After years of hard work by doctors, researchers and staff, the UK Markey Cancer Center recently celebrated its designation as a National Cancer Institute cancer center. The Markey Cancer Center is the 68th medical center in the country to receive this prestigious designation, and it is the only NCI-designated cancer center in the state of Kentucky.

“Kentucky’s extraordinarily high cancer rates cause untold suffering within our families,” said Gov. Steve Beshear said at the NCI celebration. “They significantly increase health care costs, and they siphon away worker productivity, and intellectual and cultural contributions. The Markey Cancer Center’s NCI designation is a bold statement that Kentucky does not have to accept the intolerably high cancer rates that have plagued our people for years. Today’s announcement is recognition that we have the capacity to do leading research and offer the absolute best care to our people.”

Earning NCI designation was a lengthy process that required increasing efforts in research, recruiting talented clinicians and improving many of the programs at Markey. As a result of the designation, patients will have access to new drugs, treatment options and clinical trials offered only at NCI centers. The UK Markey Cancer Center will be able to apply for federal research grants available only to NCI-designated cancer centers, with the potential to bring millions of dollars in additional funding to the area.

Additionally, the NCI designation allows Markey to communicate and collaborate on advances in cancer care with other NCI-designated cancer centers across the country. Locally, Markey will be able to increase community engagement, including volunteers, patient advisory groups, and education and intervention programs.

“This is a historic day for the University of Kentucky...with the National Cancer Institute’s designation of Markey Cancer Center, we will no longer indulge the scourge of cancer in Kentucky.”

— UK President Eli Capilouto

“I was honored to assist the University of Kentucky and the Markey Cancer Center in their efforts to obtain the National Cancer Institute designation, which will be a tremendous asset for those battling cancer across the Commonwealth,” said Sen. Mitch McConnell. “This designation, along with the partnership with Norton Healthcare, means UK will be one of the preeminent cancer research centers.
UK Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network

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and treatment centers in the United States. The university will be able to recruit the brightest researchers and clinical scientists to develop novel cancer treatments, and, most importantly, Kentuckians will not have to travel out of state to find the most advanced care and clinical trials."

UK also joins an elite group of medical centers across the country that has earned the “trifecta” of national federal funding. UK is one of only 22 medical centers in the United States that have earned an NCI designation, have a federally funded Alzheimer’s disease center (UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging) and have earned the Clinical and Translational Science Awards grants.

“This is a historic day for the University of Kentucky,” said UK President Eli Capilouto. “This is why we are here; beginning today, with the National Cancer Institute’s designation of Markey Cancer Center, we will no longer indulge the scourge of cancer in Kentucky.”

As the major referral center for Central and Eastern Kentucky, the designation also strengthens UK HealthCare’s overall mission of ensuring no Kentuckian will have to cross state lines to access top-of-the-line health care.

“Thousands of southern and eastern Kentuckians are in the fight for their lives, as they battle some of the highest rates of cancer in the nation,” said U.S. Rep Hal Rogers. “And for decades, the University of Kentucky and the Markey Cancer Center have been with them every step of the way, dedicating each day to the life-saving quest for patients in the mountains and across the Commonwealth. This national designation will enhance research opportunities and bolster cancer treatment where it’s needed most. I commend the leaders who envisioned more than a facility for treatment and committed their lives to research and education so we can celebrate sending more survivors home to their families in the near future.”

Michael Karpf, MD, UK executive vice president for health affairs, said the NCI designation demonstrates the high-quality care Markey Cancer Center offers.

“At UK HealthCare, we serve not only Lexington and the Bluegrass region, but all of Kentucky and beyond,” Dr. Karpf said. “Earning an NCI designation is a stamp of approval that means Markey is a first-class cancer center, continued on page 3

UK HealthCare celebrates NCI designation at an announcement in July
Frankfort Regional Medical Center's trauma center has been recognized for providing optimal care for injured patients.

The American College of Surgeons has verified Frankfort Regional as a Level III trauma center. The organization verifies trauma centers that receive hospital resources necessary for trauma care and that address all the needs of injured patients, from before they arrive at the hospital until they complete rehabilitation.

An American College of Surgeons committee examines trauma centers in five separate categories, and each hospital has an on-site review by a team of experienced reviewers.

Receiving Level III certification means Frankfort Regional has the essential capabilities of a trauma center, including prompt assessment, resuscitation, emergency surgery and stabilization of trauma patients. The on-call trauma surgeons and trauma-trained staff are available any time to diagnose and treat patients. The hospital continues to offer patients 24/7 access to other specialists including orthopaedics, stroke care, cardiovascular care, obstetrics, gastroenterology and gynecology.

