UK HealthCare purchases Samaritan Hospital

On June 6, a federal bankruptcy judge approved the sale of Samaritan Hospital assets to UK HealthCare. The new hospital will be known as UK HealthCare — Good Samaritan.

Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president of health affairs, said the transaction should be complete by July 1. He has appointed Richard Lofgren, MD, chief medical officer, to lead a team of administrators at UK HealthCare and Samaritan to address transition issues, including the use of beds and transition of employees between the two hospitals, as well as provide oversight of the day-to-day operations at Samaritan.

“Our hospital is experiencing extremely high occupancy rates — a testament to the quality of work employees are doing and the level of care they are providing for Central and Eastern Kentucky,” said Dr. Karpf. “However, those rates also have created significant challenges that must be addressed so that we can continue to provide the level of quality care and attention that our patients deserve.”

UK Chandler Hospital, currently licensed for 473 beds, is experiencing extremely high occupancy. About 1,300 jobs have been added since 2004 at the hospital and the College of Medicine, in large part because of the growth of the hospital’s patient volumes. Discharges, a measure of inpatient activity at the hospital, have grown by 43 percent during the last four years.

Samaritan, a respected health care provider since 1888, is licensed for more than 300 beds. With a medical staff comprised of 330 members including 387 physicians, Samaritan Hospital is a full-service community hospital with numerous clinical distinctions. The acquisition preserves the jobs of over 500 current Samaritan Hospital employees.

Samaritan is home to Central Kentucky’s largest Orthopedic Joint Replacement Surgery Program. It is also currently home to a 34-bed skilled-nursing facility operated by Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital and a 44-bed long-term acute-care hospital. The University of Kentucky leases the hospital facility from Ventas Realty, Limited Partnership, which includes 13-plus acres of prime downtown real estate. In addition to the hospital, the lease includes a medical office building and a state of the art diagnostic center.

Additional details about the transition will be provided in employee publications as it becomes available.
Nearly 500 employees were recognized for their service to UK Chandler Hospital during the 2007 Employee Recognition program held Friday, June 8, at Embassy Suites Hotel in Lexington. The event celebrated employees who have reached milestone service anniversaries or recently retired, as well as winners of nursing, clinical excellence and core value awards.

Employee dedication honored

More than 450 people gathered to walk as a team for Gill Heart Institute as part of the annual American Heart Association (AHA) Heart Walk held April 21. The team raised $46,200 for the AHA, one of the largest contributions in the region, to fund heart disease research, prevention and education programs in Kentucky.
“Celebrating the past, anticipating the future” is a theme that will resonate for years to come.

Winners of the employee Gala Giveaway drawing and their guests take a break during the Groundbreaking Gala to pose for a photo. Held Saturday, June 2, at Dianne Mac Farm in Lexington, the formal event featured dinner, dancing and entertainment by Johnny Mathis. Pictured, from left: Dr. Jeff Bennett (drawing winner Vickie Auxier was not able to attend and graciously shared her ticket with Dr. Bennett), Tara Bennett, Kevin Halpin, Melanie Goff, Dr. Jeffrey Moscow, Dr. Lynn Campbell, Roger Springate and Suzanne Springate. Not pictured: drawing winner Denise Crowe.

More than 4,000 UK HealthCare employees enjoyed a courtyard cookout to celebrate groundbreaking Friday, June 1. Mix 94.5 provided music for the festivities which included videos offering fly-through tours of the new hospital and senior administrators answering questions about exciting features of the facility.


Sue T. Hegyvary, PhD, RN, FAAN, (UK College of Nursing alumna) professor and dean emeritus, School of Nursing, and adjunct professor, School of Public Health, University of Washington, presents Health and Health Systems in Global Context: A 21st Century Perspective.

David M. Lawrence, MD, (UK College of Medicine alumnus) chairman emeritus, Kaiser Permanente, lectures on Preparing Physicians for the 21st Century.

From left: James Hardyman, UK Board of Trustees chairman; Barbara Young, Board of Trustees Hospital Committee chairwoman; Jim Newberry, Lexington mayor; Ernie Fletcher, Kentucky governor; Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs; UK President Lee Todd, Jr.; and Frank Dickey, president of UK when ground was broken for the current hospital, raise their shovels to officially break ground for construction of the new UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital during a ceremony held May 30.
Emergency Department activates new SCM system

Emergency Department staff and emergency medicine faculty worked with UK Information Technology recently to implement the ED Manager component of Sunrise Clinical Manager (SCM). The new component replaces the department’s old tracking board and includes distributed display boards throughout the department, enhanced order set functionality and improved formatting, as well as a single sign-on process that uses proximity readers and biometric authentication. “Single sign-on enables us to rapidly access the Sunrise system while adhering to HIPPA privacy rules in the ED,” said Roger Humphries, MD, chair, emergency medicine. “I have demonstrated the single sign-on system to colleagues visiting from other facilities and they are unanimously impressed with the system, commenting that they wish they had similar solutions in their own emergency departments.”

Board of Trustees approves expansion of benefits

Following an examination of work-life issues on campus over the last year, UK’s Board of Trustees has approved a multi-million dollar expansion of benefits for university faculty and staff. The expanded benefits will include new child care facilities and existing benefits to families of employees. A number of employee committees and campus organizations worked together to devise the package outlining the improved benefits.

**NEW BENEFITS**

- Two new child care facilities near campus will accommodate 250 to 300 children.
- Extension of employee benefits to same and opposite gender partners.
- Educational benefits expansion to spouses or dependents in the form of tuition discounts, 10 to 50 percent based on the employee’s length of service at UK.
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offering expanded counseling services related to personal or professional circumstances.
- Enhanced career counseling resources and expanded supervisory training, including a $1,000 one-time payment to employees who receive their GED.
- Extension of “phased retirement” to staff, previously available to faculty only.

