For more than a half century, physicians across Kansas have been volunteering time to share their experiences with others who will one day follow in their footsteps. These helpful healers, whose only reward is the satisfaction of supporting medical students, are volunteers for the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

The medical school curriculum provides opportunities for first through fourth year medical students to obtain experience in an urban or rural practice setting. Most of the physician providers participating in these opportunities, particularly all of those working in rural settings, do so on a voluntary basis.

For medical students in the first and second years of study, these volunteer physicians provide exposure to rural practices through programs like the Rural Primary Care Practice and Research Program, as well as the Rural Health Weekend, a three-day event that allows students to shadow rural physicians as they work in clinics, make hospital rounds, tend to the emergency room or see patients wherever they provide care.

In the third year of study, medical students are permitted to voluntarily participate in any one of several clerkships, which present them with opportunities to spend two to six weeks with a physician learning about a specialty area of practice. As many as one-fourth of the third-year class choose to participate in a rural experience with this portion of the curriculum.

By far the largest participation by students in rural activities comes in their fourth year of study as part of the Rural Preceptorship Program, a four-week requirement on both the Wichita and Kansas City campuses.

For this program, the school relies exclusively on volunteer providers like Jennifer Brull, MD, of Prairie Star Family Practice in Plainville, Kan.

Brull began volunteering for the School of Medicine immediately following completion of her residency in 2002.
A new scholarship has been established in honor of the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita’s founding dean, D. Cramer Reed, MD. Reed, who became dean of the school in 1971, guided KUSM-W through its early years, forming it into a community-based entity that has served as a model for similar institutions. Because Reed felt so strongly that medical students should be well-rounded individuals, possessing both a broad view of the medical field as well as a commitment to serving the community, the D. Cramer Reed Scholarship will be awarded to students who achieve academic excellence and show an interest in community service and humanitarian causes.

The scholarship is available to third-year medical students who have a demonstrated need of financial assistance. For more information about the D. Cramer Reed Scholarship Fund, contact Lynn Loveland, director of development, KU Endowment Association, 316-293-2641.

The Kansas Rural Health Options Project (KRHOP) and the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) are generously funding the Kansas Recruitment Center’s one-year registration fee of $400 for the state’s Critical Access Hospitals. All Kansas CAHs are eligible to receive the KRC services free of charge from November 1, 2004 through October 31, 2005.

The Kansas Recruitment Center assists the state’s rural communities with their efforts to recruit and retain physicians and other healthcare providers. Services provided by the KRC include unlimited job opportunity postings, pre-screening interviews, candidate referrals and promotion of job openings.

If your CAH has not registered with the KRC, please call 316-293-3456 or visit http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu.

March 17 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 169 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. Seventy-one of the graduates will be entering KU affiliated residency programs in Kansas.

Continued on back cover
In eastern Kansas, a unique, new program is helping patients recover more quickly from orthopedic surgery. Known as the Rapid Recovery Joint Replacement Program, it takes an innovative approach to rehabilitation for patients of minimally invasive hip and knee replacement surgery.

"My patients are walking the day after surgery, walking without assistance at about three weeks and back to routine activities shortly after that," said Orthopedist Brad Meister, MD, who introduced the program at Labette County Medical Center in Parsons, Kan., late in 2004.

"The idea is that these patients didn’t come to us sick, and they are not sick just because they are in the hospital. They just have a sore joint because it was just replaced, so we’re getting the ‘I’m sick, I’m laying in bed’ mentality out and away from these patients.”

Since starting the program, the hospital’s joint replacement patients have experienced a dramatic reduction in the average length of stay following surgery, from 4.7 to 2.1 days.

So how does such an amazing program work? In essence, it takes information previously supplied to patients after the operation and presents it to them upfront, two weeks in advance of surgery. In addition, patients go through both the pre-operative process and post-operative rehabilitation as a group, rather than on an individual basis.

“It’s hard to learn how to do all the things needed to recover when you’re on pain medicine and your joint is hurting,” said Meister. “So instead of asking patients to learn all the exercises and how to use a walker and other devices after surgery, we show them everything ahead of time and give them two weeks to practice.”

Each week, patients scheduled for surgery attend a one-day class that includes an audiovisual presentation providing a step-by-step explanation of their upcoming hospital stay and procedure. Spouses and other family members, who will serve as the patient’s “coach,” are also invited to attend the session and the complimentary group lunch.

In addition, the day’s activities include a physical therapy session where patients, as a group, receive instruction on any required exercises or assistive devices.

During the therapy portion of the session, the group often interacts with others who have gone through surgery only days before. “They might see Mrs. Smith who had her knee done two days ago,” said Meister, “and she might tell them she is real sore, but not to worry, that it gets better every day. That working with other people encourages them and gives them hope.”

The only time the group divides during the day is when they are sent in smaller numbers to have laboratory work, histories and physicals done.

For Bess Clark, of Independence, Kan., the procedure sounded like the perfect solution for her deteriorating hip joint, which was caused by arthritis.

