Once you choose hope, anything’s possible.

–Christopher Reeve

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Last year, we saw almost 70,000 patients at the Markey Cancer Center. The number of patients receiving chemotherapy at the Markey Cancer Center has tripled in the past five years, and we are likewise seeing an increase in the number of new patient visits – facts that demonstrate the significance of the Markey Cancer Center in the state and in the region. We currently have more than $36 million from grants for cancer-related studies with approximately $12 million coming from the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Markey enjoyed major developments and breakthroughs in 2010. In this report, we highlight some of the most important successes including:

RENOVATING AND RESTRUCTURING OF OUR COMPREHENSIVE BREAST CARE CENTER (CBCC)

Our breast care center has seen a number of marked improvements, including new state-of-the-art hologic digital mammography units and ultrasound units. After a nationwide search, we identified Dr. Margaret Szabunio as the new chief of women’s radiology and associate director of the CBCC. Dr. Szabunio joins us from the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. In addition, the CBCC received two important accreditations including the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers through the American College of Surgeons.

As we reflect upon this past year, we continue to see unprecedented growth in patient numbers, clinical trial accruals and research support.

— B. Mark Evers, MD
The NAPBC reviewer noted that the CBCC was a “model breast center which others emulate.” Our breast center also received the American College of Radiology Stereotactic Breast Accreditation in the last year.

**AFFILIATES**

Our affiliates continue to grow, and the services provided by the Markey Cancer Center are fast extending beyond Eastern Kentucky and the borders of the state. We have recently added Frankfort Regional Medical Center and Georgetown Community Hospital as our affiliates. In addition, we are pleased to have recruited Dr. Dennie Jones as the director of our affiliate network. Dr. Jones is nationally recognized for his work at the University of New Mexico with its Community Outreach Network.

**NANOTECHNOLOGY AND CANCER**

The Markey Cancer Center, in collaboration with investigators in the Colleges of Pharmacy and Engineering, recently successfully competed for one of six cancer nanotechnology training centers with funds provided by the NCI. The University of Kentucky is rapidly becoming a destination point for new technologies related to nanotechnology as it relates to a number of fields, but in particular nanotechnology for improved cancer therapeutics and diagnostics.

**CANCER SURVIVAL**

The Markey Cancer Center recently evaluated its five-year survival rate for a number of different cancers. We found that our five-year survival surpassed survival rates for all cancers when compared with the Kentucky database. Our outcomes for the treatment of brain, liver, lung and ovarian cancers even surpassed the national database. We attribute this outstanding survival advantage to our multidisciplinary team approach to care as well as to the active clinical and basic science research being performed here.

**NCI DESIGNATION**

The UK Markey Cancer Center is working hard to become a designated cancer center by the NCI, which signifies excellence in cancer research and clinical care. Being NCI-designated would mean that the Markey Cancer Center was one of the 67 top cancer centers in the country, and it would be the only NCI-designated cancer center in the state. Having an NCI-designated cancer center in the Commonwealth will enable us to continue to make greater advances in prevention, early diagnosis and treatment. Patients will not need to travel beyond the borders of Kentucky to receive access to a greater number of the most recent and innovative clinical trials. NCI designation also brings increased federal research funding, which boosts the local and state economy. Our application is set to be submitted in September 2012, so 2011 will be a critical year of preparation and organization. We are grateful to our dedicated physicians, investigators and all of the staff that make up the Markey Cancer Center. We are also grateful to our outstanding Markey Foundation, which provides generous philanthropic support, our community participants, and all of the volunteers who work tirelessly to make the Markey Cancer Center a wonderful resource for the entire state and the region.

Sincerely,

B. Mark Evers, MD
Director, Lucille P. Markey Cancer Center
Professor and Vice Chair for Research, Department of Surgery
Markey Cancer Foundation Endowed Chair
Physician-in-Chief, Oncology Service Line
Markey Cancer Center’s Comprehensive Breast Care Center has witnessed a revolutionary transformation over the past year and a half. Just 18 months ago, scheduling a timely appointment for many of the center’s important services was difficult because of the backlog of patients. Under the leadership of Dr. Heather Wright, however, significant changes have dramatically improved workflow and the center’s ability to see more patients sooner. Today, the CBCC is proud to offer a full range of services, including routine mammograms, second opinions and advanced treatment options for breast cancer.

