The opening of the eighth floor in Pavilion A at Chandler Hospital on Dec. 7 marks the next step in UK HealthCare’s mission to provide patients with the latest advances in heart care in an environment carefully designed to promote healing.

“The new Cardiovascular Services floor was specifically constructed to promote the healing of our heart patients,” said Susan Smyth, MD, PhD, medical director, Gill Heart Institute. “When compassionate, scientifically advanced care is delivered in an uplifting environment, patients heal faster. Our new spaces are designed to deliver the most complex care in a soothing and accommodating atmosphere to foster wellness and prevent disease.”

The Cardiovascular Services floor will include a 32-bed cardiovascular intensive care unit (ICU), making it one of the largest of its kind in the nation. In this new unit, we will provide care for patients who have the most complex heart conditions.

The dedicated heart care floor will also feature a 32-bed unit for telemetry and progressive care.
Better clinical outcomes a benefit of new ED observation unit

UK HealthCare will open its first Observation Unit for adults adjacent to the Chandler Emergency Department (ED) on Dec. 9. The new unit will house 16 beds initially with the potential for expansion to 24 beds.

Observations units are increasingly used to provide high quality, safe and efficient care to select patients presenting to an ED. These units focus on patients who require a more extended evaluation necessitating observation status. Many clinical presentations such as chest pain, dehydration, back pain and syncope can be triaged to outpatient evaluation or effectively managed until inpatient admission.

“It is anticipated that movement of patients in need of observation to the new space means there will be additional capacity available for ED patients,” said Patti Howard, director, emergency services.

Other benefits for patients who are cared for in the observation unit include better clinical outcomes, greater patient satisfaction, less diagnostic uncertainty, and improvements in the use of hospital resources and staff.

To support those clinical services utilizing the new unit and to ensure the provision of high quality and efficient observation care, Romil Chadha, MD, has been named the medical director of the unit.

Visitation restrictions to ward off flu continue at Markey unit, NICU

To ward off the flu, visitation restrictions are in place for the Blood & Marrow Transplant (BMT) Unit at Markey Cancer Center and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Kentucky Children's Hospital. These restrictions will continue during flu season until further notice.

During visitation restrictions, no visitors under the age of 12 are permitted in the BMT unit. In the NICU, no visitors other than parents, grandparents or guardians are permitted and only two visitors may be in a patient's room at a time. Visitors with any flu-like symptoms or respiratory illness-like symptoms are not permitted to enter patient areas. Visitors may also be given masks or other protective clothing for use when visiting.

Levels of the flu will continue to be monitored to determine when visitor restrictions may go into effect across our hospitals.

Markey staff visits field at Commonwealth Stadium

Markey Cancer Center staff invited to an employee appreciation event was able to register to represent Markey on the field at a UK football game. At the Oct. 4 game where UK upset South Carolina, Markey employees were honored at halftime to recognize the cancer center's accomplishments over the past year.

Markey staff on the football field during halftime of the UK-South Carolina game.

ARH, Gill were recognized on the field during halftime of UK's win over Vandy.

ARH, Gill staffs see Cats win SEC game

Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH) and Gill Heart Institute were the sponsors of the Vanderbilt vs. UK game in Lexington late September. The Wildcats snapped a long SEC winless streak by beating the Commodores. Physicians, executives and staff from ARH and Gill attended the game, participated in the coin toss pregame and were recognized during halftime.

UK's Mark V. Williams, MD; and Audrey Tayse Haynes, secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, were at the news conference for the announcement of Project ACHIEVE, which combines the expertise of patients, caregivers and stakeholders with national leaders in care transition research.

UK will head research project to study care transitions

UK will lead a $14.9 million project from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to identify the most effective approaches for patient care transitions as they move between hospitals, nursing homes and their own homes.

PCORI, an independent, non-profit organization authorized by Congress as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, approved a recommendation for UK's Mark Williams, MD, director of the Center for Health Services Research, to lead a three-year contract for one of PCORI's priority projects, “Effectiveness in Transitional Care.”

Audrey Tayse Haynes of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services said the project will help identify best practices for transitional care, which will play a pivotal role in improving health care outcomes in Kentucky.

Poorly managed patient care transitions between hospitals, clinics, home or nursing homes can lead to worsening symptoms, adverse effects from medications, unaddressed test results, failed follow-up testing, and excess rehospitalizations and ER visits, said Williams, who is also professor of internal medicine and health policy and management at UK.

