Leadership and Innovation in Academic Medicine (LIAM)

The A.O. Sullivan Award for Excellence in Education

LIAM was developed in 2017 to provide a leadership training experience for early and mid-career faculty members at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

London Roth, Humana
The Bingham Greenebaum Doll Leadership in Healthcare Award
London Roth leads Humana’s Louisville Bold Goal efforts, seeking to improve the city’s health 20 percent by 2020 by partnering with Humana employees and the community to make a difference and help improve lives.

Family Directed - HomeHero

The Bluegrass Care Navigators Aging Care Award

The Family Directed direct hire model, and the technology platform that supports it, allows families to receive higher quality of care, pay less and compensate caregivers with a competitive wage.

BehaVR

The Hosparus Health Innovation Award

The virtual reality [VR] experiences for healthcare utilize elements of mindfulness, emotion regulation and patient narratives to drive behavior change.

Jamie Studts, PhD, UK College of Medicine
The Centerstone Healthcare Advocacy Award
Jamie Studts is working to turn Kentucky from the state with the greatest lung cancer burden into the state that has made the most progress toward eliminating the impact of lung cancer.

Sue Snider, RN, Bluegrass Care Navigators
The Nurse of the Year Award
Sue Snider is a committed leader, educator and innovator at Bluegrass Care Navigators, and at the state level, and is passionately committed to excellent patient care.

Robert DiPaola, MD, UK College of Medicine
The Dean Dorton Physician of the Year Award
As the dean of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Robert DiPaola leads a medical education institution that’s working vigorously to combat its state’s physician shortage and provide greater, more affordable access to quality care.

KORH awarded cardiac arrest grant

The Kentucky Office of Rural Health (KORH) has been awarded a grant to improve out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest survival rates among residents of rural counties.

The Hosparus Health Physician Spotlight

Meet Salli Elizabeth Whisman, MD, Senior Hospice Medical Director at Bluegrass Care Navigators, who wants you to know that Hospice and Palliative Medicine is not ALL about dying. Mainly it’s about living.

National leaders, UK launch HEALing communities study

Grant is focused over the next three years on reducing opioid-related deaths by 40 percent in 16 counties across the commonwealth.

IN THIS ISSUE HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

Exploring how education institutions are collaborating with healthcare companies to deal with the tight labor market in Kentucky.

See photos from the event on pages 10 & 11.
Federal Alzheimer’s grant awarded to Bluegrass Care Navigators

Bluegrass Care Navigators has received a $1 million grant to support Kentuckians who have Alzheimer’s disease and their families.

The award comes from the federal Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging, under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Bluegrass Care Navigators is one of 13 organizations in the nation awarded the grant and the only one in Kentucky.

Kentucky holds first senior health summit

Kentucky held its first ‘Senior Hunger Summit’ in late October in Frankfort. State and local leaders said it’s time to confront hunger and related health issues facing older residents.

Kentucky ranks 50th in the nation in preventable hospitalizations, according to the United Health Foundation’s 2019 Senior Report.

Cumberlands unveils nursing associate degree program

University of the Cumberlands is starting a new associate degree program in nursing. The program begins January 2020 with applications currently being accepted.

The associate degree in nursing program is four semesters in length (classes offered in spring and fall) and will prepare students to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination – Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN). Classes will be held in seat with lecture recordings available, making the program accessible to student-athletes, working adults, etc.

Landmark sells two facilities

Landmark Recovery of Louisville, a behavioral health and addiction treatment provider, is expanding with the help of capital earned from selling two facilities.

In late August, the company sold two of its facilities to Irvine, Calif.-based Sabra Healthcare REIT Inc.

UofL, Norton to enter pediatric affiliation

Norton Healthcare, U of L Physicians – Pediatrics and the University of Louisville School of Medicine have signed an agreement for a pediatric affiliation.

The affiliation, which will take effect Feb. 1, is designed to improve care access through scheduling enhancements and bringing in more providers for pediatric programs.

Norton Healthcare will also continue to support the university’s clinical research and the school of medicine’s academic mission.

Additionally, Norton Healthcare, U of L pediatric physicians and the University of Louisville School of Medicine will use one integrated EMR, and more than 20 additional multidisciplinary clinics will be added over the next two years to benefit children with serious and chronic medical conditions.

Lexington company acquires four health facilities

Exceptional Living Centers, a skilled nursing and senior care facility and services provider, will acquire the leases of four skilled nursing facilities in eastern Jefferson County.

A corporation controlled by Exceptional Living Centers will take the leases of Clifton Oaks Care Center, Hillcreek Rehabilitation and Care, Lyndon Woods Care & Rehabilitation and St. Matthews Care Center in November.

Evolent Health earns accreditation

Evolent Health, a company providing an integrated value-based care platform to the nation’s leading providers and payers, is the first company to achieve Population Health Program Accreditation from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

NCQA is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to assessing and reporting on the quality of managed care plans, managed behavioral healthcare organizations, preferred provider organizations, new health plans, physician organizations, credentials verification organizations, disease management programs and other health-related programs.

Evolent received NCQA’s Population Health Program Accreditation with the status of Accredited—3 years for Evolent’s Complex Care, Transition Care, and five Condition Care programs: Asthma, Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)/Hypertension, Chronic Heart Failure (CHF), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Diabetes. The Population Health Program Accreditation is the third NCQA Accreditation Evolent has achieved in 2019, with Evolent having also earned 3-Year Accreditation in both Utilization Management and Case Management in 2019.

Three years is the longest accreditation time period NCQA designates for organizations. Evolent’s Accreditations support health plan partners in achieving their Health Plan Accreditation by providing auto-credit for several standards.
Kentucky Office of Rural Health awarded cardiac arrest grant

By Michael McGill

The Kentucky Office of Rural Health (KORH) has been awarded a three-year, $750,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy to improve out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest survival rates among residents of rural counties served by the state’s 27 designated critical access hospitals. The University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health, in Hazard, serves as the federally designated KORH.

