UK has most physicians named “Top Doctors” in Kentucky

Sixteen physicians at UK Chandler Hospital have been named America’s Top Doctors® for 2006. In fact, more physicians at UK were selected than at any other hospital in the state and nearly 50 percent of all Kentucky physicians on the list are UK College of Medicine physicians.

The publishers of Top Doctors randomly surveyed board-certified physicians, asking them to nominate outstanding physicians in various specialties and subspecialties. The physicians selected are being recognized for excellence in academic research as well as excellence in patient care.

The following are the UK physicians on this year’s list, along with brief descriptions of why other physicians consider them outstanding.

Joseph R. Berger – Neurology
Chair of the department of neurology, Dr. Berger leads a department ranked 13th nationally in neurological research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

J. Timothy Bricker – Pediatric Cardiology
Chair of the department of pediatrics, Children’s Miracle Network professor and physician-in-chief of Kentucky Children’s Hospital since 2005, Dr. Bricker has added 11 new physicians to expand subspecialty care for children.

Alfred M. Cohen – Surgery
Retiring director of the Markey Cancer Center, Dr. Cohen is a national leader in comprehensive quality care and outcomes assessment in colorectal cancer management.

Leslie J. Crofford – Rheumatology
Chief of the department of rheumatology and director of the Center for the Advancement of Women, Dr. Crofford has attracted national attention by establishing the Kentucky Women’s Health Registry to track the health of 25,000 women in the state over the next 10 years.

Philip A. DeSimone – Hematology and Oncology
President and chief executive officer of the Markey Cancer Foundation, Dr. DeSimone has worked at the Markey Cancer Center since 1970 and is now bringing the foundation to national prominence as a philanthropic organization through innovation, organization and development.

Dennis E. Doherty – Pulmonary Medicine
Chief of the division of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine, Dr. Doherty was recently elected secretary of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) Council of Chapter Representatives, a role that traditionally leads to chairmanship of the council.

James E. Ferguson, II – Maternal Fetal Medicine
Chair of the division of maternal-fetal medicine, Dr. Ferguson has served as an officer of the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society and specializes in high-risk pregnancies.

Darren L. Johnson – Orthopaedic Surgery
Chair of the department of orthopaedic surgery and sports medicine, Dr. Johnson was named 2006 Sports Medicine Person of the Year by the Kentucky Athletic Trainer’s Society (KATS).

Patrick C. McGrath – Surgical Oncology
Chief of the division of general surgery, Dr. McGrath serves as director of the Comprehensive Breast Care Center, a unique multidisciplinary center that serves as an excellent resource for women with breast cancer.

Show your pride

I am sure that all of you by now are aware that we did extremely well in our recent JCAHO hospital accreditation survey. It feels good to know that you are good at what you do. We can never let that sense of pride and accomplishment dissipate. In fact, we need to develop some “Kentucky swagger.” When someone tells you that you have done something well at the hospital, the response should be “What would you expect, after all we are UK.”

As we continue to strengthen our operational excellence, we must also commit to making sure that our patients and their families hold us in appropriate high esteem. We can only do that through careful, thoughtful communication and expressed concern that drives our patient satisfaction up.

If we feel good now, we will feel even better when we shine in patient satisfaction. Our Kentucky swagger needs to be justified by pride in who we are, what we do, and the humaneness and courtesy we extend to our patients and their families in a time of need.

Congratulations!

Michael Karpf, MD
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs
Free program helps employees reduce cardiac risks

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States, but many of its risk factors—high blood pressure, high cholesterol, high blood glucose, cigarette smoking, lack of physical activity and obesity—can be modified or eliminated. CardioCARE, a new service offered by the PharmacistCARE program in the College of Pharmacy, is designed to help employees reduce those risks.

The program offers:
- Group educational classes.
- Individualized follow-up sessions.
- Up-to-date materials on cardiovascular care.
- Periodic cardiovascular disease newsletter.
- Telephone consultation for those outside of the Fayette County regional area.
- Telephonic lifestyle case management through the UK Behavioral Health Improvement Program (BeH.I.P.).