While she had already undergone one hip replacement surgery some years earlier, which took months to recover from, Clark was still unable to walk properly. “For years I couldn’t even walk straight,” she said. “And my other leg had gotten so bad that I couldn’t even lift it to get out of the car. My husband had to help me.”

Now, she said, she is “100 percent better” and able to walk distances without assistance. It is a transformation that took only days to occur, according to Clark, who

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With the explosion of medical information on the Web and the rise of rare diseases and biological events threatening the populace in recent years, there has become an increasing need to find quick, accurate and reliable answers to such concerns.

To deliver those answers, two medical librarians from the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W) and the Kansas State University (K-State) College of Veterinary Medicine in Manhattan, which are both part of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), joined together to create a comprehensive online resource for health care workers who need information for human and animal health.

The Public Health Information for Kansans Web site, found at www.kspublichealth.org, contains a wealth of links to authoritative health resources, each introduced by a brief synopsis to aid viewers in navigation.

For instance, under the topic of “consumer health,” there are hosts of links to sites containing information about everything from occupational toxicology to household products. On the “databases” page there are links to popular National Library of Medicine sites like www.pubmed.gov and www.medlineplus.gov as well as sites with agricultural and veterinary information.

This page also features a link to www.clinicaltrials.gov, a site where the results from thousands of studies can be found.

Other Web pages contain links to useful tools like education resources and libraries, local and national organizations and the latest health news from around the world. There is even a page leading to downloadable resources for persons with personal digital assistants (PDAs).

The content of each site linked to Public Health Information for Kansans was hand-selected and reviewed by Teresa Coady, MLS, assistant director of KUSM-W’s Farha Medical Library, and Gayle Willard, MLS, AHIP, director of K-State’s Veterinary Medical Library, who collaborated on the project as Principal Investigator and Co-PI, respectively. “This project was a wonderful opportunity for KU and K-State to work together and serve the health information needs of Kansans,” Coady commented. “It was a delight working with Gayle at K-State, and this opens the door for future collaborative projects.”

Funded by a National Institutes of Health grant of $39,949, received in 2003, the project was designed to disseminate information through a three-pronged approach: create the comprehensive Web site www.kspublichealth.org, present information about the site at statewide annual meetings of public health care workers, and produce and distribute a compact disc designed to train public health workers throughout the state.

In developing the Web site, Coady and Willard first sought out relevant resources online. For those that were determined to be most accurate, relevant, reliable, and authoritative in serving the needs of public health workers, a brief description was written to accompany the link to said site that would ultimately be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
For Brull, it is a way of giving back for all she has received. “I had some wonderful mentors while I was in medical school and the example they set as rural physicians helped me to know how I wanted to practice. In turn, if I am able to provide a good example for other students, then perhaps it will be easier to recruit more doctors to this part of the world.”

In addition, Brull said, being a volunteer offers benefits such as continuing education credits and opportunities to participate in research activities. But even more so, she said, she enjoys the opportunity to teach, which, it turns out, is a two-way street.

“The students always have things that they teach me,” she said. “Every time they come, they bring research with them, and they teach me and my patients new ideas about what we can do. It’s just a great interaction.”

Brull precepts first, second and fourth year students, providing as much as 60 hours of volunteer time per week, four weeks at a time, several times in a single year. But, she reiterated, it is time well spent. “I enjoy it a lot. I think it’s important for these students to know what it’s like out here, and it’s good for them to learn hands-on.”

For the medical student faculty, who direct the opportunities, volunteers make all the difference.

“Obviously, the programs wouldn’t function without our volunteers because we certainly can’t afford to pay them,” said John Dorsch, MD, Department of Family and Community Medicine, KU School of Medicine-Wichita. “They are a tremendous value to us and we appreciate all they do.”

Truth be told, said Dorsch, their value goes far beyond monetary figures. “Precepting gives the students a much broader perspective of medicine practiced in Kansas. In fact, many of them come back from the rural preceptorship and tell us it was the best month of medical school they ever had. Sure, we know some students will never practice in a rural area, but they may one day be the sub-specialist who accepts referrals from someone who practices in a rural area. This experience gives them a better understanding of where these vital opportunities, we enlist the help of volunteer physicians throughout the entire state. Our mentoring programs with the medical school came about some years ago when the school’s visionary leaders sought to combat the growing health care crisis in rural communities. It was a time when the few physicians serving the Kansas prairie were stretched far beyond their capacity and had little access to ongoing medical education.

The impact of these mentoring programs over the years should be a source of pride for all Kansans. Physicians, their families and entire communities have welcomed students into their homes and practices and, in the process, have transformed the students’ lives, helping to shape them into the physicians they have become.

We are grateful to the many physicians and communities throughout Kansas who have partnered with us in educating our young doctors. We appreciate their selfless commitment and service.”

