There is a lot of excitement at the Kansas Recruitment Center (KRC). In February 2004, the KRC made its first candidate placement by connecting Andrew Post, DO, with the multi-speciality group practice at Ashley Clinic, LLC, in Chanute.

Established on July 1, 2003, by Rural Health Education and Services (RHES), an office of the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), the KRC was formed to assist in the efforts to recruit and retain physicians and other health-care providers in rural areas of the state. For rural practices, the KRC provides job opportunity postings and placement assistance. For health-care professionals, the KRC serves as a career service center by matching candidate profiles with openings in Kansas.

Post, who will begin practice in August 2005 upon completion of his family practice residency program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, said the procedure used by KRC perfectly suited his busy lifestyle.

“Most of the process was through e-mail, which is a great way to interact with doctors, particularly because our schedules are pretty hectic,” he said. “I had also talked to other recruiters who were really aggressive and didn’t really give me a lot of the specifics. But the KRC process was really pretty benign in terms of interacting with somebody promoting their programs. Most of it was just friendly interaction through e-mail with Ellen Schulte, the recruitment coordinator.”

The process began for Post in October 2003, after he read about the KRC in the RHES newsletter, Kansas Connections, and located the service through the National Rural Recruitment and Retention (3R Net) Web site while searching online for job opportunities.

Post contacted the KRC and obtained the required application through the mail, a process that has since been made available online.

“I filled out the application and sent it in; then Ellen conducted an interview by phone, which was really an easy, low-stress process,” Post said. “After that, she e-mailed me lists of different opportunities that included specific details, which was kind of nice. Once I made my choices and e-mailed her back about the ones I was interested in, she forwarded my information to them.”

Ashley Clinic Administrator Bob Magill said that out of a half dozen candidates provided by the KRC, Post proved to be a very good fit.

For Magill, KRC’s service proved to be both
March 18 brought some much-needed relief for fourth-year medical students as Match Day unfolded on the KU School of Medicine campuses in Wichita and Kansas City. A total of 151 students found out where they will be living the next few years as they were chosen for a “match” with residency programs across the nation.

Sixty-two of the graduates will be entering KU affiliated residency programs in Kansas. Thirty of those staying in Kansas will be entering family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics and medicine-pediatrics programs.

### National Hospital Week

National Hospital Week 2004 will be celebrated May 9-15. Sponsored by the American Hospital Association, this year’s theme is “Miracles Start with Caring Hearts,” serving as a reminder that the successes derived from modern medical technologies are made possible by the professionals who dedicate their lives to health-care excellence.

This year, National Hospital Week coincides with Cover the Uninsured Week, a week-long celebration designed to raise awareness and build interest about the issue of the large and increasing numbers of Americans without health coverage. According to the most recent estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, there are nearly 44 million Americans without coverage, including 8.5 million children.

### James Q. Cannon Memorial Endowment

In an effort to foster improvements in health-care quality, the James Q. Cannon Memorial Endowment will award a scholarship of up to $10,000 for one academic year of part- or full-time study. Established in 2000, the scholarship is designed to support graduate-level students in programs of study that produce health-care leaders who are skilled and knowledgeable in the application of improvement methods in health-care settings.

The endowment honors James Q. Cannon, an accomplished leader who was dedicated to continuous learning among health-care providers, policy makers, consumers and business leaders.

The scholarship will be awarded based on an applicant’s established academic record, acceptance for graduate study in an appropriate academic program and a demonstrated commitment to the field of health-care quality improvement.

The deadline for the 2004-2005 academic year application is June 1. More information about the scholarship can be obtained by contacting Larry Pitman at 785-273-2552 or by e-mail at lpitman@krmc.org.

### New Book Recalls Rural Preceptorships

*Medicine on the Kansas Prairie* contains hundreds of stories from physicians recalling their participation in the Rural Preceptorship Program. Published by the University of Kansas School of Medicine (KUSM), the book reveals a portrait of the state’s changing practice and cultural landscape.

Compiled and edited by Mary Beth Gentry, associate director of external affairs at KUSM, and Sharon Bass, professor of journalism at KU’s William Allen White School of Journalism, *Medicine on the Kansas Prairie* and its companion film documentary are available at KU Medical Center bookstores or online at www.kumedbooks.com.

### National Health Service Corps

I have recently volunteered to serve as the Campus-Based Ambassador for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). In this role, I have agreed to provide information and guidance to health-care students and NHSC Scholars about the opportunities available for them in underserved communities.