The CBCC has restructured both its personnel organization and its clinic days, allowing more patients to come through its doors and at a much faster rate. Two new full-time breast cancer patient navigators are available to assist patients with non-clinical issues, such as lack of transportation to appointments or obtaining prosthetics or wigs.

“The new organization of our center has really improved our ability to see patients and serve them more efficiently,” said Crystal Kendrick, clinic manager for the Comprehensive Breast Care Center. “We’ve eliminated wait times for patients who need diagnostic mammograms and can schedule most patients within the same week.”

Additionally, the CBCC has made recent improvements to its diagnostic technology. The first of three Hologic Selenia® Dimensions™ 2D digital mammography units is in place, providing exceptional image quality. Three new state-of-the-art ultrasound machines using elastography software were added to supplement mammography by detecting small breast cancers that may not be visible with traditional methods.

The CBCC has also welcomed to its team Dr. Margaret Szabunio, a respected radiologist who comes to UK from the Moffit Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. Dr. Szabunio specializes in early detection of breast cancer using new technologies including elastography and tomosynthesis. She is the division chief of Women’s Radiology at UK HealthCare and serves as the associate medical director of the Comprehensive Breast Care Center.

Many of the recent improvements have helped the center earn a three-year/full accreditation designation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons. Accreditation by the NAPBC is only given to centers that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance and demonstrate the highest level of quality breast care. In the official evaluation, the NAPBC surveyor described the Comprehensive Breast Care Center as a “model breast program” that provided patients excellent services in areas including rehabilitation, genetics, clinical trials and education.

“This accreditation is due to the efforts of the entire team here at the breast center, from administrative staff to the nurses to the clinicians,” said Dr. Wright, medical director of the Comprehensive Breast Care Center. “It is further proof of how committed we are to providing the absolute best care to breast cancer patients across the region.”
It’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years. ~Abraham Lincoln

You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face.

–Eleanor Roosevelt
Remember, we all stumble, every one of us. That’s why it’s a comfort to go hand in hand.

–Emily Kimbrough
The Markey Affiliate Network: Providing High-Quality Cancer Services Across the Commonwealth

As a group of hospitals committed to providing the highest quality cancer services and resources to their local communities, the Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network has a clear mission: to ensure that all Kentuckians have access to excellent cancer care. Under the new leadership of Dr. Dennie Jones, the affiliate network stands as a one-of-a-kind resource for cancer patients and their families, local physicians and community members across the state.

Dr. Jones was thrilled with the opportunity to help the affiliate network continue to grow and prosper. “I came here and loved what I saw,” Jones said. “With the affiliate network, we have a chance to do more across the region, to create a health system that will make a huge impact for Kentuckians who need cancer care.”

In an effort to keep high-quality care close to home, affiliate members offer patients the convenience of receiving the most up-to-date cancer treatments – right in their own communities. When treatment is available locally, families can spend more time with their loved ones and less time on the road.

Working closely with primary care doctors, nurses, pharmacists and community hospital staff members, Markey helps coordinate care both during and after treatment.

The affiliate partnership is valuable to the mission of both UK and the Markey Cancer Center in providing high-quality cancer care throughout Kentucky. Outside of the clinical setting, Markey affiliates sponsor local activities such as health fairs and cancer screening programs. Community members also have the opportunity to participate in research that directly leads to more effective cancer care.

The network’s newest addition is Frankfort Regional Medical Center, giving cancer patients in Frankfort access to additional specialty and subspecialty care, including clinical trials and advanced technology. Dr. Kevin McDonagh, former medical director of the Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network, said the arrangement between Markey and the Frankfort Medical Center will prove beneficial to everyone involved, especially patients.

“This affiliation enables us to bring the resources and expertise of a major cancer center to patients in Frankfort at their own regional medical center,” McDonagh said. “We’re working together to provide patients the best care available.”

