been a great deal of time and effort spent to solidify our nursing and support staffs. These individuals will be the backbone of Unit 66 and enable it to deliver the type of high-quality patient care the hospital envisioned when it decided to construct the unit.”

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Event Will Raise Funds for KU Med's Rehab Services

The third annual "Stand Up with Kirsten" dinner and auction will be held Sunday, Sept. 21, 5-9 p.m., at Kiełtyka's Stonewall Inn restaurant in Lenexa, Kan.

Since it began, the benefit has raised more than \$70,000 for the Kirsten Project Spinal Cord Injury Fund. The fund has purchased more than \$30,000 of rehabilitation equipment for KU Med's Rehabilitation Services – both the inpatient Rehabilitation Unit and the outpatient Physical Therapy Clinic. The equipment helps patients with spinal cord and other injuries reverse muscle atrophy and learn to use their muscles again, according to Sally Brandt, PhD, director, Rehabilitation Services.

At 19, Kirsten Hanson became paralyzed when a rare birth defect in her circulatory system near her spine caused a stroke. At that time, the rehabilitation equipment needed to help paralyzed patients overcome their challenges did not exist in Kansas City. In response, Kirsten's parents, Dave and Linda Hanson, founded the Kirsten Project to raise money to purchase equipment that has been donated to KU Med.

"Proceeds from the event have helped KU Med purchase a gait training system, which allows partially paralyzed patients to walk on a treadmill while suspended from a harness, and a recumbent exercise bicycle, which sends electrical

impulses to patients' legs, allowing them to pedal and increase their cardiovascular fitness," Brandt said.

Funds also provide financial assistance so uninsured and underinsured patients have access to trial periods on the equipment, as well as provide training for clinicians on the use of the equipment.

Individual tickets to "Stand Up with Kirsten" are \$75 per person, and sponsorships are available at levels from \$250 to \$1,750. The evening includes live music, comedy, and a silent and live auction. Honorary chair of the event is former Kansas City Chief Neil Smith.

For more information or tickets, call 913-677-0430.

MICU Fund Established for Friend and Colleague

As a recipient of the Medical Intensive Care Excellence in Nursing Award, Liz Wisdom, RN, had been selected to represent KU Med's MICU at the National Teaching Institute Conference for Critical Care Nurses. It is a premier week-long education conference for more than 6,000 critical care nurses nationwide held in May.

Sadly, an April 27 automobile accident took her life.

Wisdom's friends and colleagues in the MICU saw her as a teacher and role model for other nurses. Now they have honored her by establishing a new fund in her name: the Elizabeth Wisdom Award for Excellence in the Medical

Intensive Care Unit at KU Med.

The fund will provide an annual stipend for a qualified nurse to attend the National Teaching Institute Conference for Critical Care Nurses, said Doug Peterson, nurse manager, MICU. If the fund grows, Peterson hopes that the money can also be used to establish scholarships for KU nursing students and/or students of Truman State University, which Wisdom attended.

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to this fund, send a check payable to KU Endowment Association to Janice Benjamin, KU Med vice president of Development. Be sure



Liz Wisdom, RN

to earmark it for the Elizabeth Wisdom Fund.

For more information, contact Peterson at 8-4426 or Benjamin at 8-1433.

WHAT'S NEWS

AT KUMC

KUMC Street Fair

The University of Kansas Medical Center Street Fair is an annual family event to raise funds for Wyandotte County community organizations.

Although the event is usually held in the spring, this year the Student Governing Council has partnered with the Rosedale Development Association to hold the street fair in conjunction with the Rosedale Rainbow Parade. The parade and fair will be held Saturday, Sept. 27, beginning at 10 a.m. The street fair continues until 1 p.m.

The parade will start at 106 Southwest Boulevard and travel up Rainbow Boulevard, ending at the street fair, located in the parking lot at the corner of 36th and Rainbow. The parade includes giant cultural puppets, Ronald McDonald and the Harmon Marching Band. The street fair will include carnival games and prizes, rides, food and entertainment.

Proceeds from the KUMC Street Fair will benefit the Friendship Inn, a Rosedale organization that houses families of KU Med patients. The event is sponsored by the Student Governing Council. Coordinators and volunteers are students, faculty and staff at KUMC and members of the Rosedale Development Association.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Stephanie Bohling at sbohling@kumc.edu.

For other questions, contact Theresa Brown at tbrown4@kumc.edu.