If you or someone you know would like
easy and cost-effective. “The process was
delightful, a really great experience and obvi-
ously a lot less expensive,” he said. “It certainly
beat several thousands of dollars typically
charged by commercial firms. The candidates’
profiles were e-mailed to me, which was very
convenient. Then I had the opportunity to
review each candidate’s profile and make a deci-
sion as to who might work out here in our
opportunity. After that, I gave feedback to Ellen
as to whether or not we were going to interview
a particular candidate followed by the outcome
of that interview.”

Like Post, Magill said he also appreciated the
efficient, low-pressure approach used by the
KRC. “Ellen was very responsive, and got our
opportunities listed quickly. At the same time,
the program is very non-obtrusive. There is no
outside influence to either interview these
physicians or not. It’s strictly a very low profile
way to review candidates.”

Since the connection was made between Post
and Ashley Clinic, the KRC has coordinated
three additional placements with rural Kansas
facilities.

Hospitals, private physician practices, com-

munity health centers and other organizations
interested in recruiting physicians and other
health care professionals may register with the
KRC for an annual fee of $500. Designation as
a Critical Access Hospital (CAH), Community
Health Center (CHC) or State-Supported
Clinic (SSC) requires an annual fee of $400.
Opportunities listed for multiple communities
under the same organization may be listed for
an additional $100.

Organizations registering with the KRC
receive unlimited job opportunity postings on
the RHES Web site, on the 3R Net Web site
and in RHES’s Kansas Connections newsletter.

Registration also includes the services of the
KRC recruitment coordinator, who provides
pre-screening interview and referral services.

Candidates looking for job opportunities in
Kansas will be matched with those who best
suit their professional profile and personal
goals. The KRC also provides candidates with
information about career opportunities and

KRC has more than 175 active candidates looking for
practice opportunities in Kansas. These candidates
represent 27 different health professions, including family
practice, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology,
pediatrics, anesthesiaology, psychiatry, nurse practitioner
and physician assistant.

If your community is in need of a physician or other
health-care provider, give us a call at 1-888-503-4221
or 316-293-3456.
Greeley, Wallace Counties Combine Efforts to Create Comprehensive System of Care

It takes a concerted effort by many individuals working together to make a difference in health care in rural Kansas. In western Kansas, that dedication is seen in the way providers, community leaders and the general public came together to make Greeley County Health Care Services the quality system of care it is today.

Covering a two-county area of western Kansas with a combined population of 3,283 people, Greeley County Health Care Services has grown from a small community hospital and private practice to a full scope of complementing services and providers.

For nearly 30 years, patients in Greeley and Wallace counties received their medical care from two physicians who lived and worked in their respective communities of Tribune and Sharon Springs.

When those two physicians both retired in 1991, only Robert Moser, MD, was ultimately left to tend to patients and provide clinical, hospital, emergency room, obstetrical and long-term care between the two communities, some 30 miles apart.

Moser, a native of Tribune, had completed his residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W) Family Practice Residency Program at Smoky Hill a few years earlier and returned home with expectant wife, Dalene. The couple was looking forward to the community’s family ties and its progressive outlook on lifestyle quality, two factors that aided Moser during the ensuing years of overcoming challenges in local care.

Recognizing the need to find relief for their sole provider, the leaders in both communities of Tribune and Sharon Springs joined together in 1992 to form the Integrated Community Health Development Project, funded by a state grant and formulated with assistance from the Fort Hays State University Docking Institute of Public Affairs.

Through group discussions and surveys, the communities hammered out a vision for a coordinated and integrated health care system. In addition to adding home health, assisted living and behavioral health services, the plan called for the expansion of existing cardiology and urology outreach clinics to include gynecology, orthopedics and neurology.

Implementing the plan, however, created a whole new set of challenges.

When examining avenues for maximizing reimbursements, the Essential Access Hospital/Rural Primary Care Hospital (EACH/RPCH) program revealed limitations that were contrary to the community’s plans. Now known as the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Program, EACH/RPCH was designed to link smaller rural hospitals with larger facilities through a special Critical Access Hospital (CAH) licensing.

