



BIENNIAL REPORT 2019-2021

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Family Medicine & Community Health residents Dr. Zachary Degner and Dr. Cristina Enrique assist with COVID-19 testing in Wyandotte County in spring 2020.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



It is my pleasure to introduce the Biennial Report from the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. It is a privilege to lead an incredible group of physicians, residents, nurses, administrators, researchers, teachers, and staff who are providing excellent patient care, outstanding community service, innovative research, unsurpassed education, and valued leadership.

Our journey begins in the summer of 2019, before anyone had any idea that a novel coronavirus would hold the entire world hostage. You will see in the following pages how this department rose in response to the health-care crisis, lead the community, confronted social inequity, and continued to put our patients and our trainees (both residents and students) at the heart of everything we do.

The Department has expanded its reach across Kansas and forged new partnerships. You can spot our team from the pages of *JAMA*, to the field at the Super Bowl; from the JayDoc Free Clinic here in Wyandotte County, to hospitals in Kenya.

Over the past two years we have gained valuable new colleagues and watched some of our favorites move on to the next phase of their careers and/or lives. They are all a part of our journey and our story. We are happy to share some of our story with you and hope you enjoy seeing some of our accomplishments, awards, publications, and promotions. Thank you for spending time with us.

Thank you to my amazing team for all of their hard work and passion that has made everything you are about to see possible.

Belinda Vail, MD
Chair of Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

TRIO GUIDES KC's COVID-19 RESPONSE

As the Kansas City metropolitan area responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, three of the most influential people advising local governments also work as faculty members in the Family Medicine & Community Health Department at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Dr. Allen Greiner has been the chief medical officer for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas for 17 years. Dr. Erin Corriveau joined him as a deputy in 2020. Since 2014, Dr. Joseph LeMaster has served as the local health officer for mostly suburban Johnson County.

Before COVID-19, these roles were mostly supervisory and predictable. Drs. Greiner and LeMaster said work mostly involved reviewing care protocols, taking occasional questions from nurses and department directors and assisting with grants and various health promotion projects. In more than five years on the job, LeMaster had never met face-to-face with the chair of Johnson County's Board of Commissioners.

That changed in March of 2020.

Early Indications, Late Nights

All three had heard reports of a novel coronavirus causing problems in China and Europe, but they didn't anticipate its eventual impact here. Dr. Corriveau said her first eye-opener was when Austin, Texas, called off its huge annual South by Southwest festival on March 6. The very next day, Johnson County reported the Kansas City area's first confirmed case.

Dr. LeMaster had been due to fly to Canada for a skiing vacation with his son, but cancelled his trip. Had he not, he says, he would have been trapped north of the border and unable to get home. Less than a week later, the first Wyandotte County case became the state's first COVID-19 death.

Dr. Greiner said he and Dr. Corriveau, who came to the operations center to assist him, would camp out there most days. After being in meetings ➡



Family Medicine & Community Health residents helped with COVID-19 testing in Wyandotte County during the early weeks of the pandemic in spring 2020.



“all day, every day,” Corriveau said, they spent long evenings reading medical journals and news reports to stay up to date about the outbreak.

Dr. LeMaster faced a long string of 18-hour days, punctuated by the commute to county offices in Olathe, almost daily. He said their jobs were unlike anything anyone in their positions have faced for a century.

“We studied this kind of thing theoretically in public health school, but I don’t know that anything could have prepared us for the reality of it,” Dr. LeMaster said.

One early concern was the prospect of crowds flocking to bars and restaurants for St. Patrick’s Day. The day before the holiday, Dr LeMaster proposed to Johnson County leaders that they close the bars and restaurants and limit large gatherings. The plan initially had been to restrict crowds to no more than 50 people. Dr. LeMaster said the commission cut that number to 10 and other area jurisdictions went along with the new number.

“There was no political pushback at that point,” Dr. LeMaster said. That would change.

Drs. Joseph LeMaster and Allen Greiner attend a Union Station news conference with other community and health leaders.

Backlash

The first pushback followed talk of stay-at-home orders, a plan that Drs. Greiner and Corriveau were first to propose to their fellow community leaders. Dr. LeMaster said some Johnson County commissioners didn’t like that idea and were even more opposed to extending it a month later.

After mounting criticism from commissioners and business leaders, one commissioner tried to pass a motion blocking an extension and essentially challenging Dr. LeMaster’s authority as health officer. While that motion failed, someone posted Dr. LeMaster’s home address on social media, prompting police to post a watch at his home over the weekend.

“You think if you say the truth about what needs to happen from a scientific and public health perspective, people will support that,” Dr. LeMaster said. He says he was surprised how many people fought the motion, citing unsubstantiated online sources and obscure studies.

He says the support he received from the University during this time was vital. He also says it helped to know Drs. Greiner and Corriveau so well already — he and Dr. Greiner’s offices at KUMC were just steps away from each other— so they knew each other’s strengths going in. “Allen and Erin always had my back,” Dr. LeMaster said. ➡

Since the Kansas Legislature changed the statutes governing local health officer authority in June 2020, the situation has eased somewhat in Johnson County, Dr. LeMaster said.

“Now, the County Commissioners as a body have the final authority on public health orders, and I serve more as an advisor. They are required to ask for my recommendations, but not necessarily to follow them. This doesn’t sound like an improvement, but in fact it means that the elected officials have to debate and decide, whereas before the change there was no clear path forward if I issued an order that they didn’t want to endorse,” he said. “That put us at loggerheads more than helping us think together about what is best for the populations we are serving.”

‘Small and Scrappy’

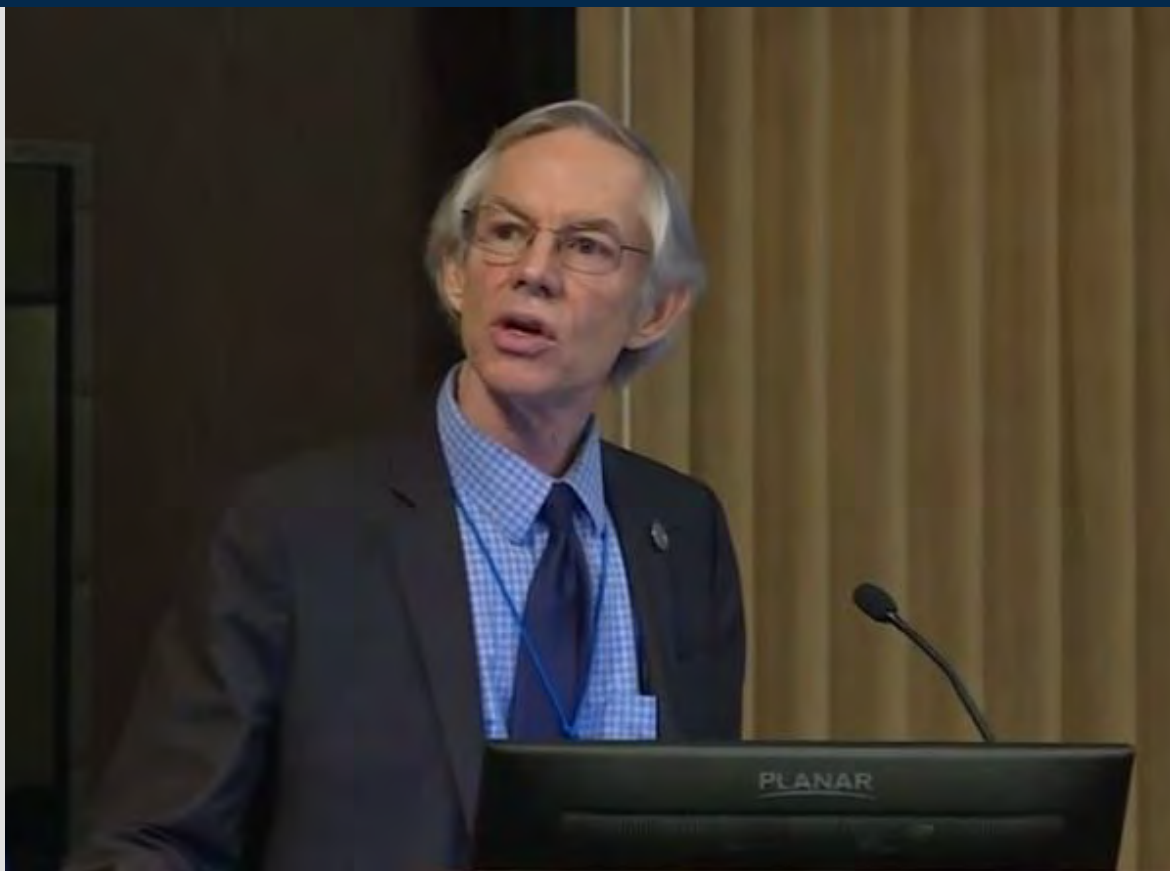
The situation in Wyandotte County was different. The county was still deciding on a permanent public health director, creating a power gap in the office.

Drs. Greiner and Corriveau took advantage of that gap to build a direct line to Mayor David Alvey, who was largely receptive to their suggestions. They developed a solid working relationship with Juliann Van Liew, who became the new public health director in May.

“Wyandotte County’s issue was that they didn’t have enough people or staff,” said Dr. Corriveau, adding that a county epidemiologist was out battling a health issue for an extended period of time in those early days.

Dr. Greiner said the county seemed to have four or five problems – “fires to put out” – every day. But the county found ways to make do, including having 75 University of Kansas medical students sign up to volunteer for work as contact tracers.

“Wyandotte is a scrappy county,” Dr. Corriveau said. “Small, scrappy and creative.” ➡



Dr. Joseph LeMaster speaks at a March 2020 news conference about the decision to close Johnson County schools.



18 MONTHS OF COVID-19

The first U.S. COVID-19 case was reported on 1/21/20.
By July 21, 2021:

	Cases	Deaths
Kansas (First case 3/7/20)	328,755	5,243
U.S.A.	34,281,864	608,840

Sources: KS: Kansas Department of Health & Environment
USA: Johns Hopkins University COVID Portal

Lessons Learned

These three educators learned a lot since March 2020, both about roles in community health and about the virus itself.

Dr. LeMaster says COVID-19 brought surprises every day, with such unexpected complications as strokes and inflammatory issues. He says it's curious how it hits some people harder than others and how asymptomatic people can still spread it.

"It's one of the worst infectious diseases to affect mankind in 500 years," he said, "Certainly the worst in the last century."

They also cited lessons about the importance of clear communication with policymakers and the public. Dr. Corriveau says a persuasive communications course she took in school, one she never expected to need, has come in handy.

She also says the pandemic has made her feel more deeply rooted in the community. She's been able to forge relationships with police, firefighters, politicians and people in independent organizations who she might not have otherwise met.

She hopes the COVID-19 experience will shine a light on a broken health system and help people see how connected we all are.

Dr. LeMaster hopes the heightened awareness of public health issues will outlast the pandemic, but history doesn't offer him much cause for optimism.

He worried that as the population became vaccinated and the crisis wound down, the funds to support the infrastructure in place to deal with COVID-19 would go away.

"We need to be prepared for the next public health emergency that comes down the pike," Dr. LeMaster said. "A novel influenza virus could be this bad or worse."

— Jeffrey Field

PANDEMIC ACCELERATES PACE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM'S *TELEHEALTH TRANSITION*

In normal times, The University of Kansas Health System would still have been a couple of years away from fully adopting telehealth as a regular option for patient care.

Necessity, however, never cares about anyone's timeline.

Telehealth – using remote video connections for patients to see a doctor without having to share the same physical space – isn't new. It's been used on the university side in research and other projects since 1991. KUMC's telemedicine program was among the nation's first.

Putting it into practice in the Health System was a different story – one fraught with special technical, legal and logistical hurdles. Health System leaders started making plans around 2018, with their eyes on an eventual slow rollout over two to three years.

But when COVID-19 meant patients wouldn't – or couldn't – come to the clinics and some providers were forced into quarantine themselves, those leaders decided the future was now.

Medical Director of Innovation, Virtual Care, and Digital Health Denton Shanks, DO, MPH, said the implementation timeline that had expected to stretch over two to three years was put into place over the course of one week.

Shanks was part of a multidisciplinary team from across the health system working with Health System IT experts that fought tirelessly to resolve issues on the technical side.

"Each team member stretched their time and effort as far as possible to get telehealth up and running in order to provide the best care to our patients during the public health emergency," Dr. Shanks said. "We wanted to do everything we could to get patients reconnected with their healthcare team." ➡



Telehealth was still in the future as 2020 began. Within a few months, it was a standard part of the clinic day.



Chelsea White rooms a telehealth patient in the Family Medicine clinic.

Dr. Shanks said he and the team were up most of the night during that week resolving the issues, one of which was trying to integrate the Zoom video conferencing service into Epic. They ultimately decided to figure that issue out later so they wouldn't slow down the process.

Help on other issues came from the outside. Gov. Laura Kelly issued orders that eased license and prescription rules around telehealth. Insurers, at least temporarily, would cover telehealth visits at full cost, another factor that had slowed its progress in the past.

Providers, nurses, administrators, trainers, schedulers, clinic staffers, and the Health System's marketing and advertising teams also had to be brought up to speed in a hurry.

It also wasn't fully clear what it would take to help make patients and providers comfortable delivering care through this method.

Things have a way of working out. On the first day of the formal launch in late March, the Health System logged 80 virtual visits. By the end of the first week, the number grew to 350 a day. By the third week, more than 1,250 daily telehealth visits were being logged.

Providers and their teams got more comfortable with it, sharing advice and best practices in a series of "tips and tricks" Zoom training sessions and online happy hours. More than 3,000 people attended at least one of the sessions.

On one particularly busy day, more than 1,000 employees took part in virtual training sessions to train on new workflows. When the system was ready to integrate Zoom within Epic in week 3, it meant having to re-learn some of that all over again.

"We were building the plane while flying it," said Dr. Shanks. "And while we were flying the plane, we had to reconfigure how that plane worked and build a second newly enhanced plane." ➡

By mid-spring, most Family Medicine & Community Health physicians had a blended schedule of in-person and telehealth appointments. Telehealth appointments are now used to see patients across Kansas and around the region. It's now being expanded across inpatient and urgent care.



Patients adapted, too. Even many who were initially uneasy with it got more comfortable. It didn't hurt that many patients and their families also started using Zoom at this time to visit with loved ones or take online classes, so virtual gatherings became second nature..

"We were building the plane while flying it. And while we were flying the plane, we had to reconfigure how that plane worked and build a second newly enhanced plane."

