The University of Kansas Hospital has jumped to No. 2 among the nation’s most prestigious academic medical centers in quality and safety. The ranking, announced Oct. 1, is part of the annual Quality and Accountability Study by the University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC), an alliance of academic medical centers and their affiliated hospitals.

As one of the top five academic medical centers in the study, the hospital received the UHC’s 2009 Quality Leadership Award during an Oct. 1 forum in Atlanta. The award recognizes top performance in delivering high-quality, safe, effective, efficient and equitable care to patients.

“We are extremely proud and humbled by this achievement,” said Bob Page, hospital president and CEO. “This recognition is a tribute to our entire team – the truly unique partnership of physicians, nurses, ancillary and other health care professionals who are focused on providing the very best care to our patients each and every day.”

UHC launched the study in 2005. The hospital’s progress has been remarkable, rising from 33rd in 2005 to the top five twice in the past few years.

Announcement of the No. 2 UHC ranking brought cheers to an audience of hospital leadership.

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Others in the top five:
- Methodist Hospital, a Clarian Health Partner, Indianapolis
- Rush University Medical Center, Chicago
- University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland
- University Medical Center, Tucson

What does UHC measure?
Each year UHC conducts its Quality and Accountability Study, designed to identify structures and processes associated with high performance. This year 93 UHC member institutions were ranked. The study scores each academic medical center in the six attributes of high-performing organizations – safety, timeliness, effectiveness, efficiency, equity and patient centeredness.

UHC examines data provided by member hospitals through its databases and reviews additional data from the publicly reported Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey.

What is UHC?
UHC consists of 105 academic medical centers and 219 of their affiliated hospitals. The organization represents approximately 90 percent of the nation’s nonprofit academic medical centers.

UHC’s mission is to advance knowledge and promote change to help members succeed.
Expect quick, easy vaccines this flu season

Precision. Ease. Speed. That’s what you can expect at this year’s employee flu vaccine clinics, called the Flu Stop.

The improvements are the result of a new delivery system called MEDS/POD. Designed for emergency situations, the system allows for speedy delivery of medications to many people.

“It should take less than 10 minutes for a person to go from entering the clinic to receiving the vaccine,” said Jan Wesselmann RN, Employee Health manager at The University of Kansas Hospital.

Several key factors contribute to the speed of delivery. Computerized information replaces paper forms: It’s likely your name already is in the computer when you arrive at the clinic. Also, the process is broken down into eight stations, so multiple steps can occur simultaneously.

And more people, as many as 25 volunteers at a time, help speed people through the process.

The hospital is one of only a few in the Kansas City area approved by Mid-America Regional Council, the metro’s emergency preparedness organization, to employ the system.

“Using MEDS/POD for the Flu Stop lets us practice the system so we’re prepared in case of an emergency, such as a pandemic,” Wesselmann said.

All campus employees can get free flu shots at the Flu Stop; dates are listed in the Calendar section, page 3.

Hospital campaign starts Oct. 5

Giving is easier than ever when The University of Kansas Hospital launches its campaign Monday, Oct. 5. Employees can make contributions via an Electronic Pledge Service. (Watch for details in a United Way email.) E-pledge takes the paperwork out of the process. It’s simple, efficient and secure. Managers will distribute paper pledge forms to the employees who request them.

The hospital last year surpassed its $100,000 goal, with $112,388. The hospital also had the highest number of new givers and highest increase in overall giving in Wyandotte County.

For the 2010 campaign, which ends Oct. 31, the goal is $100,000. Hospital team ambassadors are challenged to increase the number of donors in their respective work areas by at least 10 percent this year, in order to meet the area’s needs.

Lisa Ward, assistant director, Employee Retention, Human Resources, co-chairs the campaign with Dorothy Gunderson, director of Special Projects, Organizational Improvement.

Employee contributions are tax-deductible, go into effect January 2010.

Information: Jane Gonzalez, jgonzalez@kumc.edu; Gunderson, dgunderson@kumc.edu; or Ward, lward2@kumc.edu.

KUMC campaign launches Oct. 26

The University of Kansas Medical Center kicks off its two-week campaign Oct. 26. KUMC employees last year pledged $85,737, and campaign organizers hope to increase that amount in 2009.

KUMC will use a new online United Way system to help streamline the giving process. Look for more information about the campaign soon, including campaign goals.

The university also participates in Community Health Charities (CHC) workplace giving campaign. KUMC state employees have the option to donate to CHC through payroll deduction. Information on the CHC campaign will be distributed to individual departments.

Stuff the SUV with food

The University of Kansas Medical Center’s Community Outreach Program is collecting items for the Wyandotte County Food Pantry. Students and faculty will stuff an SUV with donated items 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, in Murphy Courtyard.

Items also will be collected at two other locations now through Tuesday, Oct. 6: Student Services, 3001 Student Center, and Student Engagement in G005 Orr-Major.

Canned and boxed food items will be accepted, as well as household goods. Information: Amanda Hoffman, ahoffman2@kumc.edu.

Treats before the test

As part of the Missouri Quality Award visit Sept. 28-30, surgical ICU nurses Kelsey Donelan, RN (from left), Malorie Picardi, RN, and Jeni Ahring, RN – as well as employees throughout the hospital – were treated to goodies from the candy cart. Staff also were given an MQA pocket guide in preparation for examiners’ questions. The hospital will learn results of the MQA visit later this month.

