Cooperative venture will make Kansas City a research leader

UMC, the University of Kansas and Midwest Research Institute (MRI) of Kansas City, Mo. formalized a long tradition of collaborative research on Sept. 19 with a kick off mixer. The partnership is part of a larger strategic alliance that also includes the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute. The goal is to make the greater Kansas City area a national leader in information technology and life sciences research.

The KUMC, KU and MRI partnership will go by the acronym KUMRI and hopes to generate $50 million in research revenue by 2010. “This will serve as a prototype for the integration of scientific institutions with city and regional businesses,” said Michael Welch, MD, KUMRI director and KUMC vice chancellor.

KUMC midwifery student delivers program’s first baby

By medical standards, the birth of Brandon Reed Breedlove on Sept. 8 was uneventful. But Brandon’s birth marked an important milestone for KUMC. That’s because Jacki Witt, RN, MSN, is the first student in the Kansas Collaborative Bi-State Nurse Midwifery Education Program to assist in a midwifery delivery. Witt has been a women’s health nurse practitioner for 15 years and is a former obstetrics nurse, but this was her first midwifery delivery. “This was a great first experience,” Witt said. “It was a calm and peaceful delivery and it reminded me of the intimacy of birth.”

The midwifery program is a collaborative effort involving the KU School of Nursing, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Wichita State University and Ft. Hays State University and was developed with a $1.3 million federal grant. Nurse midwives offer greater access to health care for underserved rural and urban women throughout their reproductive life span, as well as manage the course of normal childbearing. They practice in hospitals, clinical settings, private physician’s offices and birthing centers.

The midwifery program at KUMC is about a year old and offers nurses a master’s or post-master’s education. Witt is among four women who will graduate from the program next summer.
Medicare beneficiaries often have questions about health insurance, but all too frequently have limited resources to obtain objective information. Beginning Oct. 3, a volunteer from Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) will be available in the Senior Resource Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. to assist seniors with Medicare, Medicare supplement insurance, long-term care insurance and other insurance-related topics.

The one-on-one confidential sessions focus on specific information or problems. Many seniors need help deciding what kinds of benefits suit their needs, how much coverage they should have and how to take advantage of the coverage they already have. Volunteers are not permitted to recommend specific insurance companies but are available to offer advice. Only those who are currently receiving Medicare benefits are eligible and Medicaid recipients are not eligible.

Information on prescription drug patient assistance programs will also be available. The programs are available to low-income seniors on Medicare who have no prescription drug coverage or who cannot afford to purchase medication. The programs last three months but patients may re-apply after that time. To make an appointment or learn more about either of these programs contact Edna Walker in the SRC at 81234.

Senior Resource Center offers insurance help for Medicare recipients

Joan Sherar Hunt, KUMC professor of both anatomy and cell biology and pathology and laboratory medicine, has been named a University Distinguished Professor. Born in Independence, Kan., Dr. Hunt received her undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas and graduate degrees at KUMC and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She received her Ph.D. from KUMC and joined the faculty in 1984. Since then, she has published extensively and has received numerous grants. Among her many awards, Dr. Hunt received the J. Christian Herr award for research excellence from the American Society for Reproductive Immunology in 1993, the Higuchi Award in Biomedical Sciences from KU in 1998 and a Chancellor’s Club research award in 1999. She is also a member of many scientific societies.

Dr. Hunt teaches the cell biology of the lymphoid immune system and the female reproductive tract. Her research focuses on the immunology of pregnancy. In her letter of nomination, Deborah Powell, MD, School of Medicine executive dean and vice chancellor for clinical affairs, said “... she is an extremely interactive faculty member who is willing to work on the School of Medicine and the university committees and who is an outstanding mentor and colleague for young faculty and students.”

Joan S. Hunt named university distinguished professor
Pam Roffol Dobies, widow of the late KUMC physician Dr. Bill Bartholome, said that when approached by Bill Moyers to be a part of his recent PBS series, “On Our Own Terms: Moyers on Dying,” she was afraid that their situation would not be useful for the program because she and Dr. Bartholome were not typical. As a physician, he was able to interpret medical jargon and understand the effects of medications and treatments. She was able to ask aggressive and difficult questions.

Nevertheless, Roffol Dobies believes she gained valuable insight into how the health care system deals with end-of-life issues and she had some suggestions on how to make it better. At a recent presentation to KUMC faculty, staff and students, she said that rather than dealing with just the patient, the health care system must take into account the entire family, including the caregiver. She suggested the creation of an advocate to help gather information and create linkages to community resources. Roffol Dobies called the caregiver role “the loneliest place on earth” and urged the health care system to provide more day-to-day guidance for caregivers to help increase their confidence and reduce frustration.

“We were blessed with caring and kindness from the staff at KUMC,” says Roffol Dobies. Her talk was sponsored by the KUMC Geriatric Interest group and the Center on Aging.

