The University of Kansas Medical Center officially has renamed its cancer research organization the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute (KMCRI). The new name reflects the commitment of $20 million by the Kansas Masonic Foundation to support cancer research on the KUMC campus.

Founded in 1996 as the Kansas Cancer Institute, the cancer research arm of the School of Medicine has been a leader in cancer research, primarily in the areas of breast cancer, cancer prevention and control, and drug development. Approval of the name change came from the Kansas Board of Regents.

The gifts by the Topeka-based Kansas Masonic Foundation are being used to help the institute achieve its goal to become a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center. NCI, a division of the National Institutes of Health, awards the designation to cancer centers for the quality and level of their laboratory and clinical research, education and outreach activities.

At KUMC, clinical care for cancer patients is provided through The University of Kansas Hospital’s Cancer Center.

Achieving designation as an NCI center would give KUMC the ability to recruit scientists and physicians of the highest stature and potentially lead to increased federal funding for cancer research. It would also provide the public access to many new clinical trials and treatment options that are available only to NCI-designated centers. A search for a new director of KMCRI is actively under way.

“It is fitting that the Masons’ name becomes part of the institute’s name because they have been critical to our ability to grow cancer research in Kansas,” said Donald Hagen, MD, KUMC executive vice chancellor.

“I have no regrets about naming the institute after the Masons. Working together, the Masons and the cancer research program have accomplished a great deal in helping Kansans prevent and fight cancer. Going forward as the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute, people throughout the state will know that, even with a growing national reputation, we continue to focus on bringing the benefits of cancer research to Kansas,” added Hagen.

Jeffrey L. Sowder, president of the board of the Kansas Masonic Foundation, said the foundation was proud of its long association with KU’s cancer research.

“Having our name on such an important organization gives tremendous satisfaction to every Kansas Mason,” he said. “Our partnership will receive more prominence as the institute moves toward NCI designation, something we’re very excited about.”

Established in 1966, the Kansas
Recent and spring nursing school graduates discovered the wide variety of nursing career opportunities available at The University of Kansas Hospital during a March 9 reception held in the cafeteria.

Tammy Peterman, hospital chief nurse executive and vice president of Patient Care Services, welcomed the grads by saying, “There is no other career that allows you to work as closely and personally with people and impact their lives so dramatically.”

During the reception, the grads were able to talk one-on-one with Department of Nursing directors, nurse managers, clinical nurses and members of the Human Resources staff. The grads were also taken on tours of Units 15, 53, 65 and 66 to get a first-hand look at nursing at an academic medical center.

“There is nothing that compares with both the personal challenge and ultimate reward that comes from providing patient care at an academic medical center,” Peterman told the grads.

Specialized patient care and services, as well as the research opportunities available at academic medical centers like The University of Kansas Hospital, are just some of the advantages recruiters emphasize when meeting with prospective nurses and other patient care staff.

Hospital Human Resources has three nurse recruiters: Gina Cuccar, Rachael Soeken and Caryn Ungashick, RN. Since February, they have attended career fairs and have plans to visit approximately 18 nursing schools and programs throughout Kansas and Missouri, as well as in Iowa and Nebraska.

The hospital offers specialized training to help new nurses successfully start and succeed in their careers. The Fellowship Program helps them develop clinical skills through a comprehensive, progressive orientation and preceptorship on their assigned units. A year-long Residency Program for graduates with bachelor of science degrees in nursing provides leadership skills they need to excel in their clinical practice. The University of Kansas Hospital is one of only a dozen academic medical centers across the country to offer the Residency Program.

The hospital also provides tuition reimbursement so nurses can advance their careers through accredited programs, including those at the KU Schools of Nursing and Allied Health.
Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive dean of the KU School of Medicine and vice chancellor for Clinic Affairs, has made two new permanent appointments.

James Thomas, MD, has been named permanent chair of the Department of Surgery, a position he has held on an interim basis since July 2003.

George Varghese, MD, has been named permanent chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, a position he has held on an interim basis since September 2003.

Thomas received his medical degree from the University of Kentucky in Lexington in 1966. He completed his residency in general surgery at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 1974 and completed his fellowship at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Thomas joined the KU SoM in 1975 as an assistant professor of Surgery. He was a staff surgeon, transplant surgeon and assistant chief of surgery at the Kansas City Veterans Administration Hospital until 1979, when he was appointed associate professor of Surgery with tenure at KUMC and full professor in 1983.

Since 1985, Thomas has held a joint professorship in the Department of Family Medicine. He is presently the chief of the section of vascular surgery, program director of vascular surgery residency and chief of the section of general surgery.

