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# MARKEY *quarterly*

SEASONAL NEWS FOR  
MARKEY CANCER CENTER  
FACULTY AND STAFF

## MARKEY LAUNCHES NEW RESEARCH NETWORK

EXPANDS COLLABORATION IN CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDIES

St. Mary's Regional Cancer Center in Huntington, W.Va., is the first member of Markey's network.

The Markey Cancer Center Research Network is a newly launched initiative conducting high priority cancer research through a network of collaborative centers with expertise in the delivery of cancer care and conduct of research studies. King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland, Ky. and St. Claire Regional Medical Center in Morehead, Ky. joined shortly after St. Mary's.

These partnership will give thousands of patients across Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia close-to-home access to innovative clinical research studies in the treatment and epidemiology of cancer as well as research studies in the prevention and early detection of cancer.

The portfolio of available clinical research studies for each Markey Research Network member will be targeted, focusing on areas with the highest burden of disease, and the types of cancers that most affect these overburdened regions. Appalachian Ky. has some of the highest rates of cancer incidence and mortality in the country, especially for lung, colorectal, and cervical cancers.

Clinical research studies are key to developing new methods to prevent, detect and treat cancer, and most treatments used today are the results of previous clinical studies. These may include studies in which patients who need cancer treatment receive their therapy under the observation of specially trained cancer doctors and staff. Patients who volunteer for cancer treatment studies will either receive standard therapy or a new treatment that represents the researchers' best new ideas for how to improve cancer care.

By disseminating Markey's clinical research studies across the region, the collaborative Research Network will offer better, more progressive treatment options to patients without the burden of traveling away from home and their physicians.

"Clinical research is the best way to advance cancer treatment protocols and move forward with the most effective new therapies," said Tim Mullett, MD, Medical Director of the Markey Cancer Center Research Network. "As an NCI-designated cancer center not just serving all of Kentucky, but regions of Appalachia including West Virginia, we have an obligation to address the most devastating cancers in this area by continually improving cancer prevention, detection, and treatments. The Markey Research Network will play a vital role in improving the grim cancer mortality rates in our region."

## MARKEY BY THE NUMBERS

Number of abstracts submitted for Markey Cancer Research Day .....	120
Dollars raised at 10th annual DanceBlue marathon .....	1,615,057.18

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## B. MARK EVERS, MD, DIRECTOR, MARKEY CANCER CENTER

As Kentucky's only NCI-designated Cancer Center, it is important for Markey to be a voice of expertise when people talk about cancer. Fortunately, we have some of the best and brightest cancer researchers and physicians whose input is often sought to shed light on the topic. This quarter, I'd like to highlight just a few of the recent opportunities we've had to get the word out about the work happening here at Markey and some of our state's most challenging health issues.

For example, Markey's own Associate Director for Cancer Prevention and Control, Thomas C. Tucker, PhD, MPH, joined WEKU's Eastern Standard radio show to discuss cancer deaths in Kentucky as well as treatment and survival options. Late last year, Director of the newly funded Kentucky LEADS Collaborative, Jamie Studts, PhD, was featured on "UK at the Half," which aired on the radio at halftime of at UK men's basketball game.

When KET explored cancer care in a set of programs that accompanied the three-part documentary series *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies* by Ken Burns, Tim Mullett, MD, Medical Director of the Markey Cancer Center Research Network, was called upon. He joined a panel for the KET Health Three60 live call-in program *Answers for Cancer* and took questions from viewers about cancer screening, treatment and recovery resources in Kentucky.

Additionally, part of my role as the Markey Cancer Center Director requires me to also be in the public eye. Like Dr. Mullett, I had the opportunity to appear on KET. I was happy to take the time to appear on *One to One with Bill Goodman* to discuss the latest news in cancer care and research, and Markey's goals to conquer cancer in the Commonwealth. On a lighter note, earlier this year a group of young people from Lexington invited me to speak at West Sixth Brewing for an event called *Suds and Science* (the first of its kind in Lexington), giving an overview to the general public about cancer and the cutting edge research being done at UK and around the world. An Op-Ed piece for the *Lexington Herald-Leader* allowed me to address a statistic we must change: our state's No. 1 ranking in lung cancer incidence and mortality.