KU Med offers help with end-of-life issues

Recent studies have shown that more terminally ill people die in the hospital rather than at home surrounded by loved ones. That’s something that Sarah Taylor, MD, professor of hematology and oncology, wants to change. Dr. Taylor is the director of the Palliative Care program at KU Med. The word “palliative” is derived from the Latin word “pallium,” meaning cloak or cover. Palliative care “cloaks” uncomfortable symptoms to provide comfort to terminally ill patients and their families when curative treatments are no longer effective.

At KU Med there is no specific nursing unit as such that specializes in palliative care. Rather, care is provided on a consultation basis involving doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, psychologists, dieticians and pharmacists. They offer care and support in a wide variety of areas including pain and symptom management, coordination of in-home hospice services, emotional and spiritual support and bereavement services.

Dr. Taylor hopes that the concept of palliative care will become more widespread so that more patients will take advantage of the service. “We’re getting patients who are closer to death than we would hope. In those cases, we don’t have much chance to help them or their families,” said Dr. Taylor. She spends a great deal of time educating the public and health care providers about palliative care. “I want physicians to feel comfortable giving care at the end of life,” she said.
Research (continued from page 1)

for research.

Initial goals of KUMRI include the promotion of joint projects, sharing of equipment and services, coordination of professional gatherings to bring scientists together, establishment of a research community database, coordination of long-range collaborations, and creation of internships and a joint post-doctoral fellowship.

MRI is a non-profit organization that provides research and development for government and private industry. Key areas of focus include health, environment, engineering and technology development, national security and defense and energy.

Front & Center . . .
The crew from interventional radiology screened more than 200 people for vascular disease at the Legs for Life event Wednesday, Sept. 20 and Friday, Sept. 22.

From left, rear: Norman Malik, MD; Jay Breyer, MD; Don Siscoe, RTCV; William Guilbeau, RN. From left, middle: Janie Wyand, MD; David Riggins, MD; Danny Roos, BS, RT(R), Chad Allen, RT(R)(CV).

From left front: Ashley Hart, RT and Paul Falcon, radiology assistant. Not pictured: Dee Ann Alexopoulos, RN; Terri Miller, RN and Chris Carmody, RN.

The Auxiliary will hold its annual Bazaar on Oct. 4 and 5 in the Wyandotte room and in the Auxiliary garden. In preparation, members spent half a day whipping up their delicious apple pies.

From left: Eleanore Johnson, Camila Samson, Louise Redford and Elizabeth Smith peel, core and chop the apples.

4. Rebekah Mani puts the tops on.

3. Ginny Pugh rolls the dough.

2. Louise Schloerb and Ellen Stechschute measure and mix the filling.

5. Louise Grantham holds the finished product.
**Students encouraged to eat healthier**

KUMC students heard a discussion of how to develop healthier eating habits without going broke from representatives of Wild Oats, a national chain of health food stores. A typical student diet consists of burgers, fries, pizza, pop (or soda, depending on where you’re from) and other high-fat, nutrient-empty food. Liz Johnson, graphic designer for Wild Oats, told the crowd that they shouldn’t wait until they get older to start making healthy eating decisions. “Start now. Making good food choices is part of a balanced, healthy life. What you eat now can have a huge affect on you later,” she said.

She encouraged students to experiment with different types of foods including tofu, exotic vegetables, organically grown foods and soy products. She said that while organic meats and produce are a little more expensive, in the long run preparing your meals at home is cheaper than eating fast food.

**Clendening web site draws international attention**

*Digital Clendening*, the web site of KUMC’s Clendening History of Medicine Library, has drawn international praise from the prestigious British medical journal, *The Lancet*. In the August issue, the Clendening library received rave reviews not only for the site, but also for the quality of the collection itself. The reviewer particularly enjoyed a section devoted to Japanese medical prints and Chinese public health posters. The reviewer said, “… the site brings together eight collections, each of which invites hours of satisfying browsing.”

The web site has been up since May 15 and is still a work in progress, according to Kelly Brown, rare books librarian and web site curator. Other sections of the site include rare text images from medical and natural history texts, 37 letters by Florence Nightingale, photographs and slides used in lectures and textbooks by former KUMC professor Ralph Major, papers and letters by 19th century pathologist Rudolph Virchow, a collection of letters by public health pioneer Samuel Crumbine and more than 500 portraits of physicians and scientists. Visit *Digital Clendening* at http://clendening.kumc.edu.

**What’s your favorite Olympic event?**

“Track and field. I like the speed and power.”

*Dionna Webb, pediatrics*

“Track and field. I used to run track in high school.”

*Benjamin Stone, first year medical student*

“Gymnastics. I used to tumble and I like the women’s floor exercises.”

