Next phase of Pavilion A under way
Features surgery suites and hybrid OR

The second phase of construction in Pavilion A includes eight state-of-the-art operating rooms (ORs) and one of the country’s largest hybrid ORs. The $35 million project is expected to be completed by December.

The first phase of Pavilion A has been completed on budget and on schedule, said Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs, in a Jan. 19 media announcement.

The new parking garage opened in November 2007 and the new emergency department opened in July 2010.

Two floors of public areas (the ground and first floors) will open on May 19. Two patient care floors (the sixth and seventh floors) will open on May 22. Open houses for employees, students and the community will be held May 13-16.

The second phase of Pavilion A includes 600,000 square feet. Eight modern ORs are being designed to be flexible and adaptive to future needs. They will support any type of operating procedure, including the most complex trauma and neurological surgical cases.

Once the new ORs are available, trauma patients can be moved efficiently from the new heliport to the Chandler Emergency Department and ORs through a central transportation system within Pavilion A.

"The hybrid operating room helps us fulfill our mission by providing advanced patient care comparable with the leading academic medical centers across the country."
— Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs

In addition, the next phase features a hybrid OR combining the most advanced imaging technology with surgical operative capabilities to create a unique OR environment.

“The hybrid operating room helps us fulfill our mission by providing advanced patient care comparable with the leading academic medical centers across the country," Dr. Karpf said. "It will be large and outfitted with the latest equipment and able to accommodate any surgical discipline that should have a need for it, supported by space organized and equipped to facilitate the management of highly complex surgical procedures."

A hybrid OR offers greater accuracy of surgical procedures, reduced recovery time and reduced risk of postoperative complications and need for treatments in the hospital's intensive care unit, Dr. Karpf said.

“We visited major hybrid ORs in the country and learned from all of them – taking the best of the best,” said Dr. Jay Zwischenberger, UK HealthCare surgeon-in-chief. “Our hybrid OR, which will initially focus on cardiothoracic and vascular surgeries, allows us to more efficiently utilize the talents of our medical staff and hospital resources to provide a higher quality of care.”

The entire 1.2 million-square-foot Pavilion A is expected to be completely “fit out” in six to 10 years.
UK researchers find molecular mechanism tied to blindness

A team of researchers led by ophthalmologist Jayakrishna Ambati, MD, has discovered a molecular mechanism implicated in geographic atrophy, the major cause of untreatable blindness in the industrialized world. Their article was published online by the journal Nature on Feb. 6.

Concurrent with this discovery, Dr. Ambati’s laboratory developed two promising therapies for the prevention of the condition. UK has filed patent applications for both and Dr. Ambati’s group is preparing to start clinical trials by the end of 2011. Interestingly, the study also elaborates, for the first time, a disease-causing role for a large section of the human genome once regarded as noncoding “junk DNA.”

Geographic atrophy, a condition causing the death of cells in the retina, occurs in the later stages of the “dry type” of macular degeneration, a disease affecting 10 million older Americans and causing blindness in more than 1 million. There is currently no effective treatment for geographic atrophy, as its cause is unknown.

“These findings provide important new clues on the biological basis of geographic atrophy and may provide avenues for intervention,” said Dr. Paul Sieving, director of the National Eye Institute.

This work has “widespread implications” for future study, said Dr. Stephen J. Ryan, president of the Doheny Eye Institute and a member of the Institute of Medicine. “The authors have opened an important line of research with real possibilities for future therapeutic intervention for patients with geographic atrophy,” Dr. Ryan said.

Dr. Ambati holds the Dr. E. Vernon Fund Translational Research Clinical Scientist and Burroughs Wellcome Foundation Distinguished Clinical Scientist and Burroughs Wellcome Fund Translational Research Clinical Scientist.

You told us: Employee shares 2011 goal

“My personal goal for 2011 is to make our hospitals the friendliest, most caring hospitals in the state for both patients and employees.” — Doris Campbell, RN, Utilization Review, UK HealthCare

Campbell received a Living Well cookbook for sharing her feedback. To learn how you can share your comments with Vital Signs and possibly win a prize, see page 3.