The funding — which is provided through the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program — will enable agencies across the state to participate in the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES), a national database that collects cardiac arrest data from EMS agencies and hospitals in order to track performance over time and measure the quality of patient care. Communities can enter their local data, generate reports and compare their performance to other local, state and national statistics. Only two states that border Kentucky — Illinois and Ohio — are current statewide subscribers; Louisville is a subscriber at the community level.

In addition, the grant will support KORH-led public health efforts to improve responses to sudden cardiac arrest incidents in Kentucky’s rural communities by increasing CPR readiness and raising awareness about the access to and availability of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The chances of surviving an out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest are significantly improved when, prior to the arrival of trained first responders, bystanders perform CPR and defibrillation. Kentucky was one of just eight states to receive the EMS-related funds.

“Kentucky’s rural counties have the highest cardiac death rates across the commonwealth. But, there’s no system currently in place in Kentucky for collecting data about those cardiac arrest events, linking that data to all of the medical professionals who have contact with cardiac arrest patients — 911, fire department-based first responders, ambulance services and hospitals — and identifying patient outcomes.”

Scott continued, “Our participation with CARES will rectify that. We’ll now be able to collect and analyze basic data about cardiac arrests throughout all of Kentucky so that the state’s EMS administrators and medical directors can better determine which elements of the response system are working properly, which are not and how they might better improve processes and performance. And, on top of that, making sure that community members are trained in CPR and know the locations of AEDs in their communities can only help in improving survival rates among sudden cardiac arrest patients.”

Kentucky’s 27 critical access hospitals, which operate in rural areas and have 25 or fewer acute care inpatient beds, are located across 26 counties.

Key partners for the project include the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, Kentucky Hospital Association, Kentucky Rural Health Association, Kentucky Ambulance Providers Association and the American Heart Association.

– Michael McGill is the Rural Project Manager at the Kentucky Office of Rural Health.

News in Brief continued on page 7
Appalachian Regional Healthcare
Jeremy Hall was named CEO for the Tug Valley ARH Regional Medical Center.

Baptist Health
Patrick Withrow, MD, with Baptist Health Paducah, received the KMA Community Service Award.

Hosparus Health
CMO Bethany Cox Snider, MD, has been named as an Emerging Leader in Hospice and Palliative Medicine by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

McBrayer
Anne-Tyler Morgan has been appointed to the Advisory Council for Medical Assistance, which advises the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services.

Atria Senior Living
Eric Leef was hired as chief human resources officer.

CHI Saint Joseph
Regan Atkinson was promoted to senior vice president of new product development

Humana
Jennifer Bazante was promoted to Chief Marketing Officer.

Baptist Health
Physician assistant Mikal Bailey joined Baptist Health Medical Group Neurology.

Mortenson Dental Partners
Brooks Newman, previously with Humana, was named general counsel and corporate secretary.

Baptist Health
Mikal Bailey joined Baptist Health Medical Group Neurology.

SentryHealth
Kevin Porter was named CEO.

Clark Memorial Health
Jennifer Teeter, MD, joined Clark Orthopedic & Spine.

Stites & Harbison
Attorney Brian Cromer was elected to the Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors.

Mortenson Dental Partners
Sam Deshpande was named chief technology and risk officer.

SentryHealth
Kim Perry has been appointed vice president and chief medical officer.

Anne-Tyler Morgan

Claire Vujanovic

Join the firm’s Louisville, Kentucky, office, focusing on labor law, employment law and consulting.

Kindred Healthcare
Timothy Huval was named chief administrative officer.

Stites & Harbison

Kevin Porter was elected to the Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors.

Know someone who is on the move?
Email sally@igemedia.com
Medical News: Why did you choose this specialty?
Salli Whisman: In undergrad, I was not content with going after a major in biology or chemistry which is the most common pathway toward medical school. My advisor and I crafted an independent major that would look at the “whole human organism” while meeting my medical school requirements. I focused on biology, psychiatry, sociology and philosophy to prepare for medical school. I didn’t know it, but I was already thinking like a hospice and palliative care physician. One of my favorite undergraduate classes was titled: “Death, dying and quality of life”. Family medicine was a natural fit for this approach to medicine, and after residency, I joined a private practice that staffed Mountain Area Hospice in Asheville, North Carolina. Within four years, I had moved into full-time hospice and palliative practice.

MN: Is it different than you expected?
SW: The field of Hospice and Palliative Medicine is and has been constantly changing and growing. I love what I do, and rarely find a moment to feel bored or like I’m not using all those skills I sought out from undergrad on through all my education.

MN: What is the biggest misconception in your field?
SW: That Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) is ALL about dying. Mainly we are about living, living absolutely as well as possible given the circumstances that rarely can be changed. Many feel that HPM must be depressing, but I feel it is such a privilege to be a part of this ultimate human struggle, coping with our own mortality or the mortality of those we love.

AND, I use my full medical training, and more, every day. In home-based hospice care, you rarely have the advantage of laboratory or radiologic data to work through a differential diagnosis. Old-fashioned hands on physical examination skills become key to problem-solving in that setting.

MN: How do you go the extra mile?
SW: Bluegrass Care Navigators (BCN) and members of our BCN Department of Medicine have worked hard to address two issues across our community and state, and I have had an influential role in both:
1) Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST) is now a legal option for Advance Directives in KY, and I continue to work with the MOST Coalition and KAHPC to implement MOST in Kentucky.
2) BCN is working tirelessly to be good stewards of opioid management for our patient population. As far back as 2014 with our Pain Task Force initiative, we have been striving to keep our patients, our communities and our staff safe by examining and utilizing best practice in opioid prescribing.

