

INTERNATIONALLY SPEAKING

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



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Associate Professor, Pre-ventive Medicine and Public Health

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Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing

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Want to Contribute?

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.

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Welcome to *Internationally Speaking!*



The Office of International Programs and the International Affairs Committee would like to wish all KUMC faculty, staff and students a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Congratulations to Bridget Harrison and Anita Hegde, class of 2009 SOM, and Dr. Beth Abraham, née Hoerman, class of 2004 SOM, as contributing authors to the paper "NRF-1 is the major transcription factor regulating the expression of the human TOMM34 gene" to be published in *Biochemistry and*

Cell Biology. Beth, Bridget and Anita worked with Dr. José Hernandez-Yago at the Fundación Centro de Investigación Principe Felipe, Valencia, Spain, under the auspices of the KUMC Summer Research Program.

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We hope you enjoy!

Kim Richter, MPH, PhD, Associate Professor, Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Receives Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant



Dr. Richter encourages members of Healthy Cities Portugal to create smoke-free zones in their cities

Dr. Richter spent two weeks in Portugal and filed this report upon her return.

I traveled to Lisbon, Portugal, under the sponsorship of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública (ENSP). While there, I taught graduate-level courses on how to treat tobacco dependence and helped hospitals and cities gear up for a new nation-wide indoor smoking ban that was just weeks away. The law requires all health centers to provide smoking cessation programs but allocated no additional funds for implementation. The country's infrastructure for treating tobacco is weak. There is no publicly funded telephone quitline, wait lists for physician-based tobacco treatment range from weeks to months, quit-smoking medications are not covered by the National Health Service, and over-the-counter nicotine

replacement costs 3 times as much as in the U.S. Hence, city officials and healthcare providers were excited about the opportunities the ban would create, but they are also concerned about how they would meet new demands for treating and preventing tobacco use.

The highlight of my trip was a session with Healthy Cities of Portugal, a World Health Organization (WHO) initiative. The turnout, much larger than expected, included 70 leading health officials from cities all over the country. We discussed low-cost ways that cities could encourage eating establishments, worksites, and citizens to choose the most health-promoting options when the ban goes into effect (to be a smoke-free establishment, to quit smoking, to support the ban by asking others to not smoke in smoke-free areas). The attendees liked some of the U.S. strategies I offered, but in subsequent discussions they brainstormed ideas that might work better in Portugal, such as not granting permits for tobacco kiosks within a certain distance of schools and urging patrons to encourage restaurants to go smoke-free in their comment books, which restaurants are required by law to maintain and

submit regularly to health authorities. Apparently, restaurants will do anything to avoid negative comments.

I tried to learn about Portuguese civic structures, decision making processes, culture, and history during my trip. However, being somewhat ignorant was not necessarily a bad thing. It stopped me from dictating strategies because I didn't know what the possibilities, or barriers, were. Perhaps because we framed the ban as an opportunity, not a burden, discussion focused on how to use it as an opportunity to improve the health environment.

I enjoyed a number of other formal and informal meetings during my stay. My host, Luis Saboga-Nunes of ENSP, introduced me to the Director of Tobacco Control for Portugal, who shared some of her hopes, fears and plans for a number of new tobacco control policies that Portugal is implementing as signatory to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. I discussed my hospital's inpatient tobacco treatment program with staff from 3 hospitals. Last, I met with a project director at the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction, which monitors drug use and drug treatment

across the E.U. I wanted to see what they were doing to track tobacco use and tobacco treatment among drug users – one of my areas of research. Apparently they are just starting to track this, and we shared data on manuscripts on the topic.

On my off-time, I got to see 2 of 3 hallmarks of Portuguese popular culture (*Fado* and *Fatima*, but no *Football*). I also

visited stunning examples of Moorish, Gothic, Manueline, and Baroque architecture. I stayed at a *pensão* in the ancient part of the city and got around via public transportation and my small fund of Portuguese. It was a terrific experience, and I made a number of connections that promise to become new and exciting collaborations.



Dr. Richter and Professor Luis Saboga-Nunes of ENSP at the gothic monastery, Alcobaca

International Learning Opportunities in the School of Nursing

There is an increased interest each year for nursing students to earn course credit for international health care experiences. Due to the intense curriculum of the undergraduate nursing program, opportunities for study abroad require short term experiences during winter break or spring break the last semester of senior year following course completion of the Population Based Health Care Course.