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Barton-Baxter named regulatory program director

Marietta Barton-Baxter, CCRC, is the new regulatory program director of the Regulatory Knowledge and Support Core at the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS). In this role, Barton-Baxter will serve as project manager on complex projects with significant regulatory requirements; she will also oversee the staff that provides vital regulatory services to CCTS investigators.

Wolin joins Markey team, expands program for neuroendocrine cancers

Edward Wolin, MD, a nationally known expert in treating neuroendocrine and carcinoid tumors, has joined the team at Markey Cancer Center. Wolin will serve as the director of the Carcinoid and Neuroendocrine Tumor Program. In addition to working with Markey’s team of surgical and radiation oncologists, pathologists and diagnostic radiologists, Wolin will collaborate on patient care with Lowell Anthony, MD, chief of medical oncology. Anthony came to UK in 2011 and helped strengthen Markey’s Neuroendocrine Clinic, the region’s first multidisciplinary clinic dedicated to endocrine and neuroendocrine tumors.

Wolin brings a robust research program to Markey, including multiple clinical trials. His research efforts focus on finding treatments which are more effective and less toxic, including pasireotide, lanreotide, everolimus, other m-tor inhibitors, targeted radiation including peptide receptor radiotherapy with Lu-177, anti-angiogenic drugs, novel targeted biologic anti-cancer treatments and targeted treatment of liver metastases. Wolin’s research is also directed at development of new imaging and diagnostic procedures for carcinoid/neuroendocrine tumors.

Some other services previously handled by Pharmacy Services are being shifted to other areas of the organization:

- Adult tube feeds will be moving to materials management and will be treated as floor stock beginning Nov. 5.
- Pediatric formulas will move to Food Services on Nov. 3.

Zembrodt promoted to associate vice president

Jim Zembrodt is the new associate vice president for strategic planning. In the newly created role, he will be responsible for strategic planning, which includes data analytics, clinical strategic planning and strategy formation for network development for the UK HealthCare enterprise. In doing so, he will work closely with our clinical leadership team, as well as affiliates and outreach sites, to facilitate the evaluation, development, implementation and tracking of our strategic goals and business objectives.
Recognition

Kentucky REC recognizes providers at electronic health summit

The Kentucky Regional Extension Center (Kentucky REC) based at UK recently honored eight health care provider organizations for leading the charge to transform primary care in Kentucky.

The Practice Transformation Award was presented to members of Kentucky REC's inaugural Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) cohort in recognition of their commitment to improving health care quality outcomes and cost. Recipients of the award were recognized at the 7th Annual Kentucky eHealth Summit in Louisville, which brings together parties invested in advancing health information technology in Kentucky.

Recipients were:
- Bluegrass Community Family Practice, Bardstown
- Central Internal Medicine, Lexington
- Drs. Borders and Associates, Lexington
- Family Medicine Clinic of Danville, Danville
- Georgetown Pediatrics, Georgetown
- Primary Care Centers of Eastern Kentucky, Hazard
- UK Family and Community Medicine, Lexington
- UK HealthCare, Georgetown

Kentucky REC works with health care organizations to enhance the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of care through the use of health information technology. To date, the organization is assisting more than 2,800 providers and more than a third of all Kentucky hospitals. Kentucky REC has helped providers in Kentucky secure over $100 million in Meaningful Use incentive dollars.

Meds-to-Beds Program receives Rising Star Award

Left to right: Gary Johnson, Karla Bertagnole, Debbie Duckworth, Tracy Macaulay, Caitlin Bowers, Lacey Tyra, Starr Adams and Daniel Grantz.

The Meds-to-Beds Program was recognized recently at the quarterly quality meeting with the Rising Star Award for its work distributing prescriptions to an average of 2,000 patients per month. The program recently started at Good Samaritan Hospital. The Rising Star Award honors a UK HealthCare team that has made an early and substantive mark on quality and safety.

Support staff employees awarded for their efforts

Left to right: Emily Bell and Rosemary Sackleh, staff support associates/front desk; and Angie Lang, director, Office of Patient Experience.

Emily Bell and Rosemary Sackleh, staff support associates/front desk, were recognized for going above and beyond at UK HealthCare. A patient's family singled out Bell for her exceptional service while Sackleh was recognized for her perseverance in helping a patient find her engagement ring.

American Heart Association grants to UK total $1.26 million

Left to right: Megan Housley, Kentucky REC; Richard Hempel, MD, Family Medicine Clinic of Danville; Sarah Hempel, Family Medicine Clinic of Danville; Jonathan Ballard, MD, UK Family and Community Medicine; Sheila Bowling, Primary Care Centers of Eastern Kentucky; Jaclyn Lewis, Primary Care Centers of Eastern Kentucky; Candy Le’Oso, Drs. Borders and Associates; and Carol Steltenkamp, MD, Kentucky REC.

