UK breaks ground for new Albert B. Chandler Hospital

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On a recent May morning, a standing-room-only crowd gathered to mark the momentous beginning of a construction project—one that—once again—is expected to advance the delivery of health care for Kentuckians and help fuel UK’s push to become a Top 20 public research institution by 2020.

The $525 million first phase of construction for the new 1.1 million-square-foot UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital is one of the largest construction projects in state history, not just in terms of size—but in the impact it will have on Kentucky’s economy and health. The new hospital will position UK HealthCare as a national leader in academic medicine. It is the cornerstone for a 20-year, $2.5 billion plan on the south side of campus to construct an academic medical campus of the future that will further accelerate growth in research and health education. The project was recently noted in the New York Times as among the largest in the nation.

The groundbreaking ceremony featured remarks from Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher, Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry, UK President Lee T. Todd, Jr., UK Executive Vice President for Health Affairs Dr. Michael Karpf, UK Board of Trustees Chairman James Hardymon and Hospital Committee Chairwoman Barbara Young.

The first phase of the new UK Chandler Hospital is scheduled to open in 2011.

U.S. News ranks UK Chandler Hospital in top 50

U.S. News & World Report ranked UK Chandler Hospital among the nation's top hospitals in its report issued in July. Only 173 U.S. hospitals made the list of 5,462 hospitals evaluated. For the first time, three of UK’s programs are recognized by the magazine in its rankings of the nation’s top 50 programs by specialty—a reflection of the breadth and depth of care delivered at UK. They are gynecology, ear, nose and throat and cancer.
National figures contribute expertise to Groundbreaking Week

National experts spoke to more than 450 attendees at a health care symposium in May to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital.

“Health Care Delivery in the 21st Century” featured lectures by Dr. Jordan J. Cohen, Dr. David M. Lawrence, and Sue T. Hegyvary, PhD, RN, FAAN.

A major conclusion reached by the speakers was that America’s academic medical centers need to be poised to adapt to changes in the way they train new doctors and medical personnel.

Cohen said the American health care industry is facing major changes in patient needs and expectations. While physicians and other health care professionals have provided episodic care seeking to cure a present disease, they must adapt to providing continuous care to preserve health.

Patients today have more access to health, disease and treatment information than they had in the past, a situation that will require doctors, nurses and other professionals to build “partnerships” with the patients and their families. Lawrence believes that five forces will shape the future of the industry: science and technology, demographic changes, globalization, consumer expectations, and shortages of health care professionals and capital.

“As you build that new hospital, keep those (Kentucky) communities in the center, keep the population at large in the center, that’s your icon.”

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Faculty/Staff Celebrate the future

During a week filled with events celebrating the groundbreaking for the new UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital, one of the most festive occasions was a cookout for employees. Faculty and staff gathered in the hospital’s courtyard to celebrate the past and anticipate the future of patient care.

In addition to a cookout, employees had the opportunity to talk with hospital administrators while viewing animations and renderings of the new hospital.

New Hospital Construction Impact

• In late September the Hospital Parking Garage will be accessible via the Limestone/Hospital Dr. entrance.
• Patients of the Gill Heart Institute or the Center for Advanced Surgery should continue to use the UK Chandler Hospital Patient Dropoff.
• The New Parking Garage is slated to open in Nov. 2007.

UK HealthCare Good Samaritan Hospital

The University of Kentucky is welcoming UK HealthCare Good Samaritan Hospital to its family. A federal bankruptcy judge approved the sale of Samaritan Hospital assets to UK HealthCare in June.

“The acquisition of Samaritan Hospital will play a significant role in our plan to better serve the people of this state,” said UK President Lee T. Todd, Jr. “Combining the expertise of two of Central Kentucky’s most trusted hospitals will allow for greater synergies and newfound collaboration, further enhancing this region’s health care quality.”

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Parking structure set to open this fall

The first three levels of the new parking structure for UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital are set to open in November. The remaining levels will open in February 2008, at which time about 1,600 spaces will be available for patient and visitor parking. A 24-hour shuttle service from the garage to the hospital will be provided. The hospital’s current garage will be demolished to allow for construction of the new hospital beginning in November. Eventually, a pedestrian walkway will connect the new parking structure to the new hospital.

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Lawrence believes that five forces will shape the future of the industry: science and technology, demographic changes, globalization, consumer expectations, and shortages of health care professionals and capital.

“We are going to be driven in the 21st century, as we were in the 20th century, by the pace and scope of technological development,” said Lawrence.

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Gala

A fundraising gala concluded the week-long hospital groundbreaking celebration and raised nearly $350,000 for an Art in HealthCare program at the new hospital. Experts say that art can affect patients in such a way that they see hope and a life beyond their illness. The gala, held at Donamire Farm, featured a performance by the legendary Johnny Mathis.

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U.S. surgeons to operate at new hospital

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