“But I didn’t like the direction the EACH/RPCH program was heading, which was centralization or taking services away from the local population,” Moser said. “It would take away what we were already providing, such as obstetrics and surgery, and we wouldn’t be allowed to keep an inpatient if they required more than three days of acute care.”
Simultaneously, the lack of a mid-level provider resulted in the loss of the Rural Health Clinic status in Wallace County.

Plus, despite the numbers generated by the two-county practice area, Greeley County’s population eliminated the ability to qualify for designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). However, this problem was remedied by qualifying the physician-less Wallace County for the designation. Obtaining the HPSA designation ultimately led to many positive results, beginning with efforts to recruit a new physician to the practice.

In January 1992, Wendel Ellis, DO, and expectant wife, Elby, arrived for a recruitment visit, only to find Moser occupied with the birth of his second child.

With only a few minutes to spare, Moser convinced the Ellises that their practice search had ended. Not only were the area’s demographics compatible, but the HPSA and medically underserved designations provided Ellis with avenues for fulfilling his National Health Service Corps (NHSC) commitment and for participation in the Kansas Bridging Plan.

Two days after the visit, Ellis accepted the position to begin upon completion of his residency at the KUSM-W Family Practice Residency Program at Smoky Hill, a year and a half later. His practice agreement included a guaranteed income contract, an arrangement to pay off expenses based on income and an even split of supplies and equipment after two years.

For Moser, the news provided some relief. “I enjoyed what I was doing because there was a mix of both staff and patients,” he said. “But I knew another provider with the same health-care and family-directed attitudes would help us achieve a lot of our goals of providing services locally, plus allow time off.”

For Ellis, the practice was the fulfillment of a dream. “It was always my desire to be a rural family physician,” he said. “And although I didn’t realize how rural my location would be, I was pleased to have found this opportunity.”

Still, it was an opportunity with challenges. Ellis’ responsibilities included serving as medical director for Wallace County’s emergency medical services, senior facility and county health department.

“One of the early difficulties came as Deputy District Coroner, an area that medical students or residents do not typically receive training in. At the scene, you usually know everyone involved and oftentimes there are significant deaths associated with the unexpected death of a loved one, a suicide or an accident.

“I remember in 1993, my first year of practice, being on the way to a scene and wondering what I was doing. But with a few phone calls and the gracious support of my partner and regional pathologists, I was able to obtain the information I needed and take the appropriate measures.”

... I knew another provider with the same health-care and family-directed attitudes would help us achieve a lot of our goals of providing services locally, plus allow time off.

Robert Moser, MD

With simultaneous loan repayment terms to the NHSC, Ellis was also able to provide care for the underinsured and uninsured on a sliding fee scale. But perhaps more importantly, his arrival allowed for a provider four days a week at Wallace County Family Practice while physician availability in Tribune doubled.

With the increased numbers of patients and provider hours, Greeley County Hospital began efforts in 1997 to develop additional services such as physical therapy and home health. Today, physical therapy encompasses satellite offices in Sharon Springs and Leoti, and home health services cover patients in three surrounding counties.

Additional services have since been secured through grant funding and foundation support and include a prescription drug program, equipment and technology for patient education and an athletic training program for local high school students.

One such grant to the NHSC Commissioned Officer Program in 2001 netted a third physician, Julia Myers, MD, who immediately began to increase access to care for the area’s uninsured, Spanish speaking, and feedlot and dairy...
New Tool Aids Communication
Short form reveals gaps in Medicare services

To assist the physicians and medical staff of rural Kansas, the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. (KFMC) has developed a tool that promotes communication with patients to reveal gaps in the delivery of Medicare-covered preventive services.

The Kansas Outpatient Rapid Assessment (KORA) is a brief one-page questionnaire provided to patients upon arrival at the office. Patients answer questions about their current status regarding certain vaccinations, mammograms and diabetes tests, which are covered by Medicare Part B. Answers to the questions help medical staff determine if services are needed, or desired, by each patient.

Since its implementation, KORA has increased the delivery of preventive services in 48 medical offices statewide.

According to KORA Project Manager Donna Garwood, RN, BSN, CPHQ, the program has proven to be an easy, viable solution for providing services to patients whose preventive care might otherwise be missed.

“We’ve heard from our physicians and nurses that the form is well worth the time because they’ve been able to identify patients who need these services,” she said. “Often patients only go to the doctor when they are ill, and preventive care may not be addressed during these visits. Utilizing KORA with all types of patient visits is a good prompt for the provider. One physician in particular said that it’s galvanized his clinic in focusing their attention on preventive medicine types of things, where a lot of times the focus was only on those acute illnesses.”

