KU Med is only hospital in Kansas to perform new kidney surgery

KU Med is one of a few hospitals in the country performing a new surgical procedure for kidney cancer that spares the patient pain and shortens the recovery period.

Duke Herrell, MD is the only surgeon in Kansas City performing the procedure, called hand-assisted laparoscopic radical nephrectomy. Dr. Herrell uses a television camera system to guide thin laparoscopic instruments and a special device that allows him to insert his hand into the patient’s abdomen to remove a cancerous kidney. Several half-inch incisions are used to insert the thin camera and the dissecting instruments. A single three-inch incision is then used to insert a hand to aid in the dissection and removal of the kidney and surrounding tissues.

The traditional procedure requires a 12-to-18-inch incision, resulting in a five-to-seven day hospital stay and three to six months for full recuperation. Dr. Herrell’s laparoscopic patients normally go home within two to three days and can be back at work in a few weeks.

“This procedure is precise and safe,” said Dr. Herrell. “It allows me to remove the kidney and all of the tissues around it to make sure the cancer has been completely removed. It’s a great option for a lot of people.” The procedure can also be used to remove non-functioning, non-malignant kidneys.

After urological surgery residency, Dr. Herrell trained in a specialized fellowship for laparoscopy and kidney stone disease. He is the only urologic surgeon in Kansas with this training.
Major upgrade in food service unveiled

Sodexho Marriott Services takes over management of the cafeteria and patient food services on January 1, 2001, and will begin a yearlong upgrade of food selections, services and equipment.

“Right now, we are operating with the original equipment from the hospital cafeteria. We simply would not be able to do this upgrade without Sodexho Marriott because of their years of experience in getting the right equipment and using it creatively, efficiently and safely,” said Marla Bernard, KU Med’s vice president of support services.

Bernard said the clinical dieticians, cooks and other food service employees will remain. The existing food service managers have been encouraged to apply for positions with Sodexho Marriott.

Bernard also said keeping food cost low for cafeteria customers is a priority for KU Med and Sodexho Marriott. Sodexho Marriott will phase in a concept throughout 2001 that will present customers with a variety of new food choices. It is designed to provide selections for students on the go, greater variety for the health conscious and for visitors of all ages.

The patient food program will undergo a major overhaul. Sodexho Marriott is planning to bring in their highly regarded patient food service program, “At Your Request.” This program creates room service dining for patient and has led to improved patient satisfaction where it has been implemented.

Avoid tough sledding this winter with cold weather tips

Winter is upon us, even though it doesn’t officially start until the 21st. This week’s blast of ice and frigid temperatures probably caught many of us unprepared. Preparing your vehicle and your clothing for the weather can go a long way in keeping you safe during the winter season.

Sgt. Fritz Torrey of the KU Police department has these suggestions for driving on snow and ice.
- Leave early; don’t be in a hurry.
- Make sure you have good visibility. Keep a scraper or broom in the car.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Make sure your tires are in good shape. If you have no tread, you have no traction.
- Keep your windshield filled with solution that will not freeze.
- Keep extra clothing in your car.
- When driving on ice and snow allow at least three times normal stopping distance.
- If you start to skid, take your foot off the brake and the accelerator, steer in the direction of the skid until you regain control.
- When driving in deep snow, keep a slow, steady pace and don’t brake or turn sharply.
- Four wheel SUVs are great in snow, but often no better on ice than any other vehicle.

“The best tip for winter driving is to wear your seat belt, take your time, keep your wits about you and anticipate that the car in front of you or behind you is going to do something that will cause you to take defensive action,” said Torrey.
National leader in patient service shares advice

You could tell by the faces of the audience members that this was no ordinary speaker. Members of the hospital management team were on the edge of their seats Wednesday in Wahl Hall East listening to Quint Studer, a nationally known expert in health care customer service training.

Studer, chief executive officer of Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, Florida and former chief operating officer of Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago, had one central message for members of the hospital management team, the medical leadership and representatives of patient care areas: “Do what’s right for the patient and success will follow.”

Under Studer’s guidance, Baptist Hospital raised patient satisfaction from the 5th to the 99th percentile, increased market share by three percent and decreased employee turnover from 35 percent to 12 percent a year.

“It’s all about building a culture to provide excellent patient care,” said Studer. “If you build a win-win culture, without finger pointing, you will succeed.”

Over the next year, Studer will provide two full days of managerial skill-building for KU Med leaders. This is a continuation of the customer service initiative begun by the hospital in October, 1999.