And most recently, Jennifer Bradley, Markey's Jin Shin Jyutsu practitioner, received new funding from the Susan G. Komen foundation to continue a series of videos that show patients the value of Jin Shin Jyutsu even when they can't come to her practice in person. She's even taking the additional step of having them translated into Spanish and subtitled – all of which will help her reach a broader audience and help more patients.

There are so many other people getting the word out in this same way – even on a much smaller scale, like following Markey's growing presences on social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter. We all have opportunities to share the work and success we see every day at Markey. I encourage each of you to be a voice of expertise as we continue our efforts to provide state-of-the-art care and conduct cutting-edge research.

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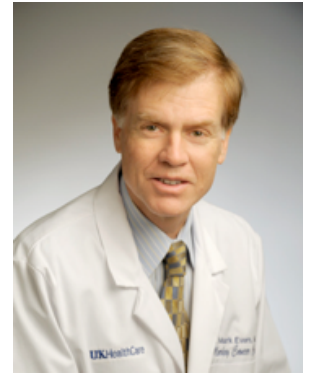
## MARKEY HOSTS NATIONAL CCAF MEETING

The Cancer Center Administrators Forum (CCAF) is an organization made up of administrators of NCI designated cancer centers and those seeking NCI designation. The CCAF serves members by encouraging each other to share best practices for administration; providing a network of knowledge and expertise with colleagues; supporting communication to enhance the effectiveness of NCI CCSG guidelines; and convening at annual meetings with agendas designed to explore issues impacting NCI designated Cancer Centers.

This year, Markey hosted the annual three-day CCAF meeting in Lexington, Ky. More than 150 administrators from all over the United States attended.

David Gosky, MA, MBA, Associate Director for Administration, serves on the Executive Committee for the CCAF. When David began plans to host, he recalled a meeting in Nebraska early in his membership. "I met a number of other administrators at that meeting, and the relationships I built were very helpful years later during Markey's application process for NCI designation," says David. "I wanted to provide the same opportunity to others, to show my gratitude for an organization I value."

Not only did David want to make sure guests experienced the best of what Lexington has to offer, he wanted to do so in a way that would foster the ability to build networks for other cancer centers, much like he did in Nebraska. "I made sure there were plenty of opportunities for people to introduce themselves or catch-up with each other. Those moments are important for meetings like this."



# MEET A MARKEY MOVER

ROBERT S. ADAMS

This quarter, Markey Quarterly introduces you to Robert S. Adams, Program Coordinator for Hematology.

**Good morning, Robert. Thank you for taking some time to talk with us. Where are you from originally and what brought you to Markey?**

I'm from London, Laurel County, here in Kentucky. I moved to Lexington in 2000 to attend UK and started working at the Kentucky Clinic Pharmacy. I worked there as a certified pharmacy technician for 11 years.

At UK, I earned my undergrad degree in Social Work and then a master's degree in Health Administration.

I finished my master's in 2005 and continued to work at the pharmacy until December of 2011 when I took a position at the Patient Access Center. There I scheduled Pediatrics appointments for both general pediatrics and pediatric specialty clinics such as Peds Surgery and Peds Urology. I did that for 11 months until November of 2012 when I accepted a position as a Bone Marrow Transplant Coordinator. That was a very rewarding but stressful job. I did that for close to two years until December of 2014 when I started in my current role as the Program Coordinator for Hematology.

**What is your role at Markey?**

In Hematology, we treat both malignant and benign blood disorders – the malignant or cancerous conditions are leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. My role is to schedule new patient appointments – this process starts with a referral. Based on the type of referral and diagnosis, I will book an appointment with the appropriate provider. A lot of planning and organization goes on “behind the scenes” to ensure that the patient's first visit with us is both informative and pleasant. I gather all needed records and prepare a New Patient packet for the physician to review prior to the appointment. I probably mail out 10-15 new patient packets each week. These packets include a letter with appointment information, paperwork, maps, a list of what to bring to appointments and answers to other common questions. I also manage the six non-clinical staff in Hem/Onc Clinic, on the first floor of the Ben Roach Building. Also, I facilitate our department's weekly Tumor Board conference that meets every Monday from noon until 1 p.m.