Chip Peal, CEO of Frankfort Regional, said the partnership would serve to reassure the community that there is hope to be found during cancer treatment. “Our affiliation with the Markey Cancer Center means that patients now have access to an even higher level of care than before, and they don’t need to travel out of the area to receive that care,” Peal said.

Frankfort Regional Medical Center becomes the sixth hospital in the state to join the Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network, joining Georgetown Community Hospital, Rockcastle Regional Hospital in Mt. Vernon, St. Claire Regional Medical Center in Morehead, ARH Cancer Center in Hazard, and Harrison Memorial Hospital in Cynthiana.
Synergy Key to Nanotechnology Research

The vibrancy of Markey Cancer Center’s research agenda was recognized in 2010 with an increase of $4.8 million in research funding for a total of $36.3 million. Much of that increase came from the National Cancer Institute’s selection of Markey as one of six institutions nationwide to perform leading-edge nanotechnology research. Nanotechnology studies materials at the tiniest atomic and molecular levels that may prove useful in the diagnosis and treatment of the toughest cancers.

Markey received a five-year grant totaling $1.75 million to establish the UK Cancer Nanotechnology Training Center. The center will provide a systematic and unique multidisciplinary training environment, offering hands-on laboratory research and training to advanced graduate and postdoctoral fellows.

Such training will create a new type of researcher who can translate innovative laboratory findings to cancer diagnosis and treatment. Mark Evers, MD, Markey Cancer Center director, and Brad Anderson, PhD, from the College of Pharmacy, are the co-principal investigators. Thirty-five UK faculty members from Markey, the College of Medicine, the College of Pharmacy, the College of Engineering and the Department of Chemistry will mentor the trainees. Nanotechnology researchers, biomedical scientists and clinical oncologists are creating the synergistic environment necessary to perform the research, recruit experts to UK and groom the researchers of tomorrow.

Cancer nanotechnology projects are composed of cross-disciplinary teams focused on four areas: early detection and diagnosis in lung, colon and ovarian cancer; treatment of gastrointestinal tumors and metastases; lung cancer treatment; and glioma (brain cancer) therapy. The mentored research will encompass a wide range of emphases, including in vivo (internal) imaging, targeted delivery of therapeutics and combination therapies.

Bringing together the expertise of UK’s faculty to instruct these budding investigators will place them at the forefront of nanotechnology research driven toward developing novel cancer therapies and diagnostic strategies. The trainees will gain a detailed understanding of the molecular basis of cancer and the unresolved clinical problems in treating and diagnosing the disease while acquiring expertise in the field of nanotechnology.
UK Markey Cancer Center’s development of a Transoral Robotic Surgery (TORS) program was a great accomplishment in 2010. Utilizing the da Vinci® Surgical System, our surgeons are able to provide safe, oncologically sound resections in many patients whose tumors were previously difficult to resect. This innovative surgical approach allows unprecedented transoral surgical management of certain tumors that were previously only approached through the neck and/or via mandibilotomy, including those of the oropharynx, tongue, hypopharynx and larynx.

The makers of the revolutionary da Vinci Surgical System named the UK Markey Cancer Center a Center of Excellence for transoral robotic surgery. This designation means that UK HealthCare is one of a select few medical centers in the country that can perform this minimally invasive robotic surgery on patients with cancers of the head and neck.

Transoral robotic surgery for head and neck cancer treatment has many advantages when compared with alternative treatments:

- Patients may require significantly less radiation.
- Patients may not require chemotherapy.
- Robotic surgery provides a minimally invasive approach to tumors that would otherwise require extensive open procedures with the need for additional reconstruction.
- The surgery removes tumors while optimizing speech and swallowing capabilities.

Thomas J. Gal, MD, MPH, FACS, is a microvascular surgeon at UK HealthCare and one of the first physicians in the region to receive da Vinci transoral robotic surgery training.

It’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.

–Abraham Lincoln
Courage is being afraid but going on anyhow.

–Dan Rather
No two cancers are alike, and every cancer patient is unique. Markey Cancer Center’s comprehensive approach of treating one cancer at a time assures that each patient has access to the most effective, personalized treatment option available, including the newest clinical trials. One measure of the quality of this team approach is a comparison of survival rates for patients treated at Markey with outcomes of patients treated elsewhere.