This year there are 31 undergraduate students enrolled for the spring semester. Eight students will travel to Mauritania, Africa– 30 December-13 January with Mercy & Truth Missions, four students to the Dominican Republic, and twenty to Honduras with MedMissions in March. Three nursing faculty will accompany the students on the 2008 spring trips.

The two hour elective course, International Health Care: A Clinical Experience, includes web based modules to include global health care trends, cultural adjustment and competency, international nursing as a specialty, and specific health needs of the population. Students conduct population assessments and prepare teaching projects for the indigenous population and health care providers of the host country. All students complete another course objective, collaboration with an interdisciplinary health care team, by joining with health teams from various local and national organizations with long-standing relationships in the host countries. Students will provide presentations on campus (Africa – 31 March, 12-1pm, and 21 April, 12-1pm for Honduras & the Dominican Republic).

In addition, there is one student who will complete half of the senior Professional Practicum course by working with Hospitals of Hope in Bolivia. This is the second year that undergraduate nursing students have integrated an international health experience into the senior practicum course. The responses of the students to international opportunities have been overwhelmingly positive to provide life-changing personal and professional growth and unique learning experiences that cannot be accomplished in a traditional classroom setting.

The graduate program offers a leadership core course in Global Perspectives and Health Care. It is an on-line course, and enrollment has gone from 5 in the first two years of offering the course to an enrollment of 24 and 28 in the last two years. We also have had students from the MPH program

enroll in the course. An understanding and integration of cultural competence, ethics, and social justice for collaboration, development, and implementation of health programs at the local, national, and international levels are the goals of the course. Frameworks that emphasize the meanings of health and health care; international concepts of primary, secondary,

and tertiary health care, health promotion and illness management; and related ethical, economic, and social justice concerns are discussed throughout the course. Students identify a community or population of interest to understand the health and illness beliefs, identify barriers to health care access, and integrate historical, social, political, and economic forces that

impact health care. Following this assessment, students identify appropriate strategies for implementation of a specific health initiative to influence positive community or population health outcomes.

Contributed by Vicki Hicks, RN, MSN
Clinical Assistant Professor,
School of Nursing

Student Activities

KUMC International Outreach is busy preparing for two trips to Belize, 8-17 and 22-28 March. Medical students from classes '09, '10, and '11, nursing students and an MPH student will be participating. KUMCIO will hold a benefit auction on Friday, 8 February, at 6:00pm, in Battenfeld Auditorium and Francisco Lounge.

On 10 November 2007, the Indian Association of KUMC



Colors of a dance

(IAKUMC) invited the KUMC community to join them in their first annual celebration of Di-

wali, the Indian "Festival of Lights." Celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists worldwide, Diwali signifies the triumph of good over evil; additionally, it marks the last harvest of the year, so many use this day to be thankful for the previous year's good fortune and pray for another good year ahead.

Guests at this event enjoyed a lively evening, filled with entertainment and a flavorful assortment of Indian dishes. The cultural program included a fashion show and a variety of performances, by both adults and children, of Indian folk and classical song and dance. The School of Nursing atrium and auditorium were beautifully decorated for the occasion with sarees, hand-made posters, and rangoli.

Diwali was the first major event put together by IAKUMC, so

they would like to thank everyone who helped make it a great success. This event was co-sponsored by the KUMC Cultural Exchange Program and the International Programs office and could not have been so successful without their help.



Rangoli-a type of sandpainting

Visitors & Travelers

Rick Kellerman, MD, Family Medicine, Wichita Campus, was the United States' voting representative to the World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca) Council triennial meeting in Singapore, 19 July-2 August 2007.

Srinivas Iyengar, MD, an Ophthalmology Resident, spent his vacation in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with Scott Olitsky, MD, head of Pediatric Ophthalmology at Children's Mercy Hospital, and ORBIS International (www.orbis.org). They saw patients, taught local ophthalmologists, and operated some good teaching cases.

While cataract, there and worldwide, remains the leading cause of blindness, they also saw many other ophthalmologic diseases, including amblyopia, strabismus, trachoma, large gliomas, and large periocular tumors. Tanzania, has only 28 ophthalmologists for the entire population (1997 estimate of approximately 30 million). Thus, there are many people without eye care.

Randolph Nudo, PhD, Director, Landon Center on Aging, and Professor, Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, was interviewed on 14 December, by a film production team from NHK, the Japanese public TV network. NHK is producing an educational program on recent devel-

opments in approaches to rehabilitation. Nudo's article on brain plasticity after stroke that was published in *Science* in 1996 was the basis for the interview. Nudo also described more recent work demonstrating that the brain rewires itself after injury. These findings have had substantial influence on the development of rehabilitation therapies for stroke patients. **Mariko Nishibe**, a graduate student in the DPT/PhD program in the Department of Physical Therapy, School of Allied Health, assisted NHK in the interview. The program will air nationally in Japan in February 2008.

