A recent study completed for the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund identified access to health care as the most frequently mentioned priority health need in Kansas.

The study, conducted by Dr. Carol Barbeito, president, CLB & Associates, involved 93 interviews of Kansas leaders, two focus groups, and a survey to reach those who had sought grants from the Health Ministry Fund. Participants included health experts, government officials, foundation executives, directors of nonprofit organizations and pastoral leaders of the United Methodist Church.

When asked to identify the priority unmet or emerging health need of Kansans, 125 responded with access to health care. In addition to general concerns, specific access issues such as the increasing numbers of uninsured, access to dental care, the cost of health care and prescription drugs, and access in rural areas were mentioned. Receiving one to three mentions concerning access to health care were transportation, vision care, mental health, obstetrics/gynecological care and immunizations.

Interviewees identified the groups most affected by access to health care as farmers, senior citizens, the poor, children and families with children.

In addition to the 125 responses that specifically identified access to health care as a priority, other priorities mentioned could be interpreted as part of access to health care concerns, according to Barbeito. Forty responses cited care for the aging as a priority. Health care work force issues such as shortages, recruitment, and training of health care professionals received 32 responses.

Other related issues raised included the need for a new health care delivery system, mental health needs, unemployment and the economy, and health care for minorities. With this interpretation, the total number of responses identifying access to health care as a priority need in Kansas was 251.

The next highest priority mentioned in the
Wesley Family Practice Recognized

The Gallup Organization recently recognized Wichita’s Wesley Family Practice for providing high quality educational and clinical services. Gallup evaluated the quality of the services provided by Wesley Medical Center’s departments. The evaluation uses the term “engagement” to describe employees who are so effective at responding to the needs of patients that profits and growth flourish, as do the employees. Gallup’s evaluation stated Wesley Family Practice had “World Class Engagement” in both Education and Clinic Function, a designation which placed the departments in the top 10 percent nationally.

Rural Health Plans

Kansas Career Opportunities

The Kansas Career Opportunities event Thursday, Nov. 20, in Kansas City at the University of Kansas Medical Center, is a great time for medical students as well as established professionals to check out communities across Kansas. The Wichita event has already been held so this is the last opportunity this year to meet face-to-face with potential employers.

The Kansas City event begins at noon with a free lunch buffet for pre-registered participants and exhibitors. There is still time to register by calling Rural Health Education and Services at 316-293-2649, or toll-free at 1-888-503-4221. Online registration is also available at http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu/krc/formconf.

Rural Resident Receives Excellence Award

Jon Sides, MD, a third-year resident at Smoky Hill Family Practice Residency Program in Salina, has received the 2003 American Academy of Family Physicians Award for Excellence in Graduate Medical Education. Only 20 residents in the United States receive this award. Sides will be presented with the award this month in New Orleans.

“Those who practice in rural areas have a unique opportunity to have a positive impact on the health of their community,” said Charles Allred, MD, director of Smoky Hill Family Practice Residency Program. “I am very proud of him.”

A participant in the Kansas Bridging Plan, Dr. Sides plans on practicing in a rural town when finished with his residency but has not yet decided on a site.

Bridging Plan Loan Deadline Dec. 31

The Kansas Bridging Plan, a program of Rural Health Education and Services, is a loan program created to encourage physicians to practice in rural Kansas communities after completing their residency training.

All residents in family practice, general internal medicine and general pediatrics residency programs in Kansas and approved by the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts are eligible for the loan program. Residents must have completed one year of post-graduate training in their primary-care specialty and be eligible for an unrestricted Kansas license to qualify for the plan.

A resident entering into a Kansas Bridging Plan Loan Agreement can receive $5,000 for each year
Bioterrorism Grant Provides Funding for Kansas

State’s health professionals to be trained in preparedness for agri-terrorism

As part of $26.6 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for bioterrorism training and curriculum development, the University of Kansas Medical Center will receive $2.3 million for a two-year grant.

The initial training conference will be presented in six Kansas locations in early December. A series of continuing education sessions for health professionals as well as a mock mass casualty simulation will be scheduled over the next two years. KU Medical Center will receive $1.2 million in the first year of the grant and $1.1 million in the second year.