—Barbara F. Atkinson, MD, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the KU School of Medicine.
Earlier this year, Progressive Farmer magazine awarded the first of what promises to be an interesting—and competitive—category of recognition in years to come.

The new award honed in on the “Best Places to Live in Rural America,” kudos for which the magazine examined counties nationwide for quality of life issues ranging from crime rates and traffic counts to open spaces and excellence in schools.

What is so exciting about the new acknowledgment is that Kansas’s own McPherson County made the third slot overall on the list.

From affordable homes to successful businesses to acclaimed cultural offerings, the county has a perfect mix of everything, including, it seems, for a county of only 29,000 residents, an abundance of quality health care facilities. In fact, three communities—Moundridge, Lindsborg and McPherson—are in the fortunate position of maintaining their own hospitals.

The smallest of the three, Mercy Hospital in Moundridge, is a 21-bed facility owned by the Mennonite church. Opened in 1943, Mercy serves some 1,700 residents in the town and surrounding areas.

Operating in the black for a number of years now, Mercy is known for its conservative business practices. But it is relationships, said Administrator Doyle Johnson, that is a key component to successful rural practices, and in small towns like Moundridge, they can produce some surprising results.

“Doctors don’t tend to lock their cars here, and a lot of times, they’ll end up with pies or garden vegetables in them, tokens of appreciation from their patients.”

When those relationships extend beyond the city limits, they serve to strengthen the community’s ability to provide proper care, said Johnson. He noted that, in addition to a strong statewide hospital association, on whom rural administrators rely for support in navigating the complex federal regulations, McPherson County’s providers work together to ensure the most effective availability of quality care.

“Here in McPherson County, we’ve got a good relationship between all three hospitals. We focus on cooperation rather than competition because we know that, if you spend too much time trying to beat the hospital down the road, your public and your patients are the ones that eventually suffer,” Johnson said.

Of course, nothing is wrong with a little friendly competition; at least that’s how the four Moundridge providers at Partners in Family Care feel. Hailing from two of the county’s three local colleges, the four enjoy a little healthy rivalry over their alma maters, but have found perfect harmony as a provider group.

“We share similar philosophies as far as the importance of community and family,” said Marla Ullom-Minnich, MD, speaking for a group that formed out of the desire to work less and enjoy life more. “None of us is trying to get rich quick, and we not only care for people, but we care for the community and we want to help it grow.”

Helping the community grow is literally part of Ullom-Minnich’s job, a practice made more enjoyable in a small town. “Here, it’s a lot of fun for me to take care of multiple generations,” she said. “I really feel that, as a family physician, I get a much better picture of people when I can take care of the whole family, and my big hope is that, someday, I’ll be able to deliver the babies of the babies that I’ve delivered.”

When they grow up, there’s a good chance that Ullom-Minnich’s patients will attend the same local colleges in McPherson County as she and her partners did, each an institute of higher learning that offers a full scope of degreed educational programs as well as some unique studies, like the world’s only four-year degree in auto restoration.

These schools also enhance the county’s reputation as a center of culture, a factor strengthened by communities known for their Scottish, CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Mennonite and Scandinavian heritages.

Perhaps the most prominent of these is Lindsborg, home to the 39-bed Lindsborg Community Hospital and widely known as Kansas’s own “Little Sweden.” Displaying its popular red “Dala Horse” motif around town, this city becomes a prairie sea of color in odd numbered years during the days of the Swedish festival.

Over in the town of McPherson, the county seat, it’s an assortment of lifestyle offerings that make the area an attractive place to practice, according to Gregory M. Thomas, MD, of Family Practice Associates.

“If you ask a family physician what they enjoy about their practice, they usually say the diversity because no day is the same,” he said. “I think that’s especially true when you’re speaking to a rural family physician, because our breadth of practice may be a little broader since the need to provide different services is greater. Here, I see everyone from salt of the earth farmers to sophisticated college professors, and it keeps me hopping.”

Thomas, who sees patients at McPherson Memorial Hospital, a 70-bed acute care facility and the largest of the three hospitals in McPherson County, credits a visionary city leadership for attracting industry to the area years ago through the promise of inexpensive energy.

Today, that foresight continues to make McPherson one of the state’s top industrial centers, employing more than 4,000 people, over 25 percent of the county, in manufacturing. And when the working day is through, McPherson County has plenty of other amenities to offer, from shopping and dining to parks and recreation to educational opportunities and a host of cultural activities.

Features like these, according to Progressive Farmer, are calling over half of the people in the nation to consider living in a rural setting, a choice Rex Walk, president and chief executive officer of McPherson’s Memorial Hospital made only a few years back.

“I’m not surprised McPherson County won the award. Even though I’m from a rural area, and my wife and I weren’t really considering moving, we found this to be such a special community that we uprooted our kids and came here. And we haven’t been disappointed at all.”

Four other Kansas counties were also recognized in the top half of the 100 counties chosen: Butler, Sumner, Pottawatomie and Harvey.