— Dr. Denton Shanks

A University of Michigan study published in August 2020 found 64% of older adults were now comfortable with telehealth appointments and, of those who'd had one since March, 91% found it easy to connect with their doctor this way.

While the pandemic will eventually end, telehealth appears here to stay. Dr. Shanks said the Health System hopes to promote virtual visits as the first option for its ambulatory patients, increasing the efficiency of the in-person visits that are necessary.

Dr. Shanks credited the Health System leadership and each of the individual team members for the support and the vast amount of work needed to get telehealth going on short notice.

"It was exhilarating to be a member of such an agile, dedicated, and incredibly skilled team" he said. "The team transformed the health system at such an accelerated pace with technology to enhance how we deliver care, not just during the emergency but from now on."

— Jeffrey Field

KUMC & TELEHEALTH: AN EARLY CONNECTION

The University of Kansas Medical Center was a pioneer in telehealth, operating one of the first telehealth programs in the United States.

The program started in 1991 as a way to connect pediatric cardiologists at the main campus to doctors at Hays Medical Center in western Kansas.

The KU Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth (KUCTT) was founded in 1992 to innovate and advocate for telehealth options throughout the state.

In 1997, KUMC launched the nation's first school-based telemedicine program, Telekidcare, which is still used in many parts of the state to help support school nurses.

Many University-side specialties have used telehealth over the years, with behavioral health and dietetics doing some of the most extensive work.

The American Telemedicine Association has recognized KUMC for its early innovations in telehealth and its ongoing support of the evolving technology.

As KUMC's telehealth work celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2021, telehealth will only play a larger role in the healthcare of tomorrow.

CLINIC ADJUSTS TO COVID-19 ERA



The need to further protect patients, physicians and staff in the Family Medicine clinic during the COVID-19 pandemic brought big changes to its operation in 2020.

Mandatory masks — all day, every day — for everyone was the most visible change. New plastic partitions went up at the front desk to minimize the contact between patients and staff during check-in and checkout.

Having a lot of patients in the waiting room no longer made sense, so a new white board system was developed to coordinate and speed up the patient rooming process.

The arrival of telehealth appointments meant staffers had to call and check in patients for virtual visits that never existed before.

Schedulers had to manage a new emotional factor, as patients expressed worries and anxieties about physically coming to the clinic for their appointments.

Practice manager Jessica Wranich said the staff worked hard — and adjusted.

“Our team overcame many obstacles during this chaotic time,” said Practice Manager Jessica Wranich. “We appreciate everyone’s dedication and hard work!”



WORKING



TOGETHER



Faculty members from our Sports Medicine arm, including Dr. Nicole Yedlinsky, right, guide students through the first post-pandemic in-person learning session.

“Distancing” wasn’t a prominent part of the American vocabulary until 2020. Now, it’s everywhere from grocery stores to movie theaters to sports stadiums. Keeping people six feet apart — practicing “safe six,” as some called it — was a new challenge for an institution training family medicine physicians. Adaptation is everything. The mid-March campus depopulation moved classes and meetings to virtual spaces. There were debates on how to dress for a Zoom room.

Our department brought students back to campus for the first in-person class since the pandemic, a required hands-on lesson in examining joints that was held in one of the largest spaces on the campus, allowing for distancing. ➡



Family Medicine residents Drs. Gurneet Matharoo and Thomas Katzfey both on the right, confer from a safe distance while taking part in ICU rounds in the summer of 2020.

TO STAY

APART

When people were slowly reintroduced to campus, new distancing requirements were in place, including posted occupancy limits on classrooms and elevators. Lines on hallway floors encouraged single-file walking. Masks were required outside of closed offices.

As classes and formal training sessions resumed, seating arrangements continued to encourage students to keep their distance. Tables and chairs were also spaced out at the residency graduation ceremony and departmental celebration in June.

It was an adjustment, but people did adjust. Residents on inpatient rounds found ways to confer without having to get too close. Personalized and creative backgrounds with holidays, movie or vacation spot themes helped break the monotony of attending one Zoom meeting after the next.

It may be a while before we all feel comfortable standing shoulder-to-shoulder. Until then, we can slow the spread and uniting in the mission to stay apart.



WHITE COATS FOR BLACK LIVES



Dozens of students, staff and faculty members at KUMC, including many from the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, took part in a national “White Coats for Black Lives” event on June 5, 2020.

Participants took a knee and stayed silent for 10 minutes to support racial justice in communities, medical care and medical education. The demonstration mirrored a student-organized event at Emory University, which was joined by medical schools and providers across the United States.

The show of support came amid heightened awareness and concern about the treatment of Black Americans by law enforcement officers. The case of George Floyd, a Minneapolis man who died after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly ten minutes, was a flashpoint.

The moment also recognized the disparity in which the COVID-19 pandemic has affected communities of color. In Wyandotte County, Kansas, Black residents were three times more likely to test positive and seven times more likely to die from the coronavirus, according to statistics released in the pandemic’s early weeks.

Organizers also want to ensure that current and future generations of medical students learn to identify and address biases that lead to disparities in care for Black and white patients.





Family Medicine & Community Health Statement on Racism

In keeping with our mission to improve health in Wyandotte County and beyond, and with our aim to develop physician leaders partnering with their communities to eliminate health disparities, the University of Kansas' Department of Family Medicine and Community Health recognizes and decries the ongoing public health crisis of racism against all communities of color but particularly targeted against Black communities.

We have been saddened and horrified by the numerous racially influenced murders, episodes of excessive police force, and other acts of racial violence that have once again been placed in the national spotlight. We mourn with all people affected by these senseless killings of individuals including: Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, David McAtee, George Floyd, and countless others.

We also hold ourselves accountable for the institutional and structural racism in health care that leads to deaths of patients like Shalon Irving and the disproportionate number of Blacks who have died from Covid-19 as a result of inequities in access and quality of health care for all minorities.

Centuries of systemic racism must end now -- the health of our community depends on it!

The faculty, trainees, and staff of our department stand in solidarity with the victims and demand justice. We commit in our roles as healthcare professionals and as human beings to work ceaselessly to defend our patients and to fight systemic injustice.

CORKY NASON 1934-2020



Courtney “Corky” Nason loved the University of Kansas and was committed to the cause of promoting family medicine. Nason, who died July 9 at age 85, leaves a legacy with the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health befitting the rich, full life he led.

Nason surrounded himself with things he loved, especially people, and to him, family was everything. First and foremost, Phyllis, his college sweetheart, best friend and wife since 1958; their children, Corey and Todd; and five grandchildren. He loved to assemble his family – often his siblings and *their* families – for vacations, holidays or any other reason he could find to get everyone together.

He also formed a wide extended family with people he met over the years: lifelong friends from grade school, his Alpha Tau Omega fraternity brothers at KU, shipmates from the U.S.S. *Gurke*, fellow churchgoers and Lake Quivira neighbors. Even in the later stages of his battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, in an era of social distancing, he still loved sharing old stories with friends and loved ones from his driveway, on his deck or in his living room.

People were Corky Nason’s fuel.

Nason was passionate about things, too – especially *doing* things. He founded Nason Associates Inc., an aviation insurance firm, and served as its CEO until retiring in 2013.

It may have stoked his love for flying small planes. He owned (or co-owned) a Cessna 172, Piper Turbo Arrow and a Seneca III over the years.

He also adored cars, especially Volkswagen Beetles, and took pride in helping each of his kids and grandkids get their first set of wheels.

He was a skier, an avid tennis player and even a volunteer firefighter. He worked at his churches in several capacities, led a Boy Scout troop, followed local theater and was an active Rotarian. ➡



Phyllis and Corky Nason with two of Corky Nason’s biggest passions: Volkswagen Beetles and small planes. He owned or co-owned three planes in his life.

CORKY NASON 1934-2020

But more than just another of Nason's many interests, family medicine was in his blood. His grandfather, father and brother were all family practitioners. He knew that being one required commitment and sacrifice – and that good ones are worth their weight in gold to a community. He bled crimson and blue as well, as one of KU's strongest supporters and most devoted alums. The Nasons would combine these two loves with their support of the Department of Family Medicine & Community Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

In 1999, they began a 20-year journey to fund an endowed professorship in family medicine. While raising money, they also launched the Nason Family Award for Excellence in Family Medicine Education to help reward and retain great teachers. Nine of the annual Nason Family Award winners were still on the faculty as of August 2020, including the 2019 recipient, Dr. Joseph LeMaster.



Corky Nason, his wife Phyllis, his brother Dr. Herb Nason, and his wife, Betty Nason. Dr. Herb Nason also practiced family medicine.

Once funding was completed in 2019, Nason took a role in helping select the first person to hold the professorship.

He was delighted with the choice of K. Allen Greiner, MD, MPH, because of Dr. Greiner's long record of excellence in teaching, research, clinical care and community health. He later found out that he and Dr. Greiner just happened to be neighbors.

The COVID-19 pandemic scrapped plans for a formal investiture ceremony, but Nason still got to see his dream realized. The endowed professorship he and Phyllis had worked so hard to create became official nine days before his death. Their investments in family medicine – these investments in *people* – will honor his memory for years to come.



Corky Nason, his wife Phyllis, and their children and grandchildren in a holiday portrait taken in 2018.

SYLVESTER JOINS KU AS SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR



**WARREN SYLVESTER, MMHC
SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR**

Warren Sylvester joined the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health in February 2021, following Barry Browning's move to a similar role in the Department of Psychology.

The Baton Rouge, Louisiana, native comes to KUMC after spending more than seven years as a surgery center administrator for HCA. He previously worked as Division Administrator of Hematology & Oncology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. While at Vanderbilt, he completed his Master of Management in Healthcare at the school's Owen Graduate School of Management.

He's also previously worked for the Mississippi Health Care Association, the University of Mississippi Medical Center and as an executive director at a senior living community.

Sylvester — who loves music so much that he almost made a career of it — first spent time in our part of the country while stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in southeastern Nebraska in the early 1990s. He and his wife Sharla made many trips down Interstate 29 to explore Kansas City's restaurants and music scene.

The couple has two grown daughters.

"It's good to be here," Sylvester said, of his new post at KU. "It's good to get back into an environment that's somewhat familiar."



**HANNAH RACHFORD
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**



**LENY MONTERO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

BY THE NUMBERS

Outpatient	FY2020	FY2021	Inpatient	FY2020	FY2021
MPA1:	32,866	38,878	Deliveries	102	76
Landon Center:	2,377	2,562	Total Inpatient Days:	8,376	9,625
Total	35,243	41,440	Discharges	1,833	1,959

INNOVATION, IMPROVEMENT IN CLINICAL CARE

The vibrant team of doctors and nurses at The University of Kansas Health System Family Medicine work collaboratively to provide the comprehensive, exemplary patient care to our diverse patient population.

We continue to carry our designation of National Committee for Quality Assurance Level 3 PCMH and hold ourselves to those high standards.

We launched new programs that included social determinants of health screening and referrals, integrative behavioral health, and ensuring accurate and quality population health data.

We also added access to a pharmacist so that providers can refer patients for comprehensive medication management, and a nurse chronic care manager who helps to assist our most complex patients with high utilization rates in chronic disease management and health system navigation.

We made optimization and quality improvement of existing programs and continuous outreach a priority and follow up with patients to ensure care gaps are closed and needs are met.

Our revamped Patient and Family Advisory Board met to discuss potential areas of improvement, though the pandemic interrupted the Board's regular meeting schedule.

The pandemic brought challenges, but the clinic adapted with safety procedures and a new emphasis on telehealth.



JESSICA WRANCH
Practice Manager



MELODIE JONES-LOO
Nurse Manager



SYDNEY STROUD
Medical Support Ops Supervisor

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOCUSES ON ACCESSIBILITY

Over the past three years, the Behavioral Health (BH) team has focused on implementing the CPC+ initiative.

An essential part of this process has been to be accessible to providers and patients whenever our services would be helpful. There is a single BH team-member “on call” each day to meet with patients as the need arises.

BH Team members are regularly drawn into patient care by attending and resident physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, and even our patient service employees who take most of the calls & messages for the clinic. We have access to BH screening instruments within the electronic medical record (e.g., PHQ-9, GAD-7, AUDIT), and also have created a library of supplemental BH screening instruments (for PTSD, OCD, bipolar disorder, etc.), all of which enhance patient care.

The CPC+ experience has been deeply rewarding for all involved, including providers and patients. ➡



In addition to the work performed in the department, Behavioral Health Team members regularly participate in leadership roles throughout the university and community.

The following are just some activities performed by KUFCM BH professionals in the last two years:

- KUMC Institutional Review Board (IRB) membership
- KUMC & Departmental Diversity and Inclusion Committee memberships
- KUSOM Phase II (Clinical) Medical Education Committee
- TUKHS Suicide Prevention Task Force
- Office holders in regional, state, and national professional organizations & boards
- Grant recipient to provide free addiction recovery services to Douglas County, KS

INTEGRATING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN PATIENT CARE

In addition to providing immediate intervention for patients seeking medical care in the clinic, each BH Team member serves FM patients by providing access to needed ongoing care. Services include traditional individual and group psychotherapy, couples counseling, family counseling, addiction counseling, social work, case management, and inpatient consultation. The team is integrated into the clinic workflow and space because patients are more likely to follow-up on behavioral health care needs when services are available in the comfortable and trusted environment of their PCP's office.

Behavioral health teaching occurs in many contexts. Although all providers regularly consult with BH team members regarding their own patients in clinic, BH providers are also members of the core teaching faculty in both the family medicine residency and clerkship. Within the residency, there is an established BH curriculum that includes wellness education and activities; BH faculty observation and evaluation of residents' BH skills; and resident shadowing of BH professionals. BH providers also teach in the FM Inter-Professional Training Clinic (IPTC), providing team-based care to KUFM patients while teaching medical, nursing, pharmacy, and psychology students.

Finally, the BH team provides professional training in integrated behavioral care to doctoral-level psychology fellows, interns, and advanced practicum students, thereby developing the workforce of integrated care providers.

LOCAL 'SMART' PROGRAM BREAKS NEW GROUND

The Douglas County chapter of the national Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART) program, launched by Dr. Bruce Liese in 2018, continued to help people with addictive behaviors during the pandemic, even though the important in-person meetings couldn't take place.

The program switched to Zoom meetings, but Dr. Liese proposed offering standard phone service for people with no internet access.

Douglas County became the first SMART chapter in the country to add a hotline, taking calls for four hours every day, seven days a week.