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the new grants in late September to strengthen bioterrorism training and education for the nation’s health professions workforce. The grants are the first in HHS’ Bioterrorism Training and Curriculum Development Program. Grantees are in 23 states.

“Our health care professionals need to be prepared for the special demands that a bioterrorism attack could make on them and on our health care system,” Secretary Thompson said. “This new program is an important part of our broader efforts to prepare our public health system, develop effective medical countermeasures and stand ready to respond if bioterrorism should strike.”

The program, which will provide training for at least 38,000 health professionals across the country, includes two components: continuing education for health professionals, funded at $22,344,500, and curriculum development in health professions schools, funded at $4,221,541.

The Kansas grant is for continuing education and will be directed by David J. Cook, PhD, director, Health and Technology Outreach, which includes the AHECs, Continuing Education, Rural Health Education and Services, and the Center for TeleMedicine & TeleHealth.

The new program is part of a total federal investment of $4.4 billion in fiscal year 2003 for bioterrorism preparedness. It is administered by HHS’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which also funds other health professions programs.

“We view these grants as a vital extension of our mission to ensure that all Americans have access to high-quality health care,” said Elizabeth M. Duke, PhD, HRSA administrator. “In the case of bioterrorism, it is even more urgent that our health professions workforce be prepared to treat all of our citizens, wherever they reside.”

The Kansas grant will provide statewide training in bioterrorism preparedness for 10 percent, or 4,580, multidisciplinary health professionals, through 55 total seminars, according to Cook. Targeted training is based on population density and includes 2,405 nurses, 420 physicians and 930 EMS personnel. Currently, about 1 percent of Kansas health providers are trained in anti-terror preparedness.

Because Kansas commits 90 percent of its land to agriculture, the state is particularly at risk for agri-terror with national implications, Cook said. Kansas training will also include anti-terror preparedness against biological, chemical, nuclear and incendiary/explosive agents.

The Kansas training will target physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, laboratory medical technologists, physical therapists, pharmacists and EMS providers in the three AHEC regions: East, Southwest and Northwest.

Training will complement the anti-terrorism program at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, which houses the HRSA Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program & CDC Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism Program.

Continuing education credit will be awarded for the courses, which will be both multidisciplinary and discipline-specific. The four core competencies are: recognition of a terrorist event or other public health emergency; meeting the acute care needs of patients, including pediatrics and vulnerable populations; alerting the public health system; and participating in a coordinated, multidisciplinary response.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
The University of Kansas last fall launched a free speakers bureau service to make its professors available to speak in communities of all sizes across the state.

Administered by the University Governance office and funded by the provost’s office, the bureau offers 120 professors willing to speak without charge on a wide range of topics.

Some of the health-related topics include elderly issues, doctor-patient communications, infant and child development, attention in children, adolescent behavior, drug treatments for psychiatric and neurological disorders, smoking cessation, family communications and problem-solving, Alzheimer’s, spine fractures in the elderly, hiring people with disabilities, medical ethics, drug interactions, water quality and non-prescription drug use.

The KU Faculty Speakers Bureau is a free service that provides important links between the university and the state by connecting faculty volunteers with civic, service and community organizations and clubs. Schools, retirement communities, libraries, museums, and professional and educational organizations also can request speakers.

There is no charge to the organization, though some choose to pay an honorarium. The university will cover the faculty member’s mileage expense.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our professors and communities across the state to connect, learn about each other and share information and resources,” said Janet Murguia, executive vice chancellor for University Relations.

A listing of all topics, as well as how to arrange for a speaker, can be found at www.ku.edu/~speakers.

Some of the health-related topics and their presenters are:

• Michael Fox, associate professor, Health Policy and Management, is available to discuss managed care, living well with a disability or the future direction of health policy.

• Michael Dennis, assistant professor, Communication Studies, can discuss problems and solutions for doctor-patient communication; the mass media, the Internet, and health news; or persuasion and health-related behaviors.

• Understanding drug treatments of psychiatric and neurological disorders by Douglas Denney, professor, Psychology.

• Delivering basic smoking cessation intervention to your patients by James Grobe, assistant professor, Psychology.

• “Alzheimer’s Disease: Insights from This Past Decade” by Mary Michaelis, professor, Pharmacology and Toxicology.