**What should other Markey employees know about your role?**

My goal is to strive for quality patient care because I want our patients to have the best possible experience. So, I treat people the way I'd want to be treated. Although Hematology is over in the Roach Building, I work in Combs where a lot of patients and families end up looking for someone. Figuring out where they need to be, whether it's an appointment or to visit a patient, is one way I can help. Like I said, that's how I'd want to be treated.

**Outside of work, how do you like to spend your time?**

I'm mostly a homebody, so I like to be home, working on home improvement projects. I have two dogs, Cord and Abby. I enjoy spending time with my family, especially my 5-year-old niece, Addison.



Robert S. Adams is the Program Coordinator for Hematology.

**WHO SHOULD BE OUR NEXT MARKEY MOVER?**

Email Markey's Research Communications Office at [mccrco@uky.edu](mailto:mccrco@uky.edu) with your idea.

# FOCUSING ON THE WHOLE PERSON

## UK INTEGRATIVE HEALTH BRINGS ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES TO MARKEY

Integrative medicine has been offered at UK HealthCare for many years, but a recent initiative is pooling together those modalities in a more unified way.

With a focus on the whole person, reaffirming the importance between the practitioner and patient, integrative medicine recognizes that interactions between mind, body, spirit and community have a direct impact on one's vitality. Studies show that people treated with integrative and modern medicine have higher patient satisfaction- their anxiety and depression is decreased, they sleep better, they require fewer medications and they experience less side effects.

"We are faced daily with disease that can't be cured, but in every patient there is something that can be healed," says Connie Jennings, MD, Medical Director, UK Integrative Health.

That healing has many forms at Markey, for patients, families and staff.

Jin Shin Jyutsu practitioner Jennifer Bradley teaches people to deeply utilize a light touch energy therapy on themselves. "The result is deep relaxation of the body and mind," says Jennifer. Her patients report improvements in nausea, skin breakdown side effects of radiation, neuropathy and feelings of well-being.

"Engaging in art can be therapeutic," says Art Therapist Fran Belvin, MA, ATR-BC, LPAT. "We address the psycho-social issues of cancer therapy for patients and families." Whether the task is creating collages that depict feelings of peace and relaxation or focusing energy on the repetitive structures of the popular tangle doodles, art therapy is one way to address emotional needs. "Art is a way for me, as a mental health counselor, to work with people and bring out their strengths so they can tend to their emotional and spiritual needs."

Music Therapist Jennifer Peyton, MM, MT-BC, uses associations people have with music to produce positive change. "Lyrics can help someone identify their emotions if they experience sadness or conflicting emotions about a new or terminal diagnosis. Some patients prefer writing a to song express what they're going through." Although people may think of music as entertainment, Jennifer's focus with music is to accomplish therapeutic outcomes such as decreasing pain and anxiety, while increasing coping skills and communication.

Markey's newest integrative medicine program, Narrative Therapy, concentrates on context. Rob Slocum, D.Min, PhD, sees his role as one to assist patients in the telling of their individual stories. "The patients I work with are people with cancer, not cancer patients," he says. Patients who participate in narrative therapy may choose to write down thoughts, reflect on their lives or describe the emotions of their cancer journey including the diagnosis and treatment. "Expressing those words on paper or out loud allows patients and their loved ones to wrap their heads around the feelings," says Rob. "Instead of everything rattling around inside, it's now out there to be critiqued and be put into perspective." Narrative

therapy allows patients to come to a different context of meaning, hopefully a more positive meaning where they have a better understanding of their support systems and community.

The popularity of integrative medicine at Markey is evident in participation: an average of 550 Jin Shin Jyutsu sessions each year; 364 art therapy participants between June 2014 and February 2015; and over 80 music therapy sessions each month.