GERIATRIC MEDICINE

The Division of Geriatric Medicine continues to serve geriatric patients on three platforms: clinical, education and service.

On the clinical front, Drs. Shelley Bhattacharya, Denise Zwahlen and James Birch — until his retirement in 2021 — see patients at the ambulatory Landon Center on Aging on a primary and consultative care basis.

Drs. Bhattacharya and Zwahlen continue to lead the Geriatrics Interprofessional Assessment Clinic, where they welcome students of five professions to see patients synchronously. They were the first interprofessional practice site to open at KUMC since the COVID-19 pandemic began!

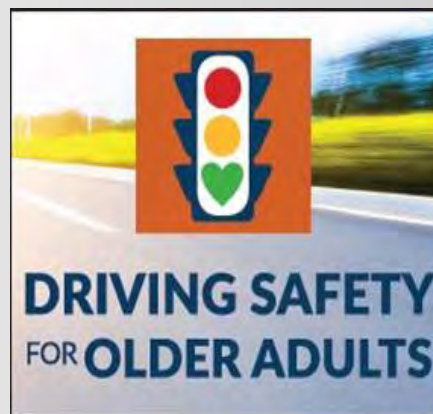
On the Skilled Nursing Facility side, our Division continues to partner with the Division of Geriatric and General Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine. Together, our team of ten providers provide seamless, coordinated care for KU Medical Center's geriatric population at four long-term care and skilled nursing facility sites in the Kansas City area.

On the education front, we are heavily involved in teaching medical students, family medicine and internal medicine residents and geriatric fellows. Our combined faculty provide the geriatric content throughout the four years of medical school.

On the service front, we participate in the annual Chili Feed fundraiser, the Brown Bag community lunch sessions and multiple community Boards serving seniors.



The Landon Center on Aging sits on the northwest edge of the University of Kansas Medical Center campus



Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya has a strong interest in safe driving for older patients.

She is a co-author of the AGS Virtual Patient Cases Program on the Assessment of Older Drivers, which came out in late 2019.

The program allows clinicians to walk through three virtual cases that simulate the assessment and counseling of older drivers in an engaging interactive format.

Dr. Bhattacharya is also a member of the expert advisory panel for the Clinician's Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers, a service to healthcare providers with older patient populations.

ADULTS WITH DOWN SYNDROME SPECIALTY CLINIC



Moya Peterson, PhD, APRN, created the Adults With Down Syndrome Specialty Clinic a decade ago because of the improved longevity of people with Down syndrome.

“They were dying in their twenties, and so they never left the pediatrician’s office. Even as little as 20 years ago, they only lived into their thirties,” she says. “Now the average life span is 61 and growing rapidly.”

Peterson’s clinic has, for years, been the only one of its kind between Denver and Chicago, and the Chicago one won’t take out-of-state patients. She now sees patients from not just across Kansas and Missouri, but other nearby states.

Peterson is also the only nurse practitioner in the country with a Down syndrome clinic, acting as a consultant for some patients and primary care provider for others. Dr. Mark Meyer signed on in the early days as medical director, and a dietitian helps steer patients toward good food choices, but the project is mostly Peterson’s. Her patients are as devoted to her as she is to them.

She attributes the greater life spans through better understanding and fewer parents opting for institutional care.

“(Parents) take them home and take good care of them,” she said. “And now they’re living and we have a whole new set of problems that we didn’t think about before.”

One of those problems, she says, is that more people with Down syndrome now outlive their parents and even siblings. Alzheimer’s disease is another problem. Bodies of people with Down syndrome age faster, creating a higher risk. A 50-year-old with Down syndrome functions like someone who is 70.

“They don’t all develop Alzheimer’s, but it’s a concern,” she says.

Peterson says there’s been a learning curve since she started her clinic — she told parents early on that she’d have to figure it out as she went along — but the years of experience and consultation with other care providers left her with a much better understanding. She has also learned a lot from her patients, both about medicine and life.

“They’re good folks. They really add a lot to this world and they always see the good way before they see the sad. They’re pretty happy in the moment. They don’t too much worry about tomorrow and they don’t worry about yesterday. They’re good for today,” she said. “I love working with them.”

ADULTS WITH TURNER SYNDROME CLINIC

Since 2018, the Adults With Turner Syndrome Clinic at KU has helped women with Turner syndrome make the transition to adult care.

Kelly Ranallo, co-founder and president of Turner Syndrome Global Alliance, calls it an “amazing resource” that will “ensure expert care over the patient’s lifespan.”

Turner syndrome is a random genetic condition that occurs when one of the two X chromosomes a girl receives from her parents is missing or altered, changing how her body matures and develops.

Girls and women with Turner syndrome are more likely to face heart problems, hearing loss, thyroid function issues, diabetes and infertility.

The quarterly clinics offer patients back-to-back appointments with providers in all of these areas, making it easier for them to get specialized care without missing too much work or school. It’s especially helpful for the patients who drive several hours to get there.

During down time, patients also have the opportunity to interact. Ranallo says that for many of the women, it’s their first time to ever meet someone else with Turner syndrome.

The clinic was launched in close collaboration with the Great HeighTS Clinic at Children’s Mercy Hospital, where many patients were first treated. It’s now drawing interest — and widespread respect.

“The KUMC clinic is quickly becoming a national model of care for adult women with Turner syndrome and will be used to train and support additional programs throughout the United States,” Ranallo says.



PATH CLINIC

The Prenatal Access for Teens’ Health (PATH) clinic provides both education and support targeted to expecting teenage mothers from local high schools.

Mothers can establish an ongoing relationship with a personal University of Kansas health care provider and receive comprehensive, accessible and affordable care.

Group formatted visits and discussions are used to create a positive learning environment and encourage peer support from other young moms.

Patients may enroll themselves in the clinic. They can also be referred by school nurses or counselors or identified by the Wyandotte County Health Department.

SPORTS MEDICINE

The Family Medicine & Community Health Department offers a Sports Medicine Clinic that is available to all providers as a referral asset.

We evaluate a wide array of sports-related medical conditions, listed to the left. We also offer treadmill testing for exercise prescriptions and injury prevention consultations.

Our providers serve as official team physicians for the Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas City Royals and our team often works to help fans needing first aid at Arrowhead and Kauffman stadiums.

The University of Kansas Health System also works with area school districts to provide care at high school football games and other sporting events.



HEALTHY PLAYERS ARE THEIR CHIEF CONCERN

When the Kansas City Chiefs won their first Super Bowl since 1970 in January 2020, Drs. Luke Thompson and JP Darche, both of Family Medicine & Community Health were right there with them in Miami — as they were all season.

The two sports medicine providers are team physicians and part of the Chiefs overall medical staff. Their official responsibilities include taking care of any injury or medical issue that doesn't involve bones or joints. That includes things like concussions, cardiac concerns, respiratory problems, acute illnesses or trauma to the head, neck, eyes, chest or abdomen.

Dr. Thompson said some of the more common issues they deal with are things like colds and stomach bugs.

“In a large group of people, there always seems like there's some type of illness going around,” he said. “It's our job to help the players recover as quickly as possible from any health issues that they have, so they're able to put it behind them and perform at their best.”

They show up three hours before kickoff on game days to work with players in the locker room, respond to in-game issues from the sidelines, and help players after the game ends. They conduct all player physicals and are with the team throughout training camp.

Thompson and Darche also treat the Chiefs' coaches and support staff, as well as serving as family physicians for the team's spouses and children. ➡



Dr. JP Darche, far left, and Dr. Luke Thompson, right, pose with the Vince Lombardi Trophy shortly after the Chiefs beat the 49ers to win Super Bowl LIV.

CLINICAL CARE



Above: Dr. Luke Thompson (left) on the field at Arrowhead Stadium during a playoff game in 2018.

Right: Drs. JP Darche and Paul Schroepel at Chiefs training camp in St. Joseph, MO, in the summer of 2019.

“We’re basically on call all the time for them,” Thompson says.

A former professional football player, Darche capped his career as a long snapper for the Chiefs in 2008. After completing medical school, residency and being the first participant in the Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship, all at KUMC, he brings his medical expertise back to Arrowhead, with insight that few other health care providers can offer.

“I’m pretty excited to be back in it,” Darche said. “It’s definitely different, no doubt about it.”

Thompson, a three-sport high school athlete who played college football at Baker University, is now in his sixth season. He says he knows there are relatively few positions like his in professional sports and he’s grateful for the opportunity.

“There is definitely significant responsibility in caring for these athletes,” he says. “However, when it comes right down to it, we treat them like any of our patients.”

While Drs. Thompson and Darche again served as Chiefs team physicians in 2020, COVID-19 protocols kept them from traveling with the team to Tampa for its second-straight Super Bowl.



CLERKSHIP ADJUSTS TO PANDEMIC-ERA CHANGES

Undergraduate Medical Education Division

The Family Medicine Department is proud to serve at all levels of medical education at our School.

Pre-Clinical Student Education

Our department continues to be heavily involved in Phase I of the ACE Curriculum. Our faculty serve as Directors and Assistant Directors of the ACE Learning Communities, facilitate PBLs and CBCLs, serve as coaches, offer SER Week experiences, lead as Module Directors, facilitate simulations, and author lectures in the pre-clinical curriculum.

Clinical Student Education

The Department's Undergraduate Medical Education Division has a new director, Dr. Laurel Witt, and two new assistant directors, Dr. Wendi Born and Dr. Kate Rampon.

Together with Kate Briseno, the Division's program coordinator, this team successfully delivered three clinical courses during the initial months of the coronavirus pandemic, including the third-year Family Medicine Clerkship, the fourth-year Family Medicine Sub-Internship, and the fourth-year Family Medicine (clinical) Elective.

Internal study results from students participating in these April-May 2020 rotations indicate that the courses were delivered successfully despite the all-virtual requirement.

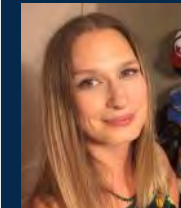
Prior to (and during) the educational changes that have come of the pandemic, the clerkship team was hard at work innovating and improving the Family Medicine Clerkship.

Data from the Office of Medical Education (End-of-Clerkship Survey given to students immediately following their rotation) show that the "overall quality of the clerkship" has steadily improved in each of the most recent academic years. Scores in this category (on a 1-5 Likert scale) were 3.88 in 2018, 3.96 in 2019, and 4.43 at the close of the 2019-20 academic year. ➡



LAUREL WITT, MD, MPhil.
Clerkship Director

WENDI BORN, PhD
KATE RAMPON, MD
Assistant Directors



KATE BRISENO
Coordinator



UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



Dr. JP Darche teaches medical students about knee exams.

The Family Medicine Clerkship was proud to be an early adopter and innovator of several content areas and technologies over the last two academic years. The Clerkship was among the first to involve students in telemedicine. The clerkship also created a longitudinal racism-in-medicine module for all students. The Division was proud to be one of four national recipients of a AAMC Curricular Innovation Award for its Family Medicine Opioid Stewardship and Recovery Curriculum, which you can read more about below.

Match

We are honored that such a large number of KU medical students chose family medicine for their careers in the 2020 and 2021 residency matches.

The Future

Our Division has clearly outlined its goals. We will deliver top-quality clinical courses in ambulatory and inpatient family medicine through robust curriculum design, ongoing faculty and resident development, and rigorous program evaluation. We commit to operating under values of academic rigor, evidence-based medicine, structural competency, and population and community health.

KUMC FAMILY MEDICINE WINS CURRICULAR INNOVATION HONOR

Drs. Laurel Witt and Erin Corriveau were honored with the Association of American Medical Colleges' Curricular Innovation Award, which recognizes programs that help students understand opioids, substance use disorder and pain management.

KUMC's Family Medicine Opioid Stewardship and Recovery Curriculum includes the interprofessional Family Medicine Recovery Clinic for patients with substance use disorders. In the weekly clinics, buprenorphine-waivered core faculty members supervise PGY-1s and M3s, as well as pharmacy students and social work and psychology interns.

Opioid Class & Panel Management, a second element, is a flipped classroom session where students review a clinic patient's charts, appraise the opioid stewardship and write recommendations for the primary care physicians.

More than 300 M3s had participated in the program at the time of the award. More than 20 Family Medicine residents had been waiver-trained.

Duke University, the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and Honor Health were their fellow awardees.



TEAMWORK

Makes The Dream Work

The Interprofessional Teaching Clinic (IPTC) is a unique clinical setting within the Family Medicine clinic where medical students work with students from multiple disciplines to care for complex patients, preparing them for the collaborative healthcare world of tomorrow.

Small teams of learners from medicine, pharmacy, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral health and dietetics come together in weekly sessions to see patients and present them with shared plans.

The students huddle prior to seeing each patient, spend 15-20 minutes in the room with them and huddle again afterward to assess the case and discuss a plan. The teams present their assessment to a faculty member or resident and the entire group returns to the patient room to complete the visit. Each team will typically see at least three patients during each clinical session.

At the end of the session, everyone gathers for a formal debriefing session.

IPTC was able to keep its operations going during the pandemic through a model that included remote and virtual collaboration and care.

The IPTC not only helps learners understand the roles, scopes and uniqueness of each profession, but also how to blend profession-specific processes into a team encounter. Learners also get insight into the patient's role in the team and issues of rights, dignity and diversity.



Top: Kate Rampon, MD, manages many screens during a Interprofessional Teaching Clinic virtual session in mid-2020.

Below: Medical students first introduce themselves to a patient during an in-person IPTC day in the summer of 2021.

RESIDENCY ADAPTS, EVOLVES IN TIMES OF CHANGE

The Family Medicine & Community Health Residency program continues to grow, evolve and support its goals of developing physician leaders ready to practice in any environment.

Dr. Daniel Parente joined our residency core faculty and is now the Residency Research Director. We are excited to bring his expertise in research and scientific discovery to the residency program. We continue to have residents present their research projects on the national stage.

Our Pediatric longitudinal clinic started in July 2019 to enhance our residents' pediatric experience and further our collaboration with the community. This is a partnership with Vibrant Health, an FQHC, located in downtown Kansas City, KS and a 10-minute drive from the main KUMC campus.

Dr. Kelly Kreisler is Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Vibrant Health and precepts our residents in clinic. She carries a dual appointment at KUMC as an Assistant Professor in Pediatrics along with being CMO. ➡



Our Aim:

To develop physician leaders who partner with their communities to decrease health disparities. We do this by fulfilling our mission.

Our Mission:

Training intellectually curious, compassionate, competent family physicians committed to caring for the underserved.



