

February 12, 2007

To: Barbara Atkinson, M.D.
Executive Dean
School of Medicine

Irene Cumming
President and CEO
KU Hospital

Kirk Benson, M.D.
President KUPI

William Barkman, M.D.
Chief of Staff

The Council of Clinical Chairs have met and created a Statement of Principles defining our views and roles in the activities involving the School of Medicine, KU Hospital and KUPI. We wish to work in partnership with these entities in moving forward with initiatives involving our departments. The Council of Clinical Chairs stands in agreement with these Principles and welcomes the opportunity to provide leadership for our Medical Center.

Council of Clinical Chairs

Richard Barohn, M.D.
William Gabrielli, M.D.
John Grant, M.D.
James Kindscher, M.D.
Eashwer Reddy, M.D.
John Sutphin, M.D.
James Thomas, M.D.
Bruce Toby, M.D.
Carl Weiner, M.D.

Josh Freeman, M.D.
Doug Girod, M.D.
Chet Johnson, M.D.
Susan Pingleton, M.D.
Stanton Rosenthal, M.D.
Patricia A. Thomas, M.D.
Brantley Thrasher, M.D.
George Varghese, M.D.

Council of Clinical Chairs Statement of Principles

The Council of Clinical Chairs recognizes the importance of the affiliation initiative being discussed between KU Medical Center, KU Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital, with both potential benefits and risks to our academic and clinical enterprises. The Chairs wish to set forth their thoughts on these complex issues. As leaders of our Departments, we agree that:

1. The development of a strong Life Sciences Program in Kansas City has potential benefits for both Kansas and the Greater Kansas City area.
2. Attaining designation as a NCI comprehensive cancer center is a priority for both KU Medical Center and KU Hospital.
3. Chairs are the heads of unified academic and clinical departments, with the responsibility and accountability for teaching, research and clinical care missions. All of these activities are essential to the success of KU Medical Center, KU Hospital and the state of Kansas.
4. The Chairs must assure that our respective residency and fellowship Program Directors preserve their authority and accountability for the operation and programmatic growth of graduate medical education programs in accordance with the requirements of the ACGME. Any proposed organization structure to oversee operations and programmatic growth should include appropriate representation from the residency and fellowship directors.
5. The Council of Chairs should be a full and equal partner with KU Hospital in identification and implementation of physician needs in areas where clinical care is required for medical programs.
6. The clinical departments must maintain their current status within KUPI and the School of Medicine in order to meet their broad missions within the medical center.
7. We believe that physician involvement and appropriate representation should be part of all strategic and operational planning committees, including the current affiliation committee meetings between the University and KU Hospital.