Unique partnership leads to ‘real-world’ center for training

When it formally opens next week, the Zamierowski Institute for Experiential Learning will mark another major step for healthcare education and training on the main campus.

The $2 million institute is one of the most advanced medical simulation centers in the region. Physicians, staff and students from The University of Kansas Hospital and University of Kansas Medical Center will use the state-of-the-art learning environment to hone their skills in any number of clinical scenarios, from inserting central lines to enhancing surgical team communications and expanding life-saving emergency interventions.

The facility is co-owned and shared by the hospital and medical center, a partnership that is unique among the nation’s medical simulation centers, according to its director, Emily Diederich, MD.

“The partnership gives us an innovative, real-world perspective on the importance of team-based patient care,” she said. “It will allow our healthcare professionals, residents and students to develop the hands-on expertise necessary to provide world-class care.”

Located on the ground floor of Sudler Hall, the center encompasses approximately 5,500 square feet, including two full-scale patient suites, a large task training area and three debriefing rooms.

One patient suite functions as a full-scale operating room. The other is a large inpatient suite that can adapt to represent different rooms, such as an ICU or emergency room. The suites include high-tech manikins and medical equipment required to create realistic cases for teams to rehearse their care. (Go to kumc.edu/ziel for details.)

Backed by a 10-person staff, the center already has conducted several simulation procedures and “train the trainer” sessions. An open house for hospital and medical center physicians and staff is Thursday, Dec. 10.

The institute’s name honors a lead gift from David Zamierowski, MD, and his wife, Mary. After retiring in 2003, Zamierowski, who has a long affiliation with the medical center, became a mentor to healthcare students at various area institutions.

“This is when I decided I should become more involved in developing a simulation program,” he said. “I observed first-hand the opportunity to revolutionize healthcare education – it’s a tremendous advance in teaching.”

By the Numbers: Kansas City-area patients

During fiscal year 2015, The University of Kansas Hospital provided care to 252,743 unique* patients, who hailed from every state in the nation. The Kansas City area, of course, is still home for most of them.

83.4% Portion of the hospital’s total patients who are from Kansas City’s 10-county metro

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kansas</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leavenworth</td>
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* unique patients

To suggest a By the Numbers, email Advances@kumc.edu.
Events

- Warding off winter blues –
  Depression swells during the winter due to many factors: Less sunlight, emotional stress of family gatherings and increased financial burdens, missing loved ones, unhealthy eating and less exercise. Learn a six-step method to beat winter depression. The class is 10:30 a.m.-noon on Thursdays through Dec. 17 at Medical Plaza North in North Kansas City. Call 913-574-0900 to register.

- Holiday open house –
  Missys’ Boutique holiday open house is 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4. The event includes discount and sale items and a free gift with a $20 purchase (while supplies last). Missys’ (kucancercenter.org/missys) is an accredited appearance center inside the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Care Pavilion at the Westwood Campus.

- Controlling pain with Jin Shin Jyutsu –
  Jin Shin Jyutsu is the ancient art of balancing life energy in the body. Apply it on yourself or a loved one to reduce pain and side effects of chemotherapy, increase relaxation and reduce stress. Learn the techniques during a class 5:30-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing in Leawood. Call 913-574-0900 to register.

- Relaxing through the holidays –
  Learn tools to help you calm the typical chaos that dominates many of our lives around the holidays. You’ll leave with a simple yoga breathing and meditation home practice routine to use whenever you’re buried under the stress of your holiday to-do lists. The workshop is 5:30-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, at Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing in Leawood. Call 913-574-0900 to register.

More events are at kumed.com/event-detail.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Keeping families, patients in touch

In the depths of The University of Kansas Hospital, you’ll find a room filled with two not-so-silent lines of cubicles.

“The University of Kansas Hospital – how may I help you?” said one employee. It’s a greeting echoed over and over again among the various cubes.

The Switchboard is a 24/7/365 department spread over three core shifts. Its 25 employees represent the frontline voice for calls to the hospital’s main phone number (913-588-5000).

Hundreds of times each day they answer calls from anxious family members trying to reach patients, external callers trying to reach employees and non-emergency medical calls from patients who are at home.

Their work extends beyond the hospital. They are also the main switchboard for calls to The University of Kansas Cancer Center’s Westwood Campus, including Blood and Marrow Transplant, and The University of Kansas Physicians’ Orthopedics Department.

The Switchboard is separate from the hospital’s Physician Referral and Consultation Center (also known as the call center), which is more externally focused, providing a one-stop-shop for referring physicians and future patients.

