The University of Kansas Hospital’s next official site visit by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) isn’t scheduled until June 2005. Even so, the hospital has begun readying its forces with the launch of a yearlong campaign called Operation Excellence: Be Prepared, Be Professional, Be Proud!

“We want to build on the culture of excellence that’s already been established at the hospital,” emphasized Tammy Peterman, RN, chief nurse executive, vice president of Patient Care and JCAHO administrator. “We want employees and staff to be well prepared for the survey, conduct themselves professionally during the survey and then feel proud about their performance after the survey.”

Everyone should know what’s new about the survey process in 2005. According to Kathy Robinson, RN, JCAHO coordinator, the surveyors will use a “tracer” method. During their visit, they will select 10 current patients and trace each patient’s path of care throughout the hospital. They will talk with front-line staff in each area where the patient spent time and eventually talk with each patient about the quality of care he or she received.

“For example, the survey team might start in the Emergency Department where a patient entered the hospital and then follow that patient to the Operating Room, Surgical Intensive Care Unit and finally to one of the nursing units,” Robinson explained. “They will question staff about the care provided, how it was documented and what preparations have occurred for the patient’s discharge.”

In particular, the surveyors will closely examine patient care data that’s been collected and recorded, focusing on several hospital-wide “hot button” issues, such as infection control, patient safety and moderate sedation.

To help employees and staff prepare for JCAHO, special training materials are being created. Mock surveys will be conducted throughout the hospital, with mock surveyors asking questions about JCAHO standards and expectations. There will also be some activities that mix training with fun.

Although the hospital is preparing for a June 2005 survey, a surprise visit could happen at any time. JCAHO introduced random unannounced surveys more than a year ago to ensure that hospitals maintain high standards of patient care between scheduled visits.

“Operation Excellence will require all of us working together to provide and document outstanding patient care each and every day,” Peterman said. “I know our employees and staff are committed to doing their very best.”

For additional information about the JCAHO survey, contact Kathy Robinson at 8-4544 or krobinso@kumc.edu.
The University of Kansas School of Medicine has announced that John A. Grant, MD, will become the chair of Neurosurgery.

Currently, Grant is an associate professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a pediatric neurosurgeon at Children’s Mercy Hospital.

“Dr. Grant is a national leader in research, education and clinical service and will further enhance the reputation of the program at the University of Kansas,” said Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive dean of the SoM. “People already come from all over the country to this campus for neurosurgery, and Dr. Grant is a valuable addition to our prestigious team.”

Grant graduated from the Medical School of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland after receiving his undergraduate degree from Belvedere College in Dublin, Ireland.

He served his internship at the Richmond Hospital in Dublin, his residency in general surgery at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and a neurosurgery residency at Columbia University in New York. He also completed a fellowship in pediatric neurosurgery at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago, where he was an attending physician until last year.

The University of Kansas Hospital worked with the School of Medicine to recruit Grant, who said he was excited about his appointment.

The department already has a strong reputation, but with such new assets as the Hoglund Brain Imaging Center and the new research facilities under construction, there is tremendous growth potential in terms of research and clinical services. We can become even more of a national center for neurosciences on this campus,” he said.

The University of Kansas Medical Center has named David Adkins to a new position as vice chancellor for External Affairs, effective immediately. He will report to Donald Hagen, MD, KUMC executive vice chancellor.

Adkins will oversee Alumni and Community Relations, the staff of KU Med magazine, Health and Technology Outreach, and Continuing Education at KUMC. He will also work closely with other government relations and university marketing staff.

“David is very knowledgeable of the university from his nearly 12 years in the legislature and his tremendous involvement as an alumnus,” said Hagen. “He’s also a very gifted communicator who can help represent the Medical Center before a wide variety of audiences statewide. I’m pleased that he has accepted this challenge as we prepare to celebrate the centennials of the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing at KUMC.”

Adkins was elected to the Kansas Senate in 2000, following four terms as a Kansas state representative. He announced earlier this month that he would not seek reelection to the Senate in November. He will serve the remainder of his term, which ends in January 2005.

Adkins earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and a law degree, both from KU.

From 1986-98, he practiced law in Prairie Village with Bennett, Lytle, Wetzler, Winn & Martin. From 1998-2001, he was special counsel to the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and also served as the founding executive director of the Community Foundation of Johnson County. Since 2001, he has been an attorney with Lathrop & Gage in Overland Park.
Soaked Through

A burst pipe in the Murphy Administration Building on June 20 caused water damage on all floors and closed the building through June 27. Hit hardest were offices in the south end of the building, where Jo Halverson (right), special assistant to the Dean, School of Medicine, attempted to salvage soggy files.

