KU Med was notified Nov. 15 by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) that it can proceed with the development of a heart transplant program.

“The decision means UNOS agrees that we have the right people and processes to begin establishment of the heart transplant program. The experience of Dr. Michael Gorton and the transplant team, along with the success of the hospital’s existing comprehensive transplant center, led to this approval. This is just one part of the comprehensive heart program that has been built at KU Med this year,” said Irene Cumming, KU Med president and chief executive officer.

“UNOS approval is both an honor and a responsibility. We appreciate UNOS’ prompt consideration of our request so we can start taking the next steps to add to our transplant program, which is already the most comprehensive in the region,” said Cumming.

Gorton, who leads the heart transplant team along with cardiologists and other health care professionals, said KU Med would begin work to finalize establishment of the program, which will include investing in some new equipment and staff training. Gorton said it would be several months into 2002 before KU Med would begin accepting patients for transplants.

Another key member of the heart transplant team, Randall Genton, MD, KU Med cardiologist, agreed with Gorton that the program will be built in a careful, deliberate manner.

“Once a person has gone through all the evaluations and other therapies, it can still take months to prepare a patient for a transplant,” said Genton. “We will take the same approach for the program as a whole.”

Genton noted that KU Med is currently providing ongoing care to 70 patients who have had heart transplants.

KU Med is the only facility in the region providing liver and pancreas transplants and has successfully performed kidney and bone marrow transplants as well.

“Heart transplantation is a natural extension of our current transplant programs. People look to an academic medical center to provide advanced medicine, such as multiple organ transplants,” said Jameson Forster, MD, head of KU Med’s liver transplant team. “Our success in liver, pancreas and kidney transplants provides a foundation for KU Med to add hearts.”
KU Med’s new on-call scheduling system is easy to access and quick to communicate doctor’s after-hours and weekend schedules to any department on campus. The new system will standardize monthly schedules and allow departmental on-call schedules to be viewed via the Internet from an internal computer.

“The system will not only standardize the process but also provide a uniform database, which will, in turn, assist us in maintaining an even greater level of compliance with Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act,” said Bill Barkman, MD, chief of staff.

The schedule coordinator for each department will enter all the data into the ONCALL system. When the system is operational on Monday, Nov. 26, individuals can access the on-call system by logging on to oncall.kumed.org.

“This will be a wonderful program that can eliminate a lot of confusion and streamline the entire on-call process,” said Jeff Strickler, RN, MA, CEN, trauma program director.

Changes to the departmental schedules can only be made by the schedule coordinators. However, after-hours emergency changes can be made by the switchboard.

A demonstration was held for physicians in the Medical Staff Lounge on Monday, Nov. 19 from noon to 1 p.m. Another will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 27 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Training of departmental schedule coordinators was completed last week. One hundred and five schedule coordinators participated in the training.

The internal Web site for the ONCALL system is oncall.kumed.org. For more information about the system, contact Julie Amor at 8-1594.

Avoid over-indulging this Thanksgiving

There’s a good chance your turkey won’t be the only one stuffed this Thanksgiving.

According to research from Georgia State University, we eat 44 percent more in a social setting than we do when we’re alone. We spend longer around the holiday table because the aroma, sight and taste of special foods are more appealing. So how can we avoid eating too much?

“Decide which foods you love the most and which foods you can live without,” advises Adrienne Moore Baxter, teaching associate, Dietetics and Nutrition. “Then skip your least favorite and focus on smaller portions of your favorites. Savor each bite.”

If you do over-eat, Baxter suggests staying off the couch. Offer to clear the table and load the dishwasher. Take a walk with the family to see the neighbors’ holiday decorations. Play a rousing game of basketball, football or frisbee. Spin some tunes and dance.

Whatever you do, stay away from the leftovers!
Bone marrow registration

The Student Organization for Surgery, in conjunction with the American Medical Students Association, sponsored Bone Marrow and Organ Donor Day on Nov. 14. Students, faculty, physicians and employees were invited to sign up to be bone marrow and organ donors.

Arlene Jones, phlebotomist, draws blood from Molly Imber, first-year medical student to complete the bone marrow registration process.