For more information about the award and the Kansas counties that made the list, visit www.progressivefarmer.com.

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Free Land!

Another reason for McPherson County’s top honor from Progressive Farmer is the price of land. Prices range from $1,500 to $4,000 an acre for 3 to 40 acre lots with pasture available starting at $500 an acre, dry land at $750 an acre and irrigated land at $1,500 an acre.

McPherson is also one of the nation’s counties participating in a program offering free land, with certain stipulations, to encourage population growth. As of this writing, a limited number of free lots were available in several Kansas counties including in the town of Marquette, in the western part of McPherson County. For more information visit www.kansasfreeland.com.
AHECs Taking Action
Activities streamlining statewide network

Great things are happening with the University of Kansas Medical Center Area Health Education Centers (AHECs). In an ongoing effort to provide quality continuing education programs, the AHECs are streamlining their organizational structure through a variety of exciting changes.

“Providing quality care is a constant challenge over the rural expanses of Kansas, one that requires an organization to be flexible and responsive to change,” said David J. Cook, PhD, assistant vice chancellor, External Affairs, University of Kansas Medical Center. “In the days to come, those changes will provide for a more efficient model of delivery for continuing education, which remains a key component in fulfilling our mission of improving the health of Kansans.”

One of the newest additions to AHEC activities is the creation of a printed schedule, distributed monthly, which contains the combined listings of the programs offered throughout the state. “This new format provides the state’s health professionals with a comprehensive listing of the programs coordinated by our offices in Garden City, Hays and Pittsburg,” said Mary Beth Warren, director of the statewide AHEC organization. “It complements our online calendar and enhances our ability to make information readily available to participants in our programs.”

Anyone receiving the printed calendars previously distributed by the AHECs will automatically receive this new format.

Other activities providing greater access to information and services can be found on the AHEC Web site, http://kuahec.kumc.edu. There you will find:

• The latest listings of continuing education programs.
• Newslink, an informative, bi-monthly newsletter.
• Links to information about special conferences and courses along with registration information and forms.
• Links to sign-up forms for Newslink and for the new printed continuing education calendar.
• Coming soon! Online registration for the AHEC programs.

For more information about the KUMC Area Health Education Centers, contact the office nearest you, AHEC Northwest, 785-628-6128; AHEC Southwest, 620-275-0259; AHEC East, 620-235-4040.

Rural Volunteers CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

patients are coming from.”

Allen Greiner, MD, MPH, Department of Family Medicine, KU School of Medicine, Kansas City campus, agreed with Dorsch on several points.

“It’s the most intensive and effective clinical learning experience our students have in their entire four years of medical school,” he said. “Not only are they seeing patients and getting to use the knowledge they have gained over the prior years, but they are also living in the community and seeing all sides of the health equation. They’re learning that, in a rural setting, you have to understand things that are way beyond the scientific facts of biomedicine.

“In addition, as a state-funded medical school in a rural state, I think it’s important for us to do things that will hopefully facilitate interest in serving the state long-term. We know these activities help reinforce those students who may already have an interest in rural practice but they also provide a lot of stimulation for doctors out there in the rural areas. They get to interact with young, energetic, eager learners and we know from their comments that it provides them a connection out there where they can sometimes feel isolated.”

Like Dorsch, Greiner said the rural portion of the medical education program would be impossible without its volunteers.

“We really couldn’t do it without their assistance. The amount of time and effort that they spend with students, explaining things and getting them involved in their activities, and sometimes even their personal lives, is really a big sacrifice. But having real world volunteers providing all the education is really what makes these activities great.”
left her walker behind only six weeks after surgery.

“I can’t say enough good about the program,” she said. “It truly is a rapid recovery.”

Of course, said Clark, there are downsides to any operation. “It’s painful, I’m not going to lie about it. But before two weeks were up, I had already quit taking my pain pills and now I have nothing like the pain I had before.”

Clark said receiving the advance information in the class session helped dispel any concerns she may have had and that being part of a group made the process more comforting. “We developed a friendship, even though we were only together for a few days.”

Furthermore, she said, the process was made easier by a supportive hospital staff. “Everyone at the hospital was so kind and gentle. They all worked with me and, in recovery, the nurse was there all the time.”

That “buy-in” of the hospital staff has been the key to the program’s success, according to William K. Mahoney, president and chief executive officer of Labette County Medical Center.

“The secret to a program like this is that everyone must work together to make it happen,” he said. “But we try to keep an open mind here, because we’re here to work with our doctors to make a winning situation all around.”

When asked to commit to the program, Mahoney went outside of the state to observe it in action. “We were amazed at their outcomes,” he said and, upon returning, immediately began to coordinate the space and staff needed to implement it at the hospital.

In the few months since the program started, Mahoney reported, the number of minimally invasive hip and knee surgeries being performed at the hospital have tripled, with patients traveling from around the region as much as 90 minutes away.

