



▶ SHUTTLE SERVICE:  
MEET MARKEY MOVER  
BRENDA SAENZ . . . . . 3



▶ LIVE COOKING DEMOS EDUCATE  
MARKEY PATIENTS . . . . . 5



▶ HONORING A LONGTIME MARKEY  
VOLUNTEER. . . . . 6

○ ISSUE 1 | ○ 2012

# MARKEY *quarterly*

SEASONAL NEWS FOR  
MARKEY CANCER CENTER  
FACULTY AND STAFF

## REACHING MORE PATIENTS

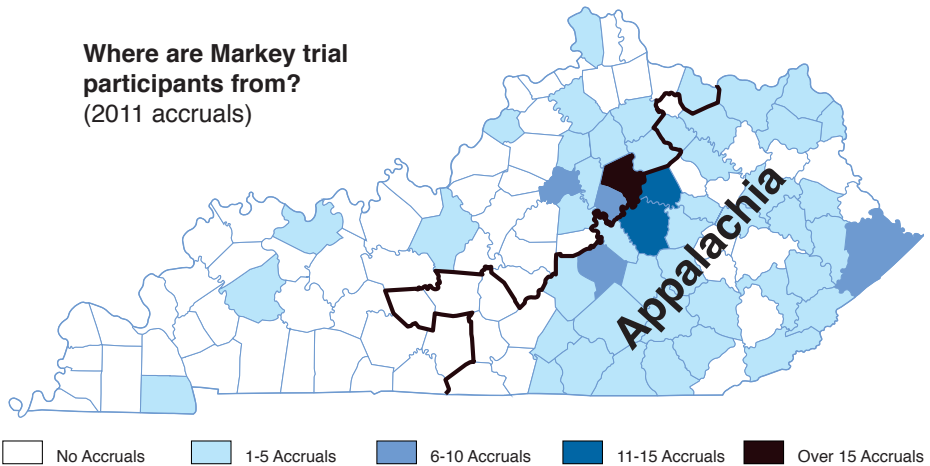
THERAPEUTIC TRIAL ENROLLMENT GROWS IN PREPARATION FOR NCI DESIGNATION

Accruals to therapeutic trials at Markey are growing in response to a number of initiatives, and importantly, in preparation for Markey's NCI designation application.

Trial accrual is an important component of NCI designation. Application reviewers will look closely at the percentage of Markey patients who participate in trials and trends associated with those numbers. Markey trial accrual has grown steadily during the past few years, as clinical teams have made concerted efforts to enroll more patients (see "Markey by the Numbers").

In the process of collecting and analyzing trial accrual numbers, another Markey strength was uncovered: patients from Appalachian eastern Kentucky make up a significant portion of overall enrollments. Over the last three years,

**Where are Markey trial participants from? (2011 accruals)**



an average of 55% of trial enrollees have been Appalachian residents.

Because the Appalachian population not only is a major Markey service area but also faces significant cancer disparities when compared the rest of the nation,

having patients from Appalachia participate in cutting-edge trials is an important way Markey is focused on reducing Kentucky's cancer burden. The map above shows where enrolled trial participants (2011) live.

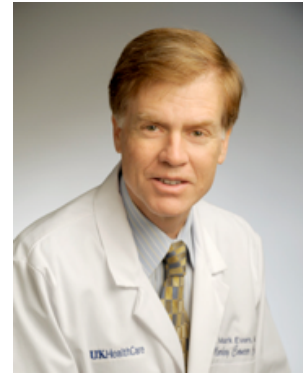


## MARKEY BY THE NUMBERS

Markey therapeutic trial accrual, March 2009 to April 2010 .....	115
Markey therapeutic trial accrual, March 2011 to April 2012 .....	238

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

B. MARK EVERS, MD, DIRECTOR, MARKEY CANCER CENTER



As we move toward submitting our application for National Cancer Institute Cancer Center designation, we're realizing just how impactful CCSG designation could be for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its residents.

Kentucky is only the 26th largest state in terms of population. Yet the statistics when it comes to the state's cancer burden are staggering: Kentucky has the highest rate of cancer deaths per 100,000 population among all states. It ranks in the top 10 states for incidence rates of the following cancers: lung and bronchus (#1), colon and rectum (#1), oral cavity and pharynx (#1), kidney and renal pelvis (#2), brain (#3), and cervix (#8). But more importantly, Kentucky's cancer burden tops that of all 16 states currently without an NCI-designated cancer center. The estimated new cancer cases for Kentucky is greater than nine states that currently have NCI-designated cancer centers in the U.S. The disparities in Appalachian Kentucky are even greater, drawing the attention of so many of our research projects because of the economic, social and health complexities associate with the region.