*Tammy Wilson, endocrinology*

“Diving. It’s so pretty and so scary.”

*Martha Maurin, public relations and marketing*
Gala reminder

Tickets are still available for KUMC’s second annual Gala Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center. Former U.S. Senator from Kansas Nancy Kassebaum Baker will receive the Health, Healing and Hope Award for her involvement in health care issues during nearly 20 years in Congress. Entertainment will be provided by political impressionist Jim Morris. Proceeds will benefit KUMC’s biomedical research programs. Tickets for the Gala are $100 each and may be purchased by contacting the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor at 81400.

Preventing violence in the workplace

The KUMC Human Resources department and the University Police department will present “Preventing Violence in the Workplace” on Wednesday, October 11 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. The location will be announced at a later date. For more information or to enroll, call 85099.

Tae-kwon-do tourney

The Kirmayer Fitness Center’s Tae-kwon-do class will compete in the Midwest Chung Do Kwan Marital Arts tournament on Saturday, Sept. 30. The tournament will be held at Center High School, 8715 Holmes, Kansas City, Mo. Competition is from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Finals and master’s demonstrations are 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The competition is open to the public. Tickets are $5 for adults, $2 for children 5-12, and children under 5 get in free.

Tara collects gold

When Tara Nott, great niece of Dixie Brogan, patient financial services, won a silver medal in weightlifting last week at the Olympics, Brogan thought life couldn’t get any better. But to her surprise, it did. Nott was awarded the gold medal when the Bulgarian who beat her was disqualified for using a banned substance. Nott, who is from Stilwell, Kan., competes in the 105-pound class and won the medal for lifts of 225 3/4 pounds in the clean and jerk and 181 3/4 pounds in the snatch events.

Tara’s great aunt, Dixie Brogan, patient financial services, keeps the Olympic flame burning at KUMC.

Tara Nott, center, celebrates her gold medal with her family.
**For Rent:**

2 BR, 1 BA apt. available 11-1-00, For Rent: 913-541-9139 evenings and weekends.

**Size Office Metal Desk, Make Offer.**

19 cu. ft. deluxe upright freezer, $150; full counter dishwasher, $50 OBO; Signature Whirlpool Powerclean energy saver under-$75. 913-642-4174 after 7 p.m.

**Bed: King size headboard, dark wood, good condition, $100; old desk, fair condition, $75. 913-642-4174 after 7 p.m.**

Roommate Wanted:

Quiet, non-smoker to share house in northern OP, 10 minutes to KUMC, large, furnished bedroom in finished basement, private entrance and bath, includes TV, VCR and stereo, driveway parking, share kitchen, washer, dryer, exercise equipment and outdoor hot tub, $375 per mo., including utilities. 816-512-1948 or 913-220-5029.

**For Sale:**

1993 Mazda 626, black, alloy wheels, fully loaded, auto everything, 5-speed stick shift, sun roof, keyless entry, 140K, excellent condition, $4200 OBO. 816-436-5813.


1995 Harley-Davidson Sportster 883, excellent condition, 6500 miles, over $2000 worth of chrome, forward controls, has been garaged and covered, many extras, routinely maintained, getting married, $6800. 913-677-0910.

1978 Toyota Corona Wagon, $400. 913-281-9729.

**Automotive:**


Elegant designer wedding dress, headpiece and detachable train, size 6-8. 913-339-9956.

1995 Ranger Rebel boat, 16’ fish and ski, 120hp Mercury Cruise jet motor, trolling motor, live well, depth finder, cover, Ranger trailer, swim platform w/ladder, no motor, live well, depth finder, cover, 120hp Mercury Cruise jet motor, trolling motor, live well, depth finder, cover, Ranger trailer, swim platform w/ladder, no motor, live well, depth finder, cover, Ranger trailer, swim platform w/ladder, no motor, live well, depth finder, cover, Ranger trailer, swim platform w/ladder, no motor, live well, depth finder, cover, Ranger trailer, swim platform w/ladder, no motor, live well, depth finder, cover, Ranger trailer, swim platform w/ladder, no motor, live well, depth finder, cover.

Disabled mom needs help around the house five days per week, noon-8 p.m. Cook dinner, do laundry, help children (8, 12, 15) with homework, some pick-up and driving, run errands, payment negotiable. 913-631-3070.

**Need Help in Home:**

Medical student wants to buy used otoscope/opthalmoscope for reasonable price (cheap, if possible). 785-597-2174.

**Want to Buy:**

Wooden stereo/TV shelving unit, $15; brass plated full-size bed with mattress and box springs, $75. Both great condition. 816-753-3698.

**For Rent:**

midtown, 5 min. from KUMC, secure building, off-street parking, carpet, C/A. W/D in bldg., great price for right renter, very nice, must see. Brian at 816-561-6965.