The KU School of Medicine recently received a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant and two Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grants to recruit and retain underrepresented minority students and faculty.

More than $11.8 million over the next three years will enable the SoM to continue the following initiatives:

- Retain and graduate 95 percent of its underrepresented medical students.
- Increase underrepresented faculty from 24 to 39.
- Recruit eight and develop 12 tenure-track faculty members.
- Create 28 new student curriculum modules.
- Provide opportunities for 48 underrepresented minorities to participate in health disparity research.
- Develop a pipeline to recruit students, beginning in kindergarten.

“Forty-seven percent of the patient population in metropolitan Kansas City is underrepresented minorities,” said Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive dean of the KU School of Medicine and vice chancellor for Clinical Affairs. “With these funds from the NIH, we will be able to recruit and retain the best qualified underrepresented minority students, assure their success, encourage them to enter the specialties of their choice and help all students to understand the cultural issues of their patients.”

Atkinson is the principle investigator of the NIH KUMC Endowment Program for Disadvantaged Students grant. These funds will go toward merit-based scholarships for minority students, strengthening academic support services and retention activities in an effort to improve success for minority students.

Patricia Thomas, MD, associate dean of Cultural Enhancement and Diversity, serves as the co-principle investigator on the KUMC Endowment grant and sees firsthand the impact such efforts have on the institution.

“Diversity has long been a top priority at the KU School of Medicine,” said Thomas. “I think that’s obvious when you look at our efforts reflected in the amount of money coming to this institution for diversity programs.”

Thomas is also the co-principle investigator with Iral Porter, dean for Cultural Enhancement and Diversity, on the Center of Excellence (COE) and Health Career Pathways Program (HCPP) grants.

“We feel it’s important to make sure all students have the tools to succeed once they get to medical school,” Porter said. “We don’t just want underrepresented minority students in our medical school; we want to ensure they will have the opportunity to be competitive.”
Funding Requests

The KUMC Auxiliary is accepting project funding requests for the 2004-05 fiscal year. Requests are due Nov. 15, and projects must meet the following criteria:

- Benefit KUMC patients, employees, students or staff.
- Begin during the 2004-05 fiscal year and be completed by April 1, 2005.
- Be ineligible for funding from an existing source.
- Cost $3,000 or less.

Request forms should include specific descriptions of items to be purchased, cost (including shipping and handling) and suggested place of purchase. A letter of approval from the appropriate department chair or division head must accompany each request.

Requests should be mailed to Jean Kimmel, 9004 Mullen Road, Lenexa, KS 66215. For more information, contact Kimmel at 913-599-3437 or Paula Gangel at 8-6528.

Faculty Research Day

Faculty from the KU Schools of Allied Health, Medicine and Nursing and the research centers will be recognized for their research accomplishments at the 2004 Faculty Research Day, Nov. 18.

Robert Rich, MD, University of Alabama-Birmingham, will give the keynote address “The Changing Environment for Biomedical Research,” which will be followed by faculty research presentations.

The program begins at 11:30 a.m. in Rieke Auditorium, and lunch will be provided. A poster session from 4-6 p.m. will conclude the event. For more information, contact Kelly Robertson at 8-5436.

Toy Drive

The Johnson County Task Force on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Inc., and the Teen Advisory Council will sponsor a weekend toy drive for KUMC Pediatrics.

The drive will begin Friday, Nov. 12, with the Task Force staffing a table outside the cafeteria 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The drive will continue 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Wal-Mart at 119th Street and Metcalf Avenue. In case of rain, the outdoor event will be held Nov. 14.

Toy donations must be new and in the package, safety-approved, plastic and easy-to-clean. Donors may also give money that will help buy toys and other items for Pediatrics.

Holiday Iditarod

The Kirmayer Fitness Center will provide incentives for keeping fit during the holiday season. From Nov. 15-Jan. 7, the center is hosting the Holiday Iditarod exercise challenge.

Teams must register by Nov. 12. Only Kirmayer Fitness Center members are eligible to participate. To register, visit www.kumc.edu/kirmayer or contact Marcy Ruckman at 8-7702.

HIPAA Information

Information Security representatives will be on hand outside the cafeteria next week to discuss the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and how it affects patient rights, privacy and security. They will staff information tables 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 18 and 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Nov. 19.

Information will also be available 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Nov. 17 at KU MedWest.

Mammogram Day

The Breast Center’s Employee Mammogram Day will not take place on December 3, but will be rescheduled for January 2005. Details will be announced at a later date.

