Dr. Simari Named Executive Dean of School of Medicine

Robert D. Simari, MD, began his service as Executive Dean of the School of Medicine on March 24, 2014. Dr. Simari assumed the role from Executive Vice Chancellor Doug Girod, MD. Dr. Girod had served as interim executive dean since he became executive vice chancellor in 2013.

Dr. Simari comes to the KU School of Medicine from the Mayo Clinic where he served as vice chair of the Division of Cardiovascular Disease and co-director of the Mayo Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences. He also served as the dean of clinical and translational research at the Mayo Clinic.

Dr. Simari is an accomplished clinician and researcher with a distinguished history of National Institutes of Health funding for research on the response of blood vessels to injury and the role of adult stem cells in atherosclerosis. Dr. Simari also leads a group of clinicians and scientists studying cell therapies for treating heart disease. He co-owns a number of patents and co-founded Anexon, a company working to develop the discovery of a peptide being developed to protect kidney function during heart failure.

In addition to his accomplishments as an institutional leader, clinician and researcher, Dr. Simari served in the Mayo Graduate School and has mentored a number of post-doctoral and undergraduate fellows.

Dr. Simari graduated from Shawnee Mission West High School and received a bachelor’s degree in Biology from the University of Notre Dame. He earned his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed his residency at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston.

The Hall Family Foundation Makes $25 Million Gift Toward the Creation of a New Health Education Building

The Hall Family Foundation has gifted $25 million toward the construction of a new, state-of-the-art health education building on the KU Medical Center’s Kansas City campus. In April, the Kansas Legislature approved $25 million in bonds for construction. KU will provide $15 million and KU Endowment will raise the remaining $10 million.

As the only medical school in the state of Kansas, the University of Kansas is committed to addressing the state’s physician workforce shortage by providing progressive educational programs and facilities in which to train physicians and other health professionals. The class size will increase by fifty students. In addition to medical students, the building will also serve students in the Schools of Nursing and Health Professions.

The new health education building will provide the space necessary for an increased number of students to participate in innovative and contemporary curricula that embrace team-based, small group and interdisciplinary learning activities. Among the features the new building will offer are a state-of-the-art simulation center, technology-enhanced classrooms and areas that promote greater interaction among students, faculty and staff.
MD Program Receives Eight-Year LCME Accreditation

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting body for medical education programs in the United States and Canada, has granted the MD program an eight-year accreditation, the maximum period typically awarded by the LCME. The accreditation survey team visited the Kansas City, Salina and Wichita campuses on October 20-24, 2013. During the visit, accreditors met with the school’s dean, faculty members, administrators and students. The final LCME report, issued in February 2014, cited program strengths as the school’s innovative education programs to address the state’s needs for rural physicians and a robust faculty development program. Areas cited by the LCME include the lack of faculty diversity, lack of call rooms and storage facilities for medical students in the University of Kansas Hospital, and inadequate facilities for educational activities. A process to address these concerns is in place and the school will present a status report to the LCME by August 1, 2015.

Directors and Administrators Retreat

On April 22, faculty and administrators from the three campuses met for the annual Directors and Administrators Retreat at Emporia State University. Participants discussed the recent LCME accreditation report and what the next steps in curriculum development should be. Topics of discussion included clarifying program objectives, measuring achievements and integrating content across all modules and phases of the curriculum.

17th Annual Medical Education Retreat

The annual Medical Education Retreat was held on May 8. School of Medicine faculty and staff gathered in Wahl Hall West auditorium for lunch and the keynote address by Susan Skochelak, MD, MPH, the American Medical Association’s vice president for medical education. Dr. Skochelak’s presentation, “Training Physicians and Health Care Professionals in 2025” addressed the changing health care system and changes medical schools must make to ensure that students receive the training and education necessary to meet health care needs of the future. Following the keynote presentation, participants attended breakout sessions which included topics such as active learning, clinical evaluation of medical students and technology. After the breakout sessions, Dean Simari presented this year’s Bohan Teaching Professorship award to Andrew Massey, MD, Associate Professor in Internal Medicine on the Wichita campus and Carol Lindsley, MD, Professor in the Department of Pediatrics in Kansas City. The event concluded with poster presentations of the 2013-14 Medical Alumni Innovative Teaching Fund recipients and a reception hosted by the Academy of Medical Educators.