• William Picking, associate professor, Biological Sciences, can discuss the cause and prevention of infectious diseases, as well as salmonella, shigella and E. Coli and causes of human diseases.

• Donald Marquis, professor, Philosophy, looks at such issues as: the right to die, organ transplantation, the right to health care and ethical issues in medical research.

• “The Older Driver: Stereotypes & Reality” by Paul Atchley, assistant professor, Psychology.

KU faculty members have been speaking to groups for years, but the process has been an informal one, said Tom Beisecker, an associate professor, Communication Studies, who helped

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
A recently concluded statewide needs-assessment identified that, in the event of bioterrorism, there was a need for standardized training for diagnosis, responding and reporting as well as standardized protocols and systems. This conference, followed by a series of discipline-specific courses, will address many of these issues for physicians, nurses, EMS personnel, clinical laboratory personnel, pharmacists and others who may be called on to respond to a terrorist incident.

Topics and presenters at the December conferences, which cost $75, include:


“An Overview of the Bioterrorism Threat – Its Implications for Our Agriculture Infrastructure,” Jerry Jaax, DVM, Associate Vice Provost for Research Compliance and University Veterinarian, Kansas State University.

“Biologic Warfare and Terrorism: the Clinical Perspective,” Daniel Hinthorn, MD, FACP, Professor of Medicine and Director Division of Infectious Disease, KU Medical Center.

“Basic Preparedness for Radiological Disasters,” David F. Preston, MD, Professor Emeritus, Nuclear Medicine, KU Medical Center.

“Medical Management of Chemical Casualties,” Thomas I. Clements, MD, FACP, Professor of Medicine and Director Division of Infectious Disease, KU Medical Center.

“Response to Bioterrorism: The Role of the Clinical Laboratory,” Rebecca Horvat, PhD, Associate Professor in Pathology and Lab Medicine and Director of the KU Hospital Microbiology Laboratory.


A brochure and registration forms will be sent by mail. Following are the dates and locations. For more information, contact the coordinating organization for the appropriate conference:

**Overland Park, Dec. 3**
Overland Park Marriott, University of Kansas Continuing Education, 877-404-5823 or 785-864-5823

**Pittsburg, Dec. 5**
Auditorium, McPherson Building, School of Nursing, Pittsburg State University, AHEC – East, 620-235-4040

**Topeka, Dec. 8**
Manor Conference Center, Capital Plaza Hotel, AHEC – East, 620-235-4040

**Wichita, Dec. 10**
Roberts Amphitheater, KU School of Medicine-Wichita, AHEC – Southwest, 620-275-0259

**Garden City, Dec. 12**
Plaza Inn, AHEC – Southwest, 620-275-0259

**Hays, Dec. 15**
Sternberg Museum of Natural History, AHEC – Northwest, 785-628-6128

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

create the bureau as president of KU’s University Senate. This is KU’s first centralized speakers bureau.

“We want our faculty to be ambassadors in the state,” he said. “We want the people of Kansas to have a greater understanding of what they’re like and what the university is all about.”

Tom Mulinazzi, professor and chair, Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, has lectured in 80 Kansas counties so far.

“KU students appreciate it when you know something about their hometown or part of the state,” Mulinazzi said.

After a speech in Wamego, Mulinazzi said he was “most pleased with the fact that I was representing KU in rural Kansas. It is important that people in Kansas be exposed to the faculty at the University of Kansas. It also helps our faculty to travel throughout the state of Kansas.”

Jim Carothers, professor of English, has been speaking to groups for years.

“The benefit for me as a faculty member is that I get to find out what people are talking about, thinking about and interested in away from the Lawrence campus,” Carothers said.

Carothers also has been to Kansas high schools to talk to students about preparing for college composition and literature.

“It interests me to see what they’re reading – and what they’re not,” he said.

The bureau’s Web site, www.ku.edu/~speakers, highlights speech topics and explains how to arrange for a speaker. Groups should use the on-line request form to indicate their first, second and third choices as far in advance as possible.

For more information about the speakers bureau, contact the faculty governance office at (785) 864-5169 or govern@ku.edu. Sometimes an arrangement can be made for topics not on the list.
study was the need for healthy communities and disease prevention. These were primarily general concerns; however, the need to do more to promote good nutrition and prevent obesity, which results in diseases such as diabetes, was prominently mentioned. Teen pregnancy, gang violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and tobacco use were also cited. A total of 53 responses were in this category.

