After earning his Medical Degree from the University of Kansas, Dr. Francisco Chacon chose to return to where he felt most needed — to Liberal, his hometown.

“When you’re a primary care doctor in your community, you get to know your patients,” said Chacon, who trained at the medical school’s Wichita campus and now has a busy practice not far from where he grew up. “I knew I could make a difference here.”

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Addressing a crucial shortage

KU prepares doctors for careers in underserved communities

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Despite KU’s efforts, Kansas still does not have enough physicians, and KU’s medical education facilities in Kansas City have reached capacity. To train additional doctors for Kansas, in 2011 KU opened a new Salina campus and expanded its Wichita campus to a four-year program. This year, KU is seeking support for its Health Education Initiative, which would expand KU’s Kansas City facilities to train 50 additional medical students each year.

“Kansas needs doctors,” Chacon said. “KU recognizes this and is uniquely positioned to address this crucial shortage.”

• 89 Kansas counties have a shortage of primary care providers.
• Kansas ranks 39th nationally in doctors per capita.
• Kansas needs 285 new physicians each year to rise to the national average of physicians per capita by 2030.
• Nearly 30 percent of current physicians will be lost to retirement and attrition over the next 10 years.


Taking the reins

KU alumnus returns to hometown to run independent pharmacy


cimArron

Two decades later, Monical can still be found at Clark Pharmacy, but in a very different capacity: He’s now the owner and pharmacist. “When I left for school, I thought I might come back, but I wasn’t sure,” said Monical, who graduated from the KU School of Pharmacy in 2009. “But I eventually realized this was where I wanted to be.”

Key to his decision was a rotation he did at Clark Pharmacy while a student at KU. That’s when then-owner Jim Coat — himself a KU pharmacy alumnus — asked Monical if he’d consider returning to Cimarron to work alongside Coat and eventually take over the business. Monical agreed and returned to Cimarron after graduation. Earlier this year, he officially was where I wanted to be.”

“Matt Monical owns Clark Pharmacy in Cimarron. That’s KU pharmacy graduate Matt Monical owns Clark Pharmacy in Cimarron.

A common intervention and language.”


cimArron

The Kansas Interdisciplinary Carbonates Consortium (KICC) brings together KU researchers to better understand carbonate reservoir rocks — a class of porous sedimentary rock that includes limestone and dolomite. Nearly 75 percent of oil and gas reserves in Kansas are found in the pores in carbonate reservoir rocks.

The KU consortium also includes 13 energy companies that pay membership fees to access KU research, datasets and training, and for consultations with university experts on industry-driven projects. “Our 18 investigators and our 105 counties.

Looking below the surface

KU consortium helps energy companies access Kansas oil reserves


cimArron

• Kansas Mental Health Positive Behavior Support (KMHPBS) is a project of the Kansas Institute for Positive Behavior Support at the KU Life Span Institute.

• The project has trained 750 mental health professionals in 94 counties.

• KMHPBS has trained staff at 21 mental health agencies, as well as other psychiatric residential treatment facilities in Kansas.

• Matt Enyart is the KMHPBS project coordinator and assistant director of project development and oversight for KMHPBS. Kris Matthews is a research assistant for KMHPBS.

• The project was funded by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services.

KU researchers Kris Matthews and Matt Enyart are training mental health practitioners across Kansas. “These kids bounce between systems,” Enyart said. “How these systems respond to the children’s behavior differs widely. This project establishes a common intervention and language.”

The PBS-to-Go Box includes reference materials, iPads, laptops, printers and projectors — critical technology for practices such as videotaping a child’s behavior for online collaboration with a PBS professional. “Our objective is building positive healthy communities,” Matthews said, “and we’ve begun connecting the dots between systems and identifying practitioners who will advance this vision with the resources and practice we’ve provided.”

Encouraging careers in rural communities

KU provides training, technology to mental health practitioners


cimArron

• The KU School of Pharmacy has a student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association, a national organization that advocates for independent pharmacies.

• Each winter break and spring break, the chapter organizes overnight visits to 10-15 independent pharmacies across Kansas to introduce students to independent pharmacy practice.

• In January, KU students visited pharmacies in Topeka, Manhattan, Clay Center, Concordia, Belleville, Beloit, Minneapolis, Salina, Hillsboro and Emporia.

• More than 60 percent of KU pharmacy alumni live and work in Kansas.

• KU-trained pharmacists practice in 95 of Kansas’ 105 counties.

• The KICC includes researchers from the KU departments of geology and chemical & petroleum engineering, as well as the Tertiary Oil Recovery Program and the Kansas Geological Survey at KU.

• KICC researchers have expertise in:
  - carbonate sedimentology
  - seismic imaging
  - ground-generating radar
  - reservoir petrophysics
  - geochemistry
  - geobiology

• The KICC includes 13 industry members that invest in oil and gas operations in Kansas or are considering doing so. Members include:
  - Anadarko
  - BHP Billiton
  - Chesapeake
  - Chevron
  - ConocoPhillips
  - Devon
  - Pioneer
  - Repsol
  - Saudi Aramco
  - Total

• Oil and natural gas have been found in 93 of Kansas’ 105 counties.

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The University of Kansas is an equal opportunity/ affirmative action institution.
Our mission: A healthier Kansas.

Half of Kansas doctors trained at the University of Kansas. Our medical school campuses in Kansas City, Salina, and Wichita are educating physicians to meet the health needs of Kansans across the state.

KU is the only university that can address the state’s doctor shortage and ensure every Kansan can receive quality care closer to home.

Learn how at doctors4ks.ku.edu