Match Day 2014

On March 21, 190 students and their families gathered in Battenfeld auditorium to discover where they will complete their residencies. Match Day occurs each year on the third Friday in March for all LCME-accredited medical schools in the United States and Canada. More than half of the KU students who matched will enter primary care residencies. Forty-nine students will remain at KU for their residency programs.

Hooding and Commencement Ceremonies

In 2014, 187 students graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. The Hooding and Awards Ceremony for doctor of medicine candidates was held on May 17 at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Kansas City, KS. Commencement ceremonies took place on May 18 at Memorial Stadium in Lawrence. Congratulations to our graduates.
Wichita and KUSM Serve as Models for Other Medical Schools
by Dennis Valenzeno, PhD, Chair and Associate Dean of Medical Sciences, Wichita

Visitors from the University of Oklahoma (OU) visited KUSM-W on April 15 to learn more about how we use interactive television to offer the first and second year curriculum among our three campuses in the School of Medicine. OU is planning to expand the School of Community Medicine at its Tulsa campus to include first and second years in the fall of 2015. They sent faculty and administrators from both Tulsa and Oklahoma City to learn from Medical Sciences personnel as well as Dean Minns, representatives from Academic and Student Affairs, and Information Technology. From Wichita they travelled to Kansas City to see how the main campus deals with distance education issues. The visit sparked interest from several media outlets resulting in stories in the Wichita Eagle and Wichita Business Journal as well as video coverage by KWCH television.

As I mentioned in the last OME Newsletter our students continue to impress us. During his time "off" after the first year of medical school, during the summer of 2013, Christopher Stanley, a second-year student on the Wichita campus and a rare transfer after completing the first year in Kansas City, was instrumental in the development of a new resource for those suffering a period of intense grief following the death of a loved one. Christopher worked with the Office of Marriage and Family Life of the Diocese of Wichita to develop a bereavement web page where resources such as support groups, suggested readings and online discussion forums are grouped by the source of the bereavement. Christopher plans to pursue a career in family medicine and public health.

Mannequins that simulate human signs and symptoms and that respond to drugs with appropriate physiological responses, just like a living patient, provide compelling experiences for physicians in training. First-year medical students in Wichita recently dealt with such "patients" that were demonstrating different forms of shock. The students' task was to apply physiological principles from lectures to determine the kind of shock being displayed — cardiogenic, hypovolemic, or distributive — all done in a safe environment where the consequences of mistakes aren't so grave. This is the first year this exercise was provided locally with support from the Mid-Continent Center for Health Care Simulation and KUSM-W faculty. Wesley Medical Center provided a life-like ICU environment for the event.

Faculty who teach first and second year students in Wichita have also been busy. Our newest faculty member, Dr. Paul Wooley an immunologist who was previously course chair for medical immunology at Wayne State, is an Eminent Scholar of the Kansas Bioscience Authority, Chief Scientific Officer at the National Center of Innovation for Biomaterials in Orthopedic Research and serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Immunology and Infectious Disease. Dr. James Bann, one of our original faculty members in biochemistry, was recently named to the editorial advisory board of the Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

We're gratified that the LCME has recognized the hard work and achievements of all three of our campuses with full accreditation renewal, and we look forward to even bigger and better things for our students in the future.

[See the latest News and Events from Medical Sciences at http://wichita.kumc.edu/medical-sciences/news-and-events.html.]