Meet Salli Elizabeth Whisman, MD, HMDC, Senior Hospice Medical Director at Bluegrass Care Navigators

FAST FACTS
FAMILY: Married to Lyman Whisman with four adult kids (Clare McCabe, Caitlin Gallaher, Emma Whisman, Avery Whisman) age 19 to 36.

Bingham Greenebaum is joining with Dentons and Cohen & Grigsby, connecting you to top-tier legal talent, coast to coast and around the world.

Find out more at dentons.com/goldenspike
**Maternal & Child Health Conference**

**Time:** 9 am to 5 pm  
**Location:** Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa, 1800 Newtown Pike, Lexington, Ky. 40511  
**Info:** kentuckyperinatal.org

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**Health Care Leadership Conference**

**Time:** 8 am to 1:45 pm  
**Location:** 401 W. High St., Lexington, Ky. 40507  
**Info:** State senators and representatives will discuss challenges facing healthcare in the 2020 legislative session. Legislative leaders will reveal plans for the upcoming session and how healthcare factors into their parties’ agendas. Kyha.com

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**Addiction & Compulsive Behaviors Symposium**

**Time:** 7:30 am to 1:30 pm  
**Location:** Baptist Health Paducah, Barnes Auditorium, 2501 Kentucky Ave., Paducah, Ky. 42003  
**Info:** kyma.org

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**Therapeutics, Outcomes, Discovery & Delivery (TODD) Symposium**

**Time:** 8 am to 5:30 pm  
**Location:** University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy, 789 South Limestone, Lee T. Todd, Jr. Bldg., Room 124, Lexington, Ky. 40536  
**Info:** pharmacy.uky.edu

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**Kentucky Counseling Association Conference**

**Location:** Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Expo Center, 830 Phillips Ln., Louisville, Ky. 40209  
**Info:** kyca.org

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**Kentucky Rural Health Association Conference**

**Location:** WKU, Knicely Center, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101  
**Info:** kyrha.org

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**Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists (KSHP) Fall Meeting**

**Location:** The Campbell House, 1375 S. Broadway, Lexington, Ky. 40504  
**Info:** kshp.org

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**Kentucky Society for Healthcare Public Relations & Marketing Conference**

**Time:** 9 am to 3 pm  
**Location:** 230 Pisgah Pike, Versailles, Ky. 40383  
**Info:** kshprm.net

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**KAHCF Annual Meeting & Expo**

**Time:** 9 am to 6 pm  
**Location:** Galt House Hotel, 140 N. 4th St., Louisville, Ky. 40202  
**Info:** kahcf.org

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WRITE FOR MEDICAL NEWS

Would you like to share your legislative agenda with our readers in the January issue?

Contact sally@igemedia.com for more information.
National leaders, UK launch HEALing communities study

By Jay Blanton

Flanked by national leaders in the fight to reduce deaths from opioid use—including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar—the University of Kentucky (UK) officially launched the HEALing (Helping End Addiction Long-term) Communities Study—Kentucky.

In April, UK—partnering with the commonwealth of Kentucky—was one of four sites selected from across the country for the HEALing Communities Initiative. UK’s grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) totals $87 million, the largest in its history, and is focused over the next three years on reducing opioid-related deaths by 40 percent in 16 counties across the Commonwealth.

The study is part of the NIH HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative, a bold, trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis. The goal is to develop evidence-based solutions to the opioid crisis and offer new hope for individuals, families and communities affected by this devastating disorder. More broadly, the idea is to see if solutions in different communities across the state can be scaled up and replicated as part of a national approach to the challenge.

Sharon Walsh, director of UK’s Center for Drug and Alcohol Research and the Principal Investigator on the study, said a great deal of work is already underway to help facilitate a successful launch of the grant in the 16 study sites. Significant milestones that have been completed or that will be undertaken in the next several months include:

- UK researchers/staff already are in the field doing pilot work in several communities. About 20 UK researchers across six colleges are involved in the grant.
- The Kentucky grant is being done in partnership with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) and the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (JPSC). Secretaries Adam Meier and John Tilley, from the state’s Health and Family Services Cabinets and Justice, respectively, attended the announcement Monday.
- Since the grant announcement in April, UK and the teams from the other national sites have worked to develop a common protocol for all four test sites. The result, Walsh said, will be a more powerful demonstration of effectiveness—supported by more robust data—at the completion of the study in 3 years.

The randomization of counties will be completed later this month—a significant milestone that will determine those counties that will begin the community-engagement process to select and deploy evidence-based practices.

Existing community coalitions supported by the state in each county will work closely with the research team to assess local community needs and gaps in services. This process will lead to the identification and deployment of locally customized evidence-based practices and resources, Walsh said.

—Jay Blanton is with the University of Kentucky.
Bingham Greenebaum Doll to merge with Dentons

Regional law firm Bingham Greenebaum Doll will combine with Dentons, the world’s largest law firm, to form Dentons Bingham Greenebaum.

This merger will address a growing trend among clients needing cross-jurisdictional work — both within the U.S. and around the world. This is part of a broader arrangement that also includes Pittsburgh-based law firm Cohen & Grigsby combining with Dentons and rebranding as Dentons Cohen Grigsby.

The combinations with Cohen & Grigsby and Bingham Greenebaum Doll—including its offices in Lexington, Louisville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Jasper, Indiana, and Evansville, Indiana—will grow Dentons' global reach to 181 offices, with more than 10,000 attorneys working in 70 countries.

Humana, Microsoft to partner

Humana and Microsoft Corp. announced a research and development partnership. The partnership is expected to result in new tech tools to help simplify interactions among patients, doctors and Humana employees as well as innovation using artificial intelligence and voice recognition technology.

Louisville-based Humana and Redmond, Wash.-based Microsoft entered a seven-year research and development agreement that includes direct funding, dedicated research and development teams and specific co-developed projects.