The need for an NCI-designated center in our state is incredibly apparent. Becoming an NCI-designated center would mean the most, though, to Kentuckians seeking cancer treatment who would have access to the most innovative clinical trials and treatments. The nearest NCI-designated centers are anywhere from 3.5 to 7 hours away from Markey; the distance is even greater when taking into consideration that a majority of Markey cancer patients live a significant distance away from Lexington. The fact that many may not have the financial ability to travel to cutting-edge facilities elsewhere compounds the need for high quality treatment close to home.

Another facet of impact that's less frequently discussed is the economic impact NCI-designated centers make on their communities. NCI centers have access to additional funding pools, but because they draw in higher profile faculty members and higher profile research projects, they make a direct impact on their communities by fostering environments where patents, spin-off companies and other economically viable partnerships are grown.

As we move into the final months before our application is submitted to the NCI, let's not forget that our goal of becoming an NCI-designated cancer center is not just for the researchers, clinicians and staff at Markey. It will have a tangible impact on our immediate community of Lexington, the area of Appalachian eastern Kentucky where cancer disparities are so strong, and people throughout the entire state.



Amy Wilson

## Remembering one of Markey's Own: The Amy R. Wilson Memorial Fund

Shortly after joining UK, Amy R. Wilson began working with John van Nagell, MD, Professor and Director, Division of Gynecologic Oncology. Thirty two years later, Amy had become the Administrative Director for Gynecological Oncology at the time of her death on December 22, 2011.

Amy's fierce work ethic made her a respected and trusted leader among staff, faculty, residents and fellows who relied on her experience and kindness. "When we experienced a glitch with the billing system, Amy became a certified medical coder so she could address issues and questions," said Valeria Moore, RN. As a tribute to Amy's example as a tireless and dedicated staff member, The Amy R. Wilson Memorial Fund is currently in development.

"Our goal is to establish an annual award given in memory of Amy to recognize a member of the UK HealthCare staff that embodies the ideals she stood for: excellence, communication, leadership, and caring," said Dr. van Nagell. Anyone interested in donating to the fund may contact Dr. van Nagell at [jrvann2@uky.edu](mailto:jrvann2@uky.edu).

### TELL US ABOUT IT

Do you have an idea for a future edition of Markey Quarterly? A picture you'd like to see included? Email Markey's Research Communications Office ([mccrco@uky.edu](mailto:mccrco@uky.edu)) with your story idea.

# MEET A MARKEY MOVER

BRENDA SAENZ, UK HEALTHCARE SHUTTLE

This quarter, Markey Quarterly introduces you to Brenda Saenz, a shuttle driver for the UK HealthCare campus. Brenda can be found transporting up to 100 patients and visitors to and from the three Markey buildings and Pavilion H each day.

**Good morning Brenda. Thanks for shuttling us around while we talk. Where are you from originally and how did you end up working at Markey?**

I'm originally from Charlottesville, Virginia. I came to Lexington and found a job with Republic Parking, a company that has a contact with UK. I was lucky enough to get my start with the Markey shuttle and I've been here for six years now.

**Other than helping people get from building to building, how else do you assist patients and visitors?**

My patients are very important to me. I help them get where they need to be. I try to anticipate questions they might have, so I ask if they know where to go once I drop them off and I give them directions. If they need a wheelchair, I get it and take them to their destination. I know when someone has just finished a round of chemo, so I wrap them in a blanket or turn up the heater to help make them more comfortable. No one leaves without one of my cards and a reminder to call me when they need another ride.

**What do you like best about your job?**

I'm a true people person, so I like meeting everyone who rides along. I talk to a hundred people a day, making sure they get where they need to be, taking care of them, trying to put a smile on their faces. Cancer patients are sick, so if I can lift them by doing my job the best I can and let them know I care, it means more to me than anything. My job isn't about me, it's about my patients.

**What should other Markey employees know about your role?**

Everyone should know to call me, or any of the shuttle drivers, when a patient or visitor needs help getting from one place to another. The route runs every 10 minutes, but we're often through more often than that so people aren't kept waiting. We run between all three of the Markey buildings and Pavilion H. Anyone can reach us at 983-7327.

**We've heard you have a pet on campus. What can you tell me about Sweetie Pie?**

Two years ago, I noticed a little baby squirrel I named Sweetie Pie. Now, every day when I come to work, I stop and get her a biscuit and jelly. I drive past her tree and say, "Sweetie Pie! It's time for breakfast!" and she runs down to greet me. She'll take the biscuit from my hand then run back up the tree. I've seen her follow the cart just like a puppy. She will even scratch at the door cover to get my attention.



**Speaking of food, what's your favorite meal?**

We ate country ham pot pie when I was little. Wish I could find someone who knows how to make it now!

**When you're not working, how do you spend your free time?**

One of the things I do is go to the chapel in the hospital and pray for my patients.