Thomas has been a leader nationally as well as at KUMC. From 1996-97, he served as president of the Southwestern Surgical Congress. For several years, he has participated as an examiner for the Vascular Surgery Boards of the American Board of Surgery. Thomas was instrumental in the creation of KUMC’s first physicians’ practice group, Kansas University Physicians, Inc., and served as its president from 1997-2001.

His honors include the University of Kansas Chancellors Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1989; induction into the Hall of Fame, Morehead University Alumni Association, in 1998; a Bronze Star with Combat “V” for duty at Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam, in 1968; and the Khe Sanh Veterans Association “Doc” Medal in 2002. He was recognized in 2002 as the KU Medical Alumni Association’s Outstanding Honorary Alumnus.

The Department of Surgery includes the areas of burn, general, oncologic, pediatric, plastic, transplantation, trauma and vascular surgeries.

Varghese received his medical degree from St. John’s Medical College in Bangalore, India, in 1969. He completed his residency training in physical medicine and rehabilitation at New York Medical College in 1975. He began his career at the KU SoM in 1977 as a tenured assistant professor and was promoted to full professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine in 1981.

Varghese served as assistant dean for Student Affairs and director of the Franklin Murphy Academic Society from 1998-2002.

Throughout his clinical career at KUMC, Varghese has been devoted to teaching residents and medical students. He served as director of medical education for the Department of Rehabilitation from 1978-98, and he has directed elective and selective rotations in physical medicine and rehabilitation since 1977. His administrative duties have included directing the Medical Student Teaching Program since 1978 and the Resident Teaching Program since 1979. He has served as director of the Electromyography Laboratory at KUMC and the Veterans’ Administration Medical Center since 1995.

Nationally, Varghese is active in the American Spinal Injury Association and the American Association of Electrodiagnostic Medicine.
Radiothon Benefit for Kids

Kelly Urich (left) with radio station Mix 93.3 interviewed five-year-old Caitlyn Viets, a cystic fibrosis patient, and her parents, Otto and Dawn (center), during the sixth annual Mix for Kids Radiothon. The live broadcast was held March 4 in the cafeteria.

Dawn Viets, RN, is a neonatal nurse practitioner in the hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Chris Blades (right) is the father of two-month-old Casey, a NICU patient. Casey was born prematurely at only 25 weeks. Both families shared their personal stories, stressing the importance of exceptional pediatric care. Last year Children’s Miracle Network, the Radiothon sponsor, donated $400,000 to benefit pediatric programs at KUMC.

International Luncheon

The KUMC International Outreach luncheon held March 9 in Hixson Atrium raised money for an inaugural medical mission trip to Belize during spring break, a scholarship program for women in China and an HIV testing project in Tanzania. For more information about the group, contact Jane Jenab, president, or go to www.kumcio.org.

GI Motility Program

Richard McCallum, MD (below left), served as co-director of a recent American Motility Society program on “Gastrointestinal Motility in Clinical Practice,” held in Nashville, Tenn. He is professor of Medicine and director of the Center for Gastrointestinal Nerve and Muscle Function and the Division of GI Motility Disorders.

Other course co-directors and planners (pictured left to right) were Dale Grube, associate dean, University of Kansas Continuing Education and director of KUMC Continuing Medical Education; Satish S.C. Rao, MD, PhD, director, Neurogastroenterology and GI Motility, University of Iowa; Kim Sanders, administration specialist, KUMC Continuing Education; and Henry Parkman, MD, associate professor, Gastroenterology, Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia.
John A. Ferraro, PhD, has a lot of titles to squeeze onto his business card: chair of the Hearing and Speech Department, co-director of the KU Intercampus Program in Communicative Disorders, associate dean for research in the School of Allied Health, chair of the KU First Family Campaign Committee and board member of the KU Athletic Corporation.

“I wear a lot of hats,” admitted Ferraro. “Basically, I try to lead the parade, then follow it with a shovel.”

Ferraro also wears the hat of “donor,” providing financial support for the Hearing and Speech Department. “I firmly believe in faculty development, and that’s primarily how my funds are directed,” he said. “What’s often provided by the state needs to be supplemented.”

Ferraro’s gift counts toward KU First: Invest in Excellence, the largest fund-raising campaign in KU history. KU Endowment is conducting KU First on behalf of KU and The University of Kansas Hospital through 2004 to raise funds for scholarships, fellowships, professorships, capital projects and program support for the university, and capital projects, program support and patient services for the hospital.

Saturday Morning at KU Med Presents Heart Solutions

Unusual heart rhythms and diabetes will be the topics of the next “Saturday Morning at KU Med,” a series of free public information forums.