Temporary workstations were set up in the School of Nursing’s Varnes Center. Crews experienced in water damage restoration are working with KUMC facilities maintenance, telephone and computer professionals to restore operations while waterlogged floors, walls, carpets and office equipment are dried out or replaced.

Trauma Center Receives Preliminary Survey Results

A survey team from the American College of Surgeons visited The University of Kansas Hospital June 7 to evaluate the Trauma Center program. Currently, the hospital has the area’s only nationally verified Level I Trauma Center.

“The surveyors were impressed by the positive changes made by our Trauma team since the last visit a year ago and by the overall growth of our Trauma program,” reported Irene Cumming, hospital president and chief executive officer. “In addition, they praised the hospital’s increased administrative support and our physicians’ exceptional dedication to the program’s success.”

These preliminary results indicate the hospital’s Trauma Center has retained its national verification.

A final report from the survey team is expected in 8-10 weeks, and the next visit is scheduled for June 2006.

Following last year’s visit, a Trauma Oversight Team was formed to address all facets of the hospital’s Trauma program. Team members included staff from the Emergency Department, Trauma Administrative Office, Medical Records and Organizational Improvement, as well as physicians from the Trauma team.

In addition, several new positions have been added to the hospital’s Trauma team, including a full-time social worker, another care coordinator and a program manager who will start work later this month. A new trauma surgeon will join the team in July, followed by the addition of an orthopedic traumatologist in August.

Cumming recognized the outstanding efforts of the entire Trauma Oversight Team, specifically the leadership provided by Tammy Peterman, RN, chief nurse executive and vice president of Patient Care Services; Terry Rusconi, senior director, Organizational Improvement; Jan Miller, Trauma Services coordinator; and Pat Huffman, nursing director, Emergency Department. She also acknowledged the tireless support of physicians such as Dennis Allin, MD, Michael Moncure, MD, and Jim Thomas, MD.

“Their hard work and commitment to excellence have resulted in preliminary reverification of our Trauma program and continued improvement in the care of our patients,” Cumming said.
Students interested in the medical profession got a first-hand look at what life would be like at the KU School of Medicine during the summer Health Careers Pathways Program (HCPP). Designed to attract under-represented students to medical careers, HCPP recently paired more than a dozen students with physicians in the departments of Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Surgery and Trauma Surgery. The program runs through July 30, with classes on the Lawrence and KUMC campuses.

Pictured at left (from left) are Nicole Thomas, Cuong Tran, Donald Milligan, MD, Gregory Sweat, MD, and Patrick Onweazu. Thomas just graduated from Rockhurst University, while Tran and Onweazu completed degrees at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. They shadowed in Family Medicine.

Below, Vincent Key, MD (left), explains a patient’s X-ray to Le’Erik Murray (background) and Shawn Lies, who shadowed in Orthopedic Surgery. Murray attends the University of Southern California, and Lies is a senior at Kansas State University.

Below (from left), Emergency Department shadowers Anh Pham, a student from Wichita State University, and Ben Baker, from Haskell Indian Nations University, shadowed Dennis Allin, MD.
Kirse Golf Tourney

Below, winners of this year’s Eighth Annual Molly and Matthew Kirse Memorial Golf Tournament June 11 at Adams Point Golf Club were Mark DeRoo, MD, left, and Brian Pate. Organizers fielded 30 teams and raised $23,681. Proceeds support the hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Exercise Caution

Public health officials and others who want to encourage people to get more physical activity should consider how to make exercise safer, more relevant and more enjoyable. Fear of crime, stray dogs, unsafe parks and lack of neighborhood amenities such as sidewalks and street lights are among the barriers identified by distinguished visiting scholar Barbara Ainsworth, PhD, San Diego State University. She presented her research on ethnic disparities in physical activity during a lecture June 16. The event was organized by the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health in cooperation with the Center for Excellence in Minority Medical Education and several other co-sponsors. In the photo above (from left) are Ainsworth; Laura Mussulman, project director; Stewart Trost, PhD, Kansas State University; Katrina DuBose, PhD, University of Kansas, Lawrence; and Tracy McMillan, PhD, KU School of Architecture.