KELSIE KELLY, MD, MPH
Residency Director

JOEL HAKE, MD
PAUL ROTERT, DO
Associate Directors



KRISTEN ESTRADA
Senior Coordinator



KELLY REYES
Coordinator

RESIDENCY



Every Wednesday morning, two residents have their continuity clinic at Vibrant Health seeing only pediatric patients, starting as a PGY2. We plan to continue to collaborate with this clinic for other opportunities for collaboration and to grow this resident clinic.

We continue to develop the new Family Medicine Residency Program that will be a rural 1 + 2 training program with the assistance of the HRSA Rural Program Planning & Development grant awarded for August 2019 through July 2022. We have partnered with the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHC-SEK) in Pittsburg, KS and are on track to have our first residents start in July 2022. Read more on page 32.

In the meantime, in October 2019, we lost our PGY2 OB site in Fort Riley, KS due to the military needing to focus on their military learners and no longer having space for civilian learners. We used this as an opportunity to start collaboration with CHC-SEK and now our PGY2s have started to rotate in Pittsburg, KS for their PGY2 OB rotation. The first resident started in August 2020 and so far, the rotation has been successful.



The COVID-19 pandemic did affect our program and institution. We are currently in Stage 2 designation by ACGME standards.

Our program was initially affected by a decrease in outpatient volume initially and residents rotating through ambulatory off-service rotations noted a decrease in patient contact.

Through the pandemic, there have been positive changes to our program to accommodate the needs of our resident learners.

Drive-In Testing: Residents were able to participate in drive-through testing clinics at the Wyandotte County Health Department. This was an opportunity to continue to gather patient numbers for our graduating residents, but also a great opportunity for residents to experience population health in action. ➡

Resource Library: We immediately developed an online learning resource library available to residents organized by rotations. These learning resources supplemented residents when patient contact was limited. This online resource, however, has proved valuable for residents even as patient volume has increased. We plan to keep this resource available as a permanent part of our program.

Telehealth: Our institution was quick to institute telehealth when it became a need. Within two weeks of the pandemic reaching our city, our residents were seeing patients through telehealth. We were able to have residents continue to provide patient care even while at home on quarantine or when we were trying to limit number of clinicians in clinic to maintain social distancing. Patients have found telehealth to be a value in their care and our institution plans to continue this format.

Another positive from telehealth is that it has allowed for direct observation of residents by allowing preceptors to “zoom” into the patient room or we can record patient visits to discuss with residents after the encounter.

Telehealth Elective: We developed a telehealth elective for residents who required quarantine after travel when the pandemic began. Residents participated in telehealth clinic, contact tracing, and assisted in development of telemedicine policies used still today in our clinic and institution.

Zoom: We also began using Zoom for our virtual learning platform and continue to use it. Our morning report attendance has greatly increased by both residents and faculty due to the ease of access with the virtual option, we plan to continue using Zoom for our morning report beyond the pandemic given its success.

Our core didactics has been successful through Zoom, although we do plan to transition to a hybrid model as the pandemic ends, with residents on campus to attend in-person and those off-campus to remain off-campus to Zoom in.



RESIDENT RESEARCH

Residents begin research in their first year with the goal of presenting their project by May of their second residency year. Residents can submit completed (or in-progress) posters, abstracts or articles at our Resident Research Day event.

2019 PRESENTATIONS

- **Assessing KU Family Medicine Prescriber Habits after Initiation of Prior Authorization for Opioid Prescriptions**
Nithin Suresh, MD, Zachary Degner, MD, Joseph LeMaster, MD, MPH
- **Avoiding Pregnancy: Teaching Family Medicine Resident to Better Counsel Patients**
Surya K. Lakhanpal, MD, MA, Kelsie Kelly, MD, MPH
- **Disrupting the Pattern: Educating Medical Students to See Past Implicit Bias**
Victoria Psomiadis, MD, Natabhona Mabachi, PhD, MPH
- **How Much Money and Time Do Students Invest in Interviewing for Residency: How Do They Decide What to Spend?**
Kari Milsen, PhD, Anne Walling, MB, ChB, Jill Grothusen MD, Samantha King, MD, Marc Heroenus, MD, Paul Callaway, MD, Greg Unruh, MD
- **Improving Shingles Vaccination Rates at the KU Family Medicine Clinic through Provider and Patient Education**
Malathy Satgunanathan, MD, Kelsie Kelly MD, MPH, Megan Murray, MHSA, Leonidas Bantis, PhD
- **The Need for Obesity Counseling Education During Residency**
Dewan Majid, MD, Erin Corriveau, MD
- **Online Mammogram Scheduling Among Native Spanish and English Speakers**
Cristina Enrique, DO, Chelsea Fair, MD, Margaret Smith, MD, Jennifer Woodward, MD
- **Social and Medical Predictors of Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes in HIV+ Women in Kenya**
Nikhila Reddy, MD, Sarah Finocchario-Kessler, PhD, MPH



RESIDENT RESEARCH

Dr. Daniel Parente took over as Resident Research coordinator in 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the 2020 and 2021 Resident Research Day events to be held online. We look forward to an in-person return in 2022.

2020 PRESENTATIONS

- **A Quality Improvement Study to Evaluate Improvement in Depression Screening and Outcomes Related to Launch of Best Practice Advisory Alert in EMR at an Academic Family Medicine Clinic**
Gurneet Matharoo, MD, Aman Luthra, MD, Elizabeth Mukherjee MD, Megan Murray, MSPH, and Jennifer Woodward, MD, MPH
- **Resident Barriers to Insulin Initiation**
Amir Mardi, MD and Kelsie Kelly, MD, MPH
- **Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy: A Retrospective Review of Patients at The University of Kansas Health System**
Brittney Lambert, MD, Hannah Maxfield, MD, Kelsie Kelly, MD, MPH and Faith Butler, MD
- **Do Children Benefit from Prophylactic Antipyretics when Receiving Immunizations?**
Daniel Joyce, MD, Samiya Khan, MD, Shane Lee, MD, Kiran Mendha, MD, and James Dinkel, MD
- **Primary Care Provider Attitudes Towards Open Notes Before and After A Pilot Program**
Lowell Fletcher, MD and Timothy Smith, MD
- **Developing a Moral Injury Screening Tool (MIST) for Veterans Receiving Primary Care**
Kalee Kirmer-Voss, MD, Mirna Asham, MD, Nicole Yedlinsky, CAQSM

2021 PRESENTATIONS

- **An Educational Intervention to Enhance KUSOM Students' Abilities to Work Effectively with Medical Interpreters**
Chris Bouchard, MD, Maria Alonso Luaces, PhD and Erin Corriveau, MD, MPH
- **Student Perceptions of Social Media as Information Source at an Academic Residency Program**
M. Grace Oliver, MD, and Kelsie Kelly, MD, MPH
- **Adaptation and External Validation of Pathogenic Urine Culture Prediction in Primary Care using Machine Learning**
Gurpreet Dhanda, MD, Mirna Asham, MD, Joel Hake, MD, Nicole Yedlinsky, MD, Nicole Johnson, MD, Denton Shanks, DO, MPH, Megha Teeka Satyan, MD and Daniel J. Parente, MD, PhD



CURRENT RESIDENTS

PGY3



Chris Bouchard MD
Chief Resident
University of New Mexico
School of Medicine



Aundria Eoff, MD
Chief Resident
University of Missouri
School of Medicine



Sarah Dashwood, MD
University of Oklahoma
College of Medicine



Marcus Fearing, MD
Creighton University
School of Medicine



Thomas Katzfey, DO
Kansas City University
of Medicine & Bioscience



Lawson Montgomery, MD
American University of
the Caribbean SOM



Raz Naggar, DO
University of Arkansas
for Medical Sciences COM



Grace Oliver, MD
University of Arkansas
for Medical Sciences COM



Emily Reams, MD
University of Arkansas
for Medical Sciences COM

CURRENT RESIDENTS

PGY2



Blessing Amune, MD

University of Texas
Health Science Ctr—SA



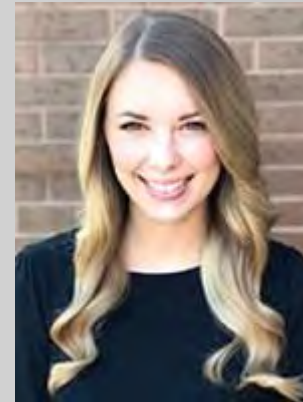
Jenna Ball, MD

University of Kansas
School of Medicine



Molly Bliss, MD

University of Missouri
School of Medicine



Ashley Dreiling, MD

University of Kansas
School of Medicine



David Embers, MD

University of Kansas
School of Medicine



Jonathan Ericson, MD

Western Michigan
University SOM



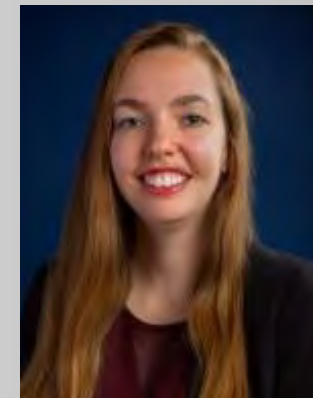
Alex Katubig, MD

University of Missouri
School of Medicine



Dylan Schumacher, MD

University of Kansas
SOM—Wichita



Hannah Swagerty, MD

University of Kansas
School of Medicine

OUR RESIDENTS

PGY1



Maggie Curran, MD

University of Kansas
School of Medicine



Andrew Johnson MD

University of Kansas
School of Medicine



Aurelia Latimer MD

University of Kansas
School of Medicine



Larin McMartin, DO

Burrell College of
Osteopathic Medicine



Sierra Miller, DO

Kansas City University of
Medicine & Biosciences



Joy Ogundare, MD

Saba University



Sara Peterson, DO

Kansas City University of
Medicine & Biosciences



Courtney Petz, MD

University of Kansas
School of Medicine



Victoria Resendez, MD

University of Arkansas
College of Medicine

RESIDENCY AWARDS

Jack Walker Award

2019: Jason Foster, MD
2020: Chelsea Fair, MD
2021: Gurpreet Dhanda, MD

Highest Number of Patient Visits:

2019: Daniel Parente, MD, PhD
2020: No Award
2021: Mirna Asham, MD

Family Medicine Resident Award for Scholarship

2019: Cheryl Liang-Burns, MD
2020: Jill Grothusen, MD
2021: Aman Luthra, MD

STFM Resident Teacher Award

2019: Jason Foster, MD
2020: Jill Grothusen, MD
2021: Kalee Kirmer-Voss, MD

Global Health Certificate

2019: Christina Cheng, MD
2020: Chelsea Fair, MD
2021: Gurneet Matharoo, MD & Elizabeth Mukherjee, MD

Larry Perry Faculty of the Year Award

2019: Megha Teeka, MD
2020: Paul Rotert, DO ➡
2021: Richard Fox, DO

Patient Advocacy Award

2019: Surya Lakhanpal, MD & Sarah Strawn, DO
2020: Cristina Enrique, DO
2021: Elizabeth Mukherjee, MD

Faculty Advisor Award

2019: Faith Butler, MD ➡
2020: Tahira Zufer, MD
2021: Patricia Fitzgibbons, MD

GME Certificate:

2021: Gurneet Matharoo, MD

Sunflower Nurse Award

2019 - Brooke Abel, LPN
2020 - Karen Laird, RN
2021 - Rachel Beeley, LPN

Quality Measures & Improvement Award:

2021: Mirna Asham, MD



RESIDENCY ALUMNI AND IMMEDIATE DESTINATIONS



RESIDENCY CLASS OF 2019

Rommel Asagwara, MD (Chief Resident)

ER Physician, Bolivar Medical Center, MS

Christina Cheng, MD

Geriatric Fellowship at University of Kansas Medical Center, KS

Turner Fishpaw, MD

Hospitalist in Saint Luke's Health System, Kansas City, MO

Jason Foster, MD

Outpatient clinic, Tonganoxie, KS

Surya Lakhanpal, MD

Family Medicine Surgical Obstetrics Fellowship at Christus Spohn Hospital, Corpus Christi, TX

Cheryl Liang Burns, MD (Chief Resident)

Hospitalist at Saint Luke's Health System, Kansas City, MO

Dewan Majid, MD

Urgent Care Clinic, NJ

Daniel Parente, MD, PhD

Clinician-Researcher in academic faculty at University of Kansas Medical Center, KS

Sarah Strawn, DO

VA Hospital, Oregon



RESIDENCY CLASS OF 2020

Zachary Degner, MD (Chief Resident)

Emergency Medicine, Western Missouri Medical Center, Warrensburg, MO

Cristina Enrique, DO

Obstetrics Fellowship, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

Chelsea Fair, MD (Chief Resident)

Surgical Obstetrics Fellowship, Cone Health, Greensboro, NC

Jill Grothusen, MD

St. Luke's Hospital, Kansas City, MO

Amir Mardi, MD

University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS

Victoria Psomiadis, MD

Lehigh Valley Health Network, LVPF Family Medicine, Moselem Springs, PA

Nikhila Reddy, MD

Albuquerque, NM

Mathaly Satgunanathan, MD

Plans outpatient practice in Toronto

Nithin Suresh, MD

Plans to practice in Austin, TX

RESIDENCY ALUMNI AND IMMEDIATE DESTINATIONS



RESIDENCY CLASS OF 2021

Mirna Asham, MD

Outpatient FQHC, Sedalia, MO

Gurpreet Dhanda, MD (Chief Resident)

University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS

Lowell Fletcher, MD

Hospitalist, Advent Health, Merriam, KS

Kalee Kirmer-Voss, MD (Chief Resident)

University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS

Brittany Lambert, MD

Outpatient care with low-risk obstetrics, College Park Family Care/Hope Family Care, Overland Park, KS

Aman Luthra, MD

Hospitalist, Iowa City/Cedar Rapids, IA

Gurneet Matharoo, MD

Inpatient care & pursuing certification and research in obesity medicine

Elizabeth Mukherjee, MD

Rural healthcare, Chanute, KS



Outgoing Chief Residents Drs. Gurpreet Dhanda and Kalee Kirmer-Voss became Family Medicine & Community Health faculty members.

James Dinkel, MD joined the KU Family Medicine and Community Health Residency Program as a PGY2 in 2019.

He is on track to complete his residency experience in October 2021.



NEW RURAL TRAINING TRACK COMING NEXT YEAR



KU Family Medicine & Community Health will establish a rural residency at the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas in Pittsburg beginning in 2022,

CHC-SEK President and CEO Krista Postai made the announcement July 18, 2019, calling it “the beginning of a future of unlimited potential.”