Steven Vallance, MD, PhD, FACS, a board-certified general surgeon, serves as trauma medical director for Frankfort Regional Medical Center.

"I have cared for hundreds of trauma patients with varying levels of serious injury over the years and know how critical immediate care is in helping to save lives," Dr. Vallance said. "This Level III trauma center verification is a great achievement for Frankfort Regional Medical Center and showcases our continued commitment and service to the community."

At Frankfort Regional Medical Center’s new Level III trauma program, Dr. Vallance works with an entire team of experienced trauma surgeons, medical specialists and a skilled group of emergency medicine physicians. Drs. Bryan Shouse and Timothy Bowling, board-certified general surgeons, also provide coverage for the hospital’s Emergency Department for general surgery. Drs. Joseph Dobner, Rick Lyon and Dana Soucy, board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, provide trauma coverage for orthopaedics.

Chip Peal, chief executive officer at Frankfort Regional Medical Center, said the Level III trauma center verification is part of the hospital’s deeper commitment to comprehensive care for patients. “The Level III trauma center is an invaluable resource to the community that is available around the clock, every day,” Peal said. “Caring for more patients right in our own community better serves the area’s residents.”
Harrison Memorial Hospital renovates rehabilitation services and cafeteria

Harrison Memorial Hospital has completed renovations to its rehabilitation services department and cafeteria, creating more space for equipment and services for both hospital patients and clients of its wellness center.

“With all the varied services now offered in the rehabilitation services department, we created a need for new and expanded space,” said Sheila Curran, CEO of Harrison Memorial in Cynthiana, Ky. “The addition of our orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine physician, James Pettay, MD, has increased patient volume considerably over the past two years.”

The rehabilitation services department offers physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, massage therapy and a wellness center. Cardiopulmonary rehabilitation is also located in this area.

The project began with a 2,450-square-foot addition to the department. Besides adding more square footage, the renovation raised the ceiling by 11 feet. “The additional open space will allow athletes room to kick and bat balls, and we’ll also use the area for group classes, like the Silver Sneakers program,” said Don Wynn, director of ancillary services.

With the improved space, the department has more up-to-date private treatment rooms for patient comfort and privacy. In addition, the department added more elliptical machines, treadmills, bikes and strength-training equipment. The equipment is used for both patient treatments and wellness center clients. The project also included a new dedicated space for the cardiopulmonary rehabilitation department.

The renovation within the wellness center creates a more social environment, and its space is now entirely separate from the patient treatment area. The wellness center offers a fitness trainer who customizes a program for each customer. The center also has a cardio-theater that allows clients to watch television on any of the plasma televisions while using the cardio equipment.

The new layout includes a station in the center of the room so the fitness trainers can monitor clients. Hours for the center are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays. To see the recently renovated department or join the wellness center, please contact the HMH Rehabilitation Services Department at 859-235-3553.

The HMH renovation project also included remodeling and expansion of the ground-floor dining area. The overall renovation of the cafeteria includes increased space for dining, new serving equipment and a three-sided salad bar for easier access. Visitors will enjoy more healthy food choices, as well as convenient “grab and go” sandwich options.
Rockcastle community supports local cancer patients

What do a youth football team, a group of grandmas and students from Rockcastle County Middle School have in common? They are all supporting local cancer patients through contributions to the Hope Fund.

Rockcastle Regional Hospital began providing cancer care services to the community in 2004 and has continued to expand those services. The Chemotherapy Clinic opened in the Outpatient Services Center in 2007 after becoming affiliated with UK Markey Cancer Center. Since then, patients from Rockcastle County and surrounding communities have had access to oncologists and nurses trained at UK HealthCare.

Cancer care closer to home has meant fewer trips to Lexington for cancer patients. But each year hundreds of people from the county and the region are still faced with the extraordinary emotional and financial difficulties associated with a cancer diagnosis.

The Hope Fund was established in 2012 to provide financial support for basic necessities to individuals and families dealing with cancer. When Melissa Brock, Rockcastle Regional Hospital oncology service line manager, started the Hope Fund, she could not have predicted the overwhelming support the community would provide. “I am humbled by the response the Hope Fund has gotten from the community,” Brock said.

“We didn’t have a set fundraising plan to sustain the Hope Fund when we started. We knew there were individuals and families in the community who were struggling, and we wanted to be able to help.”

Even the smallest gesture can help local cancer patients a great deal.

“Sometimes a gas card can mean the world to a patient who has to go to Lexington for an aspect of their cancer care,” Brock said. “To be eligible for assistance, patients must meet certain criteria and complete an application, but we try our best to provide assistance to those who need it.”