As UK Integrative Health evolves, the list of alternative medicine options available to Markey patients continues to grow, including acupuncture, aroma therapy, nutritional and dietary counseling, pastoral care and pet therapy.



A tangle doodle, one of many art therapy options available to MCC patients, visitors and staff.

Although some integrative medicine practices are centuries old, research supports their contribution to better patient outcomes. "All major NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers have a viable integrative health presence," says Dr. Jennings.

Markey is dedicated to a sustainable integrative health program that melds cutting edge conventional medicine with evidence-based complementary therapies. "A robust Integrative Health program not only enhances the health and healing of our patients, but will help us move forward to Comprehensive Center status, increasing our future research opportunities," says Mark Evers, MD, Director, Markey Cancer Center.

**"WE ARE FACED DAILY WITH DISEASE THAT CAN'T BE CURED, BUT IN EVERY PATIENT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE HEALED."**

Connie Jennings, MD  
Medical Director, UK Integrative Health

# NOTEWORTHY

## WELCOME

**Cyrus Adkisson, KCR**  
**Stephanie Carmack, KCR**  
**Anwasha Chatterjee, CRED**  
**Xiuping Huang, BBSRB labs**  
**Xiangli Kong, CESB**  
**Shang Li, CRED**  
**Olivia McCoy, Director's Office**  
**Thilakam Murali, CESB**  
**Senthilnathan Palaniyandi, Hematology/BMT**  
**Cindy Roberts, KCR**  
**Maria Scavo, CESB**  
**Andrew Shearer, Biostatistics Core**  
**Ramon Sun, CESB**  
**Susanta Tewari, CESB**  
**Deependra Tyagi, KCR**  
**Rahul Vempati, BBSRB labs**  
**Allyson Yates, BMSF project**  
**Honggang Zheng, Toxicology**

## PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Markey authors were responsible for 138 manuscripts and publications in journals from January through March 2015. Notable publications include the following.

Cai WJ, Ye Q, She QB. Loss of 4e-bp1 function induces emt and promotes cancer cell migration and invasion via cap-dependent translational activation of snail. *Oncotarget* 2014;5:6015-6027.

Rychahou P, Haque F, Shu Y, Zaytseva Y, Weiss HL, Lee EY, Mustain W, Valentino J, Guo PX, Evers BM. Delivery of rna nanoparticles into colorectal cancer metastases following systemic administration. *Acs Nano* 2015;9:1108-1116.

Schoenberg NE, Bundy HE, Bispo JAB, Studts CR, Shelton BJ, Fields N. A rural appalachian faith-placed smoking cessation intervention. *Journal of Religion & Health* 2015;54:598-611.

Sellers K, Fox MP, Bousamra M, Slone SP, Higashi RM, Miller DM, Wang YL, Yan J, Yuneva MO, Deshpande R, Lane AN, Fan TWM. Pyruvate carboxylase is critical for non-small-cell lung cancer proliferation. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* 2015;125:687-698.

Schoenberg NE, Bundy HE, Bispo JAB, Studts CR, Shelton BJ, Fields N. A rural appalachian faith-placed smoking cessation intervention. *Journal of Religion & Health* 2015;54:598-611.

## GRANTS

**Kathleen O'Connor, PhD**, was awarded National Cancer Institute funding for "Epigenetic Regulation of S100A4/Metastasin".

**Emilia Galperin, PhD**, was awarded America Cancer Society funding for "Shoc2 Scaffold Mediates Motility Signals of the ERK 1/2 Pathway".

**Nancy Schoenberg, PhD**, was awarded Retirement Research funding for "Grandfamilies in Gardens".

**Binhua Zhou, MD, PhD**, was awarded Army Medical Research and Materiel Command funding for "New Epigenetic Therapeutic Intervention for Metastatic Breast Cancer".

**Dan Shu, MD, and Ren Xu, PhD**, were awarded Army Medical Research and Materiel Command funding for "Ultrastable Multivalent RNA Nanoconstructs for Breast Cancer Treatment".