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Vital Signs asked some of our leaders:
In preparing for the next fiscal year, what challenge or opportunity has your attention?

“Access to UK HealthCare!”
– Wanda L. Adkins, RN, senior manager, Medical Contact Center

“Improved point of service collections. Understanding the impact of health care reform. Mandated billing changes (HIPAA 5010 transaction sets).”
– Frank Blair, UK HealthCare director of revenue management

“Successful implementation of Allscripts electronic health record. Optimal access to our subspecialty services.”
– Jonathan Curtright, chief operating officer, UK HealthCare Ambulatory Services

“Strategically and innovatively grow a functional and viable business front for Ambulatory Services that will support all of our community-based health care practices.”
– Anita Hartsfield, business officer, Polk-Dalton Clinic and Family Care Center, UK HealthCare Ambulatory Services

“Continuing our focus on patient centeredness by ensuring our colleagues have the tools to do their work and are empowered to do their very best for our patients and families.”
– Suzanne Springate, RN, director, UK HealthCare Office of Service Excellence

“Building a high-performing team to meet the significant health care IT challenges ahead.”
– Tim Tarnowski, UK HealthCare chief information officer.

“I see the most critical challenge to be the need to optimize the delivery of efficient health care to pediatric patients, both in the outpatient arena and the inpatient service.”
– Carmel Wallace, MD, FAAP, interim chair, pediatrics

Now, it’s your turn to tell Vital Signs:
In preparing for the next fiscal year, what challenge or opportunity has your attention? Send your answer and your contact information to clho228@uky.edu. If we publish your response in the March issue of Vital Signs, you’ll win a prize.
Employee Service Awards set for June 10

This year, the Employee Service Awards ceremony will recognize recipients from UK HealthCare and the College of Medicine in one combined celebration.

This means the “best of the best” in terms of planning, resources and ideas. More important, it is a reaffirmation of the message that “we are one enterprise,” encompassing employees from every area of UK HealthCare, including the College of Medicine.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. Friday, June 10, in the Bluegrass Ballroom at The Lexington Center downtown.

Recipients must have completed a five-year increment of service between April 25, 2010 and December 31, 2010 (or between Jan. 2, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2010 for College of Medicine employees). All employees with service anniversaries of five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years will be honored.

If you are an employee with a five-year service anniversary within the above time frame, mark this date on your calendar. If you have not been contacted about this event, talk to your supervisor.

Customer service classes being offered in May, June

The Office of Service Excellence is offering customer service classes, a must-have for all UK HealthCare employees.

Learn how to use standardized communication techniques such as GIFT, the blameless apology and managing up with patients, family members, visitors and co-workers.

These techniques are proven to decrease patient and guest anxiety and increase co-worker and patient/family satisfaction.

Class dates include:

• May 11, 1-4 p.m., Good Samaritan Hospital, Conference Room B
• June 1, 7-10 a.m., Chandler Hospital Learning Center

Employees may register via myUK by selecting the Education and Training tab and searching for “Customer Service.” For help with registration, call Enterprise Learning at 859-257-9226.

For more information about the classes, call Service Excellence at 859-323-4963.

Music therapy has its start at Kentucky Children’s Hospital

Several times a week music therapist Lori Gooding, PhD, packs up her guitar and a bag of other instruments and heads to Kentucky Children’s Hospital where she sees patients.

On a recent afternoon, Gooding visited 7-year-old Logan Woolums and his mother, Ruby Woolums. While Logan finished an art project, Gooding talked to his mother, asking if she were getting enough sleep.

When Logan was ready, Gooding began strumming her guitar and singing, “hello.” She and Logan then improvised a song about things he could do while “stuck in bed.”

She repeated the chorus several times, adding improvised answers each time. “We can watch TV.” “We can work on schoolwork.” “We can color.”

Gooding then asked Logan which instrument he wanted to play. He selected a colorful, oversized lollipop drum and grinned when she began singing, “Lollipop, lollipop, oh lolli, lolli, lollipop.” She asked him to choose the pace and volume: “Fast or slow? Loud or soft?” Logan knew the drill: he was supposed to stop playing his drum the instant Gooding stopped singing. He never missed.