Participation in CardioCARE is free to all adult UK Health Plan members who have been diagnosed with cardiovascular disease (including high blood pressure and high cholesterol). For more information, call 859-323-4742 or visit the PharmacistCARE office located on the first floor of Kentucky Clinic, Wing D, Room K135.

Camper and canines unite against cancer

Summer camp and man's best friend recently came together to raise the spirits of some of the more than 120 Kentucky children diagnosed with cancer each year, thanks to the Kentucky Cancer Program (KCP). Administered by the Markey Cancer Control Program, the Kentucky General Assembly established KCP in 1982 to provide communities and health care professionals across the state with a comprehensive, science-based cancer control program.

Beyond its primary mission, however, KCP may be most respected for the quality of life and survivorship programs it has facilitated through the years such as Indian Summer Camp and Love on a Leash Therapy Dogs. Indian Summer Camp is held each June in Shelby County to give children with cancer ages 7 to 17 a vacation from illness and treatments and the chance to just be kids again. Love on a Leash (LOAL) therapy dog teams visiting 15 facilities in the United States, with over 40 certified and insured therapy dog teams visiting 15 facilities in the region every month. For more information, contact Gloria Sams at 606-679-7204 or gsams@kcp.uky.edu.

“Therapy dogs can be such an unexpected delight, especially in a clinical setting,” said Gloria Sams, cancer control specialist for KCP’s Lexington region. "They lower blood pressure and stress, raise self-esteem and increase all those ‘feel good’ endorphins that contribute to the healing process—plus they’re just a lot of fun!” Sams volunteers for LOAL with her cocker spaniel, Joey.

Learn more
Indian Summer Camp is one of the first two oncology camps for children in the United States and celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2006. For more information, contact Amy Steinkuhl, camp director and cancer control specialist for KCP’s Lexington region, at 859-219-0772, ext. 265 or amy@kcp.uky.edu.

The Somerset chapter of LOAL is one of the organization’s most active chapters in the United States, with over 40 certified and insured therapy dog teams visiting 15 facilities in the region every month. For more information, contact Carrie Johnson, PharmD, and Mikael Jones, PharmD, at 606-679-7204 or cjones@kcp.uky.edu.

For more information on KCP, visit www.kcp.uky.edu.

Eleven Love on a Leash volunteers pose with their therapy dogs during their visit to Indian Summer Camp, a camp in Shelby County for children with cancer.
Health care providers sometimes unexpectedly find themselves on the receiving end of the medical spectrum. That was the case for Roni Benson, RN, chief quality officer for Galesburg Cottage Hospital in Galesburg, Ill., when she crashed her bike and was injured during a recent team bicycle ride in Indiana. Fortunately, a team of cyclists from UK HealthCare’s Gill Heart Institute was on hand to provide immediate assistance. Here is an excerpt from a thank-you letter Benson sent to fellow cyclist Lee Games, RN, staff nurse in the Gill Heart Institute’s catheterization lab recovery room:

I think it is good for organizations to know about the good things their people do off the job as well as on. Y’all could not have represented UK more proudly than you did that day. What an amazing experience this has been. Kindness and the human spirit will always win out in the end. Sometimes, you don’t even realize how much you are loved until you have a very close call. Please give my sincere thanks to the rest of your team.

Health Care to the rescue

UK HealthCare cyclists and an emergency rescue team tend to Roni Benson after she fell from her bike.

Briefs from the colleges

Classes of 2010 welcomed with white coat ceremonies

During separate white coat ceremonies, the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry recently welcomed first-year students who represent each college’s Class of 2010.

Demographics for the incoming classes:

College of Medicine
Incoming class of 103 students comprised of 41 women and 62 men; 78 are Kentucky residents, including 40 from rural areas.

College of Pharmacy
Incoming class of 132 students comprised of 80 women and 52 men representing 50 Kentucky counties; the class also includes 19 minority students, which is the largest percentage in the school’s history.

