Trustees okay expanded capacity
State must approve certificate of need

At its Jan. 23 meeting, the UK Board of Trustees approved a request from Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs, to apply for a certificate of need to add up to 192 patient beds to UK Chandler Hospital. These additional beds, if granted, would increase capacity by about 40 percent.

“We are chock-full at this point in time. We are at the maximum capacity for a 473-bed licensed hospital.”
– Michael Karpf, MD

The hospital has seen extraordinary growth in the number of patients being treated. Projections call for the hospital to treat 26,200 patients in 2007, up 37 percent since 2003.

Dr. Karpf is sending a letter expressing the hospital’s intention to Kentucky’s Division of Certificate of Need, followed by the application in February. If approved, the hospital will have 681 beds, including 16 neonatal intensive care beds currently being added.

The beds will be split between the existing hospital and the new one currently being designed. If the hospital’s financial position over the next several months supports it, Dr. Karpf would like to add two floors to the top of the new structure to allow all of the beds to be housed in one facility. The additional floors would add $20 to $25 million to the project.

“With successes come challenges,” Dr. Karpf said, but he added that he is confident UK will meet the state’s criteria to receive the additional beds.

Chances are...you could be a winner!

Don’t miss your chance to win two tickets to the most exclusive party of the year—the Groundbreaking Gala celebrating the new UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital. The gala will be held June 2, 2007, amid the beautiful bluegrass fields and white plank fences of Donamire Farm, a 600-acre thoroughbred breeding and horse training farm on Old Frankfort Pike in Lexington. This spectacular event features dinner, dancing and entertainment by the legendary Johnny Mathis.

To enter the giveaway, complete the raffle entry ticket included with your Feb. 23 pay stub and drop it into the ballot box located in the lobby of UK Chandler Hospital. Four pairs of tickets will be given away. Winners will be drawn and notified Monday, April 2.

Watch upcoming issues of Vital Signs for more Gala Giveaway details, including other opportunities to enter by attending certain hospital sponsored events.
New ambulance dedicated for Kentucky’s children

On Jan. 19, representatives from Kentucky Children’s Hospital and UK Chandler Hospital dedicated a new ambulance to be used for transporting infants and children to KCH. The blue ambulance—featuring the KCH mascot Stitches on the side—is essentially a mobile intensive care unit and is the only one of its kind serving Central, Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky. Its purchase was made possible by a generous donation from KCH’s department store, with the remainder funded by UK Chandler Hospital. “We appreciate all the people and organizations that helped to make this dream a reality,” said Shelly Marino, emergency transport manager.

“The pediatric transport team is first rate and they need the best equipment that Kohl’s support allows.”

– Tim Bricker, MD, physician-in-chief, Kentucky Children’s Hospital

The acquisition of this ambulance demonstrates the dedication that UK has to the children of Kentucky.

Motorist Assist won’t leave you stranded

UK Parking & Transportation Services (PTS) has developed a program called Motorist Assist to help employees with valid parking permits who may need automotive assistance. The program is also offered to students at both UK and Bluegrass Community and Technical College.

Features include:

• 24-hour coverage anywhere in Fayette County,
• 10 percent discount on services provided by Bluegrass Towing (jump start, unlock car doors, change flat tires), as well as towing to any repair shop in Fayette County (drivers accept cash, check or credit card at the scene and will record your valid permit number prior to service),
• Free jump starts on campus by PTS or UK Police using a portable jump start system and
• Free loan of a gas can and, if needed, a ride to a local gas station to purchase fuel by PTS or UK Police.

Numbers to call:

• Bluegrass Towing, 231-0197
• PTS, 257-5757
• UK Police, 257-1616

Parking permit renewal under way

UK Parking & Transportation Services (PTS) began accepting employee and retiree parking permit renewal applications Thursday, Feb. 1, for permits that expire March 31, 2007. Information packets about permit renewal were mailed to all campus departments during the first week of February. Employees applying before March 3 should receive their new permits via their campus addresses before the end of March. Employees may deduct permit fees through payroll on a pre-tax basis. Increased fees for 2007-08 go toward financing an additional parking structure by 2010 in support of the Top 20 Business Plan and to help offset overhead costs the division incurs since becoming an independently funded auxiliary service that no longer receives money from the general fund.