Barbeito summarized her findings by calling access to health care “a bad problem that is going to get worse.” Contributing factors, she said, include a weak national economic picture, unemployment and underemployment. She also cited a greater competition among nonprofits for grants, the aging of the health care work force, low participation by health care providers in government programs, and the growing costs of health care and health insurance. Compounding these issues are governments coping with revenue shortfalls by eliminating some health and human services, adopting tougher standards for people to qualify for programs and raising fees to participants, Barbeito reported.

She suggested the likely outcomes of these factors will be swelling numbers of people who will not qualify to receive government-supported services and who cannot afford insurance or private payment for services. In addition, the safety net health providers are unable to handle all the needs.

“We can expect more people turning to hospital emergency rooms for treatment of non-emergency health needs or deferring care until there is an emergency,” said Barbeito. “This drives overall costs of health care up, and results in unnecessary suffering and worsening of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

### Fund to Address Health Issues in Rural Kansas

In accordance with its mission of advancing health, healing and wholeness throughout Kansas, the Hutchinson-based United Methodist Health Ministry Fund will provide grants over the next three years to address three growing health issues in Kansas: improving oral health through prevention and access to dental care; increasing lifetime fitness among Kansans through adequate physical activity and healthy food choices; and improving access to health care for the uninsured.

These goals were announced at the Kansas West Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church this summer in Salina.

Health Ministry Fund President Kim Moore said that focusing grant funding on just three areas of health is a new approach. It comes in response to research that helped identify the greatest unmet and emerging health needs in rural Kansas. The decision was based on 100 interviews and 150 surveys.

“One of the clear messages from the research was the Health Ministry Fund needs to focus its resources better to make a difference in all parts of Kansas,” Moore said.

One of the primary factors that influenced the decision, according to Moore, was the dramatic decline in money available for grants because poor investment performance in recent years has eroded the asset base of the Health Ministry Fund along with most other foundations.

“We’ve gone from making grants totaling $3.5 million in 1999 to $2.5 million in 2002,” Moore said. “In three years, we hope to be able to come back and report that the Health Ministry Fund has truly been United Methodist philanthropy in action – making a difference in oral health, fitness, and access to health care.”

The Health Ministry Fund was endowed with $30 million in 1986 and has invested over $31 million in Kansas health issues in the past 16 years.
We can expect more people turning to hospital emergency rooms for treatment of non-emergency health needs or deferring care until there is an emergency. This drives overall costs of health care up, and results in unnecessary suffering and worsening of health conditions. It also may interfere with responses to true emergencies.

— Dr. Carol Barbeito, president, CLB & Associates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

health conditions. It also may interfere with responses to true emergencies.”

The study was part of the Health Ministry Fund’s planning process to improve its ability to impact health, healing and wholeness in Kansas. The Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church created the health philanthropy in 1986 with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Wesley Medical Center in Wichita.

“After 16 years as a grant-maker in health, this study came about from the strong desire by the trustees and staff to make sure we are on track and doing what we can to truly make a difference in the health of Kansans,” said Kim Moore, president of the Health Ministry Fund.

The study, said Moore, is being used to determine the future grant making priorities of the Health Ministry Fund.

The executive summary can be found on the Health Ministry Fund website at www.healthfund.org.
The Kansas Rural Health Options Project (KRHOP) recently awarded grants totaling $338,310 to 11 rural health networks across the state.

“KRHOP has helped stabilize Critical Access Hospitals and has fostered collaboration in rural areas,” said Chris Tilden, interim director of the Office of Local and Rural Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). “This collaboration has enhanced access to, and quality of, care in rural Kansas. Kansas hospital networks are considered models for rural America.”

The mission of KRHOP and the grants is to foster resource sharing among rural health care providers, enhance emergency medical services and improve the quality of health services delivery in rural areas.

“The strategic allocation of scarce health care resources through regional collaboration is crucial in our rural areas,” said Roderick L. Bremby, Kansas secretary of Health and Environment. “The Kansas Rural Health Options Project and the rural health care networks affiliated with the project have shown that networking can improve efficiency and enhance the quality of care in rural communities.”