Research Orientation

New faculty, staff and students involved in research at KUMC are encouraged to attend one of two scheduled sessions of Research Faculty/Staff Orientation:

- Thursday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.-noon, Lied Auditorium.
- Tuesday, Sept. 30, 1-3 p.m., Clendening Auditorium.

This program will provide those new to KUMC or those new to research with a high-level overview of KUMC research administration. The program helps to explain and direct attendees to resources they will use during their research efforts.

Topics will include organization of the research enterprise at KUMC, the KUMC Research Institute, the Research Compliance Division, the Human Subjects Committee, the Safety Office, Laboratory Animal Resources, HIPAA, pre-award and post-award functions, legal issues surrounding research and more.

Please RSVP to Kim Scarbrough, education specialist in the Research Compliance Division, at 8-5757 or e-mail kscarbrough@kumc.edu. Please respond by Sept. 16 for the program on the 18th and by Sept. 28 for the program on the 30th.

Signing Classes

Sign language classes will again be offered to members of the KUMC community. Instruction will include basic sign vocabulary, basic health and medical terms, information about deaf culture, how to work with a deaf client and how to use interpreters.

Two levels of beginning instruction will be offered in 10-week sessions:

- **Beginning Sign Language I:** Wednesdays, Sept. 10 - Nov. 19 (No class Sept. 16)
- **Beginning Sign Language II:** Mondays, Sept. 8 - Nov. 17 (No class Sept. 14)

Classes will be held from noon-1 p.m. in 1020 Olathe Pavilion. Fees are \$60 for each 10-week session. The course book is available in the KU Med Bookstore for \$30. To register, call 8-1227.

Classifieds, etc.

Automotive:

1991 Dodge pickup truck, red, excellent condition, runs well, cab top, 2-door, \$2,000 OBO. 816-241-6116.

For Sale:

Poolside townhome, 95th and Wornall, 3 large BR, 1 full and 2 half baths, formal dining room, kitchen with breakfast nook, attached garage and security system. 913-681-8730.

Full-sized wood headboard with rails and footboard, \$25; swivel rocker recliner, medium blue with gold specks, \$40; Bassett sofa/hide-a-bed, brown, beige, orange and blue, \$150; all items in excellent condition. 913-631-4413.

Stainless steel refrigerator, GE Artica Profile, ice and water dispenser, counter width, 1 year old, paid \$2,100, asking \$1,800. 913-963-7927.

Whirlpool A/C and heating window unit, cooling 10,700 BTUs, heating 10,500 BTUs, uses 220 V outlet, needs freon, \$100 OBO. 816-361-6412.

To Rent:

4 BR, 2 BA house, spacious, with historic charm, hardwood floors and moldings, newer kitchen and baths, dishwasher, off-street parking, walk to KUMC, perfect for students, residents, no pets, \$1,300/month. 816-932-5539.

Coming Up

Thursday, Sept. 4

- Books Are Fun Bookfair, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Stoland Lounge, Orr-Major.
- Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture Series, noon-12:50 p.m., 1050 School of Nursing.

Friday, Sept. 5

- Books Are Fun Bookfair, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., Stoland Lounge, Orr-Major.
- Caregiver Support Group Meeting, 11 a.m.-noon, Landon Center.

Monday, Sept. 8

- KUMC Employee Appreciation Week Kick-Off, noon-1 p.m., School of Nursing Atrium.

Wednesday, Sept. 10

- KUMC Employee Appreciation Week Carnival, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., courtyard.

Thursday, Sept. 11

- 9/11 remembrance service, 11:30 a.m., KUMC chapel.
- Metabolic Syndrome Conference, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Sheraton Overland Park Hotel. Continues through Sept. 13.

Light the Night Walk

The sixth annual Light the Night Walk, sponsored by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, will be held Friday, Sept. 19, beginning at 6 p.m. at Corporate Woods. The three-mile stroll for people of all ages benefits medical research and patient programs for people with leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma.

Participants who raise \$25 or more will carry illuminated red balloons during the walk. Cancer survivors will carry illuminated white balloons.

The Children's Center and KU Med's Cancer Center will have teams participating in the walk. If you are unable to participate, you can still make a donation. Contact Alan Steffen at 8-5296 or Nancy Potter at 8-2234 for more information.

IN THE CENTER

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Ad Policy - Send or bring your ad, 30 words or less, to Bldg. 48, Room 1070, fax to 8-1063, or e-mail bjjaekel 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.