Markey patients have significantly better rates of survival than those Kentucky cancer patients who were treated elsewhere for brain, breast, liver, lung, ovarian, pancreatic and prostate cancer, as well as for stage IV colorectal cancer. For example, Markey patients treated for liver cancer have a 245 percent greater chance of survival five years after their cancer diagnosis when compared with other Kentucky patients. Markey patients also have a better chance of survival after five years for brain (36 percent), lung (18 percent), ovarian (23 percent) and Stage IV colorectal cancer (49 percent). When compared to patients treated at other cancer centers nationwide, Markey’s patients had significantly better survival rates for brain, lung, liver and ovarian cancer.

The analysis of survival rates is only one measure of what sets Markey Cancer Center apart from other cancer centers. Other indicators include the attention paid to the quality of the patient and family experience, such as 2010 initiatives to reduce waiting times for patient appointments and create more comfortable chemotherapy suites; recruitment of additional cancer specialists to join more than 150 highly regarded faculty members in working together to support aggressive clinical and research agendas; awarding of research grants, which totaled $36.3 million in 2010; and continued outreach to communities and care providers throughout central and eastern Kentucky to provide ongoing education, research and treatment options.

Research initiatives aimed at diagnosing and treating cancer as early as possible, such as Markey’s Ovarian Screening Program, improve patients’ chances for long-term survival. UK is also home to some of the most advanced, precise cancer-treating technology, such as Kentucky’s only GammaKnife® Perfexion and the region’s only TomoTherapy® Hi-Art® system.

Note: Survival rates were calculated for patients who were treated at Markey from 1998 to 2007 (the most recent data available) and compared with Kentucky Cancer Registry data as well patient outcomes from the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) program. The analysis did not take into consideration differences in the patients treated, such as age, gender, economic status or pre-existing medical conditions.
Efforts to place Markey Cancer Center on the nation’s list of premier National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers gained momentum in 2010. The foundation was laid and work is under way to demonstrate Markey’s comprehensive clinical and research offerings as required for the NCI application, scheduled for submission in September 2012. This gold-standard recognition would place Markey among such highly regarded cancer centers as M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Only 66 cancer centers nationwide have earned this distinction – none in Kentucky. Yet, the state has one of the highest rates of cancer in the nation: Kentucky ranks No. 1 for lung cancer and No. 2 for colorectal cancer. NCI designation tells Kentuckians that Markey has the most advanced treatment and research facilities in the region, backed by top-notch, extremely dedicated physicians, researchers and staff.

Benefits of being an NCI-designated cancer center include up to $1.5 million in additional funding annually, access to the latest cancer research clinical trials, increased community engagement, and an improved ability to attract the best medical students and faculty. These centers participate in the NCI Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program, which promotes and supports clinical trials of new cancer treatments, explores cancer prevention methods and early detection, and studies quality-of-life and rehabilitation issues.

Evidence of Markey’s expanding clinical and research capabilities include:

- Continued growth in outpatient cancer, outpatient chemotherapy, radiation medicine and patient clinic visits, with the 2010 total ranking as either the first or second highest number since 2005.
- Improved patient experience, with the involvement of the Patient Advisory Group, including decreased waiting times before clinic appointments, chemotherapy suite renovations, and the addition of a patient navigator.
- An increase of $4.8 million in awarded research grants totaling $36.3 million. Markey researchers published their findings in more than 180 publications.
- Prominent additions to the Markey staff, researchers and clinicians in areas such as the Comprehensive Breast Care Center, Markey Hematology Program and the Multidisciplinary Clinic, as well as in the biostatistics core staff.
Toughness is in the soul and spirit, not in muscles.

–Alex Karras
We cannot direct the wind but we can adjust the sails.  
–Unknown
New Addition to UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital

The public spaces and two patient floors of Pavilion A at UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital opened in May 2011. The facility currently features 128 all-private rooms, each measuring 300 square feet and designed to accommodate state-of-the-art medical technology along with the needs of staff, patients and visitors.