KRHOP is a partnership of KDHE and the Office of Local and Rural Health, the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services and the Kansas Medical Society.

KRHOP rural health network grants are made possible through a grant from the federal Office of Rural Health Policy to KDHE under the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, a program designed to support the development of Critical Access Hospitals and to enhance access to health care services in rural areas.

Eleven Rural Health Networks Awarded Funds For New Projects

Four Rivers Community Health Organization ($41,000) to support an EMS quality improvement program for area ambulance agencies. Four Rivers is a network of hospitals, physicians, health departments, mental health centers, community agencies, and employers and community agencies in south-central Kansas (including Cowley, Harper, Sumner, Elk and Chautauqua counties).

The Pioneer Health Network ($22,000) to conduct a workforce assessment and further develop a network education/training system through the use of interactive television. The network includes 17 southwest Kansas hospitals and one in northwest Oklahoma, serving a rural population of approximately 150,000.

Northwest Kansas Health Alliance ($43,000) to enhance a network-wide quality improvement program that provides education, benchmarking services and peer review to network hospitals. The alliance consists of 17 Critical Access Hospitals in Northwest Kansas and Hays Medical Center, which provides project coordination.

Wheat Plains Health Network ($50,760) to create a regional health council to develop a long-term strategy for health promotion in rural communities in south central Kansas and to implement a community needs assessment and health promotion interventions. The network involves hospitals, health departments and other agencies.

The Flint Hills Network ($25,000) to develop an Integrated Network Development Plan and a Quality Improvement Project workgroup. The project will involve Critical Access Hospitals in Wamego, Washington and Marysville, and the Supporting Hospital, Mercy Health Center of Manhattan.

Northeast Kansas Healthcare Network ($50,000) to enhance EMS through a training needs assessment and a project to enhance regional EMS training. The project will involve five Critical Access Hospitals and their Supporting Hospital, St. Francis Health Center in Topeka, as well as ambulance services in the northeast corner of the state.

Sunflower Health Network ($15,000) to develop an awareness campaign, educational programs and evaluation tools regarding seat-belt utilization in north central Kansas. The network comprises eight Critical Access Hospitals, area ambulance agencies and other partners. Salina Regional Health Center coordinates the project.

The Oregon Trail Health Network ($20,000) to develop an Integrated Network Development Plan for the network, which includes Community Hospital Onaga.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
Kansas Recruitment Center Off and Running

Since the program began in July, Rural Health Education and Services’ Kansas Recruitment Center is busy helping rural communities find physicians and other health care professionals, as well as assisting health care professionals in finding a practice site in a rural town.

By September, 27 rural communities had signed up with the Recruitment Center, which currently has 45 open positions across the state. Approximately 60 physicians have been interviewed for various health care openings.

The mission of the Kansas Recruitment Center is to assist Kansas’ rural communities in recruiting and retaining physicians and other health care providers.

KRC works with hospitals, private physician practices, community health centers and other organizations that are recruiting physicians, nurses, physician assistants or other health care professionals.

The KRC is also a health care career service for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners and other allied health professionals. KRC assists candidates in finding a community and practice or career opportunity that meets their requirements.

For more information, contact Ellen Schulte at Rural Health Education and Services, 316-293-3456 or 1-888-503-4221, or visit the web site at http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu.

Rural Health Education and Services has partnered with the Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation (KHERF) on behalf of the Kansas Rural Health Options Project to develop the Kansas Recruitment Center. KHERF has provided funding to support the Center.

The sponsors of the Kansas Rural Health Options Project are the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Office of Local and Rural Health), the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Board Emergency Medical Services and the Kansas Medical Society.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

**Otis Emergency Medical Services ($6,050)** to enhance EMT training and medical interpreter training among area ambulance agencies.

**Labette County EMS ($45,500)** for the development of an automated data collection and quality improvement system among local EMS and first responder groups in Southeast Kansas.

**Chautauqua County Network ($20,000)** to develop an Integrated Network Development Plan to assure quality training for area EMS and first responders. Critical Access Hospitals and EMS agencies in Sedan and Cedar Vale will be the primary project participants, with Sedan area EMS providing project coordination.

Looking for a place to hang your coat?