In addition to opening lines of communication between provider and patient, the form is helping to dispel misconceptions about Medicare benefits. “KORA is helping healthcare practitioners recommend services already covered by Medicare to their patients,” Garwood said. “For instance, a woman might want a mammogram but won’t ask for one, often because she doesn’t know the test is covered by Medicare.”

KFMC Communications and Marketing Specialist Diane Bender, BA, added that the form encourages patients to ask questions about their concerns. “Often, people think they might get the flu from the flu shot, but that vaccine is made of a killed virus and cannot cause the flu. Sometimes the form will trigger questions about such concerns that the provider can then clarify.”

Completed KORA forms are forwarded to KFMC, where data is compiled and returned to the physician’s office on a monthly basis. These reports provide physicians with aggregate data about their patient population along with a comparison of the delivery of the same services by other providers using the program.

KORA existed in another form but was customized to fit the needs of Kansas physicians, according to Edward Ellerbeck, MD, associate professor, University of Kansas Medical Center Department of Preventive Medicine, who serves as an adviser in the development of KFMC programs.

“We added topics that weren’t covered by previous endeavors and created several different versions of the form to suit the particular needs of various practices,” he said. “For many practices, the data that we’ve captured gives them a first glimpse of how current their patients are with their preventive care services. “We based our endeavor on the importance of having reminder systems in doctors’ offices so that things don’t fall through the cracks. But we also wanted to address the concept of having patients be more involved with their health care. That is why we set it up to be given to the patients first – to raise the awareness of how important these issues are so that patients can engage in a more informed discussion with their doctor about what they should be doing to take care of their health-care needs.”
Despite the success of the KORA program, Ellerbeck said there is always room for improvement. “Even though we think that this is a very exciting innovation, the future is probably in more sophisticated information systems technology that provides immediate feedback. In this one-page form, we can't capture lots of interesting information, such as a family history, that might make it more important to get some extensive screening.”

Physicians participating in KORA can also qualify for Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits through a new program funded and implemented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Physicians may receive American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award Category 1 credit, with up to 10 CME credits in each of KORA’s clinical areas of diabetes, adult immunizations and breast cancer, available in the first year.

The KFMC is a Topeka-based not-for-profit organization that continually works toward improvements in health care for the state’s Medicare beneficiaries and residents. Designated by the CMS as the state’s Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, KFMC works with Kansas hospitals, physician offices, nursing homes and home health agencies to assist in continual enhancements to their provision of care.

To learn more about KORA or other KFMC programs, contact the organization at 1-800-432-0770.

**Greeley, Wallace counties**

Continued from page 5

worker populations. One of Myers’ innovative answers to increasing access is a “dairy clinic,” where she travels to the local dairy feed yard and provides free medical care to employees and their families.

After a 1998 survey revealed a great deal of satisfaction with the area’s improved quality of care, the Greeley County community went forward with the issue of a $4.2 million bond for construction of a $1.7 million retirement home, emergency room and hospital entrance along with the remodeling of the old home into the current clinic.

Finally, one the largest hurdles of the 1993 survey was completed in 2001 through a Community Access Program grant, funded through the Health Resources Services Administration. Known locally as the HealthCAP program, the grant brought about two-fold results in the form of a behavioral health provider and staff and the installation of a wide-area network.

With the behavioral health services provided for by the grant being integrated into the primary care setting, there has been a reduction in the stigma often associated with mental-health counseling, especially in a rural area. In addition, the new network has integrated care between the facilities, allowing for more efficient access to patient details such as insurance, allergies, medications, current diagnoses and immunizations.

Beyond the obvious improvements, there has been a substantial economic impact on the service area. In 1992, 56 personnel made up the hospital and clinic staff; the average patient census was 1.8; and the hospital’s yearly gross income was $400,000. Today, care is delivered by a team of 120 hospital, clinic and long-term care employees; the hospital’s average patient census exceeds 3.5; and its yearly gross income is nearing $6 million.

For the people of Greeley and Wallace counties, the numbers only convey something they have known all along, that people in rural Kansas know how to get things done.
The first class of scholars for the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute (KPHLI) is reporting great success with the program.

Started in 2002, with a $490,103 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, the institute has brought together nearly two-dozen scholars to participate in the development of a statewide network of public health leaders. In addition to honing their leadership talents, the program’s scholars are building relationships with other community leaders from around the state.