About the United Way

The United Way encourages people to “Live United” by supporting agencies that meet basic needs, nurture children and families, and promote health and quality of life. Each tax-deductible dollar will have the impact of $2.05 in the community.
Friday, October 2
EMPLOYEE FLU Shot Clinics: 7-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m., 2093 Delp.
NEUROLOGY/NEUROSURGERY Grand Rounds: “A Neurologist’s View of Fibromyalgia,” Yunia Wang, MD, 6:45-9 a.m., Lied Auditorium.
UNIVERSITY COMPUTER Equipment Drop-Off: 8:30-10:30 a.m., Hixson Atrium. Information: 8-1081.

Saturday, October 3
DYKES LIBRARY Exhibit reception: “Changing the Face of Medicine, Celebrating America’s Women Physicians,” 2:30-5 p.m., Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza. 8 a.m. registration. Topics include “Stroke: A New Era in Acute Management,” “Pattern Recognition Approach to Neuropathies and Neuronopathies,” “Neuroprotection and Restoration in MS: Emerging Capabilities,” “Epilepsy Update,” “Brain Death,” “Treatment of Parkinson’s Disease,” “Dementia Treatment,” “Updates in Headache Treatment” and “Neuropathic Pain.” Register: 877-404-KUCE orcontinued.ku.edu.

Monday, October 5
PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY Medicine Grand Rounds: “Ras Pathway: The Achilles’ Heel of Cancer Cells and How to Target It,” Faris Farassati, PhD, PharmD, noon-1 p.m., Lied Auditorium.

Tuesday, October 6
CENTRAL PLAINS Geriatric Education Center Seminar: “Documentation in Long-Term Care,” Sharee Wiggins, NP, 9 a.m.-noon, 200 Landon Center on Aging. Register: coa.kumc.edu/cpeqec/upcomingprograms.htm.
STUDENT FINANCIAL Aid Wellness Session: “Retirement & IRAs,” David Klinginsmith, Merrill Lynch, noon-1 p.m., 2018 School of Nursing. Lunch for first 30 student attendees.

Wednesday, October 7
EMPLOYEE FLU Shot Clinics: 7-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m., 2093 Delp.
BROWN BAG Lunch Series for Older Adults: “Improve Your Mental Health through Writing,” Maril Crabtree, noon-1 p.m., 200 Landon Center on Aging. Reservations: Matt Chandler, 8-3094 or mchandler@kumc.edu.

Thursday, October 8
EMPLOYEE FLU Shot Clinics: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Westwood Campus Multipurpose Room.

KUMC Gala to honor Sebelius
Kathleen Sebelius, former Kansas governor and current U.S. Health and Human Services secretary, will receive the 2009 Life Sciences Leadership Award at the University of Kansas Medical Center Gala Oct. 17. Former KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway, PhD, and nine outstanding alums also will be honored.

The gala, part of KUMC Alumni Weekend, hails work of KUMC students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as the many community partners who enhance the region’s health and economy.

The gala is 6:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency Crown Center, black-tie optional. Registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 2. Information: kumc.edu/gala, or Kelly Hutsell, 8-2695.

KUMC open enrollment under way
Annual open enrollment has started for group health insurance and flexible spending accounts for University of Kansas Medical Center state employees. Enrollment runs through Oct. 31.

This is employees’ opportunity to change companies, add or drop dependents from coverage, add or drop dental or vision coverage, change tax status, enroll in a flexible spending account and apply for the HealthyKIDS program. Online enrollment is at da.ks.gov/ps/subject/ssc. All employees enrolled in state employee health insurance also must declare their tobacco use status. Non-tobacco users and those who enroll in a tobacco cessation program will pay $40 per month less for health insurance premiums.

Employees are encouraged to attend an informational meeting to ask questions and learn about plan options and changes. Meetings are 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 13, and 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15. All are in Clendening Auditorium.

Information: KUMC Benefits Office, 8-5087, 1044 Delp.

Scrub sale to benefit nursing groups
A scrub sale 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, in Stoland Lounge will benefit local student nurse organizations. During the sale, all regular-priced scrubs from the KU Bookstore will be discounted 20 percent. Clearance scrubs and clothing will be marked up to 50 percent off.

During the sale, you can also enter your name in a drawing for a free set of scrubs. (The winner doesn’t have to be present.) A percentage of the profits will go to the Association of Undergraduate Students in Nursing and Kansas University Student Nurses.

Information: Susie Haydu, KUMC Bookstore, 8-2494.

Pediatrics executive to discuss health care reform
David Taylor, Jr., MD, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, will discuss health care reform as it relates to primary and pediatric care. The presentation is noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, Wahl Hall East Auditorium.

His presentation, “The Medical Home and Health Care Reform,” is hosted by The University of Kansas Physicians, Pediatrics.

Medical home, also known as Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), is defined as “an approach to providing comprehensive primary care that facilitates partnerships between individual patients and their personal physicians and, when appropriate, the patient’s family.” Information: Bob Hallinan, 8-5246.
Bethany Enoch and Karl Metzger, both fourth-year students in the KU School of Medicine, were awarded 2009 Pisciano Scholarships. More than 1,800 students from 120 medical schools across the country applied for the scholarships; only five were awarded.

The awards are given annually to medical students who demonstrate a strong commitment to the specialty of family medicine. Enoch lived in Kenya as a youth with her parents, where she served children of AIDS victims. It was then that she decided to become a doctor.

As an undergraduate, she received numerous honors, including the President’s Award. Affiliations at the School of Medicine include president of the Family Medicine Interest Group and vice president of the Kansas Alpha Omega Alpha chapter.

Metzger spent 20 years in engineering before venturing into health care. At medical school, he has led several medical missions to Belize – adventures that helped anchor his commitment to family medicine, he said.

He also served as project director for the KUMC Community Health Project, which places second-year medical students in community safety net clinics.

Details about their bios are at fpleaders.org/scholars_current.shtml.