

INTERNATIONALLY SPEAKING

Official Newsletter of the University of Kansas Medical Center International Affairs Committee



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Welcome to *Internationally Speaking!*



For those of you who have been at KUMC for some time, we thought you might remember Volume 1, Number 1 of *Exchange*, published by the International Exchange Committee, which appeared in hard copy in January 1990. This newsletter was one 11x14 page folded, contained two full-length articles, four photographs, and a partial listing (1/2 a page) of all internationals on campus. In 1990, the International Exchange Committee was a part of the Dean's Office, School of Medicine. The last issue of *Exchange*, Volume 12, Number 1 was published in Fall 2001.

Today, the International Affairs Committee, an advisory body to Dr. Allen Rawitch, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the Office of International Programs, welcomes you to the first issue of *Internationally Speaking* – or Volume 18, Number 1, of the child of *Exchange*.

To be published quarterly, *Internationally Speaking* will feature articles designed to communicate and promote student and faculty international experiences. *Internationally Speaking* will also feature the varied and unique experiences of international exchange students and faculty.

The staff of *Internationally Speaking* would like to know about any faculty, staff, or student international activities, experiences, and programs. Please send information electronically to jreagan@kumc.edu. Be sure to include the title "Internationally Speaking" in the subject line of the email. We also welcome photographs and suggestions for feature articles.

We hope you enjoy!

The Transatlantic Consortium and Clinical Lab Sciences

Since 1999, the School of Allied Health has been a member institution in the Transatlantic Health Science Consortium. The mission of the Consortium is to facilitate the international exchange of Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) students and faculty, thereby expanding the globalization of biomedical workforce opportunities for our graduates. In October 2003, the Consortium was awarded a three-year grant from the US Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPE). This grant has provided opportunities for KUMC CLS students to study in a comparable program at an international site and to experience the perform-

ance of their profession in the host country.

The University of Wolverhampton (UK) has served as our exchange partner for the grant. During the Spring 2005 semester, two CLS students performed rotations in the Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Microbiology laboratories at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton. During the Spring 2006 semester, four CLS students studied at the University of Wolverhampton and participated in ongoing molecular biology-oriented research projects in faculty laboratories. In the final year of the grant, two CLS students performed rotations during the Spring 2007 semester, as

others had in 2005, at New Cross Hospital. During the three years of the grant, the School of Allied Health served as host for three University of Wolverhampton Biomedical Science students – the Wolverhampton academic program most equivalent to CLS.

The opportunities afforded by the FIPSE grant have established avenues of communication that can be maintained in an ongoing student exchange between the KUMC SAH and the University of Wolverhampton.

~ *Contributed by*

Eric Elsingerhorst, PhD



This June, I had the opportunity to travel with Chancellor Hemenway and a group of faculty and administrators from our Lawrence Campus to several cities in China. I was able to visit several heads of biology or life science programs as well as administrators at a number of different universities, including Peking University

Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs Visits China

and Tsinghua University in Beijing, Huazhong Normal University in Wuhan and biochemistry, biology or molecular biology departments in Wuhan and Shanghai. The group was ably led by Bill Tsutsui and Sheree Willis from the staff of the Confucius Center on our Edwards Campus. We flew first to Beijing where we stayed for 3 days and had the chance to explore Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City before leaving for Wuhan. In Wuhan, we were welcomed by colleagues from Huazhong University (an institution affiliated with our Confu-

cius Center). While in Wuhan, I also spent some time on the campus of Huazhong University and a medical campus. After two and a half days in Wuhan, we flew to Shanghai, where we spent an additional two and a half days and had the chance to see some really incredible museums and Chinese artifacts, including musical instruments and weapons dating to the 10th century and older.

This visit certainly gave me a new and deep appreciation of the exploding Chinese economy and the rapid development of the country in many areas. Everywhere one looked in the cities we visited there was construction and renovation. The Chinese gift for design and art was evidenced in the architecture of countless new buildings as well as the many preserved traditional structures. Construction of new roads and light rail or subway lines was moving at a rapid pace in preparation for the upcoming Summer Olympic Games, and promotion of the event was every where. The mixture of automobiles, buses, motor scooters, bicycles and (in some cases) hand-drawn carts was a sight to behold, and what

appeared time after time to be a formula for disaster and chaos seemed to always sort itself out with no blood spilled and vehicles and people intact. Public transportation seemed very available and relatively inexpensive, although looking into the many buses we passed reminded me of a New York subway at rush hour.

Our Chinese hosts were gracious and open which allowed me to have many candid conversations with faculty and others at the universities about students, study in the US and opportunities for American students and faculty in china. It was clear that those who made it through their education system and obtained undergraduate



degrees from their better institutions were highly selected and motivated, as well as extremely bright.. Our group returned to Kansas with a sense of opportunity and potential to build expanding and extended relationships with universities and other entities in china.

Student Activities



This past summer has been an active one internationally for KUMC students. Six of the twelve Clendening Fellowships were awarded to first-year medical students involved in international projects. **Kyle Brown** and **Terry Hansen** traveled to South Africa and Ghana, respectively. **Brown** studied the

prevalence of AIDS in a clinic, a hospital, and an orphanage. **Hansen** looked at the challenges in improving health care systems in the country of his birth. **Sushan Govindan** compared privatized and socialized oncology at KUMC and at a hospital in the UK. **Madhu Iyengar** looked at cross cultural differences in emergency medical care at a Los Angeles county hospital and at a similar hospital in Buenos Aires. Also in South America, **Bradley Thompson** interviewed patients in public and private hospitals in Venezuela as a means to compare the

health care systems in that country. Finally, **Elise Schnose** traveled to the Far East through the Crossroads program to study public health care in Thailand.