In addition to its innovative patient care features, the pavilion incorporates art, music and landscaping that reflect the spirit of Kentucky, including a spacious, light-filled atrium lobby with a stainless steel and mesh fabric sculpture suspended beneath a three-story skylight. A chapel features walls decorated with art glass inspired by spring in Kentucky, a health education center doubles as a gallery for a Kentucky folk art collection, and surgical waiting areas showcase artwork of some of Kentucky’s most renowned artists.

“These features help make it an empathetic building, and the glass and the light are absolutely spectacular,” said Dr. Michael Karpf, University of Kentucky executive vice president for health affairs. “People can walk in and say, ‘I can relax here for a second. I can get my thoughts together before I have to go deal with all the complexities that I’ll have to worry about when I get up on the floor to see my loved one or my friend.’”

The new facility is scheduled to be completed in phases over the next 10 years and is paramount in UK HealthCare’s plan to become a premier regional medical center concentrating on cancer, trauma, neurosciences, organ transplantation and pediatric subspecialties.

The Markey Cancer Foundation 2010–11

Over the last fiscal year, the Markey Cancer Foundation concentrated on raising financial resources to support the Markey Cancer Center’s goal of achieving National Cancer Institute designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center. This consists of two main areas of focus: raising funds for endowed chairs to recruit additional scientists/clinicians and help retain key investigators; and equipping the inpatient cancer floor of the new pavilion at UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital.

In addition to annual appeals, the foundation has special events to raise necessary funds. The most successful event to date is the Markey Golf Classic, an annual tournament held in early June. For the last two years, the foundation has also presented The Betsy, an equine show jumping championship event in memory of Betsy Fishback, an avid Kentucky horsewoman who lost her battle with cancer. Last year, the foundation sponsored a triathlon to benefit the gynecologic oncology program. A new event for 2011 was the Concert on the Lawn, held at the conclusion of Keeneland’s spring meet and in celebration of the race track’s 75th anniversary. This event was orchestrated by the foundation’s Legacy Council, a group of young philanthropically minded professionals who also comprise the future “people capital” of the Board of Trustees. Concert on the Lawn was very successful in its first year and raised nearly $30,000.

Ultimately, the Markey Cancer Foundation is investing in the people and programs required to discover a cure for cancer, to devise new and better treatments to fight cancer, and to provide compassionate patient and family care. All contributions are used wisely and appreciated greatly.
Success of the Patient Advisory Group

Improving cancer care for patients, families and caregivers is a daunting task, but a small group of people works behind the scenes at Markey to tackle that task – and they are undaunted.

Comprising former patients and caregivers of former patients, the Patient Advisory Group, “PAG” for short, meets monthly with a mandate to offer ideas for improving Markey’s myriad processes and procedures.

“This is a very dedicated and inspirational group,” said Markey Cancer Education Liaison Terry Keys, facilitator of the PAG. “Every month, they bring their personal experiences to the meeting, but their vision is global, not personal. That’s what makes them great advisors to Markey.”

Several high-profile Markey initiatives in 2010 had their genesis in the work of the PAG, including:

• Redesign of the Markey Patient Handbook.
• Initiation of a nutritional program and an accompanying blog.
• Initiation of a Patient Navigator Program (co-sponsored with the American Cancer Society).
• Initiation of a front desk attendant.
• Initiation of the Jin Shin Jyutsu program (with a grant from the Lexington Cancer Foundation).

For every obvious initiative, myriad others quietly improve Markey’s processes and procedures, resulting in better care for everyone – just the way the PAG members planned it.

Thanks to the Markey team of caring professionals, today we are able to thrive, not just survive. –Susan Mullineaux
When it comes to treating cancer, there is rarely just one definitive solution or prescribed course of action. The medical practitioners at UK Markey Cancer Center use a team-based approach to provide patients with the most effective care possible. The collaborative efforts of Markey faculty, staff and volunteers further our mission to eliminate the morbidity and mortality of cancer.