The Blessing of The Hands

Right, Cara Busenhart, Kyanna Shelar and Bridget Robinson completed the KU School of Nursing’s Nurse Midwifery Education Program on June 19. The completion ceremony was held in Lied Auditorium. The traditional “blessing of the hands” and a reception followed in Hixson Atrium. (Photo by Jacky Carter)
Sponsors and committee members planning the annual Treads & Threads gala at Kansas Speedway were invited to a special June 22 reception and tour of the Cancer Center at The University of Kansas Hospital. Proceeds from the creative black-tie event benefit the Cancer Center.

This year’s gala will be held Friday, Sept. 10, and feature a 6 p.m. pre-party for sponsors and patrons followed by general admission at 7:30 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 8-8888 or visit www.treadsandthreads.org.

Attending the reception and tour were (from left) Janet and Clay Blair, Treads & Threads honorary co-chairs; Irene Cumming, hospital president and chief executive officer; and Nancy and John Payne, co-chairs. Also co-chairing the event are Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Gary Sebelius.

Chung-Tsen Hsueh, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, specializes in medical oncology with special interests in new drug development, gastrointestinal cancer, genitourinary cancer and cancers of the head and neck. He completed medical school at Taipei Medical University, Taiwan, and a doctorate in pharmacology and a residency in internal medicine at State University of New York at Buffalo. Hsueh also completed a fellowship in medical oncology and hematology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York City. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, with a subspecialty in medical oncology. Previously, Hsueh was an assistant professor at China Medical University Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan.

Linda Nelson, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, specializes in gynecology and reproductive endocrinology with special interests in infertility. Nelson completed medical school at the University of Miami in Florida. She also completed an internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology at the University of California, San Francisco. Nelson is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology with a subspecialty in reproductive endocrinology.

William P. Smith, MD, RVT, associate professor, Department of Radiology, specializes in breast imaging and serves as a dedicated mammographer in The University of Kansas Hospital’s new Breast Center. Smith has special interests in image-guided tissue acquisition and general ultrasound to support early detection of breast cancer. He completed both medical school and a residency at The University of Kansas School of Medicine. Smith is certified by the American Board of Radiology.
KAN Film Award

A video produced by the University of Kansas Center for TeleMedicine and TeleHealth (KUCTT) won first prize in the open industrial/education division of the 13th Annual KAN Film Festival. “Understanding Deep Brain Stimulation,” produced by Dan Ginavan, project manager, Kansas Video Network, illustrates the complex procedures involved in deep brain stimulation treatment for Parkinson’s disease patients. It was produced for the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorder Center and used an extensive amount of 3-D animation.

This is the third year a video produced by KUCTT has won a top prize in the film festival, which is principally sponsored by the Kansas Arts Commission, the Kansas Film Commission and the Missouri Film Commission.

Changes to Tax Withholding

The University of Kansas Hospital is now using a new version of the Lawson Human Resources/Payroll System, which sets up individual tax withholding based on work location and home address. With June 18, 2004, paychecks, the system began automatically deducting applicable city, state and federal taxes.

If you live in Kansas City, Mo., or work in a Kansas City, Mo., location, you will now have the one percent Kansas City Earnings Tax automatically withheld from your paycheck. If you do not live or work in a Kansas City, Mo., location, you will no longer be able to request that the Kansas City Earnings Tax be withheld from your paycheck.

For questions about tax withholding, please contact one of the following Human Resources Information Systems staff members: Sheryl Caster at 8-4539 or scaster@kumc.edu; Linda Deller at 8-5633 or ldeller@kumc.edu; or Chris Slavsky at 8-4524 or cslavsky@kumc.edu.

HIPAA Questions & Answers

This is the seventh in a series of articles answering specific questions about the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Q: Can patients and visitors use cameras in cellular phones to take pictures on the KUMC campus?

A: Yes, however, patient privacy and the protection of patient health information must be considered, especially with the increasing use of cameras built into cellular phones.

There are many situations that occur in a health care setting that people want to capture: images of a mother and her newborn child or a family that visits a sick relative. Although HIPAA is not intended to interfere with those moments, it does want to ensure that the privacy of other patients is protected.

Patient privacy is an issue much broader than HIPAA. Patient privacy is also an issue of respect that is important to KUMC staff and patients. Therefore, when using a cellular phone camera or other similar devices to take a picture, patients or visitors should be sure that the patient, person or people being photographed want to have their picture taken. Also, the person taking the picture must avoid the inclusion of people – both patients and staff – whom they do not intend to photograph.

If you are asked to take a picture for patients or visitors – which is permissible under HIPAA – you must consider the protection of patient health information. Be sure to avoid including unintended people and any health information in the picture.

Photography in a health care setting also raises other issues, such as the taking or use of pictures by authorized personnel for research or for marketing purposes. KUMC has developed policies for the taking and use of pictures for such mission-related activities that protect our patients’ health information.
Classifieds, etc.

