The leadership of Markey Cancer Center is working toward the National Cancer Institute designation as a comprehensive cancer center. The administrative team includes, from left, Thomas C. Tucker, PhD; David Gosky, MA, MBA, MPH; Heidi Weiss, PhD; Vivek Rangnkar, PhD; Daret St. Clair, PhD; B. Mark Evers, MD; director; and Xianglin Shi, PhD. Not pictured, John Rinehart, MD.

Whether in the form of hiring new researchers or expanding clinical capabilities, the Markey Cancer Center made 2010 a year of expansion in nearly every area, Director B. Mark Evers, MD, noted in his address at the center’s Research Day on March 22.

In his State of the Cancer Center speech, Dr. Evers pointed to increasing patient visits as evidence of positive growth on Markey’s clinical side. From fiscal year (FY) 2009 to FY 2010, Markey saw growth in four key patient visit areas: outpatient cancer visits, outpatient chemotherapy visits, radiation medicine treatment visits and new patient clinic visits. In each area, the 2010 number ranked as either the first or second highest total since 2005.

Much of that clinical growth follows key improvements in how Markey’s clinics handle patient, notably by decreasing the length of time patients have to wait before their appointment and improving clinics’ ability to track phone calls. In addition, the Multidisciplinary Clinic and the Markey Hematology Program have hired new medical directors and operations managers. Facilities were also improved: chemo suites were renovated and some key conference facilities were upgraded.

The patient experience has also been improved with the involvement of a team of former cancer patients and caregivers known as the Patient Advisory Group (PAG). Thanks in part to recommendations made by the PAG, Markey added a Jin Shin Jyutsu therapy program, a patient navigator supported by the American Cancer Society and AstraZeneca, and a nutrition program which features a popular dietary blog called Markey Menu.

Dr. Evers also pointed out prominent additions to Markey staff, researchers and clinicians. The Comprehensive Breast Care Center, the Markey Hematology Program and the Multidisciplinary Clinic added key personnel, ranging from doctors to dietary experts, nurses and patient navigators. In addition, Markey’s research community continues to expand, drawing recruits from a variety of institutions nationwide, and its biostatistics core welcomed four new staff in addition, Markey’s research community continues to expand, drawing recruits from a variety of institutions nationwide, and its biostatistics core welcomed four new staff in part to recommendations made by the Patient Advisory Group (PAG). Thanks in part to recommendations made by the PAG, Markey added a Jin Shin Jyutsu therapy program, a patient navigator supported by the American Cancer Society and AstraZeneca, and a nutrition program which features a popular dietary blog called Markey Menu.

Another substantial achievement is the increase in research grants awarded. Markey awards for 2010 rose by $4.8 million to a total of $36.3 million. Increased funding from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) was a significant marker for the vibrancy of Markey’s research staff and lab capabilities. Markey researchers published their findings in more than 180 publications.

Sustaining the improvements made in 2010 will be important as Markey seeks the Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) designation from the NCI. The application is scheduled for submission in September 2012.
Do you want to hear some good news? Health plan rates will remain unchanged for the upcoming 2011-12 plan year, and online enrollment will be easier and more convenient than ever.

The annual open enrollment period (April 25 – May 13) is your opportunity to review and update your UK Benefit plan coverage. Changes made during open enrollment take effect for the plan year that begins July 1, 2011. Enrollment is not required unless you wish to add, update or end benefits coverage. Otherwise, annual enrollment is only required for employees who wish to participate in health care or dependent care flexible spending accounts.

Good news for 2011-12
Open enrollment brings good news regarding plan premiums and coverage:

• Rates for all UK health plans (UK-HMO, UK-RHP, UK-PPO and UK-EPO) will remain unchanged.
• Vision plan rates will actually decrease, even as plan coverage will be enhanced.
• Rates for Delta Dental plans will remain the same, and UK Dental plans will see only a slight increase. Otherwise, premiums for other benefits, including optional life insurance, will remain the same.