The program will give residents the broad training needed to work in a rural family medicine practice — plus experience in urban academic medical setting that first year. The hope is that residents who train in southeast Kansas will stay in the region when their residencies end, helping to ease serious shortages of rural family practitioners.

"It's a crisis in the United States. It's a huge crisis in Kansas," said Dr. Michael Kennedy, then associate dean for rural medicine.



Residents who take part in the program will spend their first year at the main KUMC campus and their second and third years at CHCSEK in Pittsburg.

While the program will start slowly, Program director Dr. Kelsie Kelly hopes there may eventually be as many as 12 residents in the program at a time, with four graduating each year. She anticipates getting ACGME accreditation status by early November 2021 and begin interviews for candidates who would start the following July.

Former KUMC Family Medicine Chief Resident Dr. Bethany Enoch will be the site director.

Dr. Kennedy says he hopes that this will be just the first of a series of rural residencies throughout the state.

"For many years, this has been our dream," Dr. Kennedy said. "And here we are."

SPORTS FELLOWS OFFER SIDELINE SUPPORT



The Primary Care Sports Medicine (PCSM) fellowship, now in its fifth year, is a 12-month program sponsored by The University of Kansas Health System through the Sports Medicine division with support from the Family Medicine & Community Health Residency Program.

The program offers specialized hands-on training with athletes of all types. Rotations include work with orthopedic surgeons and in orthopedic specialty clinics, including elbow, hand/wrist and foot/ankle care. Fellows also get extensive musculoskeletal ultrasound experience.

Fellows maintain a community clinic with attending faculty and serve as team physician for a local high school team. Fellows also get experience caring for NCAA Division I athletes at KU and help at home football games and other KU-hosted events.

Past additional opportunities have included coverage at NCAA/Big 12 events and the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and U.S. Gymnastics championships. Because of the professional relationship The University of Kansas Health System has with the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals, fellows also get some limited exposure to professional athletes.

The program began under the direction of Dr. David Smith. Dr. Nicole Yedlinsky takes over for the 2021-2022 academic year. Kelly Reyes became the fellowship's coordinator in 2020.

PRIMARY CARE SPORTS MEDICINE FELLOWS

2018: Dr. JP Darche
2019: Dr. Albert Zheng
2020: Dr. Joshua Brandon
2021: Dr. Trevor Conner
2022: Dr. Neal McKimpson &
Dr. Jim Nicholson



**NICOLE YEDLINSKY, MD,
CAQSM**

Fellowship Director



KELLY REYES

Fellowship Coordinator

FACULTY



Maria Alonso Luaces
PhD



Shelley Bhattacharya
DO, MPH, FAAFP, AGSF



Giulia Bonaminio
PhD



Wendi Born
PhD



Faith Butler
MD



Kate Conover
PhD



Erin Corriveau
MD, MPH



JP Darche
MD



Sarah Finocchario Kessler
PhD, MPH



Richard Fox
DO



Allen Greiner
MD, MPH



Joel Hake
MD



Kelsie Kelly
MD, MPH



Frances Lafferty
MD



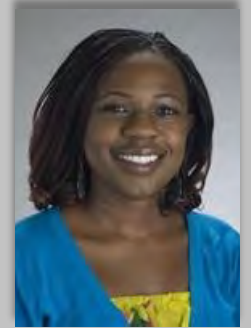
Joseph LeMaster
MD, MPH



Bruce Liese
PhD, ABPP



Crystal Lumpkins
PhD



Natabhona Mabachi
PhD

FACULTY



Krithika Malhotra
PhD, MA



Hannah Maxfield
MD



Mark Meyer
MD



Joseph Noland
MD



Daniel Parente
MD, PhD



Moya Peterson
PhD, APRN, FNP-BC



Kate Rampon
MD



Linda Redford
RN, PhD



Mary Redmon
DO



Melinda Roney
MD



Paul Rotert
DO, MPH



Pamela Scott
MS



Denton Shanks
DO, MPH



David Smith
MD



Margaret Smith
MD, MHSA, MPH



Michelle Sommer
MD



Megha Teeka
MD



Lucas Thompson
MD

FACULTY



Belinda Vail
MD



Michael Waxman
MD



Laurel Witt
MD, M.Phil.



Jennifer Woodward
MD, MPH



Nicole Yedlinsky
MD, CAQSM



Tahira Zufer
MD



Denise Zwahlen
MD

DEPARTURES

- Dr. Christine Daley
- Jason Hale
- Dr. Nicole Johnson
- Charley Lewis
- Dr. Taylor Kinney
- Dr. Amir Mardi

'21-'22 ARRIVALS

- Dr. Miles Crowley
- Dr. Allison Coy
- Dr. Gurpreet Dhanda
- Dr. Kalee Kirmer-Voss
- Dr. Ann Valburg

RETIREEES

Kim Kimminau, PhD, retired in December 2020 after 14 years in the Department of Family Medicine & Community Health.

Dr. Kimminau served as a professor and as the associate director of Frontiers, the clinical and translational science institute, which provides support and connections to researchers .

Numerous Family Medicine faculty members, residents, students and staff said she helped them with projects over the years. Some also credited her with helping them navigate the academic environment.



Patricia Fitzgibbons, MD, made her retirement official in 2021.

A clinical assistant professor who finished medical school and her residency at the University of Nebraska, 'Fitz' endeared herself to patients and residents alike.

Many appreciate her openness and availability to talk, something she said she would be available for, even in retirement.

Dr. Fitzgibbons capped off her KUMC career by winning residency faculty advisor of the year at the 2021 graduation ceremony.

RETIREMENTS



JAMES T. BIRCH, JR MD, MPH

An avid gardener, James T. Birch Jr., MD, MPH, loves planting seeds and helping them grow and thrive.

He says working with medical students and residents gives him the same feelings.

“I like sharing knowledge and experience and watching learners grow and benefit from what they’re being taught,” he said. “Sharing knowledge is like planting seeds.”

After nearly 14 years of sowing seeds at KUMC, where he first got his medical degree four decades ago, Dr. Birch has taken his career in a new direction. He says changes in his health got his attention and made him start to think about a different path.

“I tell people I’m shifting out of fourth gear and dropping down to second gear,” he said. “Even though I’m still going to be busy, it won’t be quite the busy pace we see at the outpatient clinics.”

Born and raised in Wyandotte County, Dr. Birch studied biology at KU in Lawrence before finishing medical school here. He did his residency at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C., and spent time working in Virginia’s Tidewater region and at the University of Missouri before returning to KUMC in 2007.

Recognition from peers and students would soon follow, including a Nason Family Award for Excellence in Family Medicine Education, an Outstanding Physician Award from the Kansas City Region Home Care Association, a Black Man of Distinction honor from the Friends of Yates, membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society, a Family Medicine Mentor of the Year Award and shelf full of Student Voice Awards. But perhaps the highest praise comes from those in his care.

“My mother loves Dr. Birch and I do, too,” said one of the many glowing comments submitted in patient evaluations. “Dr. Birch is patient, kind and courteous. Coming into the office to see Dr. Birch lifted her spirits.”

Dr. Birch’s next step is as medical director at Midland Health Care PACE in Kansas City, Kansas. He also plans to continue teaching medical students and residents at some level.

Dr. Birch hopes this new phase will give him time to relax, catch up on movies, develop a disciplined exercise schedule and, yes, to plant more seeds. He wants to expand his garden to add boxes for strawberries. He also wants to grow asparagus – a plant that, like medical learners, won’t achieve its full potential overnight. Most important, he said, was being able to thank everyone who helped on his own journey.

“None of us get to the place we are without the help of others,” he added.



RETIREMENTS

Dr. Michael Kennedy, who retired in 2021 after a distinguished career as a clinician, teacher, administrator and passionate champion of rural medicine, initially planned as a career as a wildlife biologist.

When budget cuts made wildlife management jobs scarce after graduation, Dr. Kennedy found himself painting houses and needing a new plan to contribute to the support of his young family.

He trained in respiratory therapy and discovered he liked helping these patients. He also peppered his trainers with enough “why” questions that one suggested he seek the answers for himself in medical school. With his wife’s support, he came to KUMC at 31 with a plan to go into pulmonary intensive care.

But then funny things started to happen. With each new skill he learned here – especially delivering babies – Dr. Kennedy enjoyed *all of it*. He would soon pivot to the specialty that let him do a little of everything: family medicine.

Around this time, Dr. Kennedy said, he also got to work with an influential mentor: Dr. John Neuenschwander of Hoxie, Kansas. Dr. Kennedy says Dr. Neuenschwander showed him that rural physicians can be community leaders in small towns. Physicians get to know their patients better because they may see them at schools, churches or in their neighborhoods.

“Rural medicine is immensely rewarding emotionally, intellectually challenging, and humbling, all at the same time,” he said.

Burlington, Kansas, would be his next top – and his home for nearly a decade. He did a little of everything there, including inpatient and outpatient care, emergency room coverage and delivering a lot of babies. He was also the deputy coroner of Coffey County and a nursing home director.

MICHAEL KENNEDY MD, FAAFP



In 2000, he began a slow move back to KUMC – joining the faculty on a part-time basis and teaching a clinical skills class with Dr. Belinda Vail, who had been two years ahead of him in residency. He says when the med school needed an assistant dean for rural health education a few years later, his Burlington experience gave him the “rural street cred” to land the spot.

He was the inaugural recipient of the McCann Professorship in Rural Health and was soon promoted to associate dean for Rural Health Education. More programs – the rural preceptorship, the Rural Medical Education Network, Summer Training Option in Rural Medicine (STORM) – enlisted his help. If a program was needed and didn’t exist, such as the tri-campus Rural Medicine Interest Group and the Kansas Rural Health Association, he’d work with students and faculty to get them off the ground.

He says the work that he and many others did helped improve rural medical education opportunities at the University of Kansas Medical Center. ➡

RETIREMENTS



"Our graduates select careers in rural medicine at a rate that is now at the 99th percentile for allopathic medical schools in the nation," he said. "This is an extraordinary accomplishment. I am very proud to have played a small role in this achievement."

He took medical students on educational trips to Washington, D.C., and Guatemala. He was part of the team that transformed the advanced rural track in Salina into a regional campus. For years, he was the faculty advisor for KUMC's *a capella* group Doctor's Notes.

He received the Rainbow Award, the Nason Family Award for Excellence in Family Medicine Education, the National Rural Health Association's Outstanding Educator of the Year, the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award and the KAFP's Full-Time Exemplary Teacher of the Year, among other honors. He was inducted into AOA and selected for the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Through all this work, he still saw patients. He continued teaching, precepting and delivering babies – an estimated 750-800 deliveries over his career.

His longtime dream, the impending launch of the rural residency track in Pittsburg, is a capstone event that he and Krista Postai, CEO of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, worked toward for years.

He's thrilled that Drs. Kelsie Kelly and Bethany Enoch will run the program and believes it will help develop and retain physicians in a part of Kansas that badly needs them.

He stopped seeing patients and doing deliveries as his retirement approached, two things he greatly misses. He plans extensive travel and spending lots of time with friends and family. He wants to write short stories and poetry. He plans to take photos of everything.

"(I will) stop and smell the roses," he said. "And maybe linger a while."

But he isn't closing the door on medicine or education – he'd miss the students too much. He still wants to volunteer at the JayDoc clinic, keep taking students to Guatemala and maybe return for a bit of teaching now and then.

Most of all, he wants to continue to tell the rural medicine story.

"Having the ability to care for patients over many years is truly an honor and a privilege," he said.



WATKINS HEALTH SERVICES

Watkins Health Services provides high-quality and affordable immediate healthcare services and innovative programs to University of Kansas students in Lawrence.

The clinic is located in Watkins Memorial Health Center and treats problems involving bones and joints, skin, and acute conditions of the gastrointestinal, respiratory and urinary systems.

Watkins joined the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health during the 2020-2021 academic year.



Robert Brown
MD



Steve Bruner
MD



Lauren Imel
APRN-FNP-C



Ashley Lutjemeier
APRN, FNP-C



Sabrina Markese
MD



Shawna Miller
APRN, FNP, PMHNP



Joy Murphy
MD



Maria Petersen
APRN, FNP-BC, NP-C



Ellen Herman
Administrative Director



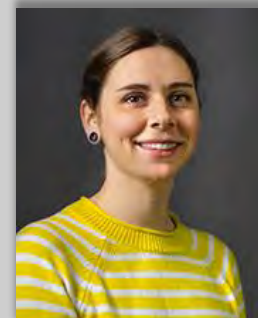
Graig Nickel, MD
Medical Director



Pavika Saripalli
MD



Lori Shiflett
ANP-C, AGACNP-BC



Christina Torrey
MSN, APRN, FNP-C



Barbara Turner
APRN, FNP-C

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS



K. ALLEN GREINER, MD, MPH

Nason Family Endowed Professor
in Family Medicine &
Community Health

In July 2020, the Family Medicine & Community Health Department gained its fourth endowed professorship, the most of any department at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Corky and Phyllis Nason wrapped up a 20-year labor of love to create the Nason Family Endowed Professorship in Family Medicine & Community Health in honor of Corky Nason's

grandfather, father and brother, all of whom were physicians with deep ties to both the University of Kansas and Wyandotte County.

The family hopes the gift will help KUMC invest in and retain outstanding faculty members.

Vice chair of Family Medicine & Community Health and Research Division Director Dr. Allen Greiner was chosen as the inaugural Nason Professor.

Like the Nasons, Greiner has deep ties to Wyandotte County, where he serves as Medical Officer for the Unified Government and helps guide its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Greiner is also deeply passionate about providing care for the underserved and has built a research division focused on improving health care for those most impacted by the social determinants of health.



MICHAEL KENNEDY, MD, FAAFP

McCann Professor in
Rural Health Care



MARK MEYER, MD

Alice M. Patterson, MD &
Harold L. Patterson, MD
Professor



BELINDA VAIL, MD

David M. Heuben Professor

FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS



DR. JOSEPH LeMASTER

NASON FAMILY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FAMILY MEDICINE EDUCATION

Dr. Joseph LeMaster is the “ultimate family physician,” Dr. Belinda Vail said in presenting him with the prestigious Nason Family Award in December 2019.

“He has the trifecta which we talk about but don’t see as much anymore, but he is an excellent physician, a gifted researcher and a wonderful teacher.”

The late Corky Nason and his family were on hand for the ceremony. The family, which has deep ties to both the University of Kansas and family medicine, established the award to show their appreciation for worthy educators.