After trading in her career in the jewelry business, Jennifer Bradley became a practitioner of Jin Shin Jyutsu®, an energy-harmonizing practice similar to acupressure, and she is one of the newest members of Markey’s team. When her own sister was diagnosed with breast cancer, Jennifer gained an interest in the ancient technique. She witnessed its positive effects on her sister’s comfort level and ability to physically deal with her chemotherapy treatments.

Previously one of Markey’s acclaimed volunteers, Bradley has now come on board as a staff member thanks to a generous grant from the Lexington Cancer Foundation. She devotes her time to working with patients, free of charge, in an effort to alleviate the stress that comes with their often-aggressive treatment schedules. The gentle touch of her Jin Shin Jyutsu treatments opens blocked energy pathways so the body can return to its natural state of harmony, resulting in a relief of symptoms, a feeling of deep relaxation and an overall increase in the patient’s quality of life.

“People often feel such a lack of control when dealing with an illness, and my role is to listen to and play off of their bodies’ cues,” says Bradley. Her simple but effective approach to healing is a prime example of the many ways that Markey is working to give patients the most well-rounded and integrative approach to cancer treatment possible. She sees patients in a Jin Shin Jyutsu treatment suite that is located on the first floor of the Ben Roach Building, as well as in the Kentucky Children’s Hospital, the Markey Cancer Center and the chemotherapy suite.

“I don’t view my Jin Shin Jyutsu practice as an alternative medicine solution,” says Bradley. “Rather, it is a complementary practice involving a deep relaxation of the body and mind that works in tandem with a patient’s clinical treatments. When the mind rests, the body can follow.”
Nutrition the Write Way: “Markey Menu” Blog Gives Dietary Advice to Cancer Patients

In the fight against cancer, a healthy diet is very important. Poor nutritional status can lead to many complications, such as involuntary weight loss, weakness, and increased risk of infection. Good nutrition is the single most effective and accessible way to prevent weight loss and increase a patient’s quality of life during cancer treatment.

With her helpful nutrition advice and sound dietary guidelines, Karina Christopher has set out to increase healthy eating awareness for cancer patients, one blog post at a time. With a steady rise in popularity, blogs are fast becoming one of the most sought-after sources for quick, approachable information. Through Markey Menu, readers are able to engage with Christopher through the comments feature on the blog, asking any questions or sharing their own personal experiences and advice.

She has been a registered dietitian at the Markey Cancer Center since 2009 and began her role as the study coordinator for the Nutritional Survey of New Cancer Patients. During the study, Christopher also provided nutrition education to various support groups, as well as the Patient Advisory Group. In 2007, she was awarded the Recognized Young Dietitian Award by the Kentucky Dietetic Association and the American Dietetic Association, and in 2009 she was awarded the Special Contribution Award by the Bluegrass District Dietetic Association.

From affordable food, dehydration and multivitamins, to exercise and bone health, the Markey Menu blog is a well-rounded, one-stop shop for all things nutrition. With Christopher’s help, the Markey Menu blog is making it easier to establish and sustain a healthy (and delicious) diet during cancer treatment.

Food is more than nutrition, and no one appreciates this more than the cancer patient who needs food for comfort and survival.

–Karina Christopher
After receiving a diagnosis of cancer, many patients find themselves confused about what their next steps should be. From treatment to insurance, cancer patients have concerns that reach far beyond the clinical elements of their disease. The daily challenges of living with cancer – issues with transportation, finances and emotional support – often come into play. Many cancer patients are crying out for assistance in dealing with these hurdles, and at Markey, we hear them loud and clear.

Markey Cancer Center is working to help all patients learn their way around the intimidating cancer treatment process with the launch of the Commonwealth’s first American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program, made possible with support from AstraZeneca. The process of gathering and understanding cancer information and resources can be overwhelming and exhausting, especially for patients whose primary concern is simply getting better. Making the process more easily understandable, a Markey patient navigator provides one-on-one assistance to patients, families and caregivers as they make their way through the complexities of the health care system.

The overall goal, says American Cancer Society patient navigator Melanie Wilson, is to improve the quality of life for cancer patients, survivors and their caregivers. “I hope that by referring patients to the services they need throughout treatment, I’ve made life a little easier for them,” Wilson said. “Cancer treatment alone is stressful enough – patients shouldn’t have to worry about figuring out what resources are available on their own.”