At a time when national health costs have tended to rise sharply each year, UK Employee Benefits has worked hard to limit benefit plan increases for employees.

Easier online enrollment
UK employees enrolling through myUK Employee Self-Service online will see enhancements designed to make the process more convenient than ever. These include a more streamlined, step-by-step approach to updating coverage and easier options for reviewing your enrollment changes.

New vendor for health care and dependent care flex spending accounts
ConnectYourCare will replace ASI as the university’s administrator for health care and dependent (child) care flexible spending accounts (FSA). The new plan vendor will automatically issue health care FSA debit cards, reducing paperwork previously associated with card enrollment. They will also process claims for FY 2010-11 filed after July 1, 2011.

Remember, FSAs can help you save money by setting aside tax-free earnings to pay for eligible health and dependent care expenses.

Learn more
To learn more about this year’s open enrollment, including plan rates and enrollment instructions, visit www.uky.edu/HR/FE. You should also receive email announcements and open enrollment mailers at your home and work addresses.

UK Benefits open enrollment set for April 25-May 13

UK HealthCare will present its third annual Women’s It’s About You conference 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at Embassy Suites in Lexington. UK physicians will present sessions about general gynecology and gynecological cancer, breast health, concussions, steps to ward off depression, eye health, general aging, the aging heart, plastic surgery, menopause and Kentucky allergies.

The cost is $10; the registration deadline is May 13. Registration is available at http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/WomensHealth/womensconference/index.asp.

To register by mail, call UK Health Connection toll free at (800) 333-8874 to request a registration kit.

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Barnstable Brown Obesity & Diabetes Research Day for doctors set for May 17

The inaugural Barnstable Brown Obesity & Diabetes Research Day for physicians will be 9 a.m.–5:15 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, in Pavilion A (the new pavilion) of Chandler Hospital. The poster session will be noon–3 p.m. The awards reception will be 5:30 p.m.–8 p.m. at the Hilary J. Boone Center.

Researchers from UK and other regional institutes will share their current findings and ongoing research about the alarming rise in obesity and diabetes rates. Presenters will also discuss prevention, development and treatment of these epidemic-level diseases.

The featured speakers are:
• Robert Eckel, MD, professor of medicine and professor of physiology and biophysics, University of Colorado, Denver
• Robert Hegele, MD, director of the Blackburn Cardiovascular Genetics Laboratory, London, Ontario, Canada
• Patrick Tso, PhD, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, University of Cincinnati

The event is sponsored by the Barnstable Brown Kentucky Diabetes & Obesity Center, the UK Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences, the NCRR Center of Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease, and the National Institutes of Health T32 Nutrition & Oxidative Stress.

The registration deadline is May 1. For more information, contact Mary Lowell at mary.lowell@uky.edu or 859-323-4933, ext. 81390.

DID YOU KNOW?

• Admissions at Good Samaritan Hospital grew from 6,564 in fiscal year (FY) 2008 to 7,701 in FY 2010.
• The average daily census (ADC) at Good Samaritan increased from an average of 57.7 upon its acquisition by UK to more than 95.0 by FY 2010, and is still growing.
• Good Samaritan’s case mix index (CMI), a rough statistical approximation of the patients’ severity of illness and resource requirements, increased from 1.182 in FY 2008 to 1.311 in FY 2010. We are caring for sicker/more complex patients.
• The number of Good Samaritan employees has increased to keep pace with the volume and patient complexity increases, growing from an average of 442 full-time equivalents in FY 2007 to 689 by the end of FY 2010.

Now, it’s your turn to tell Vital Signs:
Which feature of Pavilion A are you most excited about and why?

Send your answer and contact information to connie.holman@uky.edu. The first 25 employees to reply will receive a prize. If we publish your response in Vital Signs, you’ll win a second prize.