“We’re one of the few in the state who have taken on the task of incorporating this program into our offerings,” he said. “But when you consider it’s just a matter of coupling today’s equipment with a new technique to derive such better outcomes, it just made sense for us to do it.”

For more information about Labette County Medical Center’s Rapid Recovery Joint Replacement Program, contact Brad Meister, MD, 620-421-4881 or e-mail sentabradmeister@aol.com.
When it came time to create the Web site, the two worked toward a look and functionality that would best suit the perceived audience’s limited scope of online expertise. “At the time, many of the public health workers in Kansas were just getting computers or didn’t even have a computer yet,” said Coady. “If they had computers, they were unsure of how to use the Web, and which sites they could count on for reliable, accurate and authoritative information.”

Along with the Web site, the grant allowed for the creation of matching promotional components, including three bookmarks, a letter, a postcard, and the compact disc tutorial. Mailed to each of the state’s local county health departments, the compact disc was designed to launch automatically, and then lead users through a step-by-step demonstration of the Public Health Information for Kansans Web site, as well as other helpful NN/LM sites, such as PubMed and MedlinePlus.

In addition to the mailing, Coady and Willard presented the tutorial at 12 statewide meetings. Through these meetings, they directly reached 535 attendees, a figure that, Coady feels assured, has been exceeded, “That number went upward as each one of those people went home and shared it with their colleagues and the people of Kansas.”

This project was a wonderful opportunity for KU and K-State to work together and serve the health information needs of Kansans.

-Teresa Coady MLS, Assistant Director of KUSM-W Farha Medical Library

In fact, the information has reached beyond the borders of Kansas, Coady reported, through distribution to session attendees at the International Public Health Conference held in Topeka in July 2004 who came from as far away as India, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom.

The Web site, www.kspublichealth.org has been very well received, according to attendees whose observations included statements like “Great information when I needed it,” “Glad all the information you need is in one place, easy to use,” and “I can’t wait to tell others.” Such comments, Coady said, have only enhanced the rewards of making information so accessible to so many.
Book Chronicles History
Thirty years of KUSM-W

This year, the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita is celebrating the 30-year anniversary of its first graduating class. In recognition of that fact, the KUSM-W Medical Practice Association commissioned a book to document the school’s first three decades.

The book was written by Dr. Craig Miner, distinguished professor of history at Wichita State University, former chair of the Department of History and author of thirty academic and regional history books. Within its pages is an historical account of the Wichita physicians, hospital officials and administrators from Wichita State University and the University of Kansas Medical Center who exhibited outstanding leadership in the school’s formative years.

The story of those early years is one of conflict and cooperation, competition and accord, and a steadfast determination to forever change the field of health care in Kansas. In fact, as of May 2004, more than 1,300 physicians have completed their medical education at the Wichita campus.

Dr. Miner conducted some 80 interviews and spent two years documenting the legacy of those early years, ultimately crafting a work that is both a manual of the past and a guidebook for the future.

Copies of the book are available through the MPA for $20, including tax, postage and handling. Be sure to order yours today by calling 316-293-3526!

New Coordinator Joins Rural Health

This spring, Rural Health Education and Services (RHES) welcomed Susan Belden as its new office coordinator.

A business administration graduate from Wichita State University, Belden’s previous experience includes positions as both an admissions coordinator and as an assistant office manager for a long-term care facility.

In her new position, Belden provides administrative support for the department, including coordination of finances, special programs, travel arrangements and communications.

Belden also holds a minor in marketing, which, she said, she hopes to incorporate along with her computer and organizational skills as she helps to further the mission of the RHES office. “I know the importance of communicating with others and being a team player, traits I feel are especially important in this position where I will be working with multiple parties to complete a variety of tasks.”

Thus far, Belden has felt her new position to be a perfect fit.

“From my first contact with the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita Human Resources, to my interview with members of the Office of Rural Health, I felt an instant connection,” she said. “Once I learned about the programs the department offers to physicians and communities in the rural areas, I knew I wanted to be a part of this organization.”

Growing up on her grandfather’s ranch near Cambridge, Kan., instilled in Belden a special connection to rural Kansas.

Today, Belden and Jamie, her husband of six years, live on a small acreage outside of Rose Hill where she spends her free time camping, boating, biking, reading and scrapbooking.
Thirty-eight of those staying in Kansas will be entering family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and medicine-pediatrics programs.

**AAFP Nat’l Conference**

This year’s American Academy of Family Physicians’ National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students will be held July 27-30 at the Kansas City Convention Center in Kansas City, Mo.

KUMC Rural Health Education and Services will be there to explain more about our programs and services. More than 300 family medicine residency programs will also be in attendance and workshops will be offered on a range of topics.

See you at our booth!