Couple retires from KUMC after more than 75 years’ service

Erich and Kay Ulmer were honored at a retirement reception for their loyalty and dedication after more than 75 years of service to KUMC.

Erich, director of Printing and Mail Services, has worked at KUMC for 46 years. “When he came here, I was in the fourth grade,” said Jim Bingham, chief information officer and Erich’s former supervisor. “He was a smart businessman, worked his tail off and inspired others in the quietest of ways.”

Kay, a secretary in the Child Development Unit, has worked at KUMC for 30 years. “Her longevity alone improved the quality of our services,” said Donald Hagen, MD, executive vice chancellor.

The couple will officially retire later this month.
A group of Dickens Carolers toured the campus on Dec. 5 with holiday wishes from the Student Union Corporation (SUA) and the KUMC Bookstore. The annual event is sponsored by SUA. The group performed in the Courtyard Cafe, hospital cafeteria, hospital lobby and the bookstore.

Bob Page-Adams, KU Med chief operating officer, enjoys the party along with hospital volunteer Sally Johnson.

Mary Ball, KU Med vice president of Marketing and Public Relations, standing, chats with Auxiliary member Dorothy Ebner and her husband Kurt Ebner, MD, at a party for hospital volunteers held Dec. 2.

KUMC junior nursing students received Outstanding Clinical Student Awards. The students are enrolled in Foundations of Nursing and Health Promotion (Nursing 340). From left to right: JoAnn Lierman, RN, Ph.D., clinical assistant professor and lead teacher for Nursing 340, Melissa Haddon, Heidi Boehm, Dean Karen Miller, Julie Flint, Kimberly Allen, Catherine Pirotte, Trish Zimmerman and Lauren Bishop.
Scenes from the university
The spirit of Christmas is beginning to glow throughout the year for the people of the Argentine community in Kansas City, Kansas. This culturally rich neighborhood with a long and proud history is home to the Departments of Medicine’s and Pediatric’s Silver City Health Center which serves a growing number of community residents, many of whom lack access to quality health care. Now, access is improving, thanks in large part to the efforts and gifts of KUMC School of Medicine faculty and students.

The Silver City Health Center is directed by Candace Moseley, MD, residency coordinator for the medicine and pediatric residents who staff the Center. Dr. Moseley has worked with KUPI to implement a new payment structure with a sliding scale based on income. Recently, the Wyandotte Health Foundation awarded the Silver City Health Center a grant of $46,000 to operate a monthly free screening clinic. Two weeks ago our faculty raised an additional $8,000 for the Center through their Holiday Silent Auction.

Staffing for the monthly clinic will be coordinated by the School’s six academic societies, the Delp, Major, Orr, Murphy, Wahl, and Wescoe Societies. Each month the clinic will be staffed with volunteer medical students supervised by faculty members from each Society.

When the School of Medicine kicked off these Academic Societies in September 1999, its major goals were to help foster long term mentoring relationships and to enhance the development of professional attitudes and behaviors in medical practice. Now, sixteen months later, their plans for the screening clinic and the growing participation of faculty and students is proof that this experiment is in fact beginning to accomplish its objectives.

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**Baxendale to oversee tech transfer for KUMC and KU**

Jim Baxendale, who has overseen technology transfer at KUMC for more than four years, has been named executive director for technology transfer and intellectual property for all KU campuses. Technology transfer is the process of commercially marketing scientific discoveries.

The programs have been administered separately by the KU Center for Research in Lawrence and by the KUMC’s Research Institute. “This kind of consolidation is typical of what’s happened in Oklahoma, Colorado and Missouri,” said Baxendale.

He said he would educate faculty about intellectual property, enhance the commercialization of technology and increase collaboration between KUMC and KU. He also wants to be the catalyst for collaboration among KU and some of KUMC’s Life Science Initiative partners, like Midwest Research Institute and Children’s Mercy Hospital.

Technology transfer produces revenues for universities by generating royalties and licensing fees from successful product patents. Companies spun out of university-developed technology may be the biggest revenue producers. Several companies, like Flint Hills Scientific, have been created by technology discovered at KUMC.
**Thanks for Sharing**

*By Kim Cuda, Director of Alumni and Community Relations*

The employees, faculty, staff and students at KUMC who give and share with others in our community are an extraordinary group of people!

Because the Alumni and Community Relations Office coordinates many of the campus volunteer projects, we see first-hand the generous contributions of time, talent and resources that members of our KUMC family give. Whether it’s the 2,309 donors who pledged more than $173,100 to the United Way campaign or the 200 individuals who adopted 227 children for the holidays, or the 175 volunteers who helped with Christmas in October, our KUMC co-workers have shared with others.