Two floors of public space and the first two patient care floors in Pavilion A will open in May.
Chandler ID badge office has moved to Pavilion A

The Chandler ID badge office has moved to Room A.00.807 on the ground floor of Pavilion A. The new ID badge office is inside Security, which is near the Chandler Emergency Department and off the main service corridor leading from the new staff entrance.

Office hours are 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours, call Security at 859-323-6946 to request access or report ID badge concerns.

Employee Health to offer new services July 1

In an effort to better serve the UK community, Employee Health will offer three new services beginning July 1:

• New hires will be able to complete all their pre-employment requirements during one visit to Employee Health in the University Health Service Building on South Limestone. Such requirements include a urine drug screen, TB screening and other immunizations as outlined in OSHA mandates and the UK HealthCare Enterprise Policy 03-01.

• Employee Health will extend its hours. New hours will be 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

• Employees will be able to schedule appointments by calling 859-323-2778. They can also opt for walk-in service.

Safety Web-based training due May 15

Deadline for completion of mandatory annual safety training is May 15. UK HealthCare staff members hired prior to Nov. 1, 2010, have been assigned the Web-based training (WBT) through myUK.

For questions or assistance, call Enterprise Learning at 859-257-9226.

Teen volunteers needed for summer program

Volunteers like Madison Foster, a Fayette County high school senior, are needed.

Pink Meet benefits Breast Care Center

The UK gymnastics team defeated Louisiana State University Feb. 25 at its annual Pink Meet to raise awareness of breast cancer. The event raised $1,911 for the Markey Cancer Center Comprehensive Breast Care Center; the funds will benefit breast cancer research, treatment and education.

"UK Athletics and the gymnastics team are thrilled to be able to make this donation to Markey’s Comprehensive Breast Care Center," said Lisa Pearson, assistant marketing director for UK Athletics. "Our annual Pink Meet has been a great way to raise awareness and support breast cancer survivors, and we’re proud to contribute to Markey’s mission of eliminating this disease."

Free ovarian cancer screening available

In its earliest stages, ovarian cancer is highly treatable and rarely fatal. All the more tragic then that ovarian cancer still claims the lives of more women than all other gynecologic cancers combined.

By participating directly in the UK Ovarian Cancer Screening Program or by encouraging family or friends to undergo screening, you can make a difference in the lives of Kentucky women and their families. The program’s Markey Cancer Center site is convenient and has free parking.

Women who meet the following guidelines are eligible for a free ultrasound ovarian cancer screening:

• All women older than age 50 (including those who have no symptoms and no personal history of ovarian cancer)

• Women older than age 25 who have a family history of ovarian cancer

The program, which also offers free screening in Prestonsburg, Elizabethtown, Maysville, Somerset and Paducah, is the largest ovarian cancer screening initiative of its kind. To schedule a free screening, call 859-323-4687 or toll-free 1-800-76-OVARY (1-800-766-8279). Learn more at ovarianscreening.info/

UK Remembers service set for April 21

UK Remembers, the second annual campus memorial for students, faculty, staff, alumni and retirees who have died during the 2010–2011 school year, will be live-streamed. For a link to the video stream, visit www.uky.edu/HR/WorkLife/ on April 21. A video of the service will also be archived in the Work-Life Video Library.

UK Remembers began as a Make the Difference submission from Nathaniel Hopkins, PhD, a staff psychologist at the university’s Counseling and Testing Center.
Chandler Clinical Nurse Excellence

Blanche Brown, RN
Dialysis Unit – January

Holley Ashley, RN
MICU – March

Heather Vance, RN
NSICU – March

Means named associate dean for veterans affairs

Robert Means, MD

Robert Means, MD, has been appointed associate dean for veterans affairs. He will serve as the College of Medicine’s primary liaison to the Lexington VA Medical Center, coordinating research and clinical activities between the medical center and UK.

In addition to having previously served as chief of medical services at Lexington VA Medical Center, Dr. Means has held various appointments at VA Medical Centers in Nashville, Cincinnati and Charleston, S.C.