The primary fundraiser for Hope Fund was the Strides Against Cancer Horse Show in September 2012 that generated almost $17,000. A youth football team collected donations, and the Rockcastle County Rockets football team sold T-shirts. A group of grandmas, the Grandtazztics, sold pink T-shirts and spread breast cancer awareness education around the community.

The leadership team at Rockcastle County Middle School sponsored several fundraisers at the school to raise money for the Hope Fund. And in April, the Woodstock Community Center hosted “Woodstock Cares for a Cure” and donated the proceeds from the non-competitive walk.

Plans for the second-annual Strides Against Cancer Horse Show are underway, and the local fire department is selling pink helmets and T-shirts. The community support continues to grow.

If you are interested in supporting the Hope Fund, contact Melissa Brock at 859-256-7703 or Arielle Estes at 859-256-7880.
Just after announcing the National Cancer Institute designation of the UK Markey Cancer Center in July, Markey leaders traveled to Louisville to announce a partnership with Norton Cancer Institute. The two accomplished centers expect the partnership to expand cancer services to patients throughout Kentucky and the region.

NCI designation is the highest recognition for an academic-based cancer program. Markey is the only designated center in Kentucky and one of only 68 in the nation. In 2010, Norton Cancer Institute was selected as a National Cancer Institute Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP) site, which is the highest recognition for a community cancer program. Norton Cancer Institute is the only NCCCP site in Kentucky and one of only 21 in the nation. It is also the largest cancer program in the Louisville area.

“With this recognition of both organizations by the National Cancer Institute, it is a new day for cancer care in Kentucky,” said Stephen A. Williams, CEO of Norton Healthcare. “We congratulate UK HealthCare on this tremendous accomplishment, and we are honored to announce this expanded partnership with UK HealthCare’s Markey Cancer Center. Through the partnership of these two nationally distinguished programs, we are together taking cancer care to a new level in the commonwealth.”

Kentucky leads the nation in the incidence of lung cancer and is one of five U.S. states with the highest rates of several types of cancer.

“This collaboration among the National Cancer Institute, Markey Cancer Center and Norton Cancer Institute will open doors of opportunity for cancer patients by increasing the treatment options we can offer,” Williams said. “It will also greatly expand cancer research programs in Kentucky while stimulating more robust teaching programs for future physicians and caregivers.”

Markey Cancer Center’s National Cancer Institute designation greatly extends the range of collaborative capabilities between Norton Healthcare and UK HealthCare. The organizations joined forces in 2010 to establish a statewide network of care designed to address three of Kentucky’s most pressing health care needs – cancer, stroke and heart disease.

“Earning National Cancer Institute designation is a stamp of approval that means Markey is a first-class cancer center, comparable to the very best centers in the country,” said Michael Karpf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs at UK HealthCare. “We can assure our patients that no matter how ill they are or how complex their medical problems are, we can care for them right here in Kentucky. And we are pleased to have Norton Cancer Institute as a key partner in expanding cancer care throughout the Commonwealth. Together, we can accomplish so much.”
Patients in Morehead, Ky., can now better understand their cancer risk through a new program from St. Claire Regional Medical Center and UK Markey Cancer Center.

Using videoconferencing and other technology, Elizabeth Reilly, a genetics counselor at Markey Cancer Center, will be able to see and connect with patients in Morehead. This technology, known as telemedicine, is being used in many areas of health care, particularly to improve access to medical care for people in rural areas.

Genetic counseling includes performing cancer-risk assessments on patients who may have an increased risk of developing cancer because of a family history or other factors. Identifying patients with this increased risk can dramatically improve their chances for treatment and survival.

Reilly is one of only eight board-certified genetic counselors in the state. Until now, many patients in Eastern Kentucky – including those served by most of the Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network – have been unable to access genetic counseling services.

If the pilot program at St. Claire Regional Medical Center is successful, Markey will begin to offer this service to all its affiliates. That would mean patients who could benefit from genetic counseling will be able to receive the service close to home without traveling to Lexington, Louisville or Northern Kentucky or leaving the state.

St. Claire Regional has been facilitating telemedicine consultations since 1995 and became a telemedicine hub site in 1998. Improving patients’ access to health care through telemedicine clinics is a priority for St. Claire Telecare. Currently, St. Claire Telecare includes more than 10 regional sites that facilitate more than 500 telemedicine encounters a year. In addition to these sites, St. Claire Telecare has more than 100 additional partner sites as part of the Kentucky TeleHealth network.

A variety of services are available through St. Claire Telecare, including:
- Adult endocrinology
- Anesthesia pre-operative assessment
- Behavioral health
- Child psychiatry
- Cognitive impairment
- Dermatology
- Diabetes self-management
- Family practice (school-based)
- Nutritional counseling
- Radiology review
- Other specialty services as needed