

Early Career Achievement in Medicine Alumna

Becky N. Lowry, MD'03

Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, KU School of Medicine
University of Kansas Medical Center



In 2013, when Becky Lowry was asked to serve as the medical director of a new clinic that would help adult survivors of childhood cancer, she almost said no. She realized that she was still processing the emotional impact of caring for a young cancer patient who died nearly ten years earlier when Dr. Lowry was a resident.

Thankfully, Dr. Lowry found support to work through that experience, accepted the position and helped launch the University of Kansas Cancer Center Survivorship Transition Clinic. When it opened in 2014, it became one of a handful of clinics nationwide addressing the specific needs of adult survivors of childhood cancer, helping manage health conditions related to the long-term effects of treatment. Dr. Lowry was tapped for the position not only because of her dual specialties in pediatrics and internal medicine, but also because of her leadership as chief resident in those specialties at KU Medical Center.

Having won numerous awards at KU Medical Center, Dr. Lowry is known as an outstanding physician, educator, mentor and colleague. As a junior KU School of Medicine faculty member, she led the revision of the internal medicine residency curriculum to meet new national standards. Dr. Lowry's recommendations and curriculum examples were published in the prestigious journal "Academic Medicine", among other publications.

Dr. Lowry is quick to attribute her success to the strength of her team. In support of her nomination, Tim Williamson, vice president of quality and safety at University of Kansas Health System, wrote, "I would describe Becky's leadership style as similar to an orchestra conductor—she works to bring the best players together and then helps the team shine in a way that outperforms anything they could accomplish individually."

Dr. Lowry says that raising her sons, Jake and Luke, with her husband, Steve, and watching them grow into compassionate, intelligent, creative, happy young men has been the most rewarding and joy-bringing part of her life. She credits her own parents with teaching her a strong work ethic and encouraging her to find a profession that she "lives to do, rather than does to live."

Professionally, caring for patients is what brings Dr. Lowry the most gratification. "I've learned that the most difficult roads often lead to the most beautiful destinations," she said. "Caring for childhood cancer patients was once one of my most difficult professional experiences and is now one of my greatest professional joys."

For her exemplary leadership and for serving with great integrity and care in an underserved specialty area, the KU Medical Alumni Association is proud to bestow the honor of Early Career Achievement in Medicine Alumna to Becky N. Lowry, MD'03.