The American Heart Association has awarded UK nine research grants ranging from $308,000 to $26,000 and totaling $1.26 million. The grants will fund research underway at the Gill Heart Institute’s Saha Cardiovascular Research Center and the College of Medicine.
Ambati honored for research and discovery of new type of DNA

Jayakrishna Ambati, MD, professor and vice chair of the ophthalmology and visual sciences, was chosen to receive the prestigious National Institutes of Health Director’s Pioneer Award, one of only 10 recipients in 2014, and the first ophthalmologist to win this award since its inception in 2004. Ambati received the award to support his study of a newly discovered type of DNA that could have a profound impact on biology and medicine.

Associate dean honored for long-standing involvement in rural health

The Kentucky Rural Health Association (KRHA) recently presented James Norton, associate dean for educational engagement, College of Medicine, the Dan Martin Award for Lifelong Contributions to Rural Health. A dulcimer, a stringed instrument used to play mountain folk music, was presented with the award that honors a health care professional who has shown a long-standing commitment to solving health challenges in rural areas across the state.

Patient’s family grateful for nurse’s care

Left to right: Julie Hudson, perioperative services enterprise director; Ann Smith, chief administrative officer; Raymond Young, RN, patient care manager; Amber Miller, RN; Kathleen Kopser, MSN, RN, senior nurse administrator, Chandler Hospital; and Colleen Swartz, chief nurse executive.

Amber Miller, RN, Perioperative Services, was recently recognized by senior leadership for a letter written by a patient’s family member who was grateful for the exceptional nursing care Miller provided.

Clinics committed to patient-centered care

Communication Disorders Clinic, left to right: Melissa Liechty, speech language pathologist; Corie Sexton, speech language pathologist; Meg Shake, speech language pathologist; Ellen Hagerman, senior speech language pathologist; Sarah Campbell, clinical director; speech language pathologist; and Teresa Clark, patient relations associate.

Norton Transplant Clinic, left to right: Dawn Wilson, RN; Sean Brittian, clinical services technician; Kim Rowland, patient relations assistant; Allyson Hinton, nurse transplant coordinator; Diane Mills, practice manager; John Gleason, MD; Mindy Murphy MSW; Astacia Washington, clinical services technician.

The Communication Disorders Clinic and the Norton Transplant Clinic were each recognized with a Patient Experience Award for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2014. The achievement realizes a true interdisciplinary approach to patient experience and commitment to patient centered care.

Clinical Nurse Excellence Awards

Whitney Bauer, RN
7th floor,
Good Samaritan Hospital
October

Susan Haney, RN
5 East,
Good Samaritan Hospital
October
The goal is for Project ACHIEVE (Achieving Patient-Centered Care and Optimized Health In Care Transitions by Evaluating the Value of Evidence) to determine which transitional care services most effectively produce patient and caregiver desired outcomes among diverse patient and caregiver populations in different health care settings.

Eighth floor opening

Patients will move to this unit once they are stable enough to leave the cardiovascular ICU. Telemetry nurses are specially trained to monitor heart patients and transition them to a step-down unit once they are on a path to wellness.

Locating complex heart patients in one area enables our team of expert doctors, nurses and other care providers to easily communicate and share knowledge and resources. Patients benefit from an experienced team that provides around-the-clock care for heart disease.

Important diagnostic testing and other equipment are located on the heart care floor. This means patients who require a stress test can receive it near their hospital room, which minimizes wait times and prevents patients from having to move around to different areas of the hospital.

Ironman doctor raises over $50,000 for his patients

Before the Ironman triathlon in Louisville, Jonathan Feddock, MD, radiation oncologist specializing in the treatment of breast, gynecologic and pediatric cancers, had high hopes of passing a lot of athletes during the late-August race in order to raise money for new radiation therapy services and equipment at Markey Cancer Center.

After the race, the total amount raised was approximately $54,000, according to Feddock’s website, Ironcology.com. The funds include the $21,051 in flat donations made through the website plus the additional $33,000 earned by passing 1,977 athletes on race day in Louisville.

Raising money for his patients is something Feddock is passionate about. “This is something that really hits home to me,” Feddock said in a video on his website. “If I can do better than the treatment I currently offer, then this is my opportunity to do that.”

Feddock is aiming to raise $250,000 to improve the radiation implant services (brachytherapy) and create a combined “implant suite” whereby new equipment and a centralized procedural and recovery area will allow for better cancer care with higher cure rates, fewer side effects and better efficiency. To learn more, visit Ironcology.com.