Habitat for Humanity

Ten volunteers from KUMC worked on a Habitat for Humanity house being built in Rosedale at 41st and Fisher Nov. 17.

Some of the KUMC crew on site are, from left, Jessica Shepherd, Payroll; Jeff Teply, fourth-year medical student and his wife Amy; Diane Clark, Center on Aging; Arielle Schamberger, first-year nursing student; Jeanette, a Cerner employee who volunteered at the KUMC site; and Maria and Pedro Ontivero, Project Eagle. Other KUMC volunteers not in the picture were Dean Reker, Center on Aging; Darren Klish, third-year medical student; and Kim Cuda, Alumni and Community Relations.

Monitor presentation

A pediatric monitor was donated to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Nov. 16. Funds to purchase the monitor were raised at last summer’s Molly and Matthew Kirse Golf Tournament.

The tournament was established to raise funds for the KU Children’s Center in memory of John and Jennifer Kirse’s children, Molly and Matthew.

From left, Kathleen Webster, MD, PICU; Andreas Deyman, MD, program director Medicine/Pediatric residents; Jennifer Lombardi, RN, PICU and pediatric clinical nurse educator; Carol B. Lindsley, MD, Rheumatology; and Jennifer Kirse.
For Rent:
Available for rent or sublease: spacious 2 BR, 2 BA apartment at 75th and Switzer in Shawnee, quick commute to KUMC, large kitchen, walk-in closet, living room fireplace, balcony overlooking trees, lease is through 6/02 with option to renew, perfect for roommates looking for lots of space at a great price, $725/mo. with all utilities paid. 913-268-7291 for info or to view apartment.

For Sale:
Blue sofa, futon with new cover, microwave, kitchen table with 4 matching chairs, bookshelves, executive computer desk, antique lamp, metal art piece, ebony metal end tables, rolling desk chair, authentic African metal chest, small weight/sit-up bench. 913-710-3338.

Wedding decorations: new, 8’ white garden arch fully decorated with tulle, white lights and ivy, 8 shimmery white pew bows, white ring bearer pillow and flower basket with red accent, buy all or whatever you like, very flexible on price. Leave message at 913-268-7291.

Olhausen 8’ pool table, 2 years old, solid oak, black felt with black leather pockets, all accessories, paid $3,800, will sell for $1,200 OBO. 816-847-0428.

Firewood: 50-year-old pine oak, you pick up, truckload, $60. 913-432-7859.

CASIO CTK-541 100 song keyboard w/ stand, excellent condition, perfect for Christmas, $125; Walkfit Nordictrack 5000 treadmill, $250; Sportscraft Foosball table, perfect shape, $50; Kenmore heavy duty washer and dryer, work great, $200 for the pair. Leave message at 913-469-1228.

Scholastic Book Fair
It’s the perfect time to start your Christmas shopping at KC Reads’ second annual Scholastic Book Fair Dec. 4-5.
KC Reads, a joint project between the KU Children’s Center at KUMC and Children’s Mercy Hospital, helps children living in poverty develop language and other pre-reading skills necessary to learn to read and succeed in school.
A wide selection of books will be available including board books for young children, as well as gift books and cookbooks. A large selection of children’s books written in Spanish will also be offered.
Funds raised from this event will be used to purchase new books for low-income children in Kansas City who participate in the KC Reads program. For more information, contact Amy at 8-2793.

Correction
In the Nov. 8 issue of In the Center, we incorrectly stated that Susan Pingleton, MD, has been at KU Med since 1992. She has been here since 1972. We regret the error.

Scholastic Book Fair

In The Center is a weekly employee publication published by the KU Med Public Relations Department. Send story ideas to Toni Wills, G114 Hospital, or e-mail twills2 or call 8-1846.

Ad Policy - Send or bring your ad to G114 KU Med, or fax to 8-1225 or e-mail twills2 by noon Thursday of the week before it is to run. Ads run free of charge for employees, students and volunteers. All ads requested must include the advertiser’s name and work extension (or student box number) for verification. Only home phone numbers—no pager numbers or work extensions—will be published. Please include area code. No ads for commercial services or pets for sale will be accepted. Ads will not be taken by telephone. Ads may be held a week if space is limited.