Ceremony Honors Exceptional Employee Contributions

The University of Kansas Hospital recognized outstanding employees from Central Transportation and Dispatch (CTD) and Environmental Services (EVS) during a special ceremony April 13.

The celebration recognized hospital employees who go above and beyond to provide outstanding service.

"Every day, these employees make an impact on the quality of care patients receive at our hospital," said Trent Knanishu, EVS director. "They influence people's perceptions and play a key role in helping our patients feel safe and comfortable during their stay here."

Knanishu opened the ceremony, along with Augustin Sylvester, CTD director; Bob Page, senior vice president and chief operating officer; Tammy Peterman, senior vice president and chief nurse executive; Dwight Kasperbauer, vice president, Operations Support, and chief human resource officer; and Patricia Sanders-Hall, vice president of Ancillary Care.

"We want to emphasize how the 'little things' employees do as part of their daily tasks can make a huge impact on the quality of care patients receive at our hospital," said Sylvester.

The following employees were honored for their individual impact on service and excellence at the hospital and for their performance in the Five-Star areas of service, people, quality, cost and growth.

- Louisa Bigby, CTD
- Phouthong Bounyadeth, EVS
- Cheryl Hammack, EVS
- Ramond Kemp, EVS
- Shirlitha Lawson, CTD
- Adriana Navarrete, CTD
- Paula Otney, CTD
- Lyle Palmer, EVS
- Khammy Sanasing, EVS
- Steve Weatherspoon, CTD

The two departments also presented Thu Janes, RN, nurse manager, Unit 53, with an "I-impact KUMED" Star Team award to recognize their partnership with the Department of Nursing to support a patient-focused care environment. This award will be presented quarterly to a nursing unit to honor the role teamwork plays in exceptional care.

The event also celebrated the hospital’s 10-year partnership with ARAMARK, an international company that provides professional services, food and facility management to businesses and industries. The company's “I-impact” theme was used to honor employees' commitment to making a positive impact on patient care.

CTD and EVS employees received lapel pins with the “I-impact KUMED” theme to commemorate the event.

Event Celebrates Organ Donation

Organ transplant recipients and families will gather on campus Thursday, April 20, for a “Celebration of Life” Ceremony. They will be joined by members of the hospital's donor advisory council and representatives from the hospital, the Heartland Lions Eye Bank (HLEB) and Midwest Transplant Network (MTN).

The ceremony will take place 3-4 p.m. in the School of Nursing Atrium. The hospital is hosting the event, which is sponsored by MTN and HLEB. MTN is the hospital’s local organ procurement organization, and HLEB is the organization that the hospital contracts with for eye donation services.

The “Celebration of Life” will honor donor families who have given the gift of life and those individuals who received the gift of life. The ceremony will honor about 10 individuals whose lives have been touched by donation and transplantation. They will share their unique stories, emphasizing how one organ donor can save up to eight lives.

The event will also celebrate the many other lives touched by organ donation and demonstrate the hospital's commitment to making all options for organ, tissue and eye donation available to all potential donor families.

The “Celebration of Life” takes place during the month of April as part of National Donate Life Month.
Occupational Therapy Field Recognized

Occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) at The University of Kansas Hospital are celebrating their profession throughout April as part of National Occupational Therapy Month.

The hospital’s 19 OTs and two OTAs work with patients throughout the hospital, providing skilled treatment on inpatient units, the Rehabilitation Unit, Adult and Child Psychiatry, and in outpatient clinics, including the Hand Rehabilitation and Outpatient Burn clinics. Occupational therapists are also part of the interdisciplinary teams involved in meeting patients’ rehabilitation needs, beginning in the intensive care units.

OTs and OTAs help patients who have injuries or conditions that restrict their daily activities. These include work-related injuries, limitations caused by a stroke or heart attack, arthritis, neurological conditions, traumatic injuries, cumulative trauma disorders, developmental disabilities and pediatric feeding/swallowing difficulties, mental health or behavioral problems, burns and visual perceptual concerns.

By teaching patients “skills for the job of living,” OTs and OTAs help ready them to return to their daily lives.

“Occupational therapists are an integral part of the Rehabilitation team,” notes Trina Schulz, manager, Occupational Therapy. “People take for granted the skills that allow them to have their independence until these abilities are compromised in some way. Our job is to help them regain these skills or accommodate for them effectively.”

OTs and OTAs assess their patients and help them develop or relearn skills through a variety of techniques. Therapy sometimes involves rehabilitation techniques such as exercise, splinting and “activities of daily living” training. Other times, patients learn adaptive behaviors to compensate for a lost ability or function.

Research Lectureship Set

KU Medical Center will welcome a nationally renowned molecular geneticist to campus for the annual Peter T. Bohan Research Lectureship Friday, April 21.

Oliver Smithies, PhD, excellence professor of Pathology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will present “Mouse Solutions to Human Problems” at noon in Rieke Auditorium.

Smithies has gained numerous awards for his groundbreaking discoveries leading to solutions for critical biological problems. He shares the 2001 Albert Lasker Award for the development of powerful technology for manipulating the mouse genome, which allows scientists to create animal models of human disease. Long regarded as “America’s Nobel,” the Lasker Award is the most coveted prize in biomedical research.

Lunch will be provided for the first 150 attendees.

**eXtra:** Peter T. Bohan was a professor at the KU School of Medicine from 1914-45. His contributions to the academic life of the medical school left a lasting impression on this institution, even after his death in 1955. The Peter T. Bohan fund was created in 1952 to promote excellence in teaching at KU Medical Center.