As their session ended, Gooding began another tune. “Goodbye Logan. Goodbye, Logan. Goodbye, Logan. It was nice to see you today.”

Afterward, Gooding said music therapy helps normalize the hospital environment, provides opportunities for control and addresses specific patient needs like pain management or anxiety reduction. Her visits also provide therapeutic support to the parents and families of patients.

Gooding is the first director of music therapy at UK HealthCare. She also is an assistant professor in the UK School of Music. The UK Music Therapy Program, which began in July 2010, is a partnership between the school and the health system.

Gooding has been working to establish the clinical, academic and research components of the new program. Clinical services have begun at Kentucky Children’s Hospital and Good Samaritan Behavioral Health Services with plans to expand as resources become available.

Educating the health care, university and local communities about the evidenced-based benefits of music therapy is a vital role in program development. Student education is also crucial; graduate academic courses, which will be offered as part of Kentucky’s first master’s degree in music therapy, are tentatively scheduled to begin this fall. Student clinical training has already begun, with the establishment of a music therapy internship in January 2011.

In addition, research opportunities within the field of music therapy and with other health care professionals are being developed for faculty, clinicians and students.
Both hospitals piloting clinical nurse experts

Good Samaritan and Chandler hospitals recently hired clinical nurse experts (CNEs) in a pilot program to support new nurses. The program was initiated after Paul DePriest, the chief medical officer, and Colleen Swartz, the chief nurse executive, charged a group with looking at the care provided to patients during evening hours and weekends, said Kathleen G. Kopser, RN, MSN, NE-BC, senior nurse administrator at Chandler Hospital.

“We tend to see many brand new nurses working night shift where there are fewer resources available to them to support their decisions around patient care,” Kopser said. “The CNE will be that support person for them. They will assist the new nurse in assessment of patients, in communications with physicians and in early detection of changes in patient condition that could warrant an increase in level of care.”

Chandler has two CNEs, Anna Adams, RN, BSN, and Allison Copper-Willis, RN, BSN, on the sixth floor. They are managed by Leslie Cumming-Kinney, RN-C, BSN, patient care manager for 6 North/7 East.

“Things are progressing well,” Cumming-Kinney said. “I did an initial survey with four simple questions. One hundred percent of the nurses who responded knew who the CNEs were; knew how to page the CNE; stated that once the CNE was paged they responded in a reasonable amount of time; and stated they felt more supported on night shift than they did three months ago.”

The CNEs assist newer nurses in starting IVs and in placing nasogastric tubes, and, most important, help the novice nurse work through the problem at hand. The CNEs are consulted on a variety of patient issues, patient deteriorations and are a support to the night staff in general.

Darlene Spalding, MSN, APRN, BC, the senior nurse administrator at Good Samaritan, has two staff members supervising CNEs.

Lisa Thornsberry, BS, RN, director of acute care, manages CNEs Ashley Mogge Collins, RN, BSN, and Lori Ellis, RN, ADN, who cover the fifth and sixth floors, which include medical-surgical and orthopaedic services.

Collins has worked at Good Samaritan since August 2008; her CNE work began in September 2010. Ellis became a CNE in December.

“We are collaborating with Chandler in this process,” Thornsberry said. “These nurses are experts in their area of practice and act as resources for the night-shift staff, especially the new nursing staff. They will work closely with all clinical staff and assist in providing resources and education for the night staff. In the end, this will improve patient outcomes and increase nursing retention throughout the enterprise.”

Kathy Stephenson, Good Samaritan’s director of critical care, supervises CNEs Janet Copher, RN, and John Abner, BSN. Copher began her CNE work in October 2010, followed by Abner in November. They work in the fourth-floor ICU and in two telemetry units.

“Our goals are to provide a resource to new nurses, have a link for education between day and night shift, and have a night shift person to educate staff,” Stephenson said. “They already have been well received by staff and already have identified areas where education is needed.”