Call the Kansas Recruitment Center.
Finding you a career opportunity is what we do.

If you are looking for a career opportunity, the Kansas Recruitment Center can help. We are devoted to helping physicians and other health care providers find practice sites in Kansas communities. We will assist in making your relocation as easy as possible and ensure that you receive the support and assistance needed to enjoy your life in Kansas. By allowing us to help you, you will receive several services free of charge, including matching your professional profile with Kansas opportunities and providing you information on career opportunities and Kansas communities and attractions. Call us. We’ll help you make the right match.

University of Kansas Medical Center • Rural Health Education & Services
PHONE: 316.293.3456 • TOLL-FREE: 888.503.4221
http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu

Ads similar to the one above are running in publications such as Physician Recruiter.
A 20-year study of referrals shows Finney County as the most active county with 965 families staying at the Ronald Houses. This is closely followed by Ford County with 864 families. Other counties with heavy usage by families are:

- Montgomery 826
- Barton 698
- Seward 595
- Saline 579
- Ellis 563
- Reno 547
- Labette 498
- Cowley 463
- Neosho 406

Contributed by Barrick Wilson, communications and development manager for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Wichita, Inc. For more information, call Wilson at 316-269-0620, or e-mail him at rmcdonbw@ronaldhousewichita.org.
Rural Health Welcomes New Recruit

Ellen Schulte joined the staff of Rural Health Education and Services (RHES) this summer as Recruitment Coordinator for the Kansas Recruitment Center, RHES’ new health care provider recruitment service.

Schulte, who grew up in rural Garner, Iowa, says she understands and appreciates the need for medical services in rural communities.

“I feel I can bring enthusiasm and a positive attitude to this position,” Schulte said. “I’m still learning things, but it is going well. My conversations with (Kansas Recruitment Center) candidates have been very interesting and enlightening, as well as enjoyable. I love being able to learn things from different people and their experiences.”

A graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in Communication Studies, Schulte previously managed the office of Omnicare Pharmacy of Central Ohio. Schulte and her husband, Eric, a manager at Excel Corp., moved to Wichita this summer from Columbus.

“We like it in Kansas,” Schulte said. “We like being back in the Midwest. It feels somewhat like home and we are closer to our families.”

Schulte said she has always been drawn to the field of human resources and recruiting.

“The opportunity to become better acquainted with Kansas was appealing,” she said. “The opportunity to meet and interact with individuals from all different backgrounds and corners of the country and world was also intriguing. I enjoy the new experience of working with residents, physicians and other health professionals.”

Schulte said she hopes to be able to learn more about recruiting. “I want to continue to contribute all that I am able and become a valuable asset to the department as well as to the communities,” she said.

In her position, Schulte interviews candidates to assess interests, needs or priorities; builds and maintains an active candidate pool; reviews and analyzes information gathered through candidate interviews and community profiles to determine compatibility of candidates with a particular site; recommends the best qualified candidates to clients and maintains ongoing contact with them though site visits and selection process; and represents RHES at health care career fairs, medical conferences and Kansas Career Opportunity events to recruit potential candidates for the Kansas Recruitment Center.

When she’s not working, Schulte enjoys spending time with her husband, playing piano and flute, singing, watching and playing sports, NASCAR, visiting family back home, reading, cooking and shopping.
of residency training after the loan agreement is completed. The loan is forgiven when the loan requirements are met.

The loan agreement requires that the resident complete the primary-care residency training program; commence full-time practice of medicine within 90 days after completing the residency training program; and sign a practice commitment agreement with a community in any county in Kansas other than Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee or Wyandotte.

Applications are accepted until Dec. 31. An application can be initiated by filling out a Resident Profile Form available online at http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu or at the Kansas City and Wichita offices of Rural Health Education and Services. For more information on the Kansas Bridging Plan, contact Kathryn Stone at 316-293-2649 or toll-free at 1-888-503-4221.

Hospitals & Health Networks Recognizes Pratt Hospital

Pratt Regional Medical Center was featured in the July 2003 issue of Hospitals & Health Networks for being one of the “Most Wired in 2003.” PRMC was listed in the “Most Wired Small and Rural” category.