Dr. Mark Evers, director of the Markey Cancer Center, says the patient navigator program is an evolution of Markey’s relationship with the society. “We are extremely excited to have an American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program at Markey,” Evers said. “Many come from great distances, and anything we can offer to make their experience better during an extremely difficult time will be one less hurdle they need to overcome.”

Having the privilege of working with patients on a daily basis, Melanie has no trouble citing examples of the lives she is able to positively influence through her role as a Markey patient navigator. Take 32-year-old Christina, for example. As an acute myeloid leukemia patient, Melanie worked closely with Christina to improve her spirits and general outlook during her difficult treatment process.

“I was able to provide Christina with a wig as well as some hats, and the difference this made was remarkable,” Wilson explained. “We really became fast friends and when I presented her with these items, her smile lit up the entire room. Christina said that receiving her wig was the best thing that had happened to her since she’d begun her treatment.”

As Markey’s patient navigator, Wilson’s role is to help patients find resources for a variety of needs. “I’m here whenever they need help, and I’ll do whatever I can to make the treatment process less of a burden,” Wilson said.

I want patients to know that they’re not alone in this journey.

–Melanie Wilson
Best Doctors® at Markey

In 2010, 27 UK Markey Cancer Center physicians were voted to the list of Best Doctors in America®. The list is the result of a survey of more than 40,000 physicians who were asked, “If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer them?”

MARKEY PHYSICIANS LISTED AMONG THE BEST DOCTORS IN AMERICA:

Kenneth B. Ain  Endocrinology and Metabolism
Susanne M. Arnold  Medical Oncology and Hematology
Michael L. Cibull  Pathology
Paul D. DePriest  Obstetrics and Gynecology
Christopher P. DeSimone  Obstetrics and Gynecology
Philip A. DeSimone  Medical Oncology and Hematology
B. Mark Evers  Surgical Oncology
Dianna S. Howard  Medical Oncology and Hematology
Mahesh R. Kudrimoti  Radiation Oncology
Ronald C. McGarry  Radiation Oncology
Patrick C. McGrath  Surgical Oncology
Jeffrey A. Moscow  Pediatric Hematology and Oncology
Timothy W. Mullett  Thoracic Surgery
Thomas Pittman  Pediatric Neurologic Surgery
Marcus E. Randall  Radiation Oncology
Julie Ribes  Pathology
John J. Rinehart  Medical Oncology and Hematology
Edward H. Romond  Medical Oncology and Hematology
Randall G. Rowland  Urology
David A. Sloan  Surgical Oncology
William H. St. Clair  Radiation Oncology
Stephen E. Strup  Urology
Fred R. Ueland  Obstetrics and Gynecology
Joseph Valentino  Otolaryngology
John R. van Nagell  Obstetrics and Gynecology
A. Byron Young  Neurological Surgery
Joseph (Jay) B. Zwischenberger  Critical Care Medicine,
   Thoracic Surgery
2010 Markey Cancer Center Year at a Glance

2010 SURGERY DISCHARGES

- 10% Breast: 323
- 8% Genitourinary: 318
- 8% GI: 266
- 21% GYN: 622
- 26% Head & Neck: 826
- 1% Hematology: 51
- 2% Lymphatic & Hematopoietic: 63
- 5% Neuro Oncology: 180
- 2% Other: 62
- 10% Other Neoplasm: 391
- 7% Respiratory: 183

OUTPATIENT RADIATION MEDICINE DEPARTMENT VISITS

- 2008: 18,000
- 2009: 16,000
- 2010: 14,000

TOTAL OUTPATIENT CANCER VISITS

- 2008: 70,000
- 2009: 60,000
- 2010: 70,000

NEW MARKEY OUTPATIENT CLINIC VISITS

- 2008: 3,000
- 2009: 2,500
- 2010: 3,000

OUTPATIENT CHEMOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT VISITS

- 2008: 14,000
- 2009: 12,000
- 2010: 14,000
For more information on the UK Markey Cancer Center, call toll free 1-866-340-4488 or visit ukhealthcare.uky.edu/Markey