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**March 16 was a special day in Topeka as representatives from a host of KU departments and organizations presented information about their activities during “KU at the Capitol.” Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, seen here with JayDoc (Vadim Izgur, Class W06), also attended this year’s event.**

**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 8, 2005.

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 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.
**NORTHEAST**

**KRC1013.1801.01**

**Family Physician** – hospital-employed; 25-bed CAH currently undergoing extensive renovation; current staff: 3 family practitioners, 1 surgeon, 1 mid-level; additional hospital facilities include a 30-bed long-term care unit and an outreach clinic that is staffed 3.5 days per week; hospital services include OB, a full lab, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy

**KRC1013.1801.03**

**General Surgeon** – hospital-employed, 25-bed CAH with new surgical addition in progress; current staff: 3 family practitioners, 1 surgeon, 1 mid-level; additional hospital facilities include a 30-bed long-term care unit and an outreach clinic that is staffed 3.5 days per week; hospital services include OB, a full lab, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy

**KRC1204.0306.01**

**Family Physician** – OB required, prefer ability to do c-section; 25-bed CAH plus 3 satellite facilities; current medical staff: 5 physicians and 2 mid-level practitioners; hospital services include: general surgery, cardiac rehab, cardio pulmonary, radiology, OB, 10 specialties; full benefits

**KRC1204.1908.01**

**Physical Therapist** – outpatient physical therapy clinic, primarily treating lymphedema patients, training is available for this specialty; additional caseload includes ortho and neuro; current staff: 5 PTs and 2 PTAs; no evenings, call, or weekends; experienced therapists as well as new graduates are encouraged to apply; H1B and J1 Visa opportunity

**KRC1204.1908.02**

**Physical Therapist Assistant** – outpatient physical therapy clinic, primarily treating lymphedema patients, training is available for this specialty; additional caseload includes ortho and neuro; current staff: 5 PTs and 2 PTAs; no evenings, call, or weekends; experienced therapists as well as new graduates are encouraged to apply

**KRC0105.2303.02**

**Nurse Practitioner** – federally qualified community health center with an additional satellite facility, current staff includes medical director and 1 ARNP; $50-55,000 salary range

**NORTHEAST**

**KRC1103.1101.02**

**Nurse Practitioner** – 2-year contract, benefits, paid vacation, $50-62,000 salary range

**KRC0305.1401.01**

**Medical Technologist** – 24-bed CAH; hospital services include inpatient, outpatient, swing bed, OB; salary: $37,000-$52,000 depending on experience

**NORTHWEST**

**KRC0603.0801.01**

**Orthopedist** – 2 positions available for group practice, 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary negotiable, 6 weeks vacation, benefits, excellent school systems, university, vo-tech, museums, performing arts center, aquatic park, recreation commission, H1-B and J1 Visa opportunity

**KRC0603.0801.05**

**Plastic Surgeon** – 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary negotiable, 5 weeks vacation, benefits, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, performing arts center, aquatic park, recreation commission, H1-B and J1 Visa opportunity

**KRC0603.0801.12**

**Cardiologist** – group practice, 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary range: $140,000 - $150,000, 5 weeks vacation, benefits, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, aquatic parks, performing arts center, recreation commission, H1-B and J1 Visa opportunity

**KRC0603.0801.15**

**Internist** – 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary range $140,000 - $150,000, 5 weeks vacation, benefits, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, aquatic parks, performing arts center, recreation commission

**KRC0603.0801.16**

**Family Practitioner** – 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary range: $140,000 - $150,000, 5 weeks vacation, benefits, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, aquatic parks, performing arts center, recreation commission

**KRC0603.0801.17**

**Internist/Infectious Disease Physician** – 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary range: $140,000 - $150,000, 5 weeks vacation, benefits, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, aquatic parks, performing arts center, recreation commission

**KRC0603.0801.18**

**Gastroenterologist** – 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary negotiable, full benefits, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, aquatic parks, performing arts center, recreation commission, H1B Visa opportunity

**KRC0603.1902.01**

**Family Physician** – hospital-based rural health clinic (15-bed with 40-bed LTC Unit), 9-hole golf course, museum, state historical park, small town atmosphere, H1-B and J1 Visa opportunity

**KRC0714.0301.02**

**Family Physician** – 16-bed CAH with ER, progressive hospital, current staff: 2 MDs and 2 PAs

**KRC0714.0301.03**

**Registered Nurse** – 16-bed CAH with ER; progressive hospital that takes pride in their work and values their employees; experienced nurses as well as new graduates are encouraged to apply; ASN or BSN acceptable; day and evening shifts available; aggressive educationally: NALS, PALS, ACLS, TNCC, and advanced burn; salary competitive with some urban locations; relocation costs covered; many outdoor and family-oriented activities offered

**KRC1103.1802.03**

**Nurse Practitioner** – mostly outpatient services; primary duties will be at the clinic, which is staffed by 2 physicians and 1 ARNP; will also participate in ER call coverage at adjacent 24-bed CAH; competitive and negotiable salary

**KRC1103.1802.04**

**Physician Assistant** – mostly outpatient services; primary duties will be at the clinic, which is staffed by 2 physicians and 1 ARNP; will also participate in ER call coverage at adjacent 24-bed CAH; competitive and negotiable salary