More than 1,128 hospitals completed the eight-page survey. The scoring of the Most Wired emphasized the use of information systems to improve safety, quality and customer service, with applications used by caregivers receiving the largest percentage of points. A second Kansas hospital, Saint Luke’s Health System, based in Kansas City, Mo., was also listed in the Top 100 Most Wired.

Publication Schedule

If you would like to contribute a news item to Kansas Connections or have an idea for an article, we welcome your input. Please send information to the KU School of Medicine-Wichita, 1010 N. Kansas, Wichita, KS, 67214-3199. Ideas are also welcomed by telephone at 316-293-2649; fax, 316-293-2671; or e-mail, lvalenti@kumc.edu.


If you know of someone who is not receiving the newsletter but might enjoy reading it, please let us know.
The mission of the Kansas Recruitment Center is to assist Kansas’ rural communities in recruiting and retaining physicians and other health care providers.

The Center works with hospitals, private physician practices, community health centers, and other organizations that are recruiting for physicians, nurses, physician assistants or other health care professionals. An organization can participate by annually registering with the Kansas Recruitment Center.

The Center is also a health care career service for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners and other allied health professionals. The Center assists candidates in finding a community and practice or career opportunity that meets their requirements. Services are provided to candidates at no charge. Candidates should refer to a position by number when they are calling about a specific opening.

For more information, contact Kathryn Stone at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Rural Health Education and Services at 316-293-3456 or 1-888-503-4221 or visit the web site at http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu.

**NORTH CENTRAL**

KRC0603.0101.01
Internist – hospital-based (49 beds); multi-specialty group; recreational activities; great housing options; acres of parks

KRC0603.0101.02
Internist or Family Physician – hospital-employed (24 bed); group of 2 providers; affordable housing; excellent public and parochial schools; recreational activities

KRC0603.1901.01
Internist – 8 physician multi-specialty group; cultural events; zoo; winery; 385-bed hospital located near practice

KRC0729.0701.01
Family Physician w/OB – group practice; good school system; community college; park/zoo; strong community pride

**NORTHWEST**

KRC0603.0101.04
Family Physician w/OB – hospital-employed; stand alone clinic; progressive educational, medical, cultural, and commercial facilities; great schools; junior college; excellent housing

KRC0603.0101.05
Family Physician or Internist – hospital-employed; multi-specialty clinic; located one hour from metropolis of 30,000; touted as one of the best hunting areas in midwest and Kansas; family oriented community

KRC0603.0801.01
Orthopedic Surgeon – excellent public and private schools; university; vo-tech; museums; performing arts center; recreation commission; aquatic park

KRC0603.0801.02
Orthopedic Surgeon – excellent public and private schools; university; vo-tech; museums; performing arts center; recreation commission; aquatic park

KRC0603.0801.03
Medical Oncologist – excellent school systems; university; museums; performing arts; aquatic park; 160 bed hospital

KRC0603.0801.04
General Surgeon – hospital-employed (160 bed); excellent public and parochial schools; university; vo-tech; aquatic park; museums; performing arts center; recreation commission

KRC0603.0801.05
Plastic Surgeon – new position; hospital-employed; excellent public and parochial schools; university; vo-tech; museums; recreation commission; aquatic park; performing arts center

KRC0603.0801.06
Obstetrician/Gynecologist – hospital-employed (160 bed); excellent public and parochial schools; university; vo-tech; aquatic park; museums; performing arts center; recreation commission

KRC0603.0801.12
CRNA – group practice; excellent public and parochial schools; university; vo-tech; museums; aquatic parks; performing arts center; recreation commission

CONTINUED ON BACK
**SOUTH CENTRAL**

KRC0603.0101.06
**Family Physician w/ OB** – located near large metropolis; strong diversified community; excellent education; many churches; friendly people

KRC0603.0101.07
**Family Physician or Internist** – strong community and family values; outstanding school system; many churches; located near wildlife refuge

KRC0603.0802.01
**Family Physician** – hunting, fishing; many churches; excellent school system; very active Chamber of Commerce; Balloonfest; drive-in theater; craft shows

**SOUTHEAST**

KRC0603.0102.01
**Family Physician** – 49 bed hospital; strong industrial base; community college; numerous business opportunities; recreational opportunities; religious affiliations; fine arts cultural center; public and private school system; 2 hours to large metropolis