**Final question – for fun. What's your favorite song?**

I just love "High Upon the Mountain."

Who should be the next Markey Mover?  
Email Markey's Research Communications Office  
(mccrco@uky.edu) with your story idea.

# NOTEWORTHY

## WELCOME

**Lowell Anthony**, Professor of Internal Medicine  
**John Villano**, Special Faculty, Internal Medicine  
**Alla Arnold**, Research Communications Office  
**Joan Scales**, Social Work Supervisor

## PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Markey members published 180 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals from November 2011 through March 2012.

The publication “Noninvasive diffuse optical monitoring of head and neck tumor blood flow and oxygenation during radiation delivery” by Lixin Dong, Mahesh Kudrimoti, Ran Chang, Yu Shang, Ellis L. Johnson, Scott D. Stevens, Brent J. Shelton and Guoqiang Yu was highlighted in Spotlight on Optics (highlighted articles from OSA [The Optical Society] Journals). The article originally appeared in Biomedical Optics Express earlier this year.

## GRANTS

Eric Durbin, Markey Director of Cancer Informatics, was awarded a total of \$374,206 for fiscal year 2012 as part of a three-year grant totaling \$1,122,618 from National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health for “Enhancing Regional Infrastructures For Early Case Capture of Pediatric and Young.”

Donald Cohen, PhD, professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, was awarded a total of \$125,425 for fiscal year 2012 as part of a three-year grant totaling \$512,909 from Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America for “Resident intestinal dendritic cells – negative regulators of colitis.”

Ren Xu, PhD, assistant professor of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology, was awarded an American Heart Association Scientist Development Grant for “Activation of ROR alpha-SEMA3F pathway in epithelial cells inhibits angiogenesis,” funded from January 2012 through December 2015.

## AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & SELECTIONS

Jessica Moss received an AACR Scholar-in-Training Award, one of seven awards given to provide funding for graduate and medical students, postdoctoral fellows and physicians-in-training who are presenters of abstracts at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (AACR, San Antonio, December 2011). Jessica is a graduating fellow working with Dr. Suleiman Massarweh, and she presented data from a sorafenib clinical trial. Her award was one of seven given

at the symposium.

Qing-Bai She, PhD, Assistant Professor in Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology and Center for Clinical and Translational Science KL2 Scholar, received an Association for Clinical Research Training (ACRT) Scholar Abstract Award for his poster at the ACRT meeting in Washington, D.C. (April 2012). Dr. She is the first KL2 poster presenter and Award recipient from UK. The meeting featured 352 posters from individuals engaged in clinical and translational science.

Markey welcomes Sue Durachta, who fills a new role as Director for Ambulatory Clinical Operations. Sue joined the Markey team in January and fills a role providing administrative and fiscal oversight of Markey clinical operations, ensuring compliance with college and university policies and collaborating across the UK HealthCare enterprise on financial matters.



**Sue Durachta**

## MARKEY DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Congratulations to the following Markey Difference Makers.

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Donna Areaux  | Lora Maynard       |
| Russell Bowman ( <i>from Hologic, a company that services Markey mammograph equipment</i> ) | Michelle Ratcliffe |
| Jeffrey Cheak   | Stacy Richey       |
| Karina Christopher  | Bobby Shelton      |
| Ashley Dennis   | Richard Smith      |
| Rachel Hay  | Tara Tate          |
|   | Lola Thomason      |
|   | Galisa E. Watts    |
|   | Allyson Yates      |

## MARKEY ADDS AFFILIATE HOSPITAL

In the last issue of Markey Quarterly, we told you about the Markey Affiliate Network, a network of Kentucky health care facilities providing high-quality cancer services and programs in their communities with Markey’s support and guidance.

Now, Commonwealth Cancer Center (CCC) has become the newest Markey Affiliate Network member. CCC is the only one that is a private network of clinics, with locations in Danville, Frankfort, Russell Springs, Somerset, Corbin, London, Harrodsburg and Columbia.

Read more online: [http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/markey\\_open.aspx?id=3530](http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/markey_open.aspx?id=3530)

## Nanobiomotors mini-symposium promotes regional research efforts and collaboration

The Markey Cancer Center and College of Pharmacy co-sponsored the mini-symposium “Nanobiomotors: Structures, Mechanisms and Clinical Implications” on March 26.

The goal of the mini-symposium was to promote communication and interactions among top researchers working in nanobiotechnology in the region. The nanobiomotors for viral DNA packaging and DNA repair are the subject of much research and are important in the emerging field of nanotechnology. Both are relevant to promising, revolutionary cancer treatments.