Curriculum Review: Strategic Planning Meeting

On May 3, faculty, administrators and students from the Kansas City, Salina and Wichita campuses met at the Edwards Campus for the first strategic planning meeting for curriculum review. Tom Field, Associate Vice Chancellor for Organizational Improvement and Cheryl Pace, Director of Process Improvement served as facilitators. Participants engaged in brainstorming sessions focusing on organizational profile and goals. Three main themes emerged from the brainstorming sessions: 1) need for greater content integration across modules, clerkships and phases 2) need for increased and improved resources (time, funding, facilities ) 3) faculty support (funding for dedicated teaching time, professional development opportunities). Additional topics for discuss included clearly defining the core curriculum, the role of inter-professional education, and educational goals and competencies. These items will be further explored at the next meeting scheduled for August 29, 2014.
KUSOM-Salina
By Michael Robinson, PhD, Associate Director of Basic Sciences, KU School of Medicine, Salina

Hopefully this newsletter does signal the arrival of spring at last; and not just another odd day of warmth before cold winds and gray skies return. Nevertheless, there are other and more reliable signs of the changing seasons. The second intake of students at the Salina campus, the class of 2016, are all in full charge preparing to take their USLME Step 1 exam this month. As always we wish them well as they prepare for this hurdle on the way to becoming physicians. The faculty and staff at Salina have already anticipated this progression as the students were awarded new white coats at an annual ceremony held at the Salina Country Club, in the presence of Dr. Girod, and local volunteer and part time faculty.

The Salina class of 2015 are of course getting towards the end of their third year clerkships and many have already decided which residency programs they prefer. This has been a great developmental year for the first intake of Salina students and their “Match Day” will be here before we know it.

Meanwhile, a new intake of students has been interviewed and selected for the University of Kansas School of Medicine, class of 2018. As previously, Salina has an anticipated intake of eight new students who are dedicated to qualifying as physicians and to serve rural areas of Kansas. I am certain these eight individuals are thrilled about the prospect of becoming medical students at the Salina campus; and I can assure them that the faculty, staff and indeed a large number of Salina citizens, are likewise excited at this prospect.

On a different tack, it is a great pleasure to head towards the end of the 2013-2014 academic year on a positive note with a new Executive Dean, Dr. Simari, at the helm. Soon after Dr. Simari had arrived in Kansas City, both he and Dr. Girod made a welcome visit to the Salina campus. We all look forward to the return of both senior administrators before too long.

Phase I

With the goals of horizontal integration and continual curriculum improvement, a group of faculty representing a range of disciplines, meet regularly to review current curriculum content from a discipline-specific perspective. This content experts group reviews the content in each module to determine how content areas are distributed or could be better distributed across modules. The group has recently completed reviewing all Phase I content for 2013-14 and will meet with each module director to discuss their findings and suggestions for greater content integration.

For the 2014-15 academic year, modules will change order in both years one and two. In year one, the Renal/Endocrine (RE) and Gastrointestinal/Nutrition (GIN) modules will switch places. The RE module will now immediately follow the Cardiopulmonary module and GIN will follow spring break. In year two, the Infectious Diseases module will now follow the Brain and Behavior module in the Fall semester. The Blood and Lymph module will now begin at the start of the Spring semester.

Another change for the 2014-15 year will be the elimination of NBME subject exams. Instead, each class will take the NBME Comprehensive Basic Sciences Exam (CBSE) at the end of each semester.

Phase II

This year will see the third year clerkships start a month early, beginning on June 2nd. Additionally, the current third year class will be finishing up at the end of June, resulting in an overlap with the new class. Although this overlap will be challenging for students, faculty, and staff, it will be a one-time occurrence as the new start time is implemented going forward. The Offices of Medical Education, Student Affairs, and Academic and Student Affairs (Wichita) have worked closely with each of the clerkships to help with the transition.

The AAMC has released the Physician Competency Reference Set (PCRS) [https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/cir/about/348808/aboutpcrs.html]. These competencies are closely related to the KU School of Medicine competencies. The work on aligning the competencies is beginning and these competencies will be mapped to our current goals and objectives in JayDocs.
Interprofessional Education

Jana Zaudke, MD, Assistant Professor in Family Medicine and Sarah Shrader, PharmD, Clinical Associate Professor in the KU School of Pharmacy, have received a Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation grant to create a faculty development program designed to educate preceptors about how to incorporate interprofessional practice within an interprofessional curriculum. The project entitled, “The Faculty Preceptor as Nexus: Developing Preceptors Who Blend Interprofessional Practice and Education at the Points of Primary Care,” will be implemented not only at KU but will be distributed to primary care sites across the state of Kansas. With this project, KU will become the eleventh site in the National Center of Interprofessional Practice and Education program, located at the University of Minnesota.