The March 20 program in Battenfeld Auditorium is titled “Heart Solutions: Heart Rhythms and Pre-Diabetes.” It is intended for people concerned that they or family members are at risk for a heart-related illness, as well as for health care providers, clergy, health care volunteers and medical support staff.

The forum will discuss the causes, tests and treatments for heart arrhythmias and abnormal heart rhythms. Information will also be provided about pre-diabetes, pre-hypertension and screening and treatment options.

Registration and an informational fair begin at 7:30 a.m.; the program is from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Although the program is free, participants are asked to register in advance by calling 8-1227.

Presenters will be Loren Berenbom, MD, director of electrophysiology at The University of Kansas Hospital, who will speak on “What Makes Your Heart Go Pitter Patter;” Charles Porter, MD, cardiologist, Mid-America Cardiology, who will discuss “Understanding National Treatment Guidelines for Heart Failure;” and Jill Keast, RN, KUMC’s Risk Reduction Clinic, who will present “Do You Have Pre-Diabetes or Pre-Hypertension?”

The program, the fifth in a continuing series, is sponsored by the University of Kansas Continuing Education and Mid-America Cardiology at The University of Kansas Hospital.
National Nutrition Month 2004 Quiz

Be healthy, eat right and win prizes, too. It’s easy, especially if you start by taking this fun nutrition quiz. E-mail your responses by March 15 to Crissy Kaleekal, RD, director, Clinical Nutrition Department, at ckaleeka@kumc.edu. Be sure to include your name, department and phone number.

Five winners with the correct answers will be selected. They will receive meal passes to the cafeteria and other gifts from the American Dietetic Association.

1. Keeping a daily record of what you eat is a good weight management strategy.  
   True or False

2. Margarine contains fewer fats and calories than butter.  
   True or False

3. Forty percent of American adults are overweight or obese (with a body mass index of 25 or above).  
   True or False

4. Soy products are a good source of protein.  
   True or False

5. Fruit drinks count as a serving from the fruit group in the Food Guide Pyramid.  
   True or False

6. While you are shopping, it is OK to leave your groceries in the car for more than two hours.  
   True or False

7. Drinking bottled water is healthier for you than tap water.  
   True or False

8. Nuts are OK to eat as part of a low-fat diet.  
   True or False

9. You don’t need to eat fruits, vegetables or whole-grain foods to get your daily requirements for fiber.  
   True or False

10. Kids who eat breakfast are more likely to keep their weight under control.  
    True or False

11. When you eat a meal, it takes about 10 minutes for your brain to get the message that you are full.  
    True or False

12. Making time for family meals means children and teens will eat more nutritious foods.  
    True or False

Nutritional Analysis Offered on Two Dates

The Clinical Nutrition Department will offer KUMC employees, faculty and students an opportunity to find out if “You Are What You Eat.”

A nutrition profile, which includes a nutritional analysis and body composition analysis, will be offered for a $5 donation. Proceeds will help KUMC reach its pledge goal for the American Heart Association’s Kansas City Heart Walk June 12.

Nutrition profiles will be offered in the Wyandotte Room on these days:

- Wednesday, March 17, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 24, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Appointments are encouraged and can be made by calling 8-7681, but walk-ins are also welcome. When they register, participants will receive a daily intake form, which must be turned in on the day of their nutrition profile. Results of the nutritional analysis will be mailed or e-mailed back to participants. If there are any questions, contact Crissy Kaleekal at ckaleeka@kumc.edu.

The foods you eat will be calculated for calories, total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, carbohydrates, sugar, fiber and protein. In addition, participants will receive printouts of their body mass index, basal metabolic rate, fat percentage of total body weight, total weight of fat mass, total body water and the desirable range for fat percentage and fat mass.
Graduating medical students from the KU School of Medicine will be paired with residency programs throughout the country during Match Day festivities Thursday, March 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., in Battenfeld Auditorium.

Here’s how the process works: Students interview for spots in residency programs and then rank their favorite facilities and locations. Using a computerized system, the National Resident Matching Program weighs the placement preferences of doctors-in-waiting with the preferences of the residency programs to which they’ve applied. The results are then sent to medical schools across the country for distribution.

On Match Day, one by one, students unseal envelopes containing the names of their residency assignments. About 93 SoM students will participate in the annual Match Day activities. A dozen students have already been matched by an early process.