**KRC1103.1802.05**

**Family Physician** – mostly outpatient services; option to be hospital or group practice
employed; primary duties will be at the clinic, which is staffed by 2 physicians and 1 ARNP; will also participate in ER call coverage at adjacent 24-bed CAH; competitive and negotiable salary; H1B and J1 Visa opportunity

KRC1103.1802.06

Internist – mostly outpatient services; option to be hospital or group practice employed; primary duties will be at the clinic, which is staffed by 2 physicians and 1 ARNP; will also participate in ER call coverage at adjacent 24-bed CAH; competitive and negotiable salary; H1B and J1 Visa opportunity

SOUTH CENTRAL

KRC0304.1102.01

Family Physician – w/o OB; hospital-employed; 24-bed CAH; hospital services include: inpatient, outpatient, physical therapy, ER

KRC1104.1309.01

Family Physician – multi-specialty clinic, currently 15 specialties and 24 physicians on staff between 4 satellite clinics, excellent benefits, competitive salary

KRC1104.1309.03

Urologist – multi-specialty clinic, currently 15 specialties and 24 physicians on staff between 4 satellite clinics, excellent benefits, competitive salary

KRC1104.1309.04

Orthopedist – multi-specialty clinic, currently 15 specialties and 24 physicians on staff between 4 satellite clinics, excellent benefits, competitive salary

KRC1104.1907.01

Family Physician – group practice, with or w/o OB, currently 2 physicians and 1 ARNP on staff, 22 bed CAH with clinic next door as well as a satellite clinic, hospital services include lab, oncology, physical therapy, CT, travel MRI, Dexxa, full-service surgery

KRC1104.1907.02

Physical Therapy Director – group practice; 22-bed CAH with 32-bed LTC Unit; adjacent clinic; satellite clinic; hospital services include: lab, physical therapy, CT, travel MRI, Dexxa, oncology, full-service surgery

SOUTHEAST

KRC0304.0901.01

Family Physician – group practice with 2 physicians and 1 ARNP, satellite clinic, 10 days vacation, SEP retirement account after 3 years of service, sick leave, CME

KRC0404.1905.01

Family Physician – traditional FP group practice in busy rural health clinic setting, $140,000 salary plus production incentives, 3-year contract duration

KRC0504.0304.01

Family Physician or Internist – multi-specialty group practice, full hospital services, relocation costs covered, health insurance, 2-3 weeks vacation, H-1B Visa opportunity

KRC0504.1904.03

Ultrasound/Echo Tech – group practice, flexible schedule, 4 weeks vacation after 90 days, full benefits

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

KRC0603.1301.02

Med/Peds – multi-specialty practice, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside recreational opportunities, H1-B Visa opportunity

KRC0603.1301.03

Urologist – multi-specialty practice, near large metropolis, excellent schools, community college, excellent recreational opportunities, H1-B Visa opportunity

KRC0603.1301.04

General Surgeon – multi-specialty practice, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside recreational opportunities, H1-B Visa opportunity

KRC0603.1301.06

Family Physician – multi-specialty practice, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside recreational opportunities, H1-B Visa opportunity

KRC0603.1301.07

Med/Peds – multi-specialty practice, lakeside living, community college, full range of outside recreational opportunities, H1-B Visa opportunity

KRC0603.1301.09

Occupational Therapist – New $30 million, 175K square-foot, 70-bed, state-of-the-art acute care facility; experienced therapists as well as new graduates encouraged to apply; currently 1 OT and 1 COTA on staff covering rehab, acute, home health, outpatient; primary duties will be rehab and home health; leading regional healthcare provider with opportunities for personal and professional growth; health center offers full continuum of acute care and physician office care services, including: surgery, ob/gyn, rehab, CT/MRI, retail pharmacy, ER/EMS, more; great salary and benefits

KRC0604.0305.01

Orthopedist – not a hospital employee, thriving manufacturing community, community college with basketball and football teams, city and country club both offer 18-hole golf courses

KRC0604.1301.10

Emergency Medicine Physician – hospital-employed, $85.00/hour salary, full-service hospital

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 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

Orthopedist – office located in hospital, culturally active community, minimal traffic, low crime rate, superb schools, quick access to metropolitan areas, beautiful lakes with activities available

KRC0901.1201.04

Anesthesiologist with Pain Management – office located in hospital, 3 orthopods on staff want to open a pain management clinic, option to work as a solo physician or be hospital-employed, culturally active community, minimal traffic, low crime rate, superb schools, quick access to metropolitan areas, beautiful lakes with activities available

KRC0901.1201.05

Family Physician – option to work as an independent practitioner or be hospital-
employed, current staff is 1 additional physician and 1 PA, culturally active community, minimal traffic, low crime rate, superb schools, quick access to metropolitan areas, beautiful lakes with activities available