“This award makes it possible to honor the people who really do a wonderful, tremendous job in teaching,” she said.

Dr. Vail recounted Dr. LeMaster’s work with medical students, residents, fellows and his leadership at the BullDoc clinic at Wyandotte High School. She also spotlighted his work with the city’s Nepali community.



DR. GIULIA BONAMINIO

EDWARD PATRICK FINNERTY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SCIENCE EDUCATORS

Dr. Bonaminio, the senior associate dean for medical education at KUMC, was recognized by IAMSE in June 2020 for her years of service to the organization.

Dr. Bonaminio has served in an array of roles for the group, including serving as its president, vice president and associate editor for its journal.

DR. SARAH FINOCCHARIO KESSLER

AWARD FOR ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COUNCIL OF KC

The International Relations Council recognized Dr. Kessler’s work to promote global education in the Kansas City area.

Dr. Kessler has done extensive work to develop, evaluate and adapt mHealth interventions, such as the HIV Infant Tracking System (HITSys) to improve early infant diagnosis of HIV among pregnant women in Africa.

“I’m very encouraged by the growing momentum for global health work at KUMC and our growth in building partnerships for research, education, and clinical care,” she said.



FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS



DR. MICHAEL KENNEDY OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Dr. Kennedy, a tireless advocate for rural health in Kansas and the associate dean for rural health education, was honored by the National Rural Health Association with its Outstanding Educator Award.

“To have been selected by the students that I have directly impacted makes this honor even more special,” Kennedy said in his acceptance video.

He followed up the award with two significant rural health projects: helping establish the new rural residency in family medicine and a program allowing graduating medical school students to get their degrees early and assist with patients in rural Kansas to ease the strain during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I have been fortunate to enjoy every minute of my teaching career at the University of Kansas,” he said. “It’s not work when you love your job.”



DR. KRISTINA BRIDGES VICE CHANCELLOR’S DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION AWARD

Senior Research Associate Dr. Kristina Bridges was named the 2021 individual winner of the university-level Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award, which she received in a virtual ceremony on April 29.

Bridges was recognized for her work to promote issues of diversity, equity and inclusion in the community, including research on the social determinants of health and her monthly book discussion series about systemic racism and health disparities, “Community Conversations: Turning the Page.”

In the award’s six-year history, half of the individual recipients have come from the Department of Family Medicine & Community Health.



GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES 2020:

DR. KELSIE KELLY & DR. CHELSEA FAIR

2021:

DR. FAITH BUTLER & DR. ELIZABETH MUKHERJEE

The Gold Humanism Honor Society recognizes third-year medical students, residents and faculty members who display professionalism, humanism, compassion and sensitivity with patients, peers and educators.

FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS



DR. HANNAH MAXFIELD ADFM LEADS FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Maxfield, pictured up front in the red sweater, was chosen to participate in the LEADS Fellowship program run by the Association of Departments of Family Medicine. LEADS is a year-long program to help prepare participants for leadership positions in academic settings.

Nearly half of the past LEADS participants have gone on to assume interim or permanent department chair positions and more have taken top leadership roles.



DR. MICHAEL KENNEDY CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Kennedy, in addition to his other honors over the last two years, also received a 2019 KUMC Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award.

The award honors "faculty members who contribute to KUMC and its students through excellence and outstanding classroom teaching."



DR. NICOLE JOHNSON SLEEP MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP KUMC DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE DIVISION OF PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE & SLEEP MEDICINE

Dr. Johnson, a KUMC Family Medicine chief resident in 2017 who joined the faculty later that year, departed in 2020 to study sleep medicine and prepare to take the ABIM/APBM's Sleep Medicine Board Examination.



DR. SARAH FINOCCHARIO KESSLER KU SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The University of Kansas honored Dr. Kessler with its Scholarly Achievement Award, which recognizes midcareer achievements and research contributions.

Dr. Kessler's work in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to promote reproductive health and HIV prevention were singled out in the award announcement.

The ceremony to present Dr. Kessler and her three co-winners was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS



U.S. News and World Report's rankings of the top medical schools in the United States for 2022 revealed big gains for KUMC and primary care.

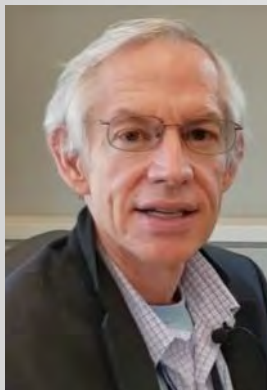
KU leapt into the top ten for the first time, landing in 9th place — just behind Harvard University — and eighth among public institutions. In the previous ranking, KU's primary care offerings ranked 38th.

The rankings were devised in a survey of medical schools from across the country, evaluating each institution for its faculty resources, academic accomplishments of its entering students and qualitative assessments by schools and residency directors.

The School of Medicine also finished 19th in the nation for its family medicine program, based on ratings from medical school deans and senior faculty members from those schools.

"We are proud to be recognized as one of the top 20 family medicine programs across the country," said School of Medicine Executive Dean Dr. Akinlolu Ojo. "As the only medical school in the state of Kansas, we have strived to create excellent residency programs in family medicine as well as other specialties within primary care. We will continue to train top-notch primary care physicians to help address the physician shortage and to improve the health of Kansans."

— [KU Medical Center News](#)



DR. JOSEPH LeMASTER **RUTH BOHAN TEACHING PROFESSORSHIP**

Dr. LeMaster was honored with a Ruth Bohan Teaching Professorship at the 2020 annual Faculty Retreat. The award recognizes the intellectual curiosity, compassion, goal-setting, information access and work-life balance that he works to develop in his learners.

"From our first time working together, Dr. LeMaster made a lasting impression as he truly provided a teaching environment which allowed me to learn in a nonjudgmental atmosphere," a third-year resident wrote.



DR. KIM KIMMINAU **2020 EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING AWARD**

Dr. Kimminau was recognized for her excellence in mentoring learners at all levels, from medical students to senior researchers.

"Dr. Kimminau's enthusiasm about medicine and the well being of our population is contagious," wrote Dr. Kalee Kirmer-Voss, in Dr. Kimminau's support. "Anybody who visits Dr. Kimminau's office leaves with a feeling of relief and the mind frame that anything is possible."



DR. WENDI BORN **2020 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR MENTORING POST-DOCS**

Dr. Born was recognized for her outstanding effort in mentoring post-doctorate fellows, which she has done for nearly a decade.

"Dr. Born is unusually generous and kind as a supervisor and clinician," wrote Dr. Kate Conover in Born's support. "She works long hours due to her love of the work and, I believe, her love of learning and teaching. I notice many providers seek her out for her calm guidance in handling complex clinical and interprofessional issues."

FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS



DR. LAUREL WITT
RAINBOW AWARD WINNER (2021)
STUDENT VOICE AWARD—OUTSTANDING ATTENDING (2019)

The annual “A Grand Affair” student awards recognized Dr. Laurel Witt with a Student Voice Award for Outstanding Family Medicine Attending Physician (along with resident Dr. Jason Foster).

It was a sign of good things to come.

In 2020, she was a finalist for the Rainbow Award, which honors “individuals who exemplify the attributes of professionalism in medicine and share those qualities with the students they mentor.” Those attributes include altruism, accountability, duty, excellence, service, honor, integrity and respect for others.

While Dr. Witt didn’t win in 2020, she was a finalist again in 2021 and this time, she did. Dr. Witt joins Drs. Joseph LeMaster, Michael Kennedy, Mark Meyer and Belinda Vail as Rainbow Award winners from the Department of Family Medicine & Community Health.



DR. JAMES BIRCH
STUDENT VOICE AWARD—OUTSTANDING ATTENDING (2019)
GERIATRICS

Along Drs. Witt and Foster, Dr. Birch was also honored with a Student Voice Award at the 2019 Grand Affair ceremony. His recognition came from working with students in geriatric medicine.



DR. BELINDA VAIL
STUDENT VOICE AWARD— MIGHTY PUNCH (2019)

Medical students honored Dr. Belinda Vail with a Student Voice Award named “Mighty Punch.” The award honors a professor whose impact outweighs a limited time spent behind the lecture podium.



DR. SHELLEY BHATTACHARYA
AGS FELLOW STATUS
AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY

AGS Fellow Status “is awarded to AGS members who demonstrate a professional commitment to geriatrics, contributed to the progress of geriatrics care, and are active participants in the Society’s activities.”

“AGS Fellows join a specially recognized group of healthcare providers who are dedicated to geriatrics education, clinical care, and research, as well as to their own continuing professional development.”

FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS



DR. JOSEPH LeMASTER **KANSAS HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians chose Dr. Joseph LeMaster as the winner of its 2020 Kansas Humanitarian Award, in recognition of his extraordinary and enduring humanitarian works.

The group spotlighted his work on behalf of refugees throughout his long career. Dr. LeMaster has done a lot of work with the Nepali community in the Kansas City metro area.



DR. CRYSTAL LUMPKINS **2021 TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH IN CANCER**

Dr. Lumpkins was selected for this 7-month virtual institute supported by the National Cancer Institute.

The program fits well with her research and outreach to promote cancer screenings within African-American religious communities, work she has extended to include COVID-19 testing and vaccinations during the pandemic.



DR. NICOLE YEDLINSKY **JOY McCANN PROFESSORSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**

Dr. Yedlinsky was honored with a Joy McCann Professorship Scholarship at the 2020 Women in Medicine & Science dinner.

The award allows winners to attend the Association of American Medical Colleges' Professional Development Series for women who are either in the early or middle stages of their careers. Previous winners from our department include current faculty members Drs. Belinda Vail, Hannah Maxfield, Laurel Witt and Shelley Bhattacharya.



DR. MICHAEL KENNEDY **SPECIAL FRIEND OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

In April 2020, Dr. Kennedy was honored as a Special Friend of the Office of International Programs for his longtime support of international education, including his ongoing participation in a medical student experience in Guatemala that began in 2004.

M1 and M2 students from KUMC travel to San Pedro la Laguna at Lake Atitlan, where they work with a local physician who provides free care to his community.

PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS



**DR. JENNIFER BACANI
McKINNEY**

**ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RURAL
HEALTH
2021**



DR. ERIN CORRIVEAU

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
2020**



DR. RICHARD FOX

**ASSISTANT DEAN FOR
RURAL HEALTH
2021**



DR. MARGARET SMITH

**ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
2021**



DR. BELINDA VAIL

**GENDER EQUITY LEADER
OFFICE OF FACULTY
AFFAIRS & DEVELOPMENT
LEADERSHIP TEAM
2021**



DR. MICHAEL WAXMAN

**EDUCATION PROFESSOR
2020**



DR. LAUREL WITT

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
2021**



DR. NICOLE YEDLINSKY

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
2021**



DR. DENISE ZWAHLEN

**ASSISTANT DEAN FOR
STUDENT AFFAIRS
2021**

FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS



RESIDENCY AWARDS

LARRY PERRY FACULTY OF THE YEAR

- DR. MEGHA TEEKA (2019)
- DR. PAUL ROTERT (2020)
- DR. RICHARD FOX (2021)



RESIDENCY AWARDS

RESIDENCY ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

- DR. FAITH BUTLER (2019)
- DR. TAHIRA ZUFER (2020)
- DR. PATRICIA FITZGIBBONS (2021)

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD '21

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee launched a new award in 2021 to honor a faculty or staff member and a resident for work to promote diversity, equity and inclusion

- **FACULTY: DR. NATABHONA MABACHI**
- **RESIDENT: DR. GRACE OLIVER**



INAUGURAL DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD WINNERS

MEDICAL EDUCATION AWARDS



AURELIA LATIMER, MD
JAMES G. PRICE AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN FAMILY MEDICINE



MAGGIE CURRAN, MD
EMILY FENG, MD
MATTHEW FREEMAN AWARD IN
SOCIAL JUSTICE

As the pandemic has made clear, a community's health is the cornerstone of its strength. That's why it's an essential part of our mission.

Our students and residents become involved in the community and support its healthcare needs. Our faculty members become involved in civic organizations. Our research projects look for ways to improve lives.

Ongoing Clinical Care and Communications

BullDoc Clinic



BullDoc Health Clinic provides free, comprehensive healthcare and education to students at Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas.

Founded in 2012 as a way to help provide physical and mental health care for students who had few other options, BullDoc has led to marked improvements in attendance and graduation rates.

JayDoc Free Clinic

The JayDoc Free Clinic, supported by grants and donations from the community and local and national organizations, has provided quality non-emergent and preventive care to all individuals, regardless of income, since 2003.



The clinic is directed and operated by medical students, pharmacy students, pre-medical students, and area physicians, who see patients three evenings per week at the clinic on the corner of Rainbow and Southwest boulevards.



KC Care Clinic

Dr. Paul Rotert provides continuity HIV care at this Kansas City safety net clinic, which offers an opportunity for residents interested in providing HIV care after their residency.

The clinic is also incorporated into our Public Health/Community Medicine rotation.

Patient & Family Advisory Committee

Patients and families partner with members of the healthcare team to offer guidance on how to improve the patient and family experience. This board, which met on a regular basis before the start of the pandemic, have discussed such issues as check-in and checkout procedures, patient communications and facility signage.

This committee serves as the patient voice for the KUMC Family Medicine Clinic.

Events and Associations

Argentine Neighborhood Development Association

Drs. Kim Kimminau and Natabhona Mabachi collaborated on grant-funded projects to help ANDA develop business and health justification for improved local health food sources and to evaluate the health impact of new grocery stores.

Charitable Care Foundation of the Kansas City Medical Society

Dr. Mary Redmon is a board member.

Community Health Council of Wyandotte County

Dr. Mary Redmon is a board member and Dr. Erin Corriveau collaborates on various projects.

Cradle KC

Drs. Allen Greiner, Erin Corriveau and Belinda Vail serve on the collective advisory board for this project aimed at reducing infant mortality.

Harmon High School

Residents and residency core faculty provide back-to-school physicals.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

Heartland Conference on Health Equity and Patient-Centered Care

This annual conference highlighted community-academic partnerships and encouraged open discussion among academic health centers, community health workers, faith-based community, and service organizations.

It drew participants from Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and other far-flung areas, and is the largest event of its kind between Chicago and Denver.



Heartland Sexual Assault Policies and Prevention on Campuses Project

The project uses a regionally focused and public health framework approach, designed to build and strengthen institutional level capacity and momentum to strategically change, prevent, and respond to sexual assault at post-secondary schools in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

Infectious Disease Coalition

Dr. Erin Corriveau serves as a board member with this group.