The Department of Nursing is sponsoring the annual physicians’ and residents’ polls. All hospital employees are eligible to nominate physicians and residents. Nomination forms are available from Jennifer Bowman, RN, nurse manager, Unit 45, or Lila Martin, RN, education specialist. Contact them at 8-6550, jbowman@kumc.edu and lmartin@kumc.edu or 8-2171. Return nominations by Tuesday, March 16, to the Department of Nursing Central or Unit 45.

The poll criteria is based on the hospital’s values:

- Well-delivered, compassionate service
- Excellence, every day in every way
- Community involvement
- Achievement through partnering
- Responsibility and personal growth
- Ethics, honesty and openness

The Five Star Performance standards of service, people, quality, cost and growth are also part of the criteria. Patient satisfaction data, a service indicator of the Five Star Performance standards, will also be reviewed for the highest nominated physicians.

Viagra’s Other Benefits
Clinical trials will begin soon to see if Viagra (Sildenafil) has other benefits, thanks to a $34,000 grant from the American College of Gastroenterology. KUMC will be part of a double-blind, crossover study in men and women to determine if the popular drug used for improving male sexual function can also have a role as a treatment for diabetic gastroparesis.

Richard McCallum, MD, professor of medicine and director of the Center for Gastrointestinal Nerve and Muscle Function and the Division of GI Motility Disorders, is one of four lead investigators of the research program that will take place at four centers over a one-year period. He hopes to show that the drug can improve symptoms of diabetic gastroparesis and the gastric emptying process by relaxing the muscles of the pylorus and stomach.

Daffodil Days
The American Cancer Society’s Daffodil Days are March 10-17. By proudly displaying live blooms during the week, you show your support for the thousands of people in the Kansas City area who are fighting cancer.

About 500 daffodils will be delivered to The University of Kansas Hospital’s Cancer Center for distribution. One hundred will stay in the Cancer and Radiation Centers, and the rest are available to any KUMC departments that would like to display them in their work areas. The daffodils can be picked up from Susan Allen, G024 Radiation Oncology, through March 17, while supplies last.
For Sale:

15 X-box games, lots of sports games. 913-649-4048.

Mission-style solid oak futon with top quality mattress, $200; small apartment-size oak computer desk, $50. 913-390-8686.

Ivory wedding dress, size 18, never worn, sleeveless, empire waist, train, embroidered top, button-up back, make offer. 913-205-5525.

To Rent:

3 BR house in Lee’s Summit, new kitchen and bath, hardwood floors, big yard with deck, great schools, available end of March, $950/mo. 816-525-8491.

Free to Good Home:


Adult neutered female retriever/collie mix, 18 mos. 913-236-7407.

Eskimo mix, male, spayed, 6 yrs. old; Lab mix, 18 mos. 913-236-7407.

Participants needed for a study examining omega-3 fatty acids and how they relate to symptoms of multiple sclerosis. If interested, contact Robin Aupperle at 785-841-7989 or raupperle@kumc.edu.

Automotive:

1997 Chevy Venture van, dark metallic sapphire, gray cloth seats, remote keyless entry, dual sliding passenger doors, AM/FM radio/cassette/CD, theft-deterrent system, fully loaded, $6,000. 816-453-3298.

1996 Ford Explorer, Eddie Bauer model, excellent condition, all-wheel drive, automatic transmission, leather interior, 8 cylinder, sun/moon roof, very reliable, best offer. 913-579-5039.

For Sale:

Park and Sun outdoor volleyball net system, like new, same as used in local outdoor tournaments, with carry-bag. $125. 913-384-4417.

Dinette set, wood tabletop, black chairs with black and gray padding, rarely used, $100. 913-271-5175.

JVC home theatre, A/V receiver, DVD/VCR/CD, 5 speakers, subwoofer, never used, $450; child’s electric motorcycle by American Chopper, ages 3-8, $100. 913-831-7487 after 5 p.m.

Pair of 1950-60’s recliners, dark, neutral browns, solid wood arms, solid frame, $50 for pair or $35 each; solid brass Stiffel table lamp, excellent condition, with shade, $50; Eddie Bauer Home Collection iron table lamp with parchment shade, $50; misc. antique shipping crates, totally refinished and preserved, some with original paper labels, $5-$30; brass floor lamp with shade, $10; black metal tool box for truck, free. 913-708-1087.

Large dog kennel, $40. 913-677-2004.

17” E-machines computer monitor, brand new, $75 OBO. 913-422-5202.

15 X-box games, lots of sports games. 913-649-4048.

Ad Policy - Send or bring your ad, 30 words or less, to The University of Kansas Hospital's Communications Services Department. Send story ideas to Barbara Jaekel, Bldg. 48, Room 1070, or e-mail bjaekel or call 8-0241.

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