During this holiday season the Alumni and Community Relations Office extends our thanks to everyone at KUMC for your involvement and support in helping to make our community a better place in which to live and work.

**Holiday reminder**

Get ready to deck the halls as the hospital throws its annual holiday party on Dec. 20 from 2-4 p.m. and 10 p.m. to midnight in the cafeteria. Have your photo taken with Santa, graze the appetizer buffet and visit with friends.

Be sure to turn in your entry in the wreath decorating contest by Dec. 15. Take your wreath to the Public Relations/Marketing department at G114 on the ground of the hospital.

**Accepting nominations**

Nominations for the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Awards will be accepted through Dec. 18. A faculty colleague, student or alumnus may nominate faculty members who have exhibited excellent teaching skills while at KUMC. Each nomination must include a letter summarizing the faculty member’s worthiness for the award, the nominee’s curriculum vitae, and copies of the nominee’s formal teaching evaluations and evaluations by faculty peers. Nominations should be sent to Allen Rawitch, Ph.D., office of academic affairs, 5015 Wescoe.

**Give blood, save lives**

The KUMC blood drive will be held Dec. 20 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Dec. 21 from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. in Stoland Lounge. Sign up on Dec. (I need to look up these dates) outside the cafeteria from (look up times) or call Linda Riley at 81712. Donors will receive T-shirts.

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**By Helen Connors, RN, Ph.D., FAAN, SoN associate dean for academic affairs and director of educational innovation.**

The KU School of Nursing (SoN) is expanding its presence in the dot.com world. New collaborations with nursing education websites allows SoN to offer the world access to high quality on-line continuing education courses.

This expansion stems from the Kansas Continuous Learning Project (KCLP), funded by the Kansas Health Foundation. A partnership among KU and three Regents Institutions, the KCLP is designed to help alleviate isolation felt by many primary health care professionals in rural areas.

Three KUMC continuing ed courses are available at nursingcenter.com. With a little high tech tweaking, courses will soon be available through continuingeducation.com. Nurses can also directly access courses through KCLP at www2.kumc.edu/kclp/.
**Automotive:**

1988 Chevy Corsica, 4 dr, black, runs good, 97K miles, $1500 OBO. Lester at 816-765-8650.

1985 Chevy Suburban, new engine, 15K miles, new wheels and tires, brakes, radiator, alarm, with stereo-$5750, without stereo-$4700 firm. 913-299-0998.

**For Sale:**

White sewing machine, good for dressmaker, new $240, asking $140; Schwinn road bike, $70; Singer sewing machine, $50. 816-746-1216.

Brown hip-length seal coat, size 10, $50 OBO; Crosley 110 amp air conditioner, works perfectly, $100 OBO; Conair mini microwave, $25. 913-432-7475.

PlayStation #1 with two controllers, one memory card and two games (Xena, Fighting Force), $120. 913-238-5559.

**For Rent:**

Small one BR apt, one block from KU, rear parking, semi-private entrance, $245/mo., includes water and gas. 913-677-5567.

**Services Offered:**

Would you like to have a candle party? I offer in-home demonstrations or book parties and you earn free product. Angela at 913-403-9609.

Falun Gong, an advanced traditional Chinese practice to improve the mind and body through exercise and meditation, free. If interested call Barbara Batson at 913-236-5114 or email barbbatson@aol.com.

**Ride Wanted:**

Need ride to KUMC from Bonner Springs area. Work schedule 8 to 5 but willing to come in anytime. Also willing to reimburse. Please call Jessica at 913-441-6934.

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**More cold weather tips**

If you are trapped in your car during a blizzard:

- Stay in the car, and display a trouble sign.
- Occasionally run the engine to keep warm.
- Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep a window slightly open for ventilation.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Move around to keep up circulation but avoid overexertion.
- For warmth, huddle together.

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**In The Center**

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In The Center is a weekly employee and student publication of the University of Kansas and KU Med, is published by the KU Med Public Relations and Marketing Department. Send story ideas to Toni Wills, G114 Hospital, e-mail: <twills2>  8-1846, or Mary King, e-mail: <mking>  8-1298.

**Ad Policy**  
Send or bring your ad to G114 KU Med, or fax to ext. 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. For-sale ads are limited to three items. All ads 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. Only one phone number per ad. Ads may be held a week if space is limited.

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**Got stories?**

If you have a story idea, question or comment call the In the Center hotline at 81454.