KU School of Nursing students were recently recognized for clinical excellence in fall semester senior nursing courses. They were selected based on the following professional attitudes and values: enthusiasm for experiences in a variety of nursing roles; valuing the essence of diversity; demonstrating appreciation for the function of other health care providers; taking the initiative to be a self-directed learner; and independently advocating for the client system of individual, family, population group and community. Pictured with Dean Karen Miller, RN, PhD, FAAN, (third from right) are Clinical Excellence award winners, left to right, Jillian Wagner, Chelsea Lynn, Alison Mize, Jason Gray, Lisa Umbehr and Sarah Davis.

Honorary Mention award winners include Kelly Malmstrom, Angie Prediger, Courtney Grafton, Catherine Johnson, Hilary Ballou, Bethanie Branson, Laura Shinn and Jenny Hermes.
Thursday, April 20
SIGMA XI Presentation: “Student Research Forum Winners,” 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., School of Nursing Auditorium.

Friday, April 21
NEUROLOGY/NEUROSURGERY Grand Rounds: “Complex Regional Pain Syndrome,” Bushra Malik, MD, 7-9 a.m. Lied Auditorium.

PSYCHIATRY GRAND Rounds: “Neurobiology of Schizophrenia,” Willis Holloway Jr., MD, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Sudler Auditorium.

FINANCIAL AID Seminar: “Consolidation 101 and Changes in Federal Financial Aid,” Lisa Erwin, noon-1 p.m., Orr-Major 1025. Also 4-5 p.m. Monday, April 24, Wahl West Auditorium.

KUMC AUXILIARY Spring Sale: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., cafeteria and Auxiliary garden. Sale features bedding plants, herbs and flowers. Framed artwork may be purchased in the hospital lobby both Thursday, April 20, and Friday, April 21.

Monday, April 24
KANSAS MASONIC Cancer Research Institute Round Table Seminar: “A Tailored Barriers Intervention for CIS 1-800-4CANCER Callers in Pain,” Sandra Ward, RN, PhD, FAAN, noon-1 p.m., Wahl West Auditorium. Lunch provided for first 35 attendees.

Tuesday, April 25
KUMC OFFICE of International Programs “Life in the USA” Series: “Slang,” Amber Cordell, ESL coordinator, noon-1 p.m., Orr-Major 1014. Bring a lunch and join the discussion.

PHARMACOLOGY SEMINAR: “Dose-Response Effects of Bile Acids on Liver Pathology and Gene Expression,” Peizhen Song, MD, 4-5 p.m., Breidenthal G030.

Wednesday, April 26
STUDENT WELLNESS Program: “Student Financial Wellness: Investing,” Brook Menees, Edward Jones, noon-1 p.m., School of Nursing 1050. Lunch provided for first 30 students. Also Friday, April 28, location to be announced.

Student Research Forum Awards
The following are winners of the 2006 Student Research Forum.

Top School Medal Winners
• Jennifer Duncan, School of Nursing
• Kate Jennings, School of Medicine
• Megan Johnson and Jerri Rook, Graduate Studies, School of Medicine
• Catherine Siengsukon, School of Allied Health

Session Winners
• Melinda Amett and George Thomas, Neuroscience II
• Jennifer Crane, Developmental Biology
• Jennifer Duncan, Public Health I
• Daniel Hansen, Clinical Studies II
• Kate Jennings, Public Health II
• Megan Johnson, Neuroscience III
• Alexandra Knudson and Ryan Schulze, Molecular and Cellular Biology II
• Christina Newport and Yue Cui, Genetics
• Anh-Nguyet Nguyen, Molecular and Cellular Biology III
• Anh-Nguyet Nguyen, Poster Session
• Teresa Orth, Cardiovascular Biology
• Jerri Rook, Neuroscience I
• Marcio Santos, Musculoskeletal
• Alison Ting and Oluwatobi Dawodu, Molecular and Cellular Biology I
• Gwenaelle Wernli, Neuroscience IV
• Erin Zahradnik, Clinical Studies I

Joe R. Kimmel Award Winner
• Benjamin Weaver, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Paul B. Freeburg Award in Cell Biology
• Megan S. Johnson, Anatomy and Cell Biology

The Division of Student Services recognized KU Medical Center leaders at its annual Student Leader Reception April 12.

• Student Leader Award: Natalie Reed, president, Graduate Student Council
• Student Organization Award: Student Recycling Organization
• Student Advisor Award: Sandy Hanson, RN, advisor for the University of Kansas Student Nurses

Teresa Orth, shown with four-month-old daughter Kaya Autumn Orth, received the 2006 Student Organization Award on behalf of the Student Recycling group. Also pictured is Fonda Briles, the group’s advisor. Orth and Brian Hollebeck serve as co-presidents of the organization.
Week Honors Lab Employees

Every day, patients rely on the behind-the-scenes contributions of Clinical Laboratory professionals at The University of Kansas Hospital. These employees will celebrate National Medical Laboratory Professionals week April 24-28. An open house will be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, April 25.

The week recognizes the professionalism and dedication of those who have made it their mission to deliver high-quality laboratory work. This includes medical technologists, cytotechnologists, cytogenetics technologists, histotechnologists, autopsy technicians, and a variety of support personnel and professional specialists.

They provide essential information about the status of a patient’s health so clinicians can make crucial treatment decisions.

Technological advancements have played a key role in the lab’s growth and development. For instance, just 20 years ago, it took several medical technologists all day to perform liver enzyme assays. Today, these results are available in minutes.

In 2005, the Clinical Lab performed 1.5 million tests, including more than 130,000 complete blood counts, 140,000 chemistry panels, 17,000 blood cultures, 55,000 protimes, 23,000 crossmatches, 14,000 Pap smears and 15,000 sets of cardiac markers. The installation of automated technology has made it possible for the lab to keep pace with its increased workload.

The Clinical Lab’s renovated, state-of-the-art surgical pathology lab opens in its new location this month.