Department of Nursing Will Get Magnet Visit

The University of Kansas Hospital’s Department of Nursing has moved one step closer in its journey toward achieving Magnet designation.

The hospital has received word that a team of appraisers from the American Nurses Credentialing Center will be on-site Oct. 30-Nov. 2 to see first-hand how our nurses work together to meet and exceed more than 150 professional standards of nursing practice.

Magnet designation recognizes health care organizations that exemplify the very best in patient care and outcomes. Only 209 of the approximately 6,000 hospitals nationwide have earned this highly coveted designation.

“I believe the site visit will give us the opportunity to tell and demonstrate our amazing story of cultural transformation at The University of Kansas Hospital,” said Tammy Peterman, RN, MS, senior vice president and chief nursing officer. “It is a story about quality and safety and how they impact every encounter we have with patients and their families. It is also a story about the compassion and commitment all members of our nursing and hospital staff display each day.”

To earn a site visit, the Department of Nursing submitted its Magnet application to the American Nurses Credentialing Center in late July. Creating the five-volume application, which was more than a foot thick, took months of preparation. A limited number of hospitals that submit documentation receive a site visit.

While on campus, the appraisers will clarify, amplify and verify what the hospital provided in its written documentation. In turn, they will submit a report that will be reviewed by the Commission on Magnet, whose members actually determine if Magnet designation should be awarded to the hospital.

During the next four weeks, the Department of Nursing will focus on preparing for this next stage of its Magnet journey. Staff throughout the hospital will also be called upon to help.

“Magnet is about much more than nursing,” noted Peterman. “It is truly a reflection of how well our entire organization cares for and focuses on the needs of patients, families and staff. Working together, I am confident that we will successfully reach our destination and achieve Magnet designation.”

Extra: For more information about the Magnet Recognition Program, visit www.nursingworld.org/ancc.

Cancer Center Names Deputy Director

Karen Kelly, MD, an internationally recognized expert in lung cancer, has been named deputy director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, and professor and Frank B. Tyler chair in Cancer Research.

Kelly most recently served as director of the Clinical Thoracic Oncology Program and professor of medical oncology at the University of Colorado Cancer Center, which is designated as a

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Hospital Prepares for “Opening Day”

Weeklong celebrations, ceremonies and open houses mark the debut of The University of Kansas Hospital’s Center for Advanced Heart Care, new Emergency Department (ED) and a new acute care unit.

On Monday, Oct. 9, patients and care teams will begin moving into the heart center, ED and the new sixth-floor Renal, Vascular and Transplant Care Unit (Unit 64).

Staff members have been busy readying the facilities for the big day, installing furniture and medical equipment, stocking supplies and cleaning all patient care and public areas.

During the week, open houses have provided physicians and staff, patients, business and community leaders, and the campus community with a sneak peak inside the new state-of-the-art facilities.

(See insert for more information.)
Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute. She will play a key role in helping the KU Cancer Center achieve the prestigious NCI designation, currently held by just 39 institutions in the nation.

“We are indeed fortunate to attract an internationally recognized clinical oncologist like Dr. Kelly to help us build our program and achieve NCI designation,” said Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive vice chancellor, KU Medical Center, and executive dean, KU School of Medicine.

A native of Derby, Kan., Kelly received her medical degree from the University of Kansas and went on to complete her residency and fellowship at CU’s Health Sciences Center.

As part of her career focus on the prevention, screening, early detection and treatment of lung cancer, Kelly has designed groundbreaking clinical trials that have earned her national acclaim. She is a leader in the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, the Southwest Oncology Group and the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

In her new role, Kelly plans to develop a comprehensive lung cancer program as well as a wide-ranging cancer clinical and research program overall. She hopes to expand patient involvement in clinical trials so area residents have access to leading-edge drugs to treat their cancer.

“Dr. Kelly has played a leading role in numerous clinical trials that have defined the state of the art in lung cancer treatment,” said Roy Jensen, MD, director of the KU Cancer Center. “She embraces the concept of caring for the whole patient with a multidisciplinary team approach using clinical research that continuously improves outcomes in cancer patients.”

Spinal Cord Injury Grants Awarded

The National Institutes of Health has awarded the KU School of Medicine two research grants totaling nearly $730,000 to study the progression of spinal cord injuries. The two grants will fund research on neural fiber organization and vascular plasticity following spinal cord injuries with a goal of improving clinical treatment.

“These studies are likely to make a huge impact on our understanding and treatment of human spinal cord injuries,” said William Brooks, PhD, professor of Neurology and director of the Hoglund Brain Imaging Center.

Mehmet Bilgen, PhD, associate professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, is the grant’s principal investigator.

“Dr. Bilgen’s research adds strength to our neurology program and offers hope to thousands who suffer from spinal cord injuries,” said Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive vice chancellor, KU Medical Center, executive dean, KU School of Medicine.