College of Dentistry
Incoming class of 56 students comprised of 25 women and 31 men; 41 are from Kentucky and 15 are from out of state.

College of Dentistry
The College of Dentistry has established the E. Preston Hicks Endowed Chair of Orthodontics and Oral Research to further develop, promote and recognize achievement in orthodontic research and scholarship. In 2006, alumni and friends pledged more than $500,000 along with matching state funds to complete a $1 million fund, the first in the college’s history.

The chair’s namesake, E. Preston Hicks, began a nearly 20-year career with the College of Dentistry in 1987 and is currently associate professor and program director of graduate orthodontics. He is credited with revitalizing the Orthodontic Graduate Program by modifying the curriculum from a 24-month to a 34-month combined specialty certificate program with a required master’s degree.

College of Medicine
The College of Medicine now ranks 30th among public medical schools for research funding received from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), according to rankings for the 2005 fiscal year. This is a move up from 31st last year and 35th two years ago. The college ranked 57th among 123 public and private schools receiving NIH funding in 2005. NIH funding totaled nearly $63 million. Current faculty successes and numerous new faculty recruits will positively affect the numbers in coming years.

College of Nursing
The College of Nursing is engaging in strategic planning for 2006-2009. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, representatives from the academic health center and community leaders will have opportunities to provide input during the following open forums to be held in the College of Nursing Building Rooms 311-313:

Wednesday, November 1, 4–6 p.m.
Monday, November 6, 8–10 a.m.
Thursday, November 9, 10 a.m.–Noon

Forums will be facilitated by Dean Kirschling and Strategic Planning Committee faculty members.

College of Pharmacy
Faculty, staff and students were deeply saddened to learn of the tragic flood-related death of third-year pharmacy student Lauren Fannin on September 23. A graduate of Georgetown College, Fannin was a member of the College of Pharmacy Class of 2008.

“Lauren was a bright young woman with a promising future,” said Dean Kenneth B. Roberts. “We extend our condolences and support to her family as well as her many friends here at the college.”

Front row, from left: Beth Garner, student; Tammy Higgins, student; Lee Games, RN; Lydia Withrow, RN. Back row, from left: Bret Akins, radiology technician; Barbara Newquist, RN, and husband Charlie Newquist, a Jessamine County middle school teacher.

Right: Melanie Mabins, PharmD, instructor at the College of Pharmacy, assists first-year pharmacy student Aaron Abell with his white coat.

Above: The College of Dentistry Class of 2010 is all smiles after its white coat ceremony.

Lauren Fannin

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Frank C. Miller – Maternal Fetal Medicine
Professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Miller specializes in difficult high-risk pregnancies and sees patients from across the state.

Roy A. Patchell – Neurosurgery
Neurosurgeon and professor of surgery, Dr. Patchell’s special interests include brain tumors, neuro-oncology and the neurological complications of cancer.

Edward H. Romond – Hematology and Oncology
Cancer specialist and professor of medicine, Dr. Romond served as principal investigator on national trials studying the breast cancer drug Herceptin® and received the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation’s 2006 Celebration of Life Award.

Randall G. Rowland – Urological Surgery
Chief of the department of urology, Dr. Rowland is a leading authority in urologic cancer and developed the urinary diversion procedure known as the Indiana pouch.

Joseph Valentino – Otolaryngology
Surgeon and associate professor of surgery, Dr. Valentino’s special interests include head and neck oncology, microvascular reconstruction of the head and neck and thyroid and parathyroid surgery.

John R. Van Nagell, Jr. – Gynecologic Oncology
Director of the division of gynecological oncology, Dr. Van Nagell initiated the Ovarian Cancer Screening Program at the Markey Cancer Center.

A. Byron Young – Neurosurgery
Chief of neurosurgery and director of the Kentucky Neuroscience Institute, Dr. Young is the only physician in Kentucky performing Gamma Knife procedures and deep brain stimulation.

More information about each physician is available at ukhealthcare.uky.edu/doctors.
Information about America’s Top Doctors can be found at www.americastopdoctors.com.