**Hsin-Sheng Yang, PhD**, was awarded National Cancer Institute funding for "The role of Sin1 in colorectal cancer progression".

## AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & SELECTIONS

**B. Mark Evers, MD**, Director of the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center, Professor and Vice-Chair for Research in the Department of Surgery and Markey Cancer Foundation, Endowed chair, received a score on 19 (in the second percentile) on his recent R01 competing renewal to the NIDDK.

**Amanda Fallin, PhD, RN**, Assistant Research Professor at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing, has been selected as one of eight distinguished nurse educators to participate in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI) program.

**Gerhard Carl Hildebrandt, MD, FACP**, Professor of Medicine at the University of Kentucky has been named Division Chief of the Division of Hematology and Blood & Marrow Transplantation.

## RCO HAS MOVED TO 208 MDS

The Research Communications Office has a new home in 208 Multi-Disciplinary Science Building, 725 Rose Street.

## NOTEWORTHY, continued

**Edward Wolin, MD**, Professor of Internal Medicine, has been selected to present “Delays in Neuroendocrine Tumor (NET) Diagnosis: US Results From the First Global NET Patient Survey—A Collaboration Between the International Neuroendocrine Cancer Alliance (INCA) and Novartis Pharmaceuticals” during Digestive Disease Week 2015 in May in Washington, DC. DDW is one of the leading meetings in the digestive disease field, an ideal place to educate oneself in the changes, innovations, and researches in the GI field.



**Guoqiang Yu, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, was honored as a recipient at an awards ceremony during the University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science’s 10th Annual CCTS Spring Conference. The CCTS created the mentor awards as a mechanism to acknowledge the integral role that faculty serve as mentors and an opportunity for junior researchers to recognize the valuable support they receive. recipients received recognition for their outstanding work in helping to train young scientists.



### Markey is on Twitter @UKMarkey

Follow Markey on Twitter and share news from Kentucky’s only NCI-designated center. Examples of information that work well on Twitter:

- Events for patients and the public as well as events focused on research;
- Support group information and details;
- Published research papers in major journals;
- Participation at major scientific conferences; and
- Applying work at Markey to issues in the media.

### Support Cure Cats at Relay for Life

Help the Cure Cats reach a goal of \$10,000 this year at Relay for Life. You do not have to join the team to make a donation. For more information, contact Barbie Merkel-Simon at bamerk2@uky.edu.

## MARKEY DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Congratulations to the following Markey Difference Makers for the first quarter of 2015.

Donna Areaux	Peggy Meece
Farrah Cates	Lisa Minke
Becky Cochran	Stacie Montgomery
Cathi Curren	Michelle Morel
Brandi Elliott	Cameron Morrison
Mark Filburn	Grace Puckett
Jack Francis	Rebecca Reinking
Joe Freeman	Joan Scales
Katherine Gibson	Daret St. Clair
Rebecca Hancock	Natalie Stratton
David Howard	Galisa Watts
Terry Huey	Melanie Wilson
Crystal Kendrick	Roger Yankey

### Do you know a Markey Difference Maker?

The Markey Difference Maker award recognizes the above-and-beyond dedication and talent of those who go about the business of treating cancer patients, finding efficiencies in business procedures, improving working conditions, and, generally, making life easier for everyone associated with Markey: patients, caregivers, families, providers, administrators and staff. Nominations are now accepted online.

## The Christ Hospital Health Network Joins Markey Affiliate Network

The Christ Hospital Health Network in Cincinnati, Oh., announced an affiliation with the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center, making it the first affiliate hospital outside the state of Kentucky. For the last 30 years, The Christ Hospital Health Network has been recognized as a national leader in cancer clinical trials with research and innovation that has led to breakthrough medical advances and improved outcomes. The Christ Hospital Health Network averages 30 active studies, from phase I through phase IV, and is affiliated with leading national research institutions, individuals, groups and corporations.

### MARKEY CANCER CENTER RESEARCH DAY

Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 28 when UK researchers showcase their work at the UK Singletary Center for the Arts. Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, Institute Professor, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research / Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will present the Susan B. Lester Memorial Lecture.