Kim Templeton, MD, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, participated in a national radio media tour this past Fall, discussing the topics from the symposium on Women's Musculoskeletal Health Issues (osteoporosis, arthritis) and Women's Careers in Orthopaedics, held in Switzerland in 2006, and subsequent publication in a supplement to the *Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons*. In October 2007, Templeton presented in Brisbane, Australia, at the World Bone and Joint Decade Meeting. While there, Templeton also presented at a high school education program to increase awareness of conditions like osteoporosis and arthritis, emphasizing prevention

through diet, exercise, and injury. She has worked with the National Group of Chiropractors to develop a back/spine health program that has been presented nationally and adopted by areas of India, Australia, and England.

Professor Curtis Klaassen, Director of the Mid-America Toxicology Course, in collaboration with Dr. K.S Rao, Ad-



Students in the course

vinus Therapeutics Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore, India, arranged for the lecturers in the Mid-America Toxicology Course to offer the Course in Bangalore in association with the XXVII Annual Conference of Society of Toxicology, India (STOX) from 6-12 October 2007. More than 100 international scientists enrolled in the course, many of whom were preparing for Diplomate of American Toxicology (DBAT) Examination. **Faculty included Drs. Curtis Klaassen, University Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Thera-**

peutics; Thomas Pazdernik, Chancellor's Teaching Professor, KUMC; Samuel Cohen, Professor of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, University of Nebraska, Medical Center; Donald Fox, Professor of Vision Sciences and Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences at the University of Houston; John Bloom, Clinical Research Fellow and Director of Experimental Medicine at Lilly; Yves Alarie, Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, University of Pittsburgh; Frederick Oheme, Professor of Toxicology and Pathobiology and Director of Comparative Toxicology Laboratories in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University; David Brusick, Vice-President of Global Toxicology for Covance; K.S. Rao, Senior Director of Safety Assessment at Advinus Therapeutics, Bangalore; James McDougal, Professor and Director of Toxicology Research at the Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University; and Angela Milius, Senior Scientist, Bayer, Stilwell, KS. All faculty were impressed by the active participation and eagerness to learn amongst all enrolled.

Many of us were able to visit interesting sites in and near Bangalore when we were not lecturing. Sites included temples and palaces in Bangalore, Mysore, Belur and Halebidu. After the course, 8 members of the group, Drs. Klaaseen, Pazdernik, Cohen, Fox, Alarie, and Oheme, as well as Mrs. Klaassen and Cohen, were able to go on the Golden Triangle tour which included vis-

its to New Delhi, Agra and Jaipur of which the highlight was the visit to the Taj Mahal. All enjoyed the tour immensely and were most struck by the diversity seen among the culture and living conditions of the Indian people. We visited Industrial Parks that were as modern as anything seen in the states but there were also pockets of extensive poverty. Another unique experience was riding in the traffic of the Indian cities. India is a developing country with a rich cultural heritage and marked educational and technological advances but also with problems of poverty and pollution. All agreed that it would be interesting to note the changes that will occur in this country over the next decade associated with the current rapid economic growth.

Carl Weiner, MD, MBA, the K.E. Krantz Professor and chair, Obstetrics and Gynecology; Professor, Molecular and Integrative Physiology, attended and spoke at the following international meetings: 3rd Asia Pacific Congress in Maternal Fetal Medicine, Shanghai, China, 29 August-1 September 2007, "Management of Shoulder Dystocia," "Principles in Counseling Women with Exposure to Drugs During Pregnancy," and "Physiological Approach to Nonimmune Hydrops Fetalis." Third World Congress of Perinatal Medicine, Florence, Italy, 9-13 September 2007, "Simulation Model Training

for Obstetrical Emergencies" and "Gene Array Profiling of Myometrial Events During Pregnancy." Tijuana ACOG Binational Course, Monterrey, Mexico, 30 September 2007, "Fetal Monitoring – Should it be Done for Everyone or Only Select Cases?" "Down Syndrome – Conservative Diagnosis or Amniocentesis?" and "Obstetrical Ultrasound – Routine or Only When Indicated?" This year, **Weiner** will travel to Singapore, Japan, Turkey, China, Italy and Macau.



Members of Golden Triangle Tour