To complete a permit renewal application, employees will need their campus mailing address (including speed sort), the license plate from the general fund, the acquisition date (for current permits only) and their employee number.

Ways to Renew

Online:
www.uky.edu/Parking

In person or via campus mail to:
UK Parking & Transportation Services
721 Press Avenue or
Kelby Building Room 209

2007-08 Permit Fees
Employees $28/mo. ($336/yr.)
Retirees $4/mo. ($48/yr.)
*Individuals who retired before July 1, 1993, are eligible for permits at no cost.

Benefits from the Employee Education Program (EEP) Committee

UK HealthCare Committee Representatives

Chile
Jay Permam, MD
Dean College of Medicine

Julane Hamon
Communications Director
College of Medicine

Karen Stefanak
Associate Hospital Director
Julia Jakway
Associate Dean, Dental Administrative Affairs,
College of Dentistry

Elise Stines
Instructor, Department of Pediatrics,
College of Medicine

Career Advancement/ Professional Development

Maggie Borders, RN
Patient Care Manager,
Gill Heart Institute

Ashley Tabb
Administrative Coordinator, Department of Internal Medicine,
College of Medicine

Christopher Walling
Administrative Staff Officer,
Cancer Clinic Services, Hospital

Employee Assistance Program

Michael Karpf, MD
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs

Lon Hays
Chair, Department of Psychiatry,
College of Medicine

Ryan Pennington
Radiology Tech Supervisor, Hospital

For more information on MammomPad, including a free sample of the cushion, call 800-333-8874. Routine screening mammograms may be scheduled by calling Kentucky Clinic South at 323-3377.

The single-use MammomPad cushions the machine to provide a warmer, more comfortable mammogram.

A more comfortable mammogram

Mammom, or X-ray of the breast, is used to detect and evaluate breast abnormalities. In order to spread the tissue for a lower radiation dose and ensure a sharper image, the breast is squeezed between two plastic plates. Although the test can save lives, some women do not have regular mammograms because of discomfort. UK’s Comprehensive Breast Care Center is now a certified Softer Mammogram Provider, offering MammomPad®, a warm cushion between the breast and the mammography machine that makes the experience more comfortable.
Markey Patient Education Centers get a boost from Kroger

The Markey Cancer Center has received a $50,000 grant from the Kroger Mid South Division to purchase computers and printers for new Patient Education Centers. The centers will be available in several areas throughout Markey and offer Web access allowing users to research the most current cancer and health-related information.

“This project ties in perfectly with our vision of making Markey Cancer Center more patient and family friendly.”

– Craig Rogers, director of Markey cancer services

The objective of the project is to make the hospital visit more like home. Many patients use computer access as their main mode of communication, and the hospital hopes the new computers will reduce the anxiety of separation from friends and family.

Judi Dunn, director of the hospital’s Health Information Library, will oversee initial setup and day-to-day operation of the centers.

Hospital Security implements Fast Pass system

Hospital Security has implemented a new security system called Fast Pass that requires all UK Chandler Hospital visitors after 9 p.m. to produce a photo ID. Each visitor is photographed and required to wear a temporary badge displaying the photo at all times during the visit. All visitors after 9 p.m., even those who entered earlier in the day, are required to obtain this pass.

Fast Pass provides better accountability of visitors and helps security officers deter individuals who come into the hospital for reasons other than medical attention or visitation. For more information, contact Hospital Security’s administrative office at 323-8588.

February at-a-glance

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To submit a news item, e-mail Geoffrey Blair at wgblai2@email.uky.edu or call 859-257-5361.

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