Kansas City Kansas Community College

Dr. Joseph Noland serves as the head team physician for athletics and medical students help with preparticipation physicals.



Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA)

Dr. Natabhona Mabachi serves on the Wyandotte County Sexual Assault Prevention Project.

MOM Clinic

Family Medicine faculty members with OB privileges, led by Drs. Kelsey Kelly and Faith Butler, precept residents at Family Health Care on Southwest Boulevard.

Powwow

The CAICH Health and Wellness Powwow celebrated American Indian culture while providing access to medical screenings.



Ready Aim Screen

Colorectal cancer education and screening project delivered at Duchesne Clinic in downtown Kansas City, Kansas, by staff in the Research Division.



RockDoc Clinic

RockDoc is a pop-up clinic that provides free flu shots and other health care needs people in Kansas City's music community.

Rosedale Neighborhood Community Health Fair

Dr. Kelsie Kelly and residents take part in this event that provides basic healthcare screenings and education to Kansas City, Kansas families.



ThrYve - Together Helping Reduce Youth Violence for Equity




The ThrYve Youth Violence Prevention Project is a collaborative effort

involving more than 50 organizations in Kansas City, Kansas who have come together to support the healthy physical, social, and emotional growth of our youth and their families.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

USD 500 Summer Student Internship Program

Family Medicine Department's Research Division serves as host to 5-12 summer interns with interest in health careers.

 **VIBRANThealth** Dr. Allen Greiner serves on the community advisory board. Greiner also serves as a backup for clinical supervision of nurse practitioners at Silver City clinic site.



Wyandotte Co. Back-to-School Fair

Department provides sports physicals and KanBeHealthy exams to children and teens at this annual August event, assisting the Wyandotte County Health Department with vaccine needs assessments and vaccinations, as needed. Scanned records indicate Family Medicine served at least 101 children during the four-hour event in 2019.

Wyandotte County Kansas City Kansas Unified Government Health Department

In addition to his role as the county's health advisor and medical officer, Dr. Greiner also serves on the County Steering Committee for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Deputy Medical Officer Dr. Erin Corriveau has additional county responsibilities as well.

Wyandotte High School

Family Medicine Department's Research Division serves as host to student interns with interest in health careers.

Researchers Land Major Food Insecurity Grant



When BlueKC awarded The University of Kansas Family Medicine & Community Health researchers a \$400,000 grant to study food insecurity in 2019, it had no idea what was about to happen.

Dr. Jennifer Woodward and Dr. Kristina Bridges accepted the award on behalf of a larger group planning to educate and track type 2 diabetes patients who tell their doctors about food security issues.

"Essentially, BlueKC recognizes food insecurity as a significant problem in the Kansas City area," Dr. Woodward said.

The pandemic left Drs. Woodward and Bridges unable to do the research as planned and also left food-insecure individuals with COVID-19 vulnerabilities in a bind.

The research team asked for and received BlueKC's permission to redirect the funds to help have food delivered to these people in their homes.

Dr. Bridges is hopeful they will still be able to resume their work during normal times.

FREE CLINIC OFFERS HELP IN DOUGLAS COUNTY



A free clinic to help people with housing insecurity issues in Douglas County brought 43 volunteers to Lawrence on Saturday, March 20, 2021, helping 21 patients get medical care they probably would have not otherwise had.

Dr. Bruce Liese helped organize the clinic, initially, in hopes of helping people at Camp Woody, a temporary community offering shelter to unhoused people over the winter months, before it shut down at the end of March.

The one-day clinic offered a wide array of help, including basic physical exams, foot care, COVID-19 testing, access to generic prescription drugs from a nearby pharmacy and information about food and other services in Douglas County.

The volunteers included 11 physicians, a nurse, several support staff members and 20 medical students.

All 21 patients, which included 10 from Camp Woody, consented to follow-ups and all completed exit surveys about the experience. Comments in the surveys were overwhelmingly positive, with about half of those responding reported that *nothing* needed to be improved about the experience.

“Everybody paid attention to me,” said one patient. “Everybody was friendly and knowledgeable.”

“I wasn’t looked at like a pariah,” said another.

Dr. Liese thanked all of the volunteers, as well as Pickleman’s Gourmet Café on Massachusetts Street, which provided lunch for the volunteers, Jubilee Café, which provided patient lunches, and Jon and Barb Heeb, who provided snacks and beverages.



Photo by Lourdes Kalusha Aquirre

TREDWAY HONORED FOR COMMUNITY WORK



No need to ask Guadalupe Tredway to dream up her ideal job. She may tell you it's the one she has now.

As a community health worker in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health who's embraced a wider role serving the people of Wyandotte County, Tredway helps fill gaps – such as inadequate food, housing or health care – that cause problems in her clients' lives.

"If a doctor (or nurse, social worker or other medical providers) sees the need from a client – a social need that is interfering with their care – they send them to me," she said. "I make a plan with them and we start working."

Her work comes in many forms. She'll connect clients with assistance agencies or government programs. She'll help them with applications and appointments or suggest options they hadn't considered.

Because Tredway can devote more time than medical providers get during office visits, she can engage clients and build trust. She also relates to them differently than a doctor or a social worker, who some clients find intimidating.

Many clients even welcome Tredway into their homes. It's one of her

favorite parts of the job and provides valuable insight for the people she helps.

"I can be the eyes of the doctors in the house," she said. "We have a lot of successful stories because of me going and seeing the problem with my eyes."

Tredway discovered one seriously ill client wasn't taking his medication like he'd said. At best, he'd open a bottle and take a pill or two. As his health deteriorated, the man wound up in the ER almost once a week. Tredway made the client a pill box and ensured it stayed filled. She had pharmacy and medical students meet with him to explain the purpose and interaction of each pill. This assistance helped the client stay on his meds and his health improved.

"I cannot describe how it feels seeing people succeed and then get better. And then be healthier," Tredway said. ➡



HEALTH WORKER ADAPTS TO COVID CHANGES



A nurse when she lived in Mexico, Tredway says her favorite aspect of nursing was the patient interactions – something she now gets to do all the time.

“I have what I want, the social aspect,” she said. “I’m more than happy. I just love it.”

In 2020, she was named Kansas Community Health Worker of the Year, an award that made her feel honored and humbled. But 2020 was also the year COVID-19 shook up the job she loves so much.

She couldn’t work out of the Family Medicine clinic anymore. Her beloved home visits stopped too. She did help clients navigate the complicated world of telehealth, but wasn’t sure what her own future held. One invitation changed everything.

“Dr. (Erin) Corriveau said, ‘I’m going to the Health Department. Do you want to come with me?’” Tredway said. “I’m, like, ‘Yes! Absolutely!’”

Wyandotte County residents needed someone to help with COVID-related healthcare needs, unemployment benefits, food assistance and utility bill relief, a perfect role for Tredway. As cases grew, the county hired two more community health workers, whom Tredway trained.

Overwhelmed community health workers partner with Community Health Council of Wyandotte County to get help from their team, too. Tredway still manages her KU clients, but now also supervises more than 15 CHC community health workers. They’re currently sending 10 CHWs to canvass the county’s most vulnerable zip codes to educate residents about COVID-19 vaccines, testing and other related facts from trusted sources. They’re also working on clients’ social determinants of health through the WYCO Connect program.

While Tredway loved the role she had before, her new one may be even better.

“I’m very happy. I love to teach. I love to train people,” she said. “Community health work and training? That’s my dream come true.”

CAICH MOVES ON



The Center for American Indian Community Health ended a decade at the University of Kansas Medical Center in the summer of 2020.

CAICH Director Christine Daley, PhD, MA, SM, moved the organization to Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where she took a new position.

CAICH merged with the Center for American Indian Studies, previously based at Johnson County Community College and will be renamed the Institute for Indigenous Studies.

The combined organization is focusing on education and research.

Many members of Dr. Daley's CAICH team, including faculty members Jason Hale and Charley Lewis, joined her, but a number of others worked remotely from their homes in the Kansas City region — at least initially.



Dr. Christine Daley at the Family Medicine & Community Health Thanksgiving luncheon in 2019.

CAICH has worked with American Indian communities on many public health concerns, including culturally-tailored smoking cessation and weight loss programs, environmental health issues and improving access to cancer screenings.

We are grateful to have worked with the organization over the past ten years.

HASWOOD TO THE HOUSE



Christina Haswood, MPH, a CAICH teammate who completed her degree at KUMC in May 2020, became the youngest member of the Kansas Legislature in 2021.

Haswood won the Democratic primary in the state's 10th House District and breezed to a win without a Republican opponent in the November's general election.

Haswood, 26, and a member of the Navajo Nation, is the third American Indian to serve in the Legislature.

She said taking part in the 2019 Native American Political Leadership Program in Washington, D.C., sparked her interest in politics.



Our Research Division aims to improve our understanding of family medicine and how it can help eliminate many types of health concerns and conditions for individuals and communities.

Headquartered on the second floor of the University of Kansas Endowment Association building, the division is funded by a diverse portfolio of grants from organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Unit and many others.

Our unit houses the *Frontiers Community Partnership for Health Program*, which serves as the KUMC office for research community engagement promotion. Frontiers is the KUMC Clinical Translational Science Award program and has the overall goal of moving scientific discovery to healthcare delivery quicker and more efficiently.

Our work deals with issues in our own backyard of Wyandotte County and on the other side of the globe.

We are committed to working with family physicians who serve the underserved and we will continue to help these providers study questions that matter to them and their patients.

We also have many connections to local and regional public health institutions and nonprofits who work to address the social determinants of health.

RESEARCH DIVISION



JOSEPH LeMASTER, MD, MPH
Research Division Director

COREEN GUNJA
Program Manager

RESEARCH DIVISION TURNS FOCUS TO COVID-19

Unsurprisingly, the COVID-19 pandemic became a focus of efforts across the Family Medicine & Community Health Research Division, with projects ranging from testing to vaccine acceptance to communications.

RADx-UP KANSAS



Faculty members Drs. Allen Greiner, Joseph LeMaster, Sarah Finocchiaro Kessler, Crystal Lumpkins and Erin Corriveau were among the interdisciplinary team members working on this [National Institutes of Health program](#) designed to help people and populations who have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

RADx-UP, which stands for Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics in Underserved Populations, specifically focuses on better access to testing and tailored communications techniques to reach underserved communities to support COVID mitigation strategies.

The University of Kansas Medical Center worked with local health departments, community health centers and a diverse range of community leaders to form local Health Equity Action Teams (HEATS) in ten counties across Kansas, some urban and some rural, leveraging a model developed in Wyandotte County.

Click the links to learn more about [RADx-UP Kansas](#) and the [full list of its team](#).

AT-HOME EXERCISE HABITS

Drs. Nicole Yedlinsky and Dan Parente, along with MS4 Natalie Wood, looked at the impact of stay-at-home orders on the exercise habits of working American adults. The project found that the average duration of exercise decreased, despite more individuals purchasing home exercise equipment.

The study found most individuals reported weight gain during the stay-at-home order.

VACCINE ACCEPTANCE AMONG HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL

Drs. Daniel Parente, Joseph LeMaster and Mark Meyer were three authors of a published article about the willingness of health care professionals to get the COVID-19 vaccination when it became available.

The study asked 3,347 University of Kansas Medical Center professionals in October 2020 whether they intended to receive a COVID-19 vaccination when it became available. It found that just more than 40% of those surveyed said, at the time, that they either intended to wait on the vaccine (30.6%) or did not plan to receive it at all (9.9%)

Respondents who identified as male, had previously received flu shots, expressed an increased concern about COVID-19 or had postgraduate education experience were more like to want the shot right away. Black respondents indicated a greater hesitancy overall.

The study found that common barriers to vaccination included concerns about long-term side effects, safety, efficacy, risk-to-benefit ration and how much it might cost.

The work was accepted for publication by the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine.

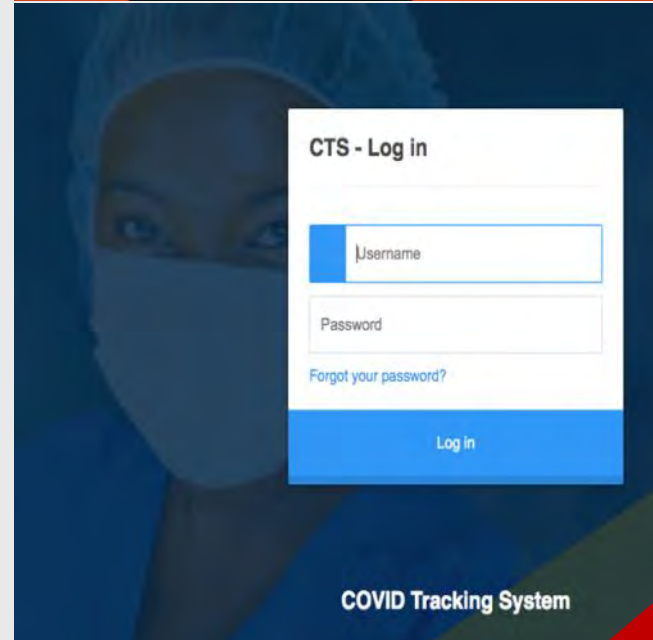


COVID TRACKING SYSTEM

Dr. Sarah Finocchiaro-Kessler's Covid Tracking System (CTS) project received a University of Kansas School of Medicine Pilot Award. While initially designed to support case investigation in Wyandotte and Johnson counties, the system found its niche in tracking the range of social needs support (food and cleaning supplies delivery) and referrals for community health worker follow-up (linkage to behavioral health, federal assistance, etc.) that was provided by the Wyandotte County Health Department to residents who tested positive for COVID-19.

Kevin Oyowe, who spent a year working with Drs. Kessler and Natabhona Mabachi at the Research Division before returning to Kenya, designed the CTS for use in Kansas.

In the first months of the award, the team is working to adapt the CTS for use in Kenya to track COVID samples from health facilities to laboratories, and relaying results back to patients.



FOOD AID DELIVERIES

Grocery shopping was an essential — but risky — activity for older people in the pandemic.

Drs. Jennifer Woodward and Kristina Bridges used previously collected social determinants of health data of people 65 and older with food insecurity concerns to learn how often they had to leave home to access food and whether they'd welcome deliveries of food aid instead.

The research found that half of the people surveyed had less than a two-day supply of food at home and most would stay home more often if food assistance was brought to them.

Food deliveries for many of these people were provided by local organizations.

