Critical Condition

New KU medical school to train doctors for rural communities

A DOCTOR PRACTICING IN A CLINIC IN TOWN, living in a house down the street: That’s one goal the new KU School of Medicine-Salina hopes to achieve when it welcomes its first class of eight student doctors this fall.

Students who complete all four years of their classroom and clinical training in Salina are more likely to establish a practice in similar or smaller communities.

This could begin to alleviate the critical shortage of physicians in rural Kansas, said Dr. William Cathcart-Rake, a longtime Salina oncologist and the new school’s director.

“The whole mission of the Salina campus,” says Cathcart-Rake, a KU medical school alumnus, “is to show these young medical students that life can be good and practice can be challenging outside of the big city.”

Heidi Chumley, senior associate dean for medical education at KU Medical Center, initiated the “small campus/small communities” program. “With today’s technology,” Chumley says, “we can bring the best elements of a large academic health center to complement the strengths of a community like Salina.”

The new school will be housed largely in space provided by the Salina Regional Health Center. Students will participate in lectures given at the medical schools in Kansas City and Wichita via interactive television and podcasts. Clinical instruction by physicians and Web-based laboratory training round out the curriculum.

The benefits to the state could be enormous. As Jerry Slaughter, executive director of the Kansas Medical Society, says: “This is the most significant thing to happen to rural Kansas health care in a long while.”

WHAT’S GOING ON IN YOUR AREA

SALINA
New medical school focuses on training doctors to live and work in small towns.

HAYS & PITTSBURG
Innovative alliance brings advanced cancer care closer to home.

GARDEN CITY
Transfer student finds her transition to KU easy.

HUTCHINSON
Training center teaches police officers vital lessons.

MORE INFORMATION — KUMC.EDU/SOM
**MIDWEST CANCER ALLIANCE MEMBERS**

**GOODLAND**
- Goodland Regional Medical Center

**HAYS**
- Hays Medical Center: Dreiling-Schmidt Cancer Institute

**HUTCHINSON**
- Promise Regional Medical Center: Chalmers Cancer Treatment Center

**KANSAS CITY, KAN.**
- University of Kansas Hospital
- University of Kansas Cancer Center
- KU Medical Center

**KANSAS CITY, MO.**
- Children’s Mercy Hospitals & Clinics
- St. Luke’s Cancer Center Institute
- Stowers Institute for Medical Research
- Truman Medical Centers

**MANHATTAN**
- Kansas State University-Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Research

**SALINA**
- Salina Regional Health Center

**TOPEKA**
- St. Francis Health Center
- Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center

**PITTSBURG**
- Via Christi Cancer Center

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**HAYS & PITTSBURG**

**Closer to Home**

KU partnerships bring advanced cancer care to local communities

**BLEND THE NEWEST CANCER**

treatments from an academic medical center with the personal care of a hometown health center. The goal is earlier detection, more innovative responses, and better chances of survival.

Since its 2008 founding, the Midwest Cancer Alliance, the outreach arm of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, has built on this partnership to offer patients new cancer therapies close to home.

Dr. Gary Doolittle, medical director of the alliance, oversees KU oncologists as they confer with alliance colleagues on diagnoses, second opinions, treatments, surgeries, and chemotherapy. Virtually all this work is done by interactive televideo technology that makes patient treatment across great distances possible.

One example of how the alliance hospitals interact: A patient from Pittsburg went to the KU Hospital for surgery, because that’s where the necessary specialist was operating. He returned to Pittsburg for chemotherapy and follow-up by one of four oncologists there.

Another important collaboration is that alliance doctors can enroll local patients in clinical drug trials offered by the KU Cancer Center. These vital tests of new drug therapies are crucial, Doolittle says, and are “how we measure our success.”

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**GARDEN CITY**

**Easy Transition to KU**

Admissions staff provides crucial support for transfer student

**WHEN DIANA TICLAVILCA-ACUNA LEFT PERU** two years ago to join her mother in Garden City, she landed in a nest of ardent Jayhawks: cousins, nieces and nephews “all in love with KU.” She had no doubt, she says, laughing, about the first place she would consider continuing her studies in biology and genetics.

But as she completed her associate’s degree in science at Garden City Community College and began enrolling and transferring credits from a Peruvian university and the community college, she turned to the staff of KU’s Office of Admissions for help.

Counselors and advisers in Lawrence and southwest Kansas were “on top of everything and easy to talk to,” she says. Through programs like the Multicultural Road Show, they offered information about degrees, financial aid, and resources. Symposia and staff visits to the community college provided other direct interactions, all of which made her transition to KU “really easy.”

In her sophomore year on the Lawrence campus, Ticlavilca-Acuna is working on requirements for professional school and her ultimate career as a dentist.

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MORE INFORMATION ➔ MidwestCancerAlliance.org

MORE INFORMATION ➔ Admissions.KU.EDU KU.EDU/ESPAÑOL
Making Us Safer
KU police training center teaches the value of good communication

TWO YOUNG POLICE OFFICERS LEARNED ONE important lesson at KU’s Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center near Hutchinson: Communication is everything.

Callie Tilson, 25, a resource officer for the 2,000 students at Derby High School, has about 150 interactions a week with students, teachers, and administrators: directing traffic, overseeing drug and alcohol awareness programs, resolving conflicts.

Braxton A. Hill, 27, drives a patrol car in Andover, a Butler County town of about 10,500. His chief task is crime control, but about one-quarter of his citizen encounters are simply answering questions and providing help.

Their basic training emphasized “the importance of interaction within our diverse communities and building that relationship,” Hill says. “Without a strong relationship, a communication barrier prevents us from solving problems.”

Tilson says scenarios the trainers provided set the standard on how to communicate. “There are times someone just needs us to listen, and then there are times when it is required that we step in and provide help and guidance.”

OFFICER BRAXTON A. HILL WAS ONE OF 36 members of the March 26, 2010, graduating class at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. The center, a division of KU Continuing Education, offers five to six sessions a year. Officer Callie Tilson of Derby completed her basic training in December 2007.

MORE INFORMATION — KLET.C.ORG

KU’S KANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

At a former naval air station south of Hutchinson and west of Yoder in Reno County, comprising dormitories, dining facility, classrooms, offices, shooting training building, and emergency vehicle driver training course.

BASIC TRAINING
560 hours over 14 weeks in residence annually for about 400 novice municipal, county, and state law enforcement officers.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
40 hours of certification training annually for about 4,400 officers in topics such as Internet crime, domestic violence, sexual assault, drug abuse, and hostage negotiation.

FUNDING
Entirely by docket fees in district and municipal courts.

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