For more information about interprofessional education at KU, please visit the Center for Interprofessional Education site at http://www.kumc.edu/center-for-interprofessional-education.html and the Family Medicine Interprofessional Teaching Clinic site at http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/family-medicine/news/interprofessional-teaching-clinic-is-beneficial-for-everyone.html.

Technology

The 2013-14 academic year saw advancements in the use of technology in the School of Medicine. The Office of Medical Education became a Google Explorer with the purchase of Google Glass. The school anticipates using it to share best practices in the clinical setting and looks forward to faculty development on further curricular uses.

The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative was a success for the SOM class of 2017. Students brought technology of their own choosing and were able to function without the HP tablet used by their predecessors. The Information Resources department has pledged further support of the program by setting up a secondary Help Desk (Jayhawk Tech Clinic) on the second floor of Dykes Library. They will assist with issues on student-owned devices, up to the point of any work that would invalidate warranties. Assistance is available in the Library and third-floor Taylor locations.

During the annual Medical Education Retreat, presenters on the Kansas City campus made use of Skype on an iPad, using it to broadcast the poster session from the Hixon Atrium in Kansas City to the Wichita campus. The video and audio were clear and it opens up a new way to broadcast “on the go.”

Faculty are also exploring the use of Google Docs, a web-based application that allows multiple users to collaborate and edit documents online. The use of Google Docs would offer another option for interactive learning opportunities among students and faculty members.

In the Fall of 2014, the School of Medicine will begin using ExamSoft software to administer exams. The school will phase out the current software, LXR, over the next year. For the 2014-15 academic year, only year one exams will be administered with ExamSoft. Years one and two will test with ExamSoft in 2015-16.

Kansas Connections, a quarterly newsletter published by Rural Health Education and Services at KU Medical Center, features stories about health care and job opportunities in rural Kansas. The latest edition of Kansas Connections is available online at http://www.kumc.edu/community-engagement/rural-health.html.

To receive quarterly alerts of the most recent edition, you can sign up at: http://www.kumc.edu/community-engagement/rural-health/publications-and-resources/kansas-connections.html.
Neurology Clerkship Boot Camp: Enhancing Education of Neurology Knowledge and Clinical Exam Skills
Heather Anderson, M.D.
Department of Neurology, Kansas City

Learning Together to Work Together: Fostering Collaborative Learning by Interprofessional Learners
Shelley Bhattacharya, D.O., M.P.H.
Department of Family Medicine, Kansas City

Advanced Software Assessment Tools for Evaluation of Critical Thinking Skills
Jim Fishback, M.D.
Department of Pathology, Kansas City

An Interactive, Animated Simulation for Enhanced Teaching of Autonomic Pharmacology Concepts
Ken McCarson, Ph.D.
Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Therapeutics, Kansas City

Development, Implementation and Evaluation of an On-Line, Self-Paced Medical Spanish Curriculum: An Inter-professional Opportunity in a Virtual Environment
Mark Meyer, M.D.
Department of Family Medicine, Kansas City

Evidence-based Medicine: Epidemiology and Biostatistics Online Tools
Catherine Satterwhite, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., M.P.H.
Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Kansas City

Impact of Mid-Clerkship Objective Feedback on Medical Student Self-Directed Study Behavior
Kimberly Swan, M.D.
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Kansas City

The Case-Driven Curriculum: Beta Testing
Dennis Valenzeno, Ph.D.
Department of Medical Sciences, Wichita

Preparing Faculty Preceptors for Interprofessional Education and Practice: An Interprofessional Objective Structured Teaching Experience (OSTE)
Jana Zaudke, M.D.
Department of Family Medicine, Kansas City

Developing Interactive Dissecting Tools in Anatomy Lab
Xiaoming Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.
Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Kansas City

Year 1 and Year 2 classes being July 28.

Year 1 orientation: July 21-25.

View the latest calendars at: http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/office-of-medical-education/academic-calendars---kc.html