Think of the Switchboard as the internal hospital operator and general information keepers for medical staff, visitors and patients. In addition to handling calls for patients and staff, Switchboard staff also initiate all medical- and security-related codes for the main campus (such as Code Blues and Rapid Response calls), and they handle urgent and nonurgent paging.

Switchboard staff includes Michael Baxter and shift supervisor Elicia Pierce.

All told, they manage more than 2.2 million transactions a year, a 12 percent increase from 2013, reflecting the hospital’s growth.

“It’s a small group that handles a large volume of calls,” said Melinda Keltner, Marketing Teleservices assistant director. “I’m constantly impressed by their work ethic and teamwork.

“Each one of them has the patients, their families and our visitors at the forefront,” she added. “They want to provide the best possible customer service, and they do it in an efficient way. It is really astonishing.”

EXPOSURE

Serving 2,000 for Thanksgiving

Although they weren’t at home, patients, families and staff at The University of Kansas Hospital at least enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal last week. To serve approximately 2,000 meals, Executive Chef Jeffrey Lathrop – along with approximately 25 employees in the cafeteria’s food-production area – cooked 400 pounds of roasted turkey, 360 pounds of stuffing and 200 pounds of glazed ham, not to mention the mashed potatoes, pumpkin pies and much more.

Lathrop, chef

More events are at kumed.com/event-detail.
**In the News**

A recap of recent articles, TV segments and other media coverage of the region's leading academic medical center

- **Lying down is as bad as sitting** – *The New York Times*, Nov. 19. John Thyfault, PhD, associate professor of molecular and integrative physiology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, discusses the risk of inactivity. "The mode or type of sedentary behavior doesn’t matter," he said. During a two-week study Thyfault co-authored, active men were asked to be inactive. At the end of the test, the men had begun to develop metabolic problems, whether they spent their inactive time primarily sitting or in bed. When we are awake, Thyfault said, the more we can stand up and move, the better.

- **Patient receives new cancer therapy** – *Fox 4 News*, Nov. 19. Heloise Gray is fighting acute lymphoblastic leukemia with a revolutionary therapy that includes the drug Blincyto and standard chemotherapy. Blincyto turns white blood cells into cancer fighters in a process called immunotherapy. "The light at the end of the tunnel for cancer patients has become much brighter with these immunotherapeutic strategies, and they’re unfolding at a remarkable rate," said Joseph McGuirk, DO, director of blood cancers and stem cell transplants at The University of Kansas Cancer Center.

- **Concussion diagnosis with blood test** – *KSHB News*, Nov. 19. A new blood test could diagnose concussions in student athletes. "By looking for the biomarkers that the blood test would offer, it would actually give us a definitive answer," said Michael Moncure, MD, The University of Kansas Hospital’s director of trauma and critical care. During a study, the blood test correctly identified the molecule 94 percent of the time. However, more studies are needed before the test can be put in use.

- **Warnings about social media** – *KMBC*, Nov. 12. Online threats are raising concerns over anonymity and content on social media apps such as Yik Yak, which can be accessed by children. "We have a situation where the technologies have far outpaced the technology of parents," said Stephen Lassen, PhD, Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Kansas Medical Center. "They do need passwords to everything, to every account the child has. They need to regularly monitor, and there really need to be tech-free zones in homes."

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**Life in the lab**

Approximately 50 high school students from Pleasant Hill, Mo., last month toured several of The University of Kansas Hospital’s Ancillary Care operations, including Pharmacy and the Core Lab (pictured). The goal: encourage students to consider careers in medicine that are lesser-known but still in high demand.

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**Hospital IT group among nation’s best**

The Information Technology department at The University of Kansas Hospital has been ranked as the nation’s third best in the "Super" size category (200 or more IT employees), according to Healthcare IT News’ annual list of the Best Hospital IT Departments. The department was nominated along with 169 other hospitals this summer. Nominees were assessed in several categories, including day-to-day work, culture, management, benefits, professional development and advancement.

**New specialty practice in the spotlight**

The University of Kansas Physicians hosted an open house last month at Quivira Specialty Care, its new multispecialty practice in Overland Park. The practice is at 12000 W. 110th St., adjacent to The University of Kansas Cancer Center-Overland Park. The renovated facility features 14 exam rooms and one procedure room. It houses six specialties: Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Pulmonary, Rheumatology, Urogynecology and the Center for Pelvic Pain and Sexual Health. Approximately 22 physicians and their teams from the main campus staff the new location.