Tuition Assistance

The deadline for state employees to apply for spring 2005 tuition assistance is approaching. Applications are available at www2.kumc.edu/hr/training/tuition.html. They should be completed and dropped off at 1044 Delp by Dec. 10.
Philanthropy at KUMC

During a Nov. 5 luncheon, the Women Philanthropists for KU welcomed speakers from The University of Kansas Hospital and the KU School of Medicine. Irene Cumming, hospital president and chief executive officer, and Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive dean, School of Medicine, discussed recent advancements on the KUMC campus and shared goals with members of the organization and special guests. Gathering for a tour of the Hoglund Brain Imaging Center were, below from left, Sally Hoglund, co-chair, Women Philanthropists for KU Advisory Board; David Adkins, JD, vice chancellor of External Affairs; Atkinson; Judge Deanell Tacha, co-chair, Women Philanthropists for KU Advisory Board; and Joan Hunt, PhD, senior associate dean for Research and Graduate Education.

Healthy Kansas

Kansas Governor Kathleeeen Sebelius, above, and Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger held a news conference at KUMC Nov. 9. They announced an initiative to contain soaring health care and prescription drug costs, streamline insurance paperwork and expand access to health care for Kansas children and working parents. Also participating in the event were Vernon Mills, MD, president of the Kansas Medical Society, and Irene Cumming, president and chief executive officer, The University of Kansas Hospital.

To the Top

The KUMC United Way campaign has reached more than 80 percent of its goal, thanks to high participation from groups such as the School of Nursing and the Department of Social Work. From left, Kim Rock, manager, Academic Affairs, and Bridget Koan, senior coordinator, Dean’s Office, led efforts in the School of Nursing and raised more than $11,000; Linda Davila, office specialist, and Jane Myer, social worker, helped encourage a 65 percent participation rate in the Department of Social Work. The metro-wide campaign will wrap up Nov. 18. Paper pledge forms may still be turned in, and university employees may also use the online pledge system. For more information, call 8-1255.
### Wednesday, Nov. 17
- **Central Plains Geriatric Education Center Fall Series**: Wanda Bonnel, RN, PhD, and Kristine Williams, RN, PhD, NP, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Landon Center. To register, contact Eva Baughman at 8-1464 or ebaughman@kumc.edu.

### Thursday, Nov. 11
- **Lecture**: “Predicting and Preventing Child Neglect in High-Risk Mothers,” Judith Carta, PhD, 3-4 p.m., School of Nursing B018.
- **Seminar**: “Spinal Contributions to Sex Differences in Pain,” Bruce Newton, PhD, 4-5 p.m., Orr-Major 1025.

### Friday, Nov. 12
- **Pediatric Grand Rounds**: “How Do You Know Your Patient Is Taking Medications as Prescribed?” Michael Rapoff, PhD, 8-9 a.m., Lied Auditorium.
- **Psychiatry Grand Rounds**: “PUFAs and Mental Health,” Beth Levant, PhD, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Sudler Auditorium.
- **Biochemistry Seminar**: “Using Fluctuation Spectroscopy to Study Protein-Protein Interactions,” Gregory D. Reinhart, PhD, 11 a.m.-noon, Orr-Major 1023.

### Saturday, Nov. 13
- **Medical Arts Symphony**: conducted by Merton Shatzkin, pre-concert discussion, 7:20 p.m., concert 8 p.m., Battenfeld Auditorium, free admission.

### Monday, Nov. 15
- **Seminar**: “Early Events Related to Angiogenesis Following an Infarct in Primary Cortex,” Anne Stowe, PhD student, 4-5 p.m., Orr-Major 1023.

### Tuesday, Nov. 16
- **Surgery Grand Rounds**: “Surgical Aspects of Acute Pancreatitis,” Russell G. Postier, MD, 7-8 a.m., Clendening Auditorium.
- **Student Wellness Program**: “Discovering Balance: How to Talk to Patients with Sexual Limitations,” Kimberly Vandegeest-Wallace, PhD, noon-1 p.m., School of Nursing 1050.
- **International Religious Freedom and Tolerance**, sponsored by U.S. Department of State, noon-1 p.m., 1015 Orr-Major. Bring lunch and join the discussion. For more information, contact Chuck Romero at 8-8011 or cromero@kumc.edu.

### Wednesday, Nov. 17
- **Internal Medicine Grand Rounds**: “Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy for Heart Failure,” Loren Berenbom, MD, 8-9 a.m., Sudler 3015.