KRC0603.0102.02
**Internist** – 49 bed hospital; strong industrial base; community college; numerous business opportunities; recreational opportunities; religious affiliations; fine arts cultural center; public and private school system; 2 hours to large metropolis

KRC0603.0102.03
**Obstetrician/Gynecologist** – 49 bed hospital; strong industrial base; community college; numerous business opportunities; recreational opportunities; religious affiliations; fine arts cultural center; public and private school system; 2 hours to large metropolis

**KRC0603.0102.04**
**Med/Peds** – 49 bed hospital; strong industrial base; community college; numerous business opportunities; recreational opportunities; religious affiliations; fine arts cultural center; public and private school system; 2 hours to large metropolis

**KRC0603.0102.05**
**Urologist** – 49 bed hospital; strong industrial base; community college; numerous business opportunities; recreational opportunities; religious affiliations; fine arts cultural center; public and private school system; 2 hours to large metropolis

**KRC0603.1301.01**
**Orthopedist** – group practice; near large metropolis; excellent schools; community college; excellent recreational opportunities

**KRC0603.1301.02**
**Med/Peds** – multi-specialty practice; near large metropolis; excellent schools; community college; excellent recreational opportunities

**KRC0603.1301.03**
**Urologist** – multi-specialty practice; near large metropolis; excellent schools; community college; excellent recreational opportunities

**KRC0603.1301.04**
**General Surgeon** – multi-specialty practice; near large metropolis; excellent schools; community college; excellent recreational opportunities

**KRC0709.1903.01**
**Family Physician** – hospital-employed or group practice; 50 minute drive to the city; good schools; lakes; excellent practice opportunity; J-1 Visa opportunity

**KRC0901.0103.01**
**Family Physician w/ OB** – 11 physician multi-specialty group; quality safe schools; friendly people; low cost of living; honest hard working people; very little crime; clean neighborhoods; several large metropolitan areas nearby

**KRC0901.0103.02**
**Urologist** – 11 physician multi-specialty group; quality schools; friendly people; low cost of living; very clean; hardworking people; near large metropolis

**KRC0901.1201.01**
**Internist** – Internal medicine and general surgeon group looking for a partner; brand new office in hospital; culturally active community; minimal traffic; low crime rate; superb schools; quick access to large metropolitan areas; lakes with water activities available

**KRC0901.1201.02**
**Obstetrician/Gynecologist** – solo practice or associate practice – office located in hospital; culturally active community; minimal traffic; low crime rate; superb schools; quick access to metropolitan areas; beautiful lakes with activities available

**SOUTHEAST**

KRC0603.0102.03
**Obstetrician/Gynecologist** – solo practice or associate practice – office located in hospital; culturally active community; minimal traffic; low crime rate; superb schools; quick access to metropolitan areas; beautiful lakes with activities available

**KRC0901.1201.02**
**Obstetrician/Gynecologist** – solo practice or associate practice – office located in hospital; culturally active community; minimal traffic; low crime rate; superb schools; quick access to metropolitan areas; beautiful lakes with activities available

**KRC0901.1201.03**
**Orthopedic Surgeon** – two orthopedists looking for a partner; office in hospital; cultural active community; minimal traffic; low crime rate; superb schools; quick access to metropolitan areas; beautiful lakes with activities available

**KRC0903.0302.01**
**Family Physician** – Federally qualified health center with mission to provide comprehensive primary mental and dental health care to the underserved population

**KRC0903.0302.02**
**Family Physician** – Federally qualified health center with mission to provide comprehensive primary mental and dental health care to the underserved population

**SOUTHWEST**

KRC0603.0201.01
**Family Physician w/ OB** – economically strong community; attractive; excellent schools

**KRC0603.0501.01**
**Family Physician** – good school system; 9-hole golf course, community swimming pool, theater

**KRC0603.0501.02**
**Family Physician** – good school system; 9-hole golf course, community swimming pool, theater

**KRC0717.0401.01**
**Internist** – multi-specialty group practice; community college

**KRC0903.1303.01**
**General Surgeon** – group practice

**KRC0903.1303.02**
**Family Physician w/ OB** – group practice

**KRC0903.1303.03**
**Pediatrician** – group practice