Pikeville to get new children’s hospital

Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) has been awarded a $1.5 million POWER Grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to establish eastern Kentucky’s first dedicated children’s hospital, which will be in Pikeville, Kentucky. Pikeville Medical Center will construct and equip a new facility to provide healthcare for over 100,000 children in 23 counties in Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia. The project will create 50 permanent jobs, while retaining over 100 other pediatric medical and non-medical staff.

PMC will work with the University of Pikeville and Big Sandy Community and Technical College to strengthen the regional healthcare workforce.

Clark Memorial completes ER renovation

Clark Memorial Health has completed a renovation of the emergency department. A ribbon-cutting was held recently where officials celebrated the completion of the $5.7 million, two-year renovation project. The project began in late 2017.

The renovation was done by Orange Construction & Restoration of New Albany. James Zwissler, of Louisville-based Stengel Hill Architecture Inc., was the lead architect.
Healthcare Fellows enrollment now open

By David Buschman

The Healthcare Fellows is the region’s only healthcare focused professional development experience that spotlights innovation and thought leadership, located in Louisville’s vast healthcare ecosystem.

Since its inception in 2005, the Health Enterprises Network’s Healthcare Fellows program has provided growth and development opportunities for 321 healthcare professionals. Each year 18-24 professionals are selected from around Greater Louisville to participate in the 10-month program.

The Healthcare Fellows program was formed by the leaders of the Health Enterprises Network in 2005 in response to the area’s need for executive talent as defined in the “Beyond Merger” report from the Brookings Institute. Since its inception, the fellowship structure has produced motivated, informed and connected individuals ready to take on the challenges and opportunities in our community, nationally and abroad.

Monthly sessions are led by healthcare executives, local thought leaders, academics, elected officials, organizational experts, researchers and entrepreneurs. From groundbreaking research to medical logistics and lessons on change management to inspiring your workforce, the Fellows gain insights and up-close experiences with the most innovative companies and practices in the area.

These interactive sessions are also complemented by a group-driven project aimed at supporting one of Health Enterprises Network’s themes, addressing a specific healthcare business challenge or directly impacting a community need.

Fellows Projects

Previous Fellows projects have included addressing food access, securing age-friendly city designation for Louisville, multiple workforce surveys and compiling information from the area’s top healthcare organizations for the creation of the “Louisville’s Healthcare History” that is an integral part of the “Louisville Map of Health-Related Companies.”

Apply Now

To qualify, applicants should be nominated by their CEO, president or supervisor and submit a completed nomination form downloaded from HealthEnterprisesNetwork.com, under the “Healthcare Fellows” tab or you can request one by emailing David@HealthEnterprisesNetwork.com.

— David Buschman is the managing director of the Health Enterprises Network.

BENEFITS OF FELLOWS

Bob Doligale, president, Splash Analytics, 2017 Healthcare Fellows

“The HEN Fellows program is clearly the best way to develop meaningful connections with the thought and business leaders in Louisville’s healthcare industry. It far exceeded my every expectation!”

Curtis Warfield, Chief Audit Executive, Anthem, Inc. (former Health Enterprises Network Board Chair and former CEO, HCA-National Patient Account Services)

“The Healthcare Fellows program is a great program designed to support and nurture future healthcare executives. Through key profile interviews with local healthcare executives of fortune 500 companies, as well as engaging in case studies, the young executives can learn about pertinent issues affecting our community. It is time well spent growing personally and professionally.”

Ralph Gronefeld, Jr., retired president & CEO, ResCare, former Health Enterprises Network Board Chair

“The Louisville Healthcare Fellows program provides an excellent avenue for future leaders to develop career-long relationships in our healthcare community which fosters the sharing of ideas, issues, solutions and opportunities.”

Adam Shewmaker, director of healthcare consulting services, Dean Dorton

The Healthcare Fellows program provides a tremendous opportunity to meet and interact with some of the commonwealth’s top healthcare leaders. I would encourage any rising healthcare professional to take advantage of this opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the growing healthcare community.
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN THE BUSINESS OF HEALTHCARE

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

SARAS SMITH AND SHANNON WHITE, BOTH WITH CENTERSTONE KENTUCKY.

MIRANDA MOSLEY, CORY MEADOWS, PAT PADGETT, ELIZABETH PADGETT AND EMILY SCHOTT WITH KENTUCKY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE MEDI*STAR HONOREES FROM LEFT: STACI SANER AND GERARD RABALAS, PHD. WITH LIAM; JAMIE STUDTS, PHD. WITH UK HEALTHCARE; PETER BUECKER, MD. WITH BEHAV; LONDON ROTH WITH HUMANA; KIEL DOWLIN WITH FAMILY DIRECTED; AND SUE SNIDER WITH BLUEGRASS CARE NAVIGATORS. NOT PICTURED IS ROBERT DIAPAOLA, MD. WITH UK HEALTHCARE.

THE COCKTAIL AWARD SPONSOR STITES & HARBISON TEAM FROM LEFT: CALESIA HENSON, LINDA MCGINITY JACKSON, BETSY JOHNSON, WITH KY ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES; ALISA MICU, CARLY PHELPS AND JENNIFER HENRY JACKSON.

THE BLUEGRASS CARE NAVIGATOR TEAM CELEBRATING WITH NURSE OF THE YEAR HONOREE SUE SNIDER (WHITE JACKET, THIRD FROM LEFT) ON THE BALCONY OF THE MUHAMMAD ALI CENTER.

ADVOCACY HONOREE JAMIE STUDTS, PHD. WITH HIS DAUGHTER, CAIT STUDTS.