Drs. Woodward and Bridges are exploring publication options for their work.

FAITH LEADERS

Dr. Crystal Lumpkins co-conducted eleven virtual in-depth interviews with African American faith leaders and pastors in Kansas and Missouri between July and October of 2020 to explore their opinions, perceptions and knowledge about COVID-19 and also COVID-19 health (risk) communication — and how they viewed themselves as communicators of this type of information.

Preliminary analysis yielded a series of recommendations for COVID-19 communication methods and also message content.

A series of health communication workshops are also being provided for pastors and faith leaders as part of this and other research projects and responsiveness to health communication needs among pastors and faith leaders in the sample and also community.

Dr. Lumpkins' abstract was accepted for the Society of Behavioral Medicine conference for presentation in April 2021.

CHURCH-BASED COVID-19 TESTING

Dr. Sarah Finocchiaro Kessler worked with the Health Department in Kansas City, Missouri and Dr. Jannette Berkley-Patton of the University of Missouri-Kansas City on culturally and religiously tailored programs to promote COVID-19 testing and connections to care intervention at African American churches in Kansas City.

KESSLER PIVOTS WORK DURING PANDEMIC

By Anne Christiansen-Bullers, KU Medical Center News

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There's been a lot of talk about "flexibility" and "resiliency" during the COVID-19 pandemic. So much, in fact, that it's easy for those words to lose their meaning.

But one way to refocus the tenacity it takes to keep pushing ahead is to learn about Sarah Finocchiaro Kessler, PhD, MPH.

Dr. Kessler is an associate professor at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Her faculty position within the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health was initially centered on HIV research and how the childbearing process could be improved for women who were HIV-positive.

Researching in Africa

Her research took her to Kenya, where the rate of HIV in adults is 4.7%, compared to 0.03% in the United States. "I've been working with a team there since about 2010. I typically go between three and four times a year, and a team from Kenya usually visits the Kansas City area once a year," Kessler said.

She set up important contacts in Kenyan health care not only to advance her research but also to make a real difference in the lives of mothers and babies born under the looming cloud of HIV. She looked at how to speed up the testing of infants born to HIV-positive mothers since quicker medical interventions means better outcomes for the babies who do test positive.

"We looked within the local structure (in Kenya) for ways to intervene and try to expedite services," Kessler said. "For instance, we tracked samples going to the lab for HIV tests, and the results went from taking two to three months to only two to three weeks." ➡



Dr. Kessler with May Maloba, director of Global Health Innovations, during Dr. Kessler's last pre-pandemic trip to Kenya.

But when the pandemic hit, and trips to Kenya were no longer possible, Kessler had to refocus. She won the university's Scholarly Achievement Award in 2020, which is given to only a handful of professors to celebrate their mid-career research. And now, just weeks after accepting the honor, she faced a blockade.

And here's where the resilience part comes in. Sure, Kessler could keep up with her contacts in Kenya through phone calls and video conferencing (when the internet complied), but it would be tough going without face-to-face visits for who knows how long.

And like many faculty members, Kessler wanted to contribute to the fight against COVID-19. With a doctorate from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Kessler knew she was looking down the barrel of the biggest public health crisis of her career. How could she help?



Dr. Kessler with Mama Sarah Obama, the paternal grandmother of former President Barack Obama, in Siaya, Kenya in February 2020. She passed away in March 2021 at age 99.

Adapting established software to new pandemic

The answer came from her own research. She already had experience with an HIV Infant Tracking System (HITSytem), which was a software program developed by a former graduate school classmate at Johns Hopkins. Why not use that same system as a basis for a COVID-19 tracking system?

The parallels were there: both HIV and COVID-19 are contagious diseases that depend on quick turnaround of diagnostic tests and early intervention in communicating with the people who may have been exposed.

With a \$50,000 pilot grant from KU School of Medicine, Kessler spent about five months developing and refining the system. The COVID-19 Tracking System (CTS) used the same dashboard alerts, algorithm-driven prompts and high-priority alerts as the HITSytem. Also like its predecessor, the CTS can generate specific reports for contact tracers and send out automated text messages to potential contacts of anyone testing COVID-positive.

"The systems target different disease outcomes - one HIV, one COVID - in the very different settings of Kenya versus Kansas," Kessler said. "Each system has been customized for the required data collection, reporting and workflow in each setting." ➡

Serving social needs in Wyandotte and Johnson counties

The CTS was designed for Wyandotte and Johnson counties, but it faced initial problems linking with the state-mandated EpiTrax system. EpiTrax, which Kansas adopted in 2019, is a system to track and report health outbreaks. To avoid duplicating efforts, her team pivoted to support the progressive efforts of the Wyandotte County Health Department to address social needs of Covid-positive residents.

So, case investigators used CTS to:

- Track and support referrals for food and cleaning supplies
- Provide referrals to mental health services and/or primary care
- Link residents with a community health care worker to address additional health issues
- Track and document community health care worker outreach for COVID-19-related activities

Exemplifying Global Health

Kessler said she wants to offer the CTS to her colleagues in Africa to bridge any system gaps in their COVID-19 response. "We plan to begin working with the Ministry of Health in Kenya to modify the Kansas version of CTS to meet their needs," Kessler said.

Attending to the pandemic's public health crisis on two continents lends credence to a comment provided by Kimberly Connelly, senior international officer for KU Medical Center. Connelly said Kessler is her "go-to person" for students who want to know more about global health, and Kessler reminds students what "global health" really means.

"The thing is, global health is local. People think it's only international, but those who are interested in global health are interested in health disparities, health inequalities and community health," Connelly said. And Kessler "exemplifies" global health at KU Medical Center, she continued.

"Dr. Kessler genuinely honors the knowledge base of whoever she's working with. People involved in global health are the most humble, kind people, and Dr. Kessler is especially incredible this way," Connelly said. "She listens, and she's very collaborative in all that she does."



GRANTS

Principal Investigator	Investigators	Title of Grant	Funding Source	Amount	Years	Status
Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya Dr. Denise Zwahlen		Pneumococcal Immunization Office Champion Program	Kansas Academy of Family Physicians	\$4,900	2018-2020	Inactive
Dr. Mario Castro	Ellerbeck Greiner Crawford	RADx-UP: Improving the Response of Local Urban and Rural Communities to Disparities in COVID-19 Testing	National Institutes of Health	\$3,755,728	9/25/2020- 6/30/2022	Active
Dr. Won S. Choi	Gajewski Greiner	Assessing Telephone All Nations Breath of Life for Efficacy	National Institute on Drug Abuse Sub with Lehigh University	\$580,011	9/30/19- 7/31/24	Active
Dr. Christine Daley	Choi Ellerbeck Faseru Hale Lewis Williams	Urban and Reservation Implementation of All Nations Breath of Life to Improve Smoking Cessation Rates among American Indians	National Institute on Drug Abuse	\$481,589	4/1/19- 3/31/23	Active— Transferred to new university
Dr. Christine Daley	Choi Hale Lewis	Training American Indian Community Members in Community-Based Participatory Research	Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute	\$178,458	6/1/19- 5/31/21	Inactive
Dr. Carrie Francis	Mabachi Luaces	Understanding Medical Students’ Perceptions of the Learning Community in Achieving Structural Competency	AME	\$15,000	2021-2022	Active
Dr. Allen Greiner	Klemp	KanSurvive: Testing a model for improving cancer survivorship in rural practice	National Institutes of Health	\$279,856	8/23/19- 7/31/24	Active
Dr. Allen Greiner	Moore	Minority Supplement: Using Community Workers to Improve Colorectal Screening in Safety-Net Clinics	National Institutes of Health	\$150,000	8/1/19- 3/31/21	Active

GRANTS

Principal Investigator	Investigators	Title of Grant	Funding Source	Direct Costs	Years	Status
Dr. Allen Greiner	Bridges Woodward	Community Health Council/Food Security	BlueKC	\$25,188	11/1/2019-12/31/2021	Active
Dr. Allen Greiner	Lumpkins Befort CHCSEK	Rural Supplement: Adaptive Intervention to Maximize Colorectal Screening in Safety Net Populations in Southeast Kansas (w/ CHCSEK subaward)	National Institutes of Health	\$192,800	9/1/2020-3/31/2021	Active
Dr. Sarah Kessler	Mabachi Wexler GHI	Evaluating the HITSystem to Improve PMTCT Retention and Maternal Virus Suppression in Kenya	National Institutes of Health	\$485,917	12/18/19-11/30/24	Active
Dr. Sarah Kessler	Wexler Maliski Hagerman	Developing Oral Dissolvable Strips (ODS) for Pediatric HIV	CHM—Lied	\$35,000	2019-2021	Active
Dr. Sarah Kessler		RADX, R01 Supplement COVID-19 Testing and Linkage of Care with African-American Church and Health Agency Partner	(UMKC) Berkley-Patton	\$48,558	2021-2022	Active
Dr. Sarah Kessler	Gautney Wexler	HITSystem-Tanznia Programmatic Implementation— Sub from GHI	Henry M. Jackson Foundation	\$58,675	2/2020-9/2021	Active
Dr. Sarah Kessler	Corriveau Greiner LeMaster Wexler	Developing the COVID-19 Tracking System to Streamline Infection Control Strategies and Generate Priority Epidemiological Data in Kansas.	SOM	\$50,000	7/1/2020-6/30/2021	Inactive
Dr. Sarah Kessler	Mabachi	Assessing Caregiver and Child Preference for the Development of Novel Pediatric Antiretroviral Therapy Delivery	National Institutes of Health	\$285,695	7/1/21-6/30/23	Active

GRANTS

Principal Investigator	Investigators	Title of Grant	Funding Source	Direct Costs	Years	Status
Dr. Sarah Kessler	Ellerbeck Greiner LeMaster Corriveau Mabachi Lumpkins Woodward Ablah	National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities	CDC/KDHE	\$13,386,000	7/1/2021–6/30/2023	Active
Dr. Joseph LeMaster	Greiner	Primary Care Implementation Science Pilot for Colorectal Cancer Screening	Frontiers-Research Institute	\$34,997	7/1/20-11/30/21	Active
Dr. Bruce Liese		Medication and Counseling Skills for Patients with Substance Use Disorders and Addictions	Medical Alumni Innovative Teaching Fund	\$24,787		Active
Dr. Crystal Lumpkins		Development of a Risk Communication Model to Predict Culturally-Tailored Cancer-Related Genetic Counseling and Testing (CGT) among African-American populations	IAP-SOM	\$76,798	7/1/2020-6/30/2021	Active
Dr. Daniel Parente		Pharmacogenomic Modulators of Impaired Exercise Adaptation in Statin Users	Lied Pilot—Frontiers	\$35,000	7/1/20-12/31/21	Active

GRANTS

Principal Investigator	Investigators	Title of Grant	Funding Source	Direct Costs	Years	Status
PENDING						
Dr. Shelley Bhattacharya	Sosnoff Jacob	Minimizing Fall-Related Injury in Older Adults: A Motor Learning Approach	R21—NIH Transfer	\$106,028	4/1/2022-4/1/2023	Submitted
Dr. Mario Castro	Greiner Ellerbeck Ramaswamy Choi	Frontiers: CTSA	National Institutes of Health	\$127,550	2022-2027	Submitted
Sravani Chandaka	Mabachi	Great Plains	PCORI			
Dr. Lisa Cox	Greiner	Improving Smoking Abstinence Outcomes in the African-American Community Through Extended Treatment	R01-National Institutes of Health	\$3,890,548	4/1/22-3/31/27	Submitted
Dr. Edward Ellerbeck	Greiner	Engaging Local Organizations and Optimizing Incentives to Improve COVID Vaccinations and Testing	UL-1 Supplement			Submitted
Dr. Aditi Gupta	Woodward	Hybrid Pragmatic Implementation Trial to Lower Blood Pressure in Midlife with Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring and Telehealth	National Institutes of Health	\$2,496,310	2021-2026	Submitted
Dr. Sarah Kessler	Ramaswamy	Increasing Contraception Access as Harm Reduction for Women with Opioid-Use Disorder in Rural Communities	Children's Mercy Hospital	\$20,211	2020-2023	Pending
Dr. Sarah Kessler	Wexler	Optimizing and Evaluating Bioequivalence of a Single Oral Dissolvable Strip Containing AZT+NVP for Pediatric HIV Prophylaxis	Frontiers-IAMA Trailblazers	\$25,000	7/1/2021-6/30/2022	Submitted

GRANTS

Principal Investigator	Investigators	Title of Grant	Funding Source	Direct Costs	Years	Status
Dr. Crystal Lumpkins		Genetic Counseling Processes Results in Outcomes (GC-PRO) Study	National Institutes of Health Sub—University of Minnesota		4/1/2022-3/31/2026	Submitted
Dr. Natabhona Mabachi	Kessler Bridges	Evaluating the Cancer Tracking System (CAT System) to Improve Cervical Cancer Screening, Treatment, Referral and Followup	National Institutes of Health	\$2,641,999	4/1/2022-3/31/2027	Submitted
Dr. Natabhona Mabachi	Brian Houston	Multilevel Equitable Post-Pandemic Recovery, Renewal, Resilience and Resistance	MU Sub-TAPS	\$34,032	3/1/2022-2/29/2024	Submitted
Dr. Eve-Lynn Nelson Dr. Alice Zhang	LeMaster	Addressing Disparities: Transitioning Rural Adolescents/Young Adults in Partners (TRAPease)	PCORI		11/21/2021-12/31/2026	Submitted
Dr. Daniel Parente	Godwin	Pharmacogenomic Risk Factors for Iatrogenic Opioid Dependence	Kansas Institute for Precision Medicine COBRE	\$50,000	2021-2022	Pending
Dr. Jill Peltzer	Mabachi Lumpkins	Breast Cancer Inequities Among Black Americans: A Concept Mapping Study	SON-ONF	\$99,772	2021-2022	Submitted

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COLOPHON

This report is a production of the University of Kansas Medical Center's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and was completed in August 2021.

It was created on MS Publisher using Franklin Gothic and Gill Sans typefaces.

Our thanks to all who contributed photographs and other content, with a special salute to Coreen Gunja for her help with grants records and to Hannah Rachford and Megan Murray, who helped corral information about faculty awards, publications and clinic statistics.

Our cover photo was provided by Sarah Dashwood, MD.

And a final thank you to everyone who worked to treat patients and educate the next generation of health professionals during some of the most trying conditions of our lifetimes.

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Family Medicine & Community Health residents received early COVID-19 vaccinations in December 2020





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