Henderson hospital joins Markey affiliate network

The Methodist Hospital organization in Henderson, Ky., is now an affiliate of Markey Cancer Center, the state’s first and only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center. The affiliate network, comprised of 12 Kentucky hospitals, was created to provide high-quality cancer care closer to home for patients across the region and to minimize the effects of cancer through prevention and education programs, exceptional clinical care and access to research. The Methodist Hospital Healthcare system now offers patients access to additional specialty and subspecialty physicians and care, including clinical trials and advanced technology, while allowing them to stay in western Kentucky for most treatments.

The floor is designed to position nurses at a patient’s bedside and reduce the time spent away from patient care. Each patient room is equipped with a nurse workstation right outside the door.

Floor 8 will also be the first at Chandler Hospital to take advantage of a barcode medication system. This process improves patient safety by minimizing the potential for medication errors.
When a brother or sister is hurting, the whole family feels it and worries about it. That is what happens in nursing as well. As the largest health care profession, there are approximately 3 million registered nurses in the United States who I consider part of an extended family.

Do I worry about the stress and fatigue many nurses are experiencing as patient needs grow and the number of caregivers equipped to care for them diminishes? I do, but I worry just as much about how that story is told and its impact on perceptions of this critically important profession.

Sanjay Gupta, MD, recently made clear in his article “Why America’s Nurses Are Burning Out” (posted Sept. 19, 2014; www.everydayhealth.com), that the nation’s nursing shortage is real and the number of patients is growing. Add to that a community of health care professionals nearing retirement – the average age of today’s registered nurse is 47 – and you can see where this is heading. Dr. Gupta reports the story of a 48-year-old woman who decided to become a nurse because she wanted to make a difference. After just three years in practice, she not only quit her job but gave up nursing altogether. The emotional and physical toll was just too great.

That nurse’s story bothers me on a number of levels. No nurse, especially a new one, should have to navigate the beginning of a challenging career without mentors and champions for guidance and support. Nursing requires courage and tenacity. It’s a world where sadness meets joy and inspiration meets frustration. I can’t imagine navigating it alone, especially as a new nurse.

Like so many other nurses, I am grateful for the numerous mentors who encouraged me, inspired me and helped shape me into the nurse I always wanted to be – exactly the kind they were: passionate, dedicated and completely focused on the health and wellbeing of the people they served.

Research clearly demonstrates the positive impact of quality nursing care on patient health outcomes. However, the health of our profession is at risk with the national problem of nursing burnout. It’s also a very costly one, both for hospitals and for patients.

The challenge is real. Just as problematic is sensationalizing the problem, rather than discussing it in an objective, evidence-based way. In fact, we marginalize nursing when media outlets sensationalize the symptoms of nurse turnover and ignore the root causes. Some of them are beyond our control – patients who are sicker and a medical environment that’s more complex, just to name two. Others, however, are not.

In nurse satisfaction surveys we hear directly from the source as to what would keep nurses engaged and inspired, despite the long hours and daily challenges. Nurses want a stronger voice and the authority to use it. They want learning opportunities and tools that will help them grow as professionals, whether they’re looking to move up or content to stay where they are. They want support that allows them to practice at the full scope of their education and license as well as equal recognition of the contributions they make in care delivery models. Systems that value nurses are systems that bring value to patients and their families and are recognized as authentic healthy working environments.

Today in Kentucky, and at leading academic medical centers and nursing programs across the country, you’ll find nurses leading change at the bedside through innovative education, cutting edge research and boardroom leadership. These are the stories we need to be telling to attract the next generation of nurse leaders. In so many respects, there’s never been a better time to choose nursing. Women and men can make a measurable difference in people’s lives, and the career opportunities and avenues to do so are wide open. It’s an honorable profession and a remarkable family – one I’m very proud to call my own.

The challenges, indeed, are real. But, so too are the opportunities and the compelling examples of how nursing is having a positive impact on both people and a health care system being asked to do more today than at any time in our history.

That’s a story worth telling.

Upcoming Articles:

UK Transplant Center
50 years of transplant innovation

What is Meaningful Use?

What does employee engagement mean to you?
YOU ARE INVITED

New heart care floor employee open house, Nov. 17

The opening of the eighth floor of Pavilion A at Chandler Hospital marks the next step in UK HealthCare’s mission to provide patients with the latest advances in heart care in an environment carefully designed to promote healing.

On Nov. 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., all UK HealthCare employees are invited to visit the new Cardiovascular Services floor. The open house will feature self-guided tours of the eighth floor, a limited number of giveaways and a spectacular view of campus.