THE BLUEGRASS CARE NAVIGATOR TEAM CELEBRATING WITH NURSE OF THE YEAR HONOREE SUE SNIDER (WHITE JACKET, THIRD FROM LEFT) ON THE BALCONY OF THE MUHAMMAD ALI CENTER.
CHAD HELTON @CHADINLEX
So durn proud just to know this nurse. Congrats to Sue Snider, RN for being the #medistar Nurse of the Year! Beautiful life, beautiful story, beautiful work. @kymedicalnews

PETE BUECKER @THEPEACEFULBULL
I am so honored to receive the Hosparus Health Innovation Award on behalf of @BehaVR, al. Way to go team!!! #medistar @kymedicalnews

JYRONE PARKER @MASTASHAKE08
#Medistar @FamilyDirected me with the CEO Kiel! Love working with this company great startup in Louisville, Kentucky! They are all about that #CodeLife! Congrats Kiel on the company winning the award tonight.

ALICIA ARIATTI @CAGIRLINKYWRLD
Excited to be here celebrating @LondonSRoth’s leadership in healthcare. I’m fortunate to have her as a partner in this work. #Medistar

JOSH MILLER @J_JMILLER
@benkeeton of @kymedicalnews talks about launch of HealthConomy in collab with @HealthENetwork, #podcast focuses on stories and development of healthcare biz in the region #medistar

CHAD HELTON @CHADINLEX
“Physicians are the heartbeat of the healthcare system.” Congratulations to Robert DiPaola, MD of @UK_HealthCare, recipient of the 2019 MediStar Dean Dorton Physician of the Year Award #medistar @kymedicalnews
Collaborations, partnerships open pathways to student achievement

By Tony Bieda

Healthcare education options in the greater Kentuckiana region continue to expand as traditional higher education providers and career education institutions collaborate to create new pathways for student achievement.

Recently, Sullivan University’s College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences and Spalding University established a formal partnership that will allow Spalding students to complete Sullivan’s pharmacy program at an accelerated pace while completing their Bachelor of Science degree at Spalding. The agreement enables Spalding University students in natural sciences on a pre-pharmacy track to transfer to Sullivan after three years at Spalding. Upon completing the first year of Sullivan’s accelerated Pharm.D. program, the students can transfer their credits at Spalding for completion of the bachelor’s degree.

While the program does not currently guarantee admission into the Sullivan Pharm. D. program, Sullivan has found students who attend Spalding University are highly competitive candidates for admission into the Sullivan program. The agreement is innovative in that it establishes a ‘3+3’ pathway for students to complete both a bachelor’s degree from Spalding and a doctor of pharmacy degree from Sullivan in six years, a year faster than pursuing both degrees independently. The innovation demonstrates commitments by both institutions to faster student completion and lower education costs.

“Both institutions have the opportunity to market to interested high school students the opportunity to obtain a degree in a highly respected profession with secure employment and both of these institutions provide a greater faculty to student ratio as well as an intimate family atmosphere,” a Sullivan spokesman said. “Faculty at both institutions pride themselves on being incredibly student-centered and know their students beyond the classroom. Actively engaging with students to assist them in their future career aspirations and endeavors is a key component of faculty engagement at both universities.”

Sullivan University’s Doctor of Pharmacy program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Sullivan University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Sullivan is an active member of the Kentucky Association of Career Colleges and Schools (KACCS).

— Tony Bieda is executive director of Kentucky Association of Career Colleges and Schools.

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For more information about how we can help, visit stites.com.
Medical Student Outreach and Leadership program prepares future physicians.

By Emily Schott

Medical school is an intense journey where tomorrow’s doctors are educated and prepared to treat patients. With so much training to cover in four short years, there is typically little time for the curriculum to explore the more nonclinical side of medicine.

That’s where the Kentucky Medical Association’s (KMA) Medical Student Outreach and Leadership (MSOL) program stepped in, offering future physicians the opportunity to learn about the political, social and economic factors at play in the healthcare system. The MSOL program, funded by the Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC), also encourages community involvement, requiring participants to complete a public health outreach project.

Since its inception in 2015, more than 430 students have participated in some aspect of the program, with more than 200 graduating from all program requirements. MSOL graduates are honored at the KMA Leadership Dinner, held each year during the KMA annual meeting. KMA also profiles graduates in monthly newsletters, introducing current physicians to the next generation of medical leaders.

KMA executive vice president Pat Padgett conducts sessions on the basics of healthcare policy and personal considerations for young physicians, with KMA deputy executive vice president and director of advocacy Cory Meadows leading discussions on political advocacy, medical business and public health issues. Special emphasis is placed on Kentucky health and legislative issues, as many students are not native to the state and may not be aware of its challenges. Participants must also complete a webinar and conduct a KMA-approved public health outreach project.

We want to see physicians not just caring for patients in their practice but caring for patients in various capacities through leadership positions across the state. In getting involved early, we’re increasing the chances that they will continue to seek out these opportunities to lead.”

– Pat Padgett, KMA executive vice president

Great Value

Graduates of the program see its value as well. “[The MSOL Program] made me realize how important being a physician is—not just on the medical side, but also to advocate for your patients on the political side as well,” said 2018 University of Louisville MSOL graduate Natasha Fraser.

Some students are introduced to MSOL by way of other KMA events and programs. University of Kentucky MSOL graduate Bradley Blankenship decided to participate in the MSOL program after attending KMA’s Physicians’ Day at the Capitol. He said he enjoyed being with a community of physicians and learning about the different roles of the Lexington Medical Society, KMA and the American Medical Association. “The MSOL program is a good way for students to get involved,” Blankenship said.

“We want to see physicians not just caring for patients in their practice but caring for patients in various capacities through leadership positions across the state. In getting involved early, we’re increasing the chances that they will continue to seek out these opportunities to lead,” said Padgett.

Wider Net

The MSOL program is available to students at both the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville, and this year was introduced at the UK College of Medicine Bowling Green campus and the University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, allowing students in the south-central and eastern parts of the state to benefit from the program’s teachings.

“The MSOL program has allowed us to connect with future physicians and help them cultivate leadership skills before they even begin their residency, and we’re excited to be able to offer the program to more rural areas,” said Padgett. “We’ve had a great turnout this fall at the sessions offered in Bowling Green in Pikeville so far.”