Administrators also expect a 3.5 percent salary increase for eligible employees and a $4.6 million market pay adjustment for staff in the next two years.

The staff market pay adjustments, educational credit benefits, professional development and counseling services will be funded by a $5 million staff enhancement installment in Pres. Todd’s Top 20 business plan. Faculty pay raises, expanded educational credit benefits for faculty and addition of partner benefits will be funded separately.

Dr. Humphries also appreciated how well everyone involved worked together to ensure a seamless transition to the new system in the ED’s fast-paced atmosphere. “All of the ED staff was very nervous about switching from our old system to the new system, but everyone was very positive and understood the need to make the change.”

“Everyone on the team worked together to sort out the issues and implement this new system to benefit our patients.”

– Roger Humphries, MD, chair, emergency medicine

College of Nursing climbs in rankings


Graduate nursing programs from across the country were evaluated in 2007. Out of 354 surveyed programs, UK ranked 18th among public universities and 26th among all universities, private programs included.

UK’s graduate nursing program is tied with those at Boston College, Emory University, New York University, the University of Alabama-Birmingham and the University of Arizona.

Other achievements for the college include:

- In 1998, the College of Nursing broke into the top 50 graduate programs in the nation. By 2003, the program ranked 20th among public universities and 29th when private programs are added. Rankings by U.S. News are taken every four years and UK has steadily risen every period.
- Faculty scholarly activity at the College of Nursing recently ranked ninth in the country among both public and private universities according to the Faculty Scholarly Activity Index published in the Jan. 12, 2007, issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education.
- The college’s undergraduate nursing program is doubling enrollment for the class entering in fall 2007. “The UK College of Nursing is extremely pleased with the recognition of our graduate program,” said Jane Kirschling, dean of the College of Nursing. “Over the past decade, UK has grown in national prominence and we are pleased that we continue to improve our ranking and provide outstanding opportunities for graduate nursing education at UK.”

Nursing

Scholarship established in memory of nursing student

The family of nursing graduate student Sima Rinku Mendi will pay tribute to her life by establishing the Sima Rinku Mendi Memorial Scholarship at the College of Nursing, Matti, who had previously received her bachelor of science in nursing at UK and worked for a year in the neonatal intensive care unit at Kentucky Children’s Hospital, died in an auto accident April 25. Details of the scholarship are being finalized and additional information will be available soon.

Public Health

College receives $110,000 grant

The College of Public Health has been awarded a grant of $110,000 to conduct research for the National Public Health Performance Standards Program, a program created to improve the quality of public health practice and the performance of public health systems in the United States. UK’s research, headed by Dr. F. Douglas Scutchfield, a professor in the department of health services management, will focus on how and where resources for public health can be most effectively invested.
Zwischenberger named surgery chair

Joseph “Jay” Zwischenberger, MD, has been named chairman of the Department of Surgery at the College of Medicine. He most recently served as professor of surgery, medicine and radiology at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, where his research focused on severe respiratory failure and developing an artificial lung. He will bring his research team to UK to continue his work in that area. Dr. Zwischenberger, an active clinical surgeon, also conducts studies and trials on cancers in the chest, particularly lung and esophageal cancers.

“Jay is a passionate teacher, an excellent surgeon and a terrific investigator,” said Jay A. Perman, MD, dean and vice president for clinical affairs. “He has a national reputation as a surgical scientist as well as a strong desire to educate our physicians in training.”

Dr. Zwischenberger, who grew up in Louisville, earned his bachelor’s degree with cum laude distinction at UK in 1974 and his medical degree, also cum laude, at UK in 1977. After interning and serving residencies at the University of Michigan, he became a faculty member and practicing surgeon at UTMB from 1986 to the present.

Introducing the Gill Heart Institute Heart Line

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Gill Heart Institute Heart Line is staffed by registered nurses trained to offer heart health information and advice. Callers may be advised to visit the nearest emergency department or be assisted in setting up appointments with a UK cardiologist at the UK Gill Heart Institute within the next 48 hours. The heart line number is easy to remember: 877-GILL-HRT (877-445-5478).

To receive a free Heart Line magnet, call 1-800-333-8874.

Recognitions

**Baretta R. Casey, MD**

Dr. Casey, director of the UK Center for Excellence for Rural Health in Hazard, has been installed as the new president of the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians where she plans to address Kentucky’s shortage of family physicians and improve communication among family medicine colleagues across the state.

**Mary Kay Roark**

Roark has been named administrator of the Markey Cancer Foundation where she will manage day-to-day operations and ensure that donor contributions continue to support cancer research and caring treatment for patients at the Markey Cancer Center.

**Terrill "Leo" Myers Jr., NCT**

Myers has been voted Nursing Technician of the Year by his peers at Markey Cancer Center for his compassionate and thoughtful manner with patients and co-workers.

**Suzanne Springate**

Springate has been named director of customer service for UK HealthCare. Formerly the patient care manager at Markey Cancer Center, Springate was the 2006 UK Chandler Hospital Employee of the Year.

**Christopher G. Walling**

Walling, clinical program administrator, Markey Cancer Center Hematology Program, recently raised over $4,600 for the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society to become runner-up in the organization’s 2007 Man & Woman of the Year campaign. The money Walling raised is enough to provide a one-month supply of medication to 40 children or reimburse a family’s medical expenses for a year.

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