Dr. Means will continue as a professor of internal medicine, an appointment he has held since arriving at UK in 2004.

After earning a medical degree at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Dr. Means completed his residency in internal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

PERSONNEL BRIEFS

Philip Denny, MHA

Philip Denny, MHA, has joined the hospital administration team as operations manager for ancillary services. He will serve as the administrator-level contact for Environmental Services and Food Services and the liaison between hospital administration and Security, parking/shuttle service and Facilities/PPD. Denny has been an administrative fellow at UK HealthCare since July 2009. He earned a master’s degree in health administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

UK HealthCare chosen for national nursing care innovation project

UK HealthCare has been selected as one of 40 hospital participants for the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) Center for Care Innovation and Transformation (CCIT) Project.

CCIT follows the success of the Transforming Care at the Bedside (TCAB) project, which focused on safety and reliability, care team vitality, patient-centeredness, increased value, caring and transformational leadership. CCIT follows the basic tenets of the Transforming Care at the Bedside project and will go even further in addressing nurse leader needs, culture change and health care reform implementation.

The program will serve as a resource for nurse leaders seeking to transform not only the way they care for patients, but also the culture in which they find themselves working so innovation and transformation become a daily pattern. Under the leadership of patient care manager Gayle Plank, Chandler 7 Main will serve as the pilot unit for this project.

Jessica Hutchins, RN, BSN

Jessica Hutchins, RN, BSN, has been named nurse coordinator clinical at Kentucky Children’s Hospital (KCH). Hutchins has worked in acute care at KCH since 2005. She received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Bellarmine University and a bachelor’s degree in psychology and family studies from Western Kentucky University.

Melissa Herman, RN, BSN

Melissa Herman, RN, BSN, is the new director of value analysis for UK HealthCare. Prior to this position, she was the OR manager for orthopaedic and abdominal transplant surgery. She has 15 years of experience as an RN at UK HealthCare.

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.
UK has many of the ‘Best Doctors in America’

The 2011 list of the “Best Doctors in America” includes more than 100 UK HealthCare physicians, whose areas of expertise range from pediatrics, internal medicine and ophthalmology to neurology, orthopaedic surgery and cardiovascular disease. Best Doctors® annually surveys 40,000 physicians nationwide and asks them: “If you or your loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer them?”
Save the Dates

Please join us for the dedication of and open houses at our new patient care pavilion at UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital. This state-of-the-art facility is a key milestone in achieving our vision to become a world-class academic medical center serving the Commonwealth and surrounding areas.

- **Dedication**
  - Sunday, May 15
  - 1:30 p.m.
  - 1000 South Limestone

- **Employee and Student Open Houses**
  - Friday, May 13*
  - 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
  - Monday, May 16
  - 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Community Open Houses**
  - Saturday, May 14
  - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - Sunday, May 15
  - 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

*Employees may invite their families to tour with them 4-9 p.m.

ukhealthcare.uky.edu/new

Pavilion A spotlight:

**Auditorium to serve as education center**

The 5,413-square-foot, 305-seat auditorium in Pavilion A of Chandler Hospital is located on the ground floor, near the courtyard and coffee shop. It will serve as an education center where physicians and staff can participate in grand rounds, video conferencing, telemedicine activities and large-capacity electronic classrooms.

The auditorium will also provide a recording studio-quality acoustical setting for performances by UK music, dance and drama students, community groups and renowned artists as part of the UK Arts in HealthCare Program. In the future, performances can be telecast into patient rooms in Chandler, Good Samaritan and Kentucky Children’s hospitals.

The auditorium features advanced audiovisual technologies, a large screen for showing films, accessible seating and stage access, a hardwood-floor stage and an acoustical shell. Its electronic podium is capable of controlling the projection, audio and lighting systems. The lighting system can support a variety of presentations.

This state-of-the-art auditorium is made possible by support from the Sarah Scaife Foundation.