Peixuan Guo, PhD, William S. Farrish Fund Endowed Chair in Nanobiotechnology and Nanobiotechnology Center Director, organized the event along with Guo-Min Li, PhD, James-Gardner Chair in Cancer Research. According to Dr. Guo, “Our motivation to organize the symposium was to bring together relevant scientists from the central Kentucky region that work in this field. We wanted to expand of the strength of UK in this area by promoting interactions and collaborations among scientists from UK, the University of Louisville and University of Cincinnati.” Drs. Guo and Li consulted with colleagues from UK and nearby institutions to identify speakers based on expertise and research in nanobiotechnology with recently published relevant papers.

With collaboration as a goal, session chairs, speakers, administrators, students and faculty in toxicology, biology, biochemistry, cancer biology, virology, nanobiotechnology, pharmacy and protein structure were all able to discuss exciting discoveries and the latest research. The event was particularly beneficial for post-docs and grad students to learn of new research developments in nanobiotechnology in the region.

“A small symposium such as the one we hosted is the ideal forum to foster and encourage interactions and communication among our colleagues within the rapidly expanding field of nanobiotechnology,” said Dr. Guo.



## Cooking demonstration open to Markey patients

The informative cooking demonstration “Cooking with Fresh Herbs” introduced a new partnership between UK Food Services and the Markey Cancer Center.

On March 20th, the atrium of the Dorothy Enslow Combs Cancer Research Building was converted into a classroom kitchen. Open to all, the demonstration had a patient focus for those who may experience a loss of taste as the result of treatments. In addition to promoting seasonal herbs, the demonstration also highlighted flavor enhancers, cooking techniques and health benefits to various ingredients. Executive Chefs Chris Roth and Pete Combs provided recipes and packets of fresh herbs, each featured in the cooking demonstration, to everyone in the audience.

“Together with the Markey Cancer Center, Food Services want to help people focus on healthy cooking,” said Steve Cordea, Director of Food Services. “Our goal for future demonstra-



tions is to include the Lexington Farmer’s Market and feature Kentucky Proud items in our outreach efforts,” said Cordea.

The cooking demonstrations are planned to continue monthly. The summer cook-outs will begin in May in the MCC courtyard. For more information on the cooking demonstrations, contact Melody Flowers at [mjflow0@uky.edu](mailto:mjflow0@uky.edu) or 323-1218.

# Women’s Wellness Guide unveiled at MCC

A new health information resource is now available to patients and visitors at the Marylou Whitney and John Hendrickson Cancer Care Facility for Women at the Markey Cancer Center.

Located on the first floor, the Women’s Wellness Guide is a bilingual, interactive wellness kiosk that provides important health information especially for women.

The kiosk provides healthcare information in a manner that serves multiple reading abilities for easy comprehension and recollection. The touch-screen technology allows for the information to be provided in both audio and visual formats. It also includes a telephone program to connect the user with immediate assistance if needed or desired.

A wide range of information on general women’s wellness and breast health is covered, including symptoms and treatment options for diabetes, asthma, cancer, weight management, smoking cessation, STDs, depression, heart health, domestic violence, breast health, and HIV-AIDS. Each topic is programmed with women’s health stories, preventive measures, suggested follow-up questions to ask a health care provider and encouragement to visit a medical professional.

The kiosk was donated to UK through the Markey Cancer Foundation by Marylou Whitney and John Hendrickson. The kiosk at Markey is the second to be placed in the state, the first was installed in Louisville last year. In its first six months of operation, it received 521 module “hits” and the average user spent 36 minutes at the kiosk.

Kentucky’s First Lady Jane Beshear joined University of Kentucky’s Dr. Mary Lynne Capilouto as well as representatives from the Kentucky Commission on Women (KCW) and the Markey Cancer Center for the February 13 unveiling.



Kentucky First Lady **Jane Beshear** speaks during the ceremony unveiling the new kiosk.



**Rose Kammer** poses with former Markey administrator **Dr. Lew Kelly** at an event honoring her years of volunteer service to the cancer center.

## ROSE KAMMER: A SERVANT’S HEART

On February 1, the Markey Cancer Center thanked Rose Kammer, whose more than two decades of volunteer service ended with a reception in the atrium of the Dorothy Enslow Combs Cancer Research Building. Rose’s dedication, energy and positive attitude contributed to the Markey experience for countless patients, many of whom she knew on a first name basis.

Rose is a native of Williamson, West Virginia, who earned a Bachelor’s Degree from University of North Carolina, a Master’s in Social Work from Boston University and Master’s in Speech Therapy from University of Kentucky. In addition to a career with the American Red Cross, Rose was the Dean of Women Students and Resident Director at the American International College in Springfield, Mass.

She began working as a social worker and speech therapist for United Cerebral Palsy of the Bluegrass through its Child Development Center in 1966. In January 1986, Rose began volunteering with the Markey Cancer Center. By the time she was recognized on National Philanthropy Day in 2008, she had logged more than 21,000 hours volunteering at MCC.