Automotive:
2001 Mercury Cougar, V6, black, 5 speed, sunroof, CD/cassette, power doors/locks/seat, cruise control, spoiler, 41K, $9,900. 913-384-4417.

1994 Nissan Quest, reliable, 1 owner, $5,500. 913-451-1461.

RV 32’ Carrie-Lite Trailer 1993, fifth wheel, lots of storage and extras, washer/dryer, sleeps 4, all systems professionally upgraded, functioning, $19,500. 816-392-6536.

1992 Dodge Dynasty LE, 96K, many newer parts, good condition, power everything, must see, $1,500 OBO. 816-308-6871 or 816-308-6871.

1991 GMC conversion van, automatic, second owner, good condition, seats 7, $2,500. 913-722-2088.

1984 Buick Skylark, very dependable, only 48K miles, new CD player, $950. 913-220-7789.

For Sale
New Roper electric dryer, never used, purchased at Nebraska Furniture Mart before buying new house that requires gas dryer, $125. 913-268-5250.

Exercise equipment, $350; double oak bed frame and futon, $120; white shelving units, $15-40; cherry computer hutch, $1,500; sawbuck, $150; you haul. 913-451-1461.

Schwinn cast flywheel exercise bike, like new, space saving, easy to move, asking $175, retails new $500. 816-358-2004.

Solid brass chandelier, $50; antique oak secretary with bookcase, wooden wheels, $800; pro dumbbells, 8 pairs, 10-60 lbs., 5' 3” tier pro rack, $290. 816-804-2924.

Storm door, 36” black, slide-bottom screen, $20; large garbage can filled with scrap wood for fireplace starter, $10; free firewood, you pick up. 913-831-0980, leave message.

Hospital bed, good condition, used, $500. 913-829-2427.

Little girl’s dress, size 10, semi-formal to formal, burgundy with unique design outlined with rhinestones, newly purchased. Gloria at 913-341-2869.

Kansas Speedway tickets, July 3 Craftsman Truck Series, 4 good seats, $35 each (face value). 913-722-3631.


Moving sale: cherry end tables, protective glass tops, $35 each; cherry coffee table, $20; cherry corner curio, $80; loveseat rocker $250; cherry entertainment center, 4” x 18”; oak veneer end table, coffee table, $15 each; bar stools, $20 each; lamps, $35 each; brown cranberry La-Z-Boys, $35 each; large area rug, cranberry/green floral, $70. 913-492-3874.

Storage chest, solid knotty pine, 32” x 19” x 20”, rounded top, safety hinge, handcrafted in USA, $300+ new, selling for $100. 913-831-7487 after 5 p.m.

Virtually new house 6 blocks from KUMC campus, 4304 Fisher, complete restoration, 3 BR, finished attic, new kitchen, 1½ BA, abundance of upgrades, technology, $134,500. 913-722-3141 for appointment.

Brookside house for sale by owner, 3 BR, 2 BA, must see, open house noon-5 p.m. Sunday, 5701 Holmes, $199,500. Coco at 816-822-9800.

Free:
Refrigerator, older, works great, pick it up and it’s yours. 816-305-6271.

Guinea pig, reddish-brown, needs good home. 816-343-4480.

Two 4-month-old rabbits in good health: Heather is a gray and white Dutch, Melanie is a white and brown Satin, looking for a loving and caring family; free supplies: cage, food, water bottles, bath powder, toys. Gloria at 913-341-2869.

Wanted:
Lightly used single or double jogging stroller, good condition. 913-620-3012.

Friday, June 25
• Final oral exam for PhD in Molecular and Integrative Physiology for Ryan Thummel, “Genetic Analysis of Hox13 Orthologs in Mice and Zebrafish,” 1 p.m., 1050 School of Nursing.
• Physical Therapy Research Seminar, Rajprasad Loganathan, noon, Clendening Auditorium.

Tuesday, June 29
• Surgical Education Program Committee, 7 a.m., 5053 Sudler Conference Room.
• New Resident Orientation, 7:30 a.m. breakfast, Francisco Lounge; 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Battenfeld Auditorium; continues June 30.
• Community Blood Center donor sign-up, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., cafeteria, continues June 30.

Wednesday, June 30
• Central Plains Geriatric Education Center, “Effective Groups and Team Building for Quality Beginning Organizational Assessment, Part I,” Wanda Bonnel, RN, PhD, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Room 200, Landon Center on Aging.

IN THE CENTER
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