Scholar Phil Griffin, director of Tuberculosis Prevention and Control for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, said he has already learned to recognize strengths in himself and others.

“If we are going to work together through collaborations and coalitions, it’s important we all understand that we have different personalities and different ways of approaching issues and, consequently, ways of reaching resolution and consensus as to the best way to move forward. The program has already helped me have a better understanding of the personality and leadership styles that I possess, as well as an understanding of the same traits in others.”

Cindy Chrisman-Smith, director of the Kingman County Health Department, has found opportunities to use skills she learned to form partnerships within her community. “I found it very useful to ‘parrot’ back to people what they’re saying so that they are able to more readily cite exactly what they want from a situation,” she said. “For instance, right now I’m working with a group of partners I’ve just brought together to provide education for children, and when people were able to hear back what they were saying, it made the decision process of the topics we were going to do much easier.”

As part of the curriculum, each scholar is required to incorporate his or her learning into a capstone project.

For Lougene Marsh, director of the Flint Hills Community Health Center/Lyon County Health Department, that project is the perfect opportunity to build a telemedicine connection with the neighboring Chase County Health Department. The technology will increase access to primary care services by allowing individuals in Chase County to be seen by providers in the Lyon County facility.

Marsh said she is also using the skills learned in the program to overcome the challenges of managing a staff of some 60 personnel. “We talked about how true leaders spend much more time listening in meetings than they do talking,” she said. “Since then, I’ve really been trying to elicit information from staff. I’m trying to reduce the amount of time I’m talking and increase the amount of time I’m listening.”

The KPHLI is one of many projects organized by the partnership of statewide organizations known as the Kansas Public Health Workforce and Leadership Development (WALD) Center. Created in January 2002, the WALD Center partnership provides preparedness and education for the state’s health workers, with special emphasis on those in rural areas.

Shirley Orr, MHS, ARNP, CNAA, director of local health for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Local and Rural Health, was instrumental in the formation of the KPHLI. She said the program, which mirrors the curriculum at the St. Louis University School of Public Health, is designed to address the core competencies for public health leaders as identified by the Council on Linkage Between Academia and Practice.

The council’s recommendations grew out of a document created by the Institute of Medicine in 1988, The Future of Public Health, which brought attention to the need to build public health systems to approach community needs with a more global outlook and find ways to enlist partners to help address those issues.

“Leadership today requires different skills than one would typically think of as being organizational management,” Orr said. “It’s about...
building partnerships and building consensus. What we expect will happen with the KPHLI is that we will see more activity around the core public health functions at the local level, those core functions being assessment, policy development and assurance.”

Suzanne R. Hawley, PhD, MPH, research assistant professor and associate director of the KU-Master of Public Health degree program in the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, is the program director for KPHLI. Hawley said the quality of the program is shaping the state’s future public health needs by dissolving previously perceived boundaries.

“The program is especially important for our rural areas now, because it allows the leaders in these areas to develop professional relationships with multiple counties. . . . We can’t predict what public health crisis is going to occur next, but by developing an infrastructure in terms of leadership we are exponentially better prepared for any kind of emergency.”

Suzanne R. Hawley, PhD, MPH

The program is especially important for our rural areas now, because it allows the leaders in these areas to develop professional relationships with multiple counties. . . . We can’t predict what public health crisis is going to occur next, but by developing an infrastructure in terms of leadership we are exponentially better prepared for any kind of emergency.”

For more information regarding the KPHLI, contact Germaine Hall, KPHLI Project Coordinator, 316-293-3446 or ghall@kumc.edu.
There are a number of financial loan and scholarship programs available to assist students in funding their education. Special qualifications and forms are required and students are encouraged to contact their financial aid counselor or one of the many contacts listed for more information.

Information about the following programs can be obtained through:

**University of Kansas Medical Center Department of Student Financial Aid**
Student Center, Room 4003
3901 Rainbow Blvd
Kansas City, KS 66160
Phone: 913-588-5170
Web site: www.kumc.edu/studentcenter/financialaid.html
E-mail: financialaid@kumc.edu

**C.E. Boudreau Scholarship**
For graduates of any Butler County high school. Scholarship administered by the Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital.

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**Edward E. Baumhardt Trust Loan**
Interest-free loan, priority given to fourth-year students. Selection by Trust Committee and based on financial need and academic background. June 1 deadline.