Tell your nurse friends about the recruitment open house on March 31

In preparation for opening Pavilion A in May, UK HealthCare will hold a nurse-recruitment open house from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 31.

If you want invitations to hand out to friends who are nurses, see Sandra Burton or Kathy Bellfield in the Nurse Recruitment office in Chandler Room H-161.

The open house will include tours of the new patient care facility. Attendees will be greeted on Level C of the Hospital Parking Garage at 110 Transcript Ave.

Interested nurses are encouraged to bring a friend and learn about the exciting opportunities and exceptional benefits that await ideal candidates.

UK is recruiting experienced nurses, advanced practice nurses and new graduates in anticipation of the opening of the state-of-the-art facility. Open house guests can meet patient care managers, service directors, physicians and staff nurses from Chandler Hospital, Kentucky Children’s Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital.

Preregistration, which is required, can be made online at: ukhealthcare.uky.edu/nursingjobs. For more information, call 859-257-1000 or 1-800-333-8874.
Chandler Clinical Nurse Excellence

Lee Ann Cantrell, RN
5th Floor – February

Amy Fisher, RN
Ground CDU/ACTU
February

Rajogopalan certified in heart failure/transplant

Navin Rajagopalan, MD, assistant professor of internal medicine, director of the advanced heart failure clinic and medical director of the cardiac transplant program, is the only Kentucky physician to become board certified in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology. The certification in heart failure/transplant cardiology was offered for the first time in 2010. Dr. Rajagopalan was one of 250 physicians in the United States who passed the required exam, which will not be offered again until 2012.

To become board certified in heart failure/transplant cardiology, a physician must be board certified in cardiology and have completed a heart failure/transplant fellowship or have spent three of the last five years working with heart failure and transplant patients. The exam is administered by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

“Dr. Rajagopalan is an excellent physician, and by proactively pursuing board certification in heart failure and transplant cardiology, he demonstrates his commitment to delivering the best care possible to our heart failure and transplant patients,” said David J. Moliterno, MD, director of the Gill Heart Institute and chief of cardiovascular medicine.

Send us Recognition items

UK HealthCare supervisors are encouraged to submit job-related recognition items about employees for consideration on a space-available basis in Vital Signs. Send information and photos to: jan.taylor@uky.edu.

Eichhorn receives national patient safety honor

John H. Eichhorn, MD, an anesthesiologist and professor of anesthesiology in the College of Medicine, received the 2010 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award for Individual Achievement from the National Quality Forum (NQF) and The Joint Commission.

Dr. Eichhorn was recognized for more than 25 years of work in improving the quality of anesthesia care and patient safety through the development and application of practice standards and protocols.

His contributions have led to dramatic and sustained reductions in catastrophic intraoperative anesthesia accidents, as well as improved anesthesia patient safety and quality of care overall. In 1985, he helped start the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation, widely recognized as the organization that established patient safety as a distinct concept, giving birth to a movement that is now universal in health care.

“Dr. Eichhorn’s commitment and dedication to anesthesia patient safety has had a significant impact, both in the U.S. and globally,” said Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs. “He is very deserving of this prestigious award recognizing a career of highly distinguished professional service.”

“UK HealthCare is committed to providing the highest-quality and safest patient care possible and we are very fortunate for the leadership, expertise and experience Dr. Eichhorn brings to our team,” added Richard Lofgren, MD, chief clinical officer and vice president for health care operations. “We congratulate him on receiving this much-deserved national recognition for his defining role in improving the quality of anesthesia care and patient safety.”

The awards were presented Feb. 25 at NQF’s annual conference in Washington, D.C.

Ashford earns two statewide awards

Kristin Ashford, PhD, ARNP, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, has received awards for her research and teaching.

Ashford received the Kentucky Nurses Association Education and Research Cabinet Nurse Researcher of the Year 2010 award. Her research focuses on preventing preterm birth, including the effects of prenatal secondhand smoke exposure on maternal and infant outcomes. The Kentucky Department for Public Health asked her to develop a program to reduce smoking by pregnant women.