Variety of Programs

The MSOL program also compliments other physician leadership programs offered by the KMA, which include the award-winning Kentucky Physicians Leadership Institute (KPLI), the premiere leadership training program for Kentucky physicians, and the Community Connector Leadership Program (CCLP), which allows physicians to enhance their leadership skills through education and direct community involvement.

“Our hope is that one day we will see an MSOL graduate also complete our KPLI and CCLP programs. That would really bring things full circle,” said Padgett.

— Emily Schott is with the Kentucky Medical Association.
Bellarmine University addresses healthcare workforce shortages

Focus on educating students in a variety of fields.

By David Wolf and Kevin Hansen

Today’s healthcare leaders are faced with many challenges and dealing with the shortage of healthcare workers is extremely important. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects healthcare jobs to be among the fastest growing occupations between 2016 and 2026. However, healthcare has been experiencing a lack of qualified workers for several years, and the shortage continues to worsen. For most healthcare organizations, the workforce is their largest expense and human resources management has become a high priority.

As healthcare leaders continually seek solutions, one key aspect of workforce planning is to ensure a readily available supply of properly educated and highly competent individuals to fill these needs. Organizations everywhere are now establishing relationships with universities as an ongoing strategy to continually generate a supply of qualified talented individuals.

Bellarmine University offers academic programs that prepare students for a host of careers in the healthcare field. Students are well-prepared upon graduation to enter the workforce as competent, caring professionals to meet the needs of clients, patients, residents and their families in various care settings.

Most academic programs at Bellarmine pair contemporary, relevant in-class learning from highly educated and industry-experienced faculty members with experiential learning gained through supervised clinical experiences and internships with community/regional/national healthcare partners.

Galileo Learning Community
To better prepare students to enter the healthcare workforce, Bellarmine University offers a unique program to first-year students interested in health and medical sciences known as the Galileo Learning Community.

This program challenges students to think about the whole person – mind, body, and spirit – and engages students in a multidisciplinary learning environment to understand healthcare from a broader perspective. The program aids in developing holistic providers of healthcare and services through the acquisition of technical expertise, focusing on care for the entire individual (not just an illness or disease). This learning community is also a key program to enhance student retention in health professions education.

Exercise Science
Students in this field prepare for careers in health, wellness, nutrition, biomechanics, athletic training, physical therapy and medicine.

The degree offers two educational tracks and utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to understand how physical activity behaviors, outcomes, and issues affect various health issues. A Master of Health Science and a Master of Science in Athletic Training is also available for students or practicing professionals seeking a graduate degree.

Health Services and Senior Living Leadership
The health services leadership program prepares students for a range of careers as leaders in health services and senior living, or for additional graduate education. The program helps students understand the broader context of health services delivery to prepare for careers as leaders of nursing homes, assisted living communities, and home- and community-based services organizations.

The accredited-based curriculum focuses on many aspects of healthcare leadership and students directly apply their classroom-acquired knowledge during an internship, where they synthesize contemporary best practices to include operational, programmatic, financial, clinical, logistical and technological aspects in the development and implementation of the organization’s strategic plan.

Medical Laboratory Sciences
Students graduating from the accredited Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program are prepared to serve in hospital laboratories, research labs, forensic centers and pharmaceutical labs, any many other healthcare settings.

As part of their curriculum and internship experiences, students analyze blood cells and body fluids to identify disease-causing bacteria and viruses and perform testing prior to transplants and organ transplantations.

Nursing
Bellarmine’s accredited nursing program focuses on innovative and interdisciplinary teaching to prepare future nurses for careers in healthcare. Students benefit from a state-of-the-art simulation laboratory on campus as well as over 700 clinical hours with acute care and community organizations.

In addition to the traditional four-year undergraduate program, Bellarmine offers an accelerated one-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree for students who possess a degree in another discipline, and now choose to seek a career in nursing. Bellarmine also offers a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

While there many possible solutions to relieve the healthcare workforce shortage, the need for skilled, compassionate individuals pursuing careers in healthcare settings continues to grow. Bellarmine University is responding to this need by continually evaluating and developing its academic programming and community partnerships to prepare highly competent leaders for these healthcare-related careers.

— Kevin Hansen, PhD is an assistant professor in the department of Health Services and Senior Living Leadership. David Wolf, PhD, is the department chair and professor in the department of Health Sciences and Senior Living Leadership.
Addressing a tight healthcare labor pool
Turning focus from recruiting new talent to investing in current talent.

By Todd Schmiedeler

Today, America is boasting its lowest unemployment rate in 50 years. According to the nonfarm payrolls report, the number currently sits at 3.5 percent. Employers all over the U.S. are struggling to navigate this tight labor pool, and healthcare, like most other industries, is feeling the pain.

At Trilogy Health Services (Trilogy), instead of placing most of our focus on recruiting new talent, we’ve been executing aggressive and innovative strategies to invest in the talent we already have. Recruitment, more so than retention, has been our focus. Here are a few of the initiatives we are proudest of:

Quarterly Wage Investments
Trilogy offers Quarterly Wage Investments to all hourly employees. Most recently (3Q2019), all hourly employees will now see an increase in pay every three months (once per company quarter)! Our nurse aides, dietary aides, cooks, housekeepers, activities assistants and med techs/QMAs all received a 1.5 percent increase on October 1. It’s Trilogy’s responsibility to care for them as they care for others. We’re passionate about continuously investing in the fiscal wellbeing of our employees.

Apprenticeship Programs
According to a recent CareerBuilder Survey, many employees want to get ahead in their career, but aren’t offered educational opportunities to learn the skills needed to do so. For example:

- Only 32 percent of employees are satisfied with the training and learning opportunities at their current company.
- 58 percent of employees think that their company does not offer enough opportunities to learn new skills and grow their career.
- If offered, 73 percent of employees whose companies do not currently offer educational opportunities or workshops outside of work hours say they would be likely to participate if they were available.