Once again, first-year medical students traveled to Valencia, Spain, and Otto von-Guericke Universitat, Magdeburg, Germany, for eight weeks of research. **Nathan Cuka**, in Dr. Erwin Knecht's laboratory, studied the effects of Carbamylation on the stability of insulin, and **Jeffrey Klein** worked in Dr. Jose Hernandez-Yago's laboratory on transports

processes related to the mitochondria, both at the Centro de Investigacion Principe Felipe. In Magdeburg, **Sarah Latif** worked with Drs. Marino Venерito and Thomas Wex on the role of 5-lipoxygenase in gastric carcinogenesis, while **Kelli Crabtree** studied quality control in colorectal and gastric cancer surgery with Dr. Hans Lippert.

First-year medical students **Kajsa Affolter**, **Stephanie Dobbler**, **Sam Lobell**, and **Becca Phipps** traveled to Ecuador, and **Adeola Kosoko** traveled to Panama for Spanish immersion and clinical experiences. **Alexandra Liggatt** joined a group with CFHI (Child and Family Health International) in Mum-

bai, India, and worked with a local preceptor to further develop clinical skills in treating patients with infectious disease. **Brynn Shafter** traveled to Thailand to study public health care.

First-year medical students **Sneha Chandra**, **Candice Coffey**, **Jennifer Hansen**, **Van Pham**, and **Luke Spencer-Garden** and a number of physicians traveled to Guatemala as part of a KUMC International Outreach medical mission trip. **Megan Jones** and **Lucas Thompson**, along with nursing student **Liza Rodriguez**, also traveled to Guatemala with physicians and Dr. Christine Moranetz as part of a medical mission trip. The primary audi-

ence for health promotion and education activities during this mission were women and children from El Centro, a private living facility for women and children who have been victims of abuse. **Nicole Baalman** traveled to Brazil on a medical mission trip.

For the first time, four first-year medical students, **Cheen Alkhatib**, **Alan Kovar**, **Jeffrey Shepherd**, and **Matthew Waldron**, were given the opportunity to attend the Amsterdam International Medical Summer School. While in The Netherlands, they attended lectures and participated in basic science research on gastrointestinal and liver diseases.

Visitors & Travelers

Paula Cupertino, PhD, and **Kimberly Richter, PhD**, Department of Preventive Medicine and public Health, will present at the First SRNT (Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco) Latin American Congress & Second Iberoamerican Conference on Tobacco Control, 5 – 7 September 2007, Hotel Gloria, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They will chair a symposium on U.S./Latin American Collaboration for Tobacco Control.

Doug Girod, MD Department of Otolaryngology, reports that his department participated in

two international trips this last year. In June 2006, they led a nine-day trip Antigua, Guatemala, with 62 people participating, including two ENT residents and about seven KU medical students. Multiple KU faculty members participated from ENT, Anesthesia, Peds, and ER. They performed 65 surgeries, saw more than 500 people in clinics, and fit 145 hearing aids. This was the third trip to this site which is now an annual event sponsored by his department, the KUMCIO medical student group, and the Medical Missions Foundation of Kansas



City (MMF). Another trip was held in June 2007. In November 2006, three KU ENT faculty and two residents participated with MMF in a trip to Bohol, Philippines. During the 12-day trip, as part of a much larger group (45 people) in several specialties, they performed 19

**KANSAS UNIVERSITY
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Special thanks to this issue's
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Want to Contribute?

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major head and neck cases.

Jo-Ann Harris, MD, FAAP, Department of Pediatrics, would like people to learn more about the International Adoption Clinic at www2.kumc.edu/kids/documents/IAC_brochure.pdf.

Rick Kellerman, MD, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Wichita, sends news of the KUSM-Wichita 20-year family physician faculty exchange program with Paraguay. Most recently, **Andreas Szacko, MD**, visited Wichita. Other Paraguayan family physicians have come to Wichita for faculty development. Over the years, **Kellerman, Scott Moser, MD, Douglas Woolley, MD, MPH, Edward Donatelle, MD**, and **John Hart, MD**, have been to Paraguay to consult with the government, medical schools, residency programs, and to provide faculty development. A poster about this on-going activity will be presented at the WONCA (The World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Associations of Family Physicians) in Singapore in July.

Wesley Schmidt, MD, has been their contact in Paraguay. In addition, a number of KU School of Medicine senior medical students have been to Paraguay for International Health Electives.

Stephen Smith, MD, Department of Surgery, Wichita, recently spent two weeks at the Army Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, as "Senior Visiting Surgeon in Combat Care." Landstuhl is the hospital where

all US casualties from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are transferred after initial treatment. This exchange program was initiated by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, and the DOD. **Smith** notes that it was an honor and an excellent experience to have been able to participate in this program.

John Sutphin, MD, Department of Ophthalmology, gave two papers in Sao Paulo, Brazil in February 2006 at the World Ophthalmology Congress – "Corneal Imaging – Confocal Microscopy," and "Treatment of Chemical and Thermal Burns" **Sutphin** also attended the Eye Bank Association of America in Toronto, Canada, in June 2006, as a member of the Medical Advisory Board.

Xiaoming Zhang, PhD, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, is collaborating with **Hiroshi Shimizu, PhD**, an investigator at the National Institute of Genetics in Japan (<http://www.nig.ac.jp/labs/OntoGen/home.html>) in research on extracellular matrix's function during development and regeneration, using hydra as an animal model. A postdoctoral fellow from **Shimizu's** lab, **Yuki-hiko Noro**, has come to KUMC to work on collaborating projects. In September 2007, the lab will participate in an international workshop, "Hydra and the Development of Animal Form," in Tutzing, Germany.