**Henry Ehlers Endowment Loan**
Students with at least five years residency in Jefferson County. Practice in Jefferson County permits 10 percent of loan balance written off for each year of practice.

**Kansas Medical Student Loan Program**
Awarded on an annual basis, in return for agreements to practice primary care medicine in Kansas upon completion of residency. Pays tuition and living expenses through a monthly stipend. Spring deadline for first-year students, varied renewal deadlines.

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**Primary Care Loan**
Awarded to medical students who agree to enter and complete a residency training program in primary health care no later than four years after graduation.

**Scholarships for Disadvantaged or Minority Students**
There are several awards based on financial need for students from disadvantaged backgrounds or for those identified as being from specific minority groups. Awards vary and may depend on parental income or specific resource information.

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**Additional Assistance:**
Consult the corresponding contact for information about the following programs:

**Armed Forces Scholarship**
Service branches offer full-time medical students payment of tuition/fees, reimbursement for books/supplies and a monthly stipend for living expenses. Spring deadline.

**Contact desired branch:**
Air Force: 913-491-8640
Army: 816-891-7720
Navy: 816-880-1133

**Kansas Bridging Plan**
A loan forgiveness program for 36 continuous months of rural practice for
resident physicians in family practice, general internal medicine, general pediatrics and medicine/pediatrics residency programs in Kansas. Consists of separate loans totaling up to $26,000 from the State of Kansas and from a rural health-care organization with whom the resident physician signs a practice commitment agreement.

Contact:  
Rural Health Education and Services University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita  
1010 N. Kansas Wichita, KS 67214-3199  
Phone: 316-293-2649 or 1-888-503-4221

**Kansas Dentistry Assistance Program**  
Pays the difference between resident and non-resident tuition at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry for dental students who commit to establishing a dental practice in Kansas after graduation.

Contact:  
University of Missouri-Kansas City, School of Dentistry  
650 E. 25th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64108-2784  
Phone: 816-235-2080 or 800-776-8652

**Kansas Osteopathic Medical Service Scholarship**  
Up to $25,000 per year for up to four years at a nationally accredited osteopathic school for recipients agreeing to return one year of practice in a rural area of Kansas for each year of assistance awarded. Spring deadline.

Contact:  
Kansas Board of Regents  
KS Medical Service  
Osteopathic Program  
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 520  
Topeka KS 66612-1368  
Phone: 785-296-3518  
Web site: www.kansasregents.com

**Medical Careers Loan**  
Students from Sedgwick County can apply for this loan for tuition, books, fees and related educational expenses.

Contact:  
Medical Society of Sedgwick County  
103 S. Hillside  
Wichita, KS 67211  
Web site: www.mssconline.org

**National Health Service Corps**  
Scholarships and loan repayment programs for many types of health-care professionals agreeing to work in underserved areas. The NHSC Scholarship provides for payment of tuition and fees, books and supplies, and a monthly stipend per year of scholarship support for students enrolled in dental school, allopathic or osteopathic medical school, or in a family nurse practitioner, nurse-midwifery, or physician assistant program. Residency completion criteria also applies.

Contact:  
National Health Service Corps  
Phone: 800-221-9393  
Web site: http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov

**National Medical Fellowship**  
From $2,500 to $4,000 per year in support for racial minority medical students for each year of study in basic sciences. Deadline varies.

Contact:  
National Medical Fellowship, Inc.  
110 West 32nd Street, 8th floor  
New York, NY 10001-3205  
Phone: 212-714-1007

**Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program**  
Awarded to registered nurses for educational loans in exchange for service in underserved areas. Winter deadline.

Contact:  
Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program, Loan Repayment Programs Branch  
Division of Scholarships and Loan Repayments  
Bureau of Primary Health Center  
4350 East-West Highway, 10th Floor  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Phone: 301-594-4400 or 800-435-6464  
Web site: http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/loanrepay.htm

**Nursing Service Scholarship**  
Awarded to registered nursing students, some funds reserved for applicants with sponsors in rural counties. Also awarded to licensed practical nursing students. Funds are contingent upon state legislative appropriations.

Contact:  
Kansas Board of Regents  
Nursing Service Scholarship  
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 520  
Topeka KS 66612-1368  
Phone: 785-296-3518  
Web site: www.kansasregents.com

**State Loan Repayment Program**  
Awarded to graduates of health professional programs who have been recruited to work for at least two years in public or non-profit agencies or facilities in Kansas areas federally qualified as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) or Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs).