**Sweating for a good cause at Kirmayer**

Who knew a vigorous 90-minute fitness center workout could help so many other people? For the third year in a row, the Kirmayer Fitness Center at the University of Kansas Medical Center hosted Hustle for Harvesters, a pre-Thanksgiving community workout for anyone who donated food. Forty-five people went through cardio and strength conditioning along with stretching and mobility exercises – plus some good old-fashioned fun and games. Participants each donated food to Harvesters, the community food network of Kansas City.

"It’s a free workout before the holidays begin," said Amber Long, Kirmayer Fitness Center director. "And it’s our way of proving exercise is medicine, from a physical and mental standpoint. We love exercise and we want others to understand the benefits. Plus, it’s a good way to give back to the community."
Our People

Inspired reasons for giving – If you’ve been in the 39th and State Line neighborhood recently, you no doubt have seen the dramatic progress as Cambridge North Tower rises, floor by floor, north of the main campus.

As a result of increasing demand, The University of Kansas Hospital is frequently at or near capacity. The new facility, scheduled for completion in 2017, will add much-needed capacity and provide patients better access to care.

Cambridge North Tower has received major support from philanthropists and community leaders, and 100 percent of hospital leaders have contributed.

During the employee campaign, which debuted last month, staff are being asked not only to contribute, but also to share their reasons for supporting Cambridge North Tower. Some of their inspiring reasons so far:

When Patient Accounting Manager Sue Welborn needed two craniotomies for a brain tumor, she learned firsthand about the hospital’s amazing Neurosurgery services. “I was overwhelmed with the excellent care Phillip Hylton, MD, and his entire team provided. Nurse Practitioner Carolyne Cook was especially wonderful!”

Respiratory Therapy Team Leader Belete Fikru lost his sister to pancreatic cancer. “I want people to have better access to GI oncology care, and Cambridge North Tower will help us provide that.”

Clinical Nurse Coordinator Howard Wilyard looks forward to the building’s new technologies, which will allow staff to treat inoperable brain tumors, saving and extending lives.

Like these employees, you can support the future of academic medicine by going to giving.kum.edu/give. A challenge grant from Annette Bloch will double the impact of donations through June 2016, up to $10 million. Tribute gifts can be made in memory of or in honor of loved ones.

If you have made a gift to Cambridge North Tower, tell us your reason by sending an email to inspiration@kum.edu.

Reviewing the nation’s health safeguards – The University of Kansas Hospital’s chief medical officer, Lee Norman, MD, and U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) visited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in October to learn more about how the agency safeguards the United States from health, safety and security threats.

Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officers are on the scene when disease outbreaks or other threats emerge, and they support more than 100 public health investigations each year in the United States and across the globe.

“I was pleased to join Senator Moran on his visit to the CDC, to meet with Dr. Frieden and his staff, to see and hear firsthand their remarkable work to date and to scope out the daunting tasks ahead,” Norman said.

“While the CDC’s roots have always been in stopping infectious illness and outbreaks,” he added, “their less-appreciated role in tackling chronic diseases is well-recognized as critical to the health of this nation as well. Their work is getting more complex as time goes on.”

Norman also serves in the National Guard and is an advisor to Homeland Security and regional disaster preparedness agencies.

March of Dimes awards in nursing – Five people from our academic medical center were honored Nov. 13 during the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year ceremony.

Three nurses at The University of Kansas Hospital won awards in these categories:

• Tori Butler, RN, Medicine/Telemetry (Unit 62) – Intermediate Care/Telemetry
• Linda Kurtz, RN, Unit 3F Rehab – Long-Term Care/Rehabilitation/Geriatrics
• Michelle Schulz, RN, Labor/Delivery (Unit 54) – Women’s Health

They were among Kansas and Kansas City-area nurses recognized in 20 categories for their contributions to healthcare.

Also at the event, School of Nursing’s Cindy Teel, PhD, RN, received the School of Nursing Educator award, and LaVerne Manos, DNP, RN, won the Nursing Informatics award.

Write a new chapter

Suddenly, the course of your life unexpectedly changes. You or someone you love is diagnosed with a serious illness – and you need help coping with the new normal.

Turn to us.

Because chronic illness is a Turning Point.

Turning Point is a gathering place for individuals, families and friends living with serious or chronic physical illness. Thanks to our generous donors, our education and support programs are offered at no charge.

8900 State Line Road, Suite 240, Leawood, KS 66206 • turningpointkc.org • 913-574-0900

The University of Kansas Hospital

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