The message is clear: Employees want employers who help them grow.

In 2017, Trilogy began to build out our Fast Track Apprenticeship programs with the goal of providing our employees solid career pathways. Our first step was to register our Nurse Aide and Culinary Apprenticeship programs with the Department of Labor. Over the past three years, more than 5,200 nationally recognized certifications have been earned by over 3,500 employees. Most importantly, the improved skills and pay raises that are a result of these programs have positively impacted employee retention.

For example, over the past year, nurse aides that have earned at least one certification have an 80 percent retention rate – compared to a 51 percent retention rate for nurse aides that did not earn a certification during that same time.

Over the next six months, Trilogy will expand our apprenticeship programs by developing a stackable apprentice model for both clinical and non-clinical campus roles.

Reducing Student Loan Debt
The presidential debates have shined more light on the student loan debt crisis in America. Today, more than 44 million Americans have outstanding student loan debt. All told, this debt now totals more than $1.5 trillion. For so many of our employees, their debt is an elephant sitting on their chest.

Over the past few years, Trilogy has been helping our employees pay off these loans by providing $100/month towards their principal. This year, we enhanced our efforts by partnering with Tuition.io. Over 1,200 employees have now received financial education and support, totaling $1 million in principal payments.

Some companies ask, “Is there a ROI?” Our answer is that retention for employees in the student loan repayment program is 3.54 years, while a comparable group not in the student loan program is 1.28 years.

This June, we entered into a partnership with Purdue Global to offer free tuition to all full-time and part-time employees. With 172 degrees to choose from, our employees can obtain a degree in their field of choice, without being saddled with nearly unmanageable debt.

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— Todd Schmiedeler is SVP of Foundation & Workforce Development at Trilogy Health Services.

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UofL Scholars Program
Collaborative effort to improve delivery of rural healthcare.

By Kelli Bullard Dunn, MD

Kentucky is a largely rural and impoverished state that consistently ranks in the lowest percentile nationally for access to quality healthcare. According to the 2016 Annual Report of America’s Health Rankings, published by United Health Foundation, Kentucky ranks 45th in health nationally.

Access to quality medical care depends on many factors, not least of which is access to healthcare providers, and medical workforce needs are profound across the commonwealth. For example, Kentucky ranks below the national average in number of primary care physicians.

The good news is that a collaborative effort is in place across the state to address these issues.

Being an AHEC Scholar has had a tremendous impact on the way I view healthcare. It has enhanced my knowledge of different types of communities and populations I will eventually serve as a clinician. The AHEC Program has not only helped me make connections with other future clinicians, it also has given me multiple resources to broaden my skills.”

— AHED Scholar Jenna Mitchell

Collaborative Effort

The Kentucky Area Health Education Centers program (KY AHEC) is a collaboration of the University of Louisville, the University of Kentucky and federal, state, regional and local community-based organizations to improve access to and quality of healthcare for Kentucky residents and to eliminate health disparities. The program is supported by a grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration.

To address medically underserved communities and populations in the state, the program develops projects designed to recruit, train and retain pre-professional and health profession students and healthcare professionals and to improve the delivery of healthcare.

Scholars Program

One recent addition to the KY AHEC portfolio is the AHEC Scholars Program. This program provides professional healthcare students across the commonwealth with a unique, interdisciplinary opportunity aimed at improving access to quality healthcare in our communities.

The two-year training experience includes 40 hours of didactic training and 40 hours of hands-on learning each year. Core topics include interprofessional education, behavioral health integration, social determinants of health, cultural competency, practice transformation and current and emerging health issues such as the burgeoning opioid abuse crisis.

The goals of the AHEC Scholars Programs are to:

- Increase diversity and to promote cultural competency in the AHEC Scholar teams.
- Address health professional workforce shortages in rural areas.
- Increase individual personal effectiveness and cognitive skills necessary for a strong health professional who will be a good steward of resources and will promote high quality healthcare.

These goals will result in a diverse and culturally competent workforce to address healthcare disparities in our communities.

First Cohort

In September 2018, the Kentucky AHEC Scholars program admitted its first cohort of 94 students. The scholars represent nine disciplines, including osteopathic medicine, nursing, laboratory medicine, public health, health information technology, experimental science, dietetics and surgical technician. The scholars are completing their second year of the program.

AHED Scholar Jenna Mitchell, a physical therapy assistant student at Madisonville Community College, has found value in the training provided by the program.

“Being an AHEC Scholar has had a tremendous impact on the way I view healthcare. It has enhanced my knowledge of different types of communities and populations I will eventually serve as a clinician,” Mitchell said. “The AHEC Program has not only helped me make connections with other future clinicians, it also has given me multiple resources to broaden my skills.”

Rebecca Oliver, a fourth-year medical student at the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of Pikeville, applied to the AHEC Scholars Program for the opportunities to learn cultural competence in a clinical setting.

“Being a rural health scholar has been a great investment of my time by providing additional educational resources beyond what I experience day-to-day on my rotations,” Oliver said.

Recruitment is underway for the 2019-2021 class with the goal of recruiting 120 scholars. Healthcare professional students in their last two years of an accredited degree or certificate program in Kentucky are eligible.

— Kelli Bullard Dunn, MD, is vice dean for community engagement and diversity at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.
XLerateHealth recognized, awarded NIH grant

XLerateHealth (XLH) has been recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Growth Accelerator Fund Competition (GAF) for the fifth year. This year, XLH has received the award for the fourth year in a row. XLH is the only healthcare accelerator in the country to have received the award four times. XLH is the only Kentucky-based accelerator to receive the award in 2019.

Louisville, Kentucky-based XLH was developed to cultivate and grow promising healthcare innovation in underserved areas. The award is part of the SBA’s Growth Accelerator Fund, a competition launched in 2014 to award leading small business accelerators and incubators monetary prizes to support innovation. The 2019 competition placed emphasis on accelerators that work with small companies in high-tech and STEM markets.