KRC0901.1201.06
Non-Invasive Cardiologist – 109-bed hospital, option to work as an independent practitioner or be hospital-employed, culturally active community, minimal traffic, low crime rate, superb schools, quick access to metropolitan areas, beautiful lakes with activities available

KRC0901.1201.07
Physician - 109-bed hospital, opening a Geriatric Psychiatric Unit, option to work as an independent practitioner or be hospital-employed, culturally active community, minimal traffic, low crime rate, superb schools, quick access to metropolitan areas, beautiful lakes with activities available

KRC0901.0103.04
Family Physician – OB required; multi-specialty group with main clinic and 4 satellite clinics; current staff: 6 family practice physicians, 1 pediatrician, 2 internists, 2 general surgeons, 1 urologist

KRC0901.0103.03
Orthopedist - multi-specialty group with main clinic and 4 satellite clinics; current staff includes: 6 family practice physicians, 1 pediatrician, 2 internists, 2 general surgeons, 1 urologist

KRC0901.0103.05
Internist - multi-specialty group with main clinic and 4 satellite clinics; current staff includes: 6 family practice physicians, 1 pediatrician, 2 internists, 2 general surgeons, 1 urologist

SOUTHWEST

KRC0304.2101.01
Family Physician – federally qualified community health center, 3 satellites, H-1B and J-1 Visa opportunity

KRC0304.2101.02
Internist – federally qualified community health center, 3 satellites, H-1B and J-1 Visa opportunity

KRC0603.0201.01
Family Physician with OB – economically strong community, attractive, excellent schools, H-1B and J-1 Visa opportunity

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

KRC0603.0501.03
Physician Assistant – 12-bed CAH; currently 1 physician on staff; call coverage is 1:3; hospital services include: acute care, physical therapy, ambulance, skilled nursing

KRC0603.0501.04
Nurse Practitioner – 12-bed CAH; currently 1 physician on staff; call coverage is 1:3; hospital services include: acute care, physical therapy, ambulance, skilled nursing

KRC1004.2302.01
Interventional Cardiologist – multi-specialty group, extensive recreational activities in area, H-1B Visa opportunity

KRC1004.2302.02
Orthopedist – multi-specialty group, extensive recreational activities in area, H-1B and J-1 Visa opportunity

KRC1104.1308.01
Physician Assistant – group practice, will accept physician with or w/o OB, 25-bed CAH, H-1B or J-1 Visa opportunity

KRC1104.1308.02
Internist – group practice, 25-bed CAH, H-1B or J-1 Visa opportunity

KRC1104.2001.03
Pediatrian – multi-specialty group, 30 physicians with 11 specialties, large service area with many regional referrals, 3 satellite facilities including urgent care clinic, H-1 B Visa opportunity

KRC0717.0401.02
Urologist – multi-specialty group, 30 physicians with 11 specialties, large service area with many regional referrals, 3 satellite facilities including urgent care clinic, J-1 and H1-B Visa opportunity

KRC1204.0104.01
Physician Assistant – hospital-employed, PA for FP w/o OB, hospital consists of 12 acute/ swing beds, 35-bed LTC Unit, rural health clinic, extensive hospital services

KRC1204.0804.01
Registered Nurse – 25-bed acute care setting including swing bed unit and ER, experienced nurses and new graduates encouraged to apply, ASN or BSN acceptable, 12-hour evening shift 3 days a week

KRC1204.0804.02
Registered Nurse – nursing home unit, experienced nurses and new graduates are encouraged to apply, ASN or BSN acceptable, 12-hour evening shift 3 days a week

KRC1204.0804.03
Extended Care Facility Manager – 48-bed nursing home unit, responsible for supervising staff of approx. 30 employees, must be RN with long-term care experience, long-term care management experience preferred but not required, ASN or BSN acceptable

KRC1204.0804.04
Lab Tech – 25-bed acute care setting with swing bed unit and ER, first shift, will also cross train into radiology with training provided if needed

KRC0305.0702.01
Family Physician – with OB; CAH; current staff: 3 physicians; progressive, energetic practice seeking medical professional interested in satisfying career in family-oriented community; hospital recently remodeled, has state-of-the-art computer system; First Frontier National Community Center of Excellence in Women’s Health; great salary and benefits

KRC0305.0702.02
Physician Assistant – CAH; current staff: 3 physicians; progressive, energetic practice seeking medical professional interested in satisfying career in family-oriented community; hospital recently remodeled, has state-of-the-art computer system; First Frontier National Community Center of Excellence in Women’s Health; great salary and benefits

KRC0305.1310.01
Family Physician – with or w/o OB acceptable; 15-bed CAH; current staff: 3.5 physicians, 3 mid-levels covering hospital, LTC, 3 clinics; hospital services include OB and outpatient surgery

KRC0305.1310.02
Physician Assistant – with or w/o OB acceptable; 15-bed CAH; current staff: 3.5 physicians, 3 mid-levels covering hospital, LTC, 3 clinics; hospital services include OB and outpatient surgery

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.