KU Health Education Initiative

When Governor Sam Brownback unveiled his Roadmap for Kansas, a key component was to elevate the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Working in partnership with state policymakers, national consultants and community stakeholders, KU School of Medicine leaders have developed a comprehensive plan to achieve this objective. Key elements include:

- Construction of a $75 million educational and training facility, including simulation technologies, on the KU Medical Center’s main campus in Kansas City.
- Additional support of $2.8 million for our community-based medical education efforts in Wichita.
- Development of a detailed model for a more integrated clinical enterprise.

These targeted investments would be matched by private and university resources to help the KU Medical Center continue its efforts to increase the stature of the medical center by ensuring that its learning environments keep pace with the health care education of the future.

A Learning Environment for the Future

KU Medical Center teaching facilities are outdated. In the past, medical students, nursing students and other health professions students all trained separately. Those days are over. Health care training is now interdisciplinary, involving advanced technology and simulation. We must invest in updated technology to appropriately deliver education in the 21st century. Outdated facilities are impeding our ability to adequately train our students in today’s curriculum which:

- Emphasizes small-group, interdisciplinary problem solving, with students from medicine, nursing and health professionals training as a team.
- Allows more direct contact with faculty for in-depth discussion of difficult topics.
- Is technology-driven, requiring interactive televideo with advanced graphics.
- Uses simulation with sophisticated robotics.

Investments that Help all Kansans and the Economy

The state’s investment will pay for itself economically and in the improved health of Kansans. The KU Medical Center has an excellent track record of leveraging the state’s investment and providing a strong pipeline of medical professionals for Kansas. We know that one Kansas family physician creates an annual economic impact of $878,624 (according to the latest figures from the American Academy of Family Physicians). With 50 percent of KU-trained physicians practicing in Kansas, every graduating class would contribute an additional $11 million to the state’s economy upon completion of residency requirements.
State general funds flowing to KU Medical Center in FY 2013 total $105.9 million (down from $121.7 million in 2008). Against this backdrop of state budget reductions, KU Medical Center has continued to make gains in external funding and stature:

- Since 2007, total annual research funding has grown from $93 million to $132 million.
- In July 2012, the KU Cancer Center was awarded National Cancer Institute designation, making it one of just 67 NCI designated centers in the nation.
- Nine KU School of Medicine Departments are in the National Institutes of Health’s top 25 for research funding among public universities.
- Seven KU School of Nursing and School of Health Professions programs are ranked in U.S. News & World Report’s top 25 graduate programs at public universities.
- The KU School of Medicine is in the top 10 percent of medical schools for producing physicians who choose to practice in rural areas.

The KU School of Medicine, including its Wichita and Salina campuses, is increasing its enrollment to help alleviate Kansas’ physician shortage, which is prevalent in rural areas and expected to worsen in coming years.

As the number of medical students increases, so will the clinical teaching demands on core and volunteer faculty in Wichita. It is also anticipated that our volunteer faculty will begin to require stipends to continue serving our students, just as other volunteer faculty are doing across the country. Reimbursement pressures on clinical practices have made the “drag effect” of this training financially untenable, and volunteer faculty who are now (or soon will be) employed by health systems are expected to begin receiving compensation for their teaching efforts. The $2.8 million requested for this effort would provide for an additional 16.4 full-time faculty members for our Wichita campus.

**Healthcare Simulation to serve Kansans**

The traditional apprenticeship model of medical education, with its “see one, do one, teach one” methodology of instruction, is rapidly being replaced with education via simulation. With simulation it is possible to gain important experience with rare events in a controlled environment. Complex skills can be practiced until perfected without risk to human patients.

Simulation also offers exciting opportunities for recertifying experienced physicians and other clinicians throughout Kansas. The KU Medical Center can best meet its mission to the state by offering enhanced training to all types of clinical personnel.

*The KU Health Education Initiative: A learning environment for the future, more health care professionals for Kansas, and an investment that grows the Kansas economy.*