Ashford also received the 2010 Outstanding Early Career Outstanding College/University Teacher Award from the Kentucky Academy of Science. She uses innovative strategies and multisensory approaches to engage students, including birthing-simulation mannequins, Turning Point software technology, integration of movie themes/clips as teaching tools, and a variety of visual aids and learning tools.

“Dr. Ashford is true to her philosophy of encouraging students to take a proactive approach in their learning by fostering an environment in which they are stimulated to think critically,” said Jane Kirschling, dean of the College of Nursing. “She believes in promoting academic growth in a nonthreatening but challenging atmosphere.”
A white coat ceremony

On Jan. 15, the Physician Assistant Studies Class of 2012 received white coats in recognition of their progress in the program. The class will begin 12 months of intensive community-based clinical studies in July. The students and their faculty members are pictured on the steps of Memorial Hall.

PERSONNEL BRIEFS

Kimberly Blanton, RN, MSN, MHA, has joined the Capacity Command Center as a hospital operations administrator. Blanton has master’s degrees in nursing and health administration. She has held several nursing leadership positions, most recently as director of critical care services at Pikeville Regional Medical Center. Prior to that, Blanton was the patient care manager on the 6th floor at Chandler Hospital from 2002 to 2008.

Jamie Cross, RN, BSN, has been named patient care manager for the transitional units (Acute Care Transition Unit and Clinical Decision Unit). Cross has more than 20 years of critical care nursing and management experience. Her most recent role was Post Anesthesia Care Unit (recovery room) coordinator.

Dareni Lowe, RN, BSN, has joined the acute care management team as a patient care manager for the Chandler Hospital 8S and 8W units that will stay in Pavilion H when current units move to Pavilion A. She has 12 years’ experience as an RN and seven years’ experience in nursing management. Lowe also has experience in opening new units.

Amanda Madden-Dyal, MSN, RN, has joined the Capacity Command Center as a hospital operations administrator. Madden-Dyal has a master’s degree in nursing with an emphasis in nursing leadership and management. She has worked at UK HealthCare since 2002, starting as a nursing care technician in the Chandler Emergency Department. Most recently, Madden-Dyal was a divisional charge nurse at Kentucky Children’s Hospital.

Judy Niblett, RN, BSN, is transitioning to the role of patient care manager for the 2nd floor Medicine ICU. The current Surgical Intensive Care Unit and Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit will be converted to a Pulmonary ICU after Pavilion A opens. Niblett has experience establishing new units, having transitioned the previous ED space into the Clinical Decision Unit.

Darlene Spalding, MSN, APRN, BC, has been appointed senior nurse administrator for Good Samaritan Hospital. Spalding has clinical knowledge and experience in a variety of managerial and clinical roles, including leadership positions, hospital operations and management of other nursing resources. She is also a family nurse practitioner and has functioned in a busy primary care environment.

Mary Trivette, RN, is currently serving as the interim patient care manager for 8S and 8W at Chandler Hospital.
Volunteers needed for Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event

Kentucky Children’s Hospital needs volunteers to work during the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, a world-class equestrian event at Kentucky Horse Park.

In appreciation of the work of volunteers, the organizers will make a significant donation to Kentucky Children’s Hospital.

Volunteer opportunities are available Tuesday, April 26 through Sunday, May 1. For more information, e-mail RolexVols@uky.edu.

Pavilion A spotlight:
Private patient rooms

Pavilion A patient rooms are private and designed for care, comfort, safety and support, providing an atmosphere conducive to healing and recovery. Each floor has three levels of care: intensive, progressive and acute.

At nearly 300 square feet, each room has dedicated spaces for providers, patient and family. Rooms are configured in an efficient, consistent manner. ICU rooms have special ceiling-mounted medical gases and services, allowing 360-degree access around the patient.

Conveniently located sinks for hand washing and provisions in some rooms for added negative and positive pressure will help control the spread of infection. All rooms have patient lifts; some lifts extend into bathrooms for patients with special needs.

Workstations located outside patient rooms will provide staff-to-patient line of sight. Bedside computers will enable staff to document care. TVs will offer patients special programming, including performances from the auditorium and services from the chapel.