Bilgen and his collaborators will use a variety of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) techniques to follow spinal cord injuries in animal studies. These studies will help researchers better understand how the vascular system of the spinal cord recovers after an injury and identify neural fibers in the spinal cord that either survive the injury or are restored afterward.

“The noninvasive imaging methods developed in our laboratory will be used to test the efficacy of new treatments as they become available. This work may potentially lead to new ways of evaluating spinal cord injuries in a clinical setting,” said Bilgen, who is also director of high-field MRI at the Hoglund Brain Imaging Center.

eXtra: For more information, visit www.kumed.com and click on “newsroom.”

Heart Center Opening

The University of Kansas Hospital hosted “A Red Tie Affair,” a special gala to commemorate the opening of its new Center for Advanced Heart Care. The event, held Friday evening, Sept. 29, included tours and an appearance by actor Tom Skerritt, who appears in TV spots for the hospital’s comprehensive image advertising campaign. Pictured at the event are William Reed, MD, chair, Department of Cardiovascular Diseases, Skerritt, and Irene Cumming, hospital president and chief executive officer.
**Thursday, Oct. 5**

SIGMA XI Research Seminar: “Neural Function and Diet – Defining a Role for DHA in Early Brain Development,” Susan Carlson, PhD, Jeffrey Radel, PhD, and Beth Levant, PhD, 11:30 a.m. registration/lunch, School of Nursing Auditorium; noon-1 p.m. program, School of Nursing Auditorium. Lunch provided for first 85 attendees.

KUMC EMPLOYEE Recognition Ceremony: 2-3 p.m., Battenfeld Auditorium/Francisco Lounge. Ceremony honors employees who have reached 5, 10, 15 or 20-year milestones.

**Friday, Oct. 6**

NEUROLOGY/NEUROSURGERY Grand Rounds: “EEG Monitoring in the ICU,” William Nowack, MD, 7-9 a.m., Lied Auditorium.

PEDIATRIC GRAND Rounds: “Update on Cystic Fibrosis Care,” Andre Fallot, MD, 8-9 a.m., Wahl West Auditorium.

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: “Mass & Matter: Public Access to Scientific Discovery,” 8 a.m.-2 p.m., School of Nursing Auditorium G013. For more information, visit www.library.kumc.edu/sciencesymposium.

KUMC EMPLOYEE Recognition Ceremony: noon-1 p.m., Francisco Lounge. Ceremony honors employees who have reached 25, 30, 35 or 40-year milestones.

KUMC OFFICE of International Programs “Life in the USA” Series: “Discrimination,” Carol Wagner, 11 a.m., Landon Center for Continuing Education; noon-1 p.m., School of Nursing 1050. Lunch provided for first 30 attendees.

STUDENT WELLNESS Program: “Student Financial Aid: Money and Marriage for Students,” Kimberly Vandegeest, PhD, noon-1 p.m., Student Center 1005. Lunch provided for first 30 students.

**Tuesday, Oct. 10**

INVESTITURE CEREMONY: Noon, School of Nursing Auditorium. Christopher Cremer, MD, PhD, will be honored as the 2006 Recipient of the Robert P. Hudson/Ralph H. Major Professorship in History and Philosophy of Medicine. Reception follows in School of Nursing Atrium.


MINI-MEDICAL School: “Breast Cancer Basics,” Bill Smith, MD, and “Clearing the Air About Lung Cancer,” Karen Kelly, MD, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7-9 p.m. program. Enrollment is limited. Call 8-1227 or visit www.kumc.edu/som/minimed to reserve a seat.

**Wednesday, Oct. 11**


PUBLIC HEALTH Seminar: “Policies Behind Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) Risk Prevention,” Major Jerry Green, FNP, noon-1 p.m., Orr-Major 1023.
In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that the Department of Nursing announces the death of Lindsey Harp, RN.

Lindsey was a graduate nurse who joined the hospital in preparation for the opening of the new Unit 64. She was a bright and compassionate individual who will be deeply missed by her colleagues at the hospital and her family and friends in Kentucky.

A memorial service is being planned.

Fundraiser Benefits Cancer Survivors

More than 700 stores at 25 Kansas City-area shopping centers and locations all over town will participate in this year’s “Back in the Swing” retail therapy shopping event Oct. 11-15. The goal is to raise more than $500,000 to fund breast cancer survivorship programs in the metropolitan area.

For a one-time $25 donation, shoppers can purchase a special “Back in the Swing” card and receive up to 20 percent discounts on purchases made at participating stores and restaurants.

This year, “Back in the Swing” in conjunction with The Greater Kansas City Breast Cancer Network and Survivorship Center.

Comprehensive Prevention and Survivorship Center

The Center and Network will benefit from the clinical research provided by The Breast Cancer Prevention Center at the KU Cancer Center, directed by world-renowned breast cancer specialist Carol Fabian, MD.

To purchase a 2006 “Back in the Swing” shopping card, call 816-842-7444, visit www.backintheswing.org or pick up a brochure at participating shopping centers. For more information, to view a list of participating stores or to request an entry form or list of rules, visit the Web site.