XLH plans to allocate the awarded funds to further advance training and mentoring for life science focused entrepreneurs to help them understand the path to commercializing their technologies and how to successfully apply for SBIR/STTR funding in underrepresented states.

XLH was also awarded Phase II funding of $1.48 million, plus an Administrative Supplement of $250,000, from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue building the XLerator Network, one of four Institutional Development Award (IDeA) State region hubs supported by the Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) program. The SBIR program funds research and development partnerships between small businesses and academic institutions.

The grant, managed by the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), is a part of total funding expected to total more than $3.6 million for XLH and its partners through 2021. XLH’s partners on this grant include 24 academic institutions with the University of Kentucky serving as the academic lead.

Appriss Health acquires behavioral health software company

Technology company Appriss Health provides prescription drug monitoring analytics to help healthcare organizations improve their management of opioids and avoid misuse.

Beyond just identifying potential opioid misuse, the Louisville, Kentucky-based company has acquired OpenBeds to help link patients with substance use disorders to behavioral health resources and treatment programs.

OpenBeds’ software provides real-time data that shows open beds at inpatient psychiatric facilities and inpatient substance use disorder programs as well as other resources for crisis support and availability at outpatient programs.

CHI Saint Joseph affiliation with Cleveland Clinic

CHI Saint Joseph Health – Cancer Care Centers in Lexington and Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center have launched a formal affiliation to expand access to highly specialized cancer treatments, clinical expertise and research studies for patients in central Kentucky.

The affiliation follows a rigorous review process of the care and services provided by CHI Saint Joseph Health – Cancer Care Centers. Among the benefits are a streamlined referral process and consultation on treatment options with Cleveland Clinic physicians. Oncologists with CHI Saint Joseph Health will present cases to the Cleveland Clinic tumor board, which will provide a consensus opinion to the Lexington physicians to incorporate into the treatment plan.

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healthy vitals

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United Health Foundation partners with Morehouse School of Medicine

The United Health Foundation has formed a new partnership with the Morehouse School of Medicine’s National Center for Primary Care to examine how digital tools could be leveraged to support underserved and rural communities in four southeastern states.

The partnership is funded through a three-year, $1.1 million grant and will support scientific research examining how to make digital health technology more accessible and useful for residents of urban and rural underserved communities across Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee.

The goals of the partnership are:
- Improve the understanding of rural and underserved residents’ access to digital tools for these communities.
- Confirm that digital tools (e.g., electronic health records, telemedicine, and wearables like fitness, etc.) could help address health disparities these residents face.
- Develop an action plan to improve access to digital tools for these communities.

Across the four southeastern states, Morehouse School of Medicine researchers within the National Center for Primary Care will hold focus groups and conduct individual interviews with local healthcare providers; survey hundreds of health professionals; and examine Medicaid claims data within each state.

United Health Foundation

- Confirm that digital tools (e.g., electronic health records, telemedicine, and wearables like fitness, etc.) could help address health disparities these residents face.
- Develop an action plan to improve access to digital tools for these communities.

WellCare and Kentucky Homeplace partner to remove barriers to healthcare

A pilot program in eastern Kentucky designed to remove barriers to healthcare services has shown promising results, including a reduction in emergency room (ER) visits and hospital admissions among a group of nearly 2,000 rural Kentuckians.

WellCare of Kentucky partnered with Kentucky Homeplace, a program of the University of Kentucky’s Center of Excellence in Rural Health, to help Kentuckians with chronic diseases like asthma and diabetes access health coaching to manage their conditions. The partners announced initial findings from the program at UK’s Center of Excellence in Hazard in early October.

Through the partnership, 22 community health workers from Kentucky Homeplace provided a variety of six-week health coaching workshops throughout eastern Kentucky. All program participants were diagnosed with chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure or obesity. Participants met weekly with trained community health workers to help take steps toward improvement in nutrition, medication use, exercise, communication, decision-making and more. Classes covered topics from diabetes management to mental health, first aid, CPR and beyond.

A key component of the 30-county program was to provide participants with gas cards to ensure transportation issues did not prevent them from attending health-coaching classes. A year after the program, Kentucky Homeplace reported participants had a 10 percent reduction in ER visits, a nearly 13 percent reduction in non-emergency ER visits and a 23 percent decrease in inpatient admissions. Additionally, hospital inpatient days dropped by more than 27 percent. WellCare estimates the cost of healthcare for program participants fell by 13.5 percent—or nearly $2,300 per year.

WellCare further analyzed the results of the program by comparing the participants’ healthcare service utilization one year pre- and post-interaction and found sizeable reductions in healthcare utilization. Among members with diabetes, ER visits dropped by 16 percent and hospital admissions were reduced by nearly 29 percent. Costs fell by 16.9 percent, or $3,424 per member, per year. Members with both asthma and diabetes showed 22 percent fewer non-emergency visits to the ER. Reductions were even greater among groups with a variety of chronic conditions like asthma and COPD.

Signature HealthCARE earns technology award

Signature HealthCARE earned the Silver Award in the McKnight’s Long-Term Care News Excellence in Technology award competition. The award was earned in the High-Tech, High-Touch category, which honors communities that have implemented a technology that improves team interactions to enhance care of residents and patients. Signature HealthCARE was recognized for their digital platform, CareAscend.

CareAscend helps post-acute and long-term care providers engage with their medical directors to assure full compliance with various regulations. CareAscend is a collaboration between Signature HealthCARE and MavenSphere.

The digital application is the first in the industry to address the important issue of medical director engagement by setting systems for their seamless connection with facility leadership regarding key activities such as quality assurance, staff education, and many other critical tasks. The application provides medical director training resources including on-boarding and ongoing education.
Bluegrass Care Navigators complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

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