do so, he told Ingram’s, was at the hospital that had provided such good care for her.

Now 84, Long said he finds his greatest rewards making the rounds to deliver patients’ magazines, mail and even printed e-mail messages. Those are in addition to many other duties, such as moving equipment to storage and helping patients find their way—as tasks he thoroughly enjoys. “I’m an active guy,” he said. “I want to do volunteer work on my feet.”

Lynn Kindred, MD, Mid-America Cardiology. Kindred founded a small practice in 1971, which grew into Mid-America Cardiology. MAC aligned with The University of Kansas Hospital in 2000.

“That was a real satisfying venture for everybody,” Kindred told the magazine. “They promised to build a heart hospital, which they did. They gave us one of the best locations for patients, and they brought four heart surgeons over, too.”

MAC now has 37 cardiologists, and the hospital’s heart program is consistently ranked as one of the nation’s best by U.S. News & World Report. “I’m impressed with how things have gone—the growth of the program and that it’s nationally recognized,” he said. “I’m really excited about it all.”

The occurrence “might be demonstrated in the patients and their families, or in a time-pressed physician at midnight at the bedside or in the ‘tail-hitting’ we collectively do as we watch and wait as somebody gets better.” Yet people “have a remarkable capacity to heal,” and he finds satisfaction in being part of that process.

Ralph Long, volunteer: Long has logged more than 11,000 hours as a volunteer at our hospital. His family connections run deep: His daughter and son-in-law both work here—and she was a nurse and he was a physician.

And when cancer took his wife of 40 years, Long decided he would devote more time to his post-retirement interest in volunteering. The logical place to do so, he told Ingram’s, was at the hospital that had provided such good care for her.

Our hospital is the first facility in the Midwest and one of the leading centers in the United States to offer the innovative procedure. Lakkireddy said response to the LARIAT surgery—and the overall conference—was overwhelmingly positive.

“Left atrial appendage is the new favored option in cardiovascular medicine,” said Lakkireddy, who was one of the symposium’s directors. “It’s a lot easier to understand and explored as cardiologists around the world are striving to balance the risk of strokes and bleeding in patients with atrial fibrillation.”

He added, “With our expertise collaborating with scientists around the world, we’re helping to advance the science of left atrial appendage and strategies for its exclusion.”

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Lights, camera, operate!

International symposium spotlights hospital’s heart expertise

Cardiologists at The University of Kansas Hospital are helping specialists around the world learn more about innovative heart treatments.

Approximately 250 cardiologists and others gathered this month in Kansas City for a first of its kind symposium focused specifically on the left atrial appendage.

The appendage functions as a reservoir for the left atrium. However, among patients with atrial fibrillation—the condition that makes the top heart chambers beat faster than the lower chambers—the appendage becomes a prime source for blood clots, which can lead to stroke and heart attacks.

With heart specialists worldwide exploring various treatment options for these patients, our cardiologists decided the time is now to bring many of them together.

Our staff worked closely with colleagues at the University of Kansas Medical Center, as well as researchers and physician scientists at some of the nation’s leading heart care facilities, including Cleveland Clinic, Mayo Clinic and Cedars-Sinai Hospital.

“Because we are national leaders in the field of cardiology, we drew physicians to the symposium from across North America—and even some from Russia—to learn about this critical topic,” said Barbara MacArthur, FAAN, Cardiac Services vice president. Symposium highlights included two heart procedures live-streamed to the conference. One surgery featured Lakkireddy, MD, assisted by Matt Earnest, MD, of the hospital’s Mid-America Cardiology. As hundreds in the audience watched two large hi-definition screens, Lakkireddy and Earnest demonstrated a novel LARIAT procedure. The procedure was live-streamed to the conference.

By the Numbers: Volunteer Services

Volunteers at The University of Kansas Hospital play an important role helping patients and visitors feel at home.

255 Volunteers in 2012

16,000 Number of hours they volunteered last year, at $20 an hour, their volunteer effort was worth $320,000 to the hospital

6,500 Patient lunches served last year in the Westwood treatment area

6 Estimated miles per day a volunteer walks when serving as a Pathfinder, helping visitors find their way

ADVANCES
NEWS FROM THE REGION’S PREMIER ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTER

MARCH 14, 2013

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Advances in Radiology: Where ‘specialized’ is the norm

The field of radiology is vast and complex. With ever increasing speed and adaptability of computerization, the demand rises for more sophisticated and specialized technologists and radiologists.

At the University of Kansas Hospital, the Radiology Services team encompasses 31 radiologists and more than 200 technologists and support staff. They specialize in a wide range of radiology modalities, from reading X-rays to cross-sectional MRI and CT images.

The department continues to advance the power of medicine through the training of technologist and physician imaging specialties. Stephen Smith, Radiology director, said the department is actively involved in research and provides several advanced studies available only at the hospital.

“The amount of information and visual recognition of human anatomy that can be obtained requires technologists and radiologists to perform and interpret at a much higher level—a specialist level,” he said. “Our Radiology team provides world-class results.” Patient convenience is also important. In addition to inpatient services at the main campus, Radiology provides outpatient diagnostic testing at nine other locations around the metro: the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Care Pavilion, Westwood Imaging Center-West Plaza, Westwood; KU MedWest, Shawnee; The University of Kansas Physicians Medical Office Building, Kansas City; The University of Kansas Cancer Center-East, Lee’s Summit; The University of Kansas Cancer Center-North, Kansas City; The University of Kansas Cancer Center-South, Kansas City

Many of these locations offer advanced imaging equipment and procedures, such as a 3T MRI at the main campus and 3D breast imaging at the Westwood Campus.

“With their dedication and experience, our radiologists can interpret images of even the most complex conditions,” Smith said. “They combine knowledge and skill with advanced technology to provide accurate diagnostic imaging and therapeutic services.”

In the News

A recap of recent articles, TV segments and other media coverage.

- **Omega-3s may lead to healthier babies**: The New York Times, March 4. The article examines research by Susan Carlson, PhD, professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center’s Institute for Reproductive Health and Regenerative Medicine, and her colleagues who randomly assigned 180 women to take daily capsules of either a placebo or DHA, type of omega-3 fatty acid, starting midway through pregnancy.

- **‘My Strange Addiction’ features physician**: The Learning Channel, Feb. 27. The cable channel program invited Richard Gilroy, MD, Liver Transplantation director at the University of Kansas Hospital, to examine a young woman who eats sand throughout the day, chews on nail files and has developed a craving for chalk.

- **Ischemic stroke linked to chronic AF in dialysis patients**: Renal & Urology News, March 7. Chronic atrial fibrillation is associated with a modest but significantly increased risk of ischemic stroke in dialysis patients, data show. James Wetmore, MD, associate professor of Nephrology and Hypertension at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, led research involving 56,734 dialysis patients.

- **Patients go to BMT clinic in spite of storm**: Fox 4 News, Feb. 27. Patients go to BMT clinic in spite of storm: The eighth annual event drew more than 300 attendees and raised an estimated $85,000 for a Cure Childhood Cancer campaign.

- **Liver system diseases one of the MD’s important strengths**: Health and Regenerative Medicine, and her colleagues who randomly assigned 350 women to take daily capsules of either a placebo or DHA, type of omega-3 fatty acid, starting midway through pregnancy.