Contact:  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Office of Local and Rural Health  
State Loan Repayment Program of Kansas  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340  
Topeka, KS 66612-1365  
Phone: 785-296-1200  
Web site: http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/olrh/
information about programs for health-care providers or opportunities to practice in rural areas of Kansas, please contact me by telephone at 316-293-2649 or through e-mail at lvalenti@kumc.edu.

**Wheat State Whirlwind Tour**

The University of Kansas Wheat State Whirlwind Tour is rolling again in 2004. In May, selected faculty will visit sites in northeast and southwest Kansas to learn more about the people and needs of Kansas.

Sponsored by the chancellor’s office, this year’s tour will add stops along the exploration routes of Lewis and Clark and Coronado to a list of sites previously visited by past participants including a buffalo preserve, a wheat farm, an arts center and a multilingual elementary school.

**Publication Schedule**

If you have an idea for an article or would like to contribute a news item to *Kansas Connections*, 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.

Deadline for submission of ideas or articles for the next issue is June 4, 2004.

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**

**KRC0204.0101.02**

**Family Physician** – hospital-based (49 beds), multi-specialty group, recreational activities, great housing options, acres of parks

**KRC0204.1305.01**

**Hematologist/Oncologist** – 28-physician multi-specialty clinic, H-1B Visa opportunity

**KRC0204.1305.02**

**Gastroenterologist** – 28-physician multi-specialty clinic, H-1B Visa opportunity

**KRC0204.1305.03**

**Pulmonologist** – 28-physician multi-specialty clinic, H-1B Visa opportunity

**KRC0204.1305.04**

**Cardiologist** – invasive and interventional medicine, 28-physician multi-specialty clinic, full-service acute care, H-1B Visa opportunity

**KRC0304.1202.01**

**Family Physician** – 14-bed modern, progressive Critical Access Hospital with large rural health clinic and emergency room coverage, 2 physicians and 1 nurse practitioner, full benefits, J-1 Visa and H1-B Visa opportunity

**KRC0603.0101.03**

**Family Physician** – single-specialty group with 2 FP and 2 CRNP, hospital-employed, must be willing to do OB and special procedures, 24-bed hospital, affordable housing, great schools, located near large community

**KRC0603.1302.01**

**Diagnostic Radiologist** – 4-physician practice, 90-bed hospital, inpatient and outpatient

**NORTHWEST**

**KRC0104.1803.01**

**Family Physician or Internist** – medical and emergency services as needed, home medical services when required, provides care in long-term care facility

**KRC0603.0101.04**

**Family Physician w/OB** – hospital-employed; stand-alone clinic; progressive

**CONTINUED INSIDE**
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, National Health Service Corps site

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

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

**KRC0603.0801.03**  
**Medical Oncologist** – hospital-employed, 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, 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

**KRC0603.0801.13**  
**CRNA** – group practice, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, aquatic parks, performing arts center, recreation commission

**KRC0603.1001.01**  
**Family Physician** – hospital-based rural health clinic (15-bed with 40-bed LTCU), 9-hole golf course, museum, state historical park, small town atmosphere, J-1 Visa opportunity

**KRC0603.1002.01**  
**Physician Assistant in Family Practice** – hospital-based rural health clinic (15-bed with 40-bed LTCU), 9-hole golf course, museum, state historical park, J-1 Visa opportunity

**KRC0603.1002.02**  
**Physician Assistant in Family Practice** – hospital-based rural health clinic (15-bed with 40-bed LTCU), 9-hole golf course, museum, state historical park, J-1 Visa opportunity

**KRC0603.1003.01**  
**Lab/X-ray Supervisor** – hospital-employed, new facility within 1 1/2 hours, hunting, fishing, sports, 3 hours from major metropolis, good schools, vo-tech within one half hour drive

**KRC0603.1003.02**  
**Family Physician** – small 2 MD, 2 PA, hospital-based rural health community

**KRC0714.0301.01**  
**CRNA** – multi-specialty clinic with additional specialists on a rotating basis

**KRC0903.0303.02**  
**Internist** – multi-specialty clinic with additional specialists on a rotating basis

**KRC0903.0303.03**  
**Pediatrician** – multi-specialty clinic with additional specialists on a rotating basis

**KRC0903.0303.04**  
**Obstetrician/Gynecologist** – multi-specialty clinic with additional specialists on a rotating basis

**KRC0903.0303.05**  
**General Surgeon** – multi-specialty clinic with additional specialists on a rotating basis

**KRC0903.0303.06**  
**CRNA** – multi-specialty clinic with additional specialists on a rotating basis

**KRC1013.1801.01**  
**Family Physician** – hospital-employed, clinic attached to hospital, lake activities located nearby, near university

**KRC1013.1801.02**  
**Physical Therapist** – hospital-employed, clinic attached to hospital, lake activities located nearby, near university

**KRC1103.1802.01**  
**Family Physician** – medical surgery, outpatient surgery, PT, Speech, OT, J-1 Visa opportunity

**KRC1103.1802.02**  
**Internist** – medical surgery, outpatient surgery, PT, Speech, OT, J-1 Visa opportunity

**KRC1103.1802.03**  
**ARNP** – medical, surgical, outpatient surgery, PT, Speech, OT
**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**

**KRC.0104.1304.07**
*Registered Nurse* – Unit Coordinator, 10-bed emergency department (15,000 visits/year), coordinates patient care services and supervises ER personnel, 5 years experience as RN and supervision, Kansas Nursing license and CEN certification required

**KRC.0204.0103.03**
*Orthopedic Surgeon* – multi-specialty clinic (6 FP, 1 Ped, 2 IM, 2 GS, 1 UROL)

**KRC.0304.1301.09**
*Med/Peds* – 11-physician multi-specialty group with primary care members, 2 obstetrics/gynecology, 2 general surgery, clinic in hospital facility

**KRC.0603.1301.06**
*Family Physician* – 7-physician specialty clinic with primary care partners, hospital-based practice, 59-bed facility, H-1B Visa opportunity

**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

**KRC0603.0102.03**
*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

**KRC0603.0102.05**
*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**
*Orthopedic Surgeon* – group practice, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside recreational opportunities, national park service site

**KRC0603.1301.02**
*Med/Peds* – multi-specialty practice, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside 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, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside recreational opportunities

**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

**KRC0603.0102.03**
*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

**KRC0603.1301.01**
*Orthopedic Surgeon* – group practice, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside recreational opportunities, national park service site

**KRC0603.1301.02**
*Med/Peds* – multi-specialty practice, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside 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, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside recreational opportunities
General Surgeon – integrated multi-specialty group practice with 27 members in two locations, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside recreational activities

Family Physician – hospital-employed or group practice, 50 minute drive to the city, good schools, lakes, excellent practice opportunity, J-1 Visa opportunity

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, beautiful lakes with water activities available

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

Family Physician – federally-qualified health center with mission to provide comprehensive primary mental and dental health care to the underserved population, J-1 Visa opportunity

Certified Coder (RHIT or RHIA) – hospital-employed

ARNP – women’s health/oncology; travel and serve the women of southeast Kansas in our Mobile Mammography Unit; autonomous, community-based opportunity offers tremendous satisfaction in seeing improved access to women's health care in rural areas and the direct benefit of the care provided; instrumental in expanding cancer programs, making new contacts for health services in the region by performing women’s health screens and cancer screenings, as well as case management for annual exams, including occult blood and pap smears, with an emphasis on mammograms; hospital-employed; excellent benefits

SOUTHWEST

Family Physician – hospital-based, 1 physician (DO) and 1 NP, hospital services include IP, OP, SB, PT, ER (ED), J-1 Visa opportunity

Family Physician – federally-qualified community health center, 3 satellites, J-1 Visa and H-1B Visa opportunity

Internist – federally-qualified community health center, 3 satellites, J-1 Visa and H-1B Visa opportunity

Physician Assistant – federally-qualified community health center, 3 satellites

Family Physician – good school system, 9-hole golf course, community swimming pool, theater, National Health Service Corps site

Family Physician – good school system, 9-hole golf course, community swimming pool, theater, National Health Service Corps site

Internist – multi-specialty group practice, community college, J-1 Visa opportunity

General Surgeon – group practice

Obstetrician/Gynecologist – group practice

Pediatrician – group practice

Candidates looking for job opportunities in Kansas can gain access to those listed by the KRC through the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3R Net) Web site, www.3rnet.org. The site was created by state organizations to assist physicians and health professionals in locating suitable practices in rural areas throughout the country. Online registration is required.