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SEASONAL NEWS FOR  
MARKEY CANCER CENTER  
FACULTY AND STAFF

○ ISSUE 2 | ○ 2012

# MARKEY *quarterly*

## ALL SIGHTS ON THE SITE VISIT

MARKEY REACHES A MILESTONE IN ITS NCI CANCER CENTER DESIGNATION HOPES

After years of writing, revision and feedback from internal and external advisers, Markey Cancer Center submitted its application for National Cancer Institute cancer center designation near the end of September.

Now that the application has been received, only half of the submission process is finished. Work is under way for the second and final step: a face-to-face site visit with NCI reviewers, who will conduct their evaluation January 30, 2013.

The day-long site visit evaluates Markey's submitted application, facilities and personnel. As in the application, content presented at the site visit will stress the need for a cancer center in Kentucky, especially to help alleviate the cancer burden in Appalachia (see map at right). Reviewers listen to presentations from key cancer center leaders, researchers and clinicians. The review is also an opportunity to ask follow-up questions about parts of the application that are important or need clarification. Reviewers might ask to tour shared resource facilities or have data made available for their review that day.

After the site visit concludes, the waiting game begins. For comparison, leaders at the most recently funded NCI center at the University of Kansas conducted their NCI site visit in



The closest NCI designated cancer centers are still hours away from Markey and the Appalachian population it serves.

February and announced their designation in June. Markey can expect a similar funding decision timetable.

Markey leaders are preparing in rehearsals and "mock" site visits, where internal and external advisers will play the role of reviewers, asking questions and evaluating presentations.



## MARKEY BY THE NUMBERS

Markey's rank among Kentucky-based cancer centers, according to U.S. News & World Report ..... 1

Total number of pages in Markey's NCI Cancer Center designation grant ..... 860

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

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



Recently, Markey Cancer Center submitted its application for National Cancer Institute (NCI) cancer center designation. This designation would put Markey in an elite group of cancer centers around the U.S. that offer the best research and patient treatments.

One of the most important characteristics of NCI cancer centers is the collaboration between the clinical and research aspects of these organizations, and we are fortunate to have many of those cooperative relationships at Markey.

For patients, a collaborative atmosphere means cancer treatment is not conducted in a silo. Our Clinical Care and Research Teams are made up of doctors and nurses from a variety of specialties working together to provide a multidisciplinary approach to patient care. These teams ensure that the evaluation and treatment of cancer is tailored to patients' particular circumstances.

For researchers and other medical professionals, the focus on cooperative projects means the opportunity to work with fellow faculty members from other disciplines. We look for those opportunities to turn into unique insights about the cancer disparities faced by the people of Kentucky. Markey has special characteristics that enable these projects – for example, all six biomedical colleges and the UK Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering and Law are on one central campus.

It's a testament to Markey's strengths that the collaborative climate has been in place for many years. We see instances every day in which our researchers and clinicians not only collaborate within their own disciplines, but also increasingly look outside their own departments, treatment areas or laboratories for opportunities and answers to the distinct challenges cancer treatment poses. As we anticipate the outcome of our NCI cancer center application, our focus will continue to be on a collaborative approach to patient care and research, growing what is already a tremendous asset for Markey patients and the state we serve.



## Have you seen the 2011-2012 Markey Annual Report?

The latest Markey Annual Report is publicly available to download from the Markey home page.

This year's annual report covers developments at the cancer center from 2011 to 2012. Features in the report include information on nanotechnology and cancer treatments being developed in the laboratory of Dr. Peixuan Guo, whose 22-member research team came to Markey in January.

The report also covers new tomosynthesis technology put in place to detect breast cancer, the 30th anniversary of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Program at UK HealthCare, and this year's additions to the Markey Affiliate Network.

### WHO SHOULD BE THE NEXT MARKEY MOVER?

Read this issue's feature on Darwin Allen (p. 3). Then, email Markey's Research Communications Office ([mccrco@uky.edu](mailto:mccrco@uky.edu)) with your story idea for the next issue.

### 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

## DARWIN ALLEN, OFFICE OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE

This quarter, Markey Quarterly introduces you to Darwin Allen from the Office of Service Excellence. Darwin works primarily in the Whitney-Hendrickson Building, helping patients navigate to their appointments and answering questions they have about Markey.

**Good afternoon, Darwin. Thanks for taking some time to talk with us. Where are you from originally and how did you end up working at Markey?**

I've been around UK for over 40 years, starting in Junior High when I went to basketball games in Memorial Coliseum. I'm from Lexington and can remember when the College of Nursing was a football field. As a student at Henry Clay High School, I watched as the Medical Center was built. My career with UK started as a job analyst, where I determined rates of pay for employees. I moved over to become the Director of Human Resources for the Medical Center, then worked for the Hospital where I coordinated the early retirement program. In 2003, I retired but came back a few years later to volunteer in the Hospital gift shop. Now, I'm with the Office of Service Excellence where my top priority is to help lost souls.

**Where do you spend the majority of your day, and how do you interact with Markey patients and employees?**

Most of my day is spent in the Marylou Whitney and John Hendrickson Cancer Facility for Women. I also cover lunches and holidays for other people in the Roach Patient Care Building, the Kentucky Clinic and the lobbies of Pavilion A and Pavilion H. Each day, I talk with all kinds of patients. They may be looking for a clinic, a doctor or have questions about an appointment. I can get anyone, anywhere. I've been around long enough that I've had many experiences and met many people, but I'm always learning.

Wherever I am, I find out who people need to see, where they need to be, and then I get them there. I open doors as people walk in and I go out to the parking lot to help bring patients in for treatment. I work with PPD to fix issues like burned out light bulbs or doors that aren't working properly. I even make coffee. If I'm able to make a visitor's experience better, I will.

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

In all my time at UK, this job is my favorite. I meet the most interesting people. More often than not, it's the family and friends, the caregivers, who talk with me when their loved ones are being treated. I really enjoy those conversations. They always surprise me with something. I helped one gentleman carry his wife in from the parking lot for treatment, and as they left, he said to me, "If you're ever in Rockcastle, call me and we'll go have coffee." I've learned how to can meat and learned about the honeybee business. Someone even drew a beautiful pencil portrait of my daughter and grandson for me. But it's getting to know these individuals that I like best. Knowing I can help their experience during a frightening time in their lives is very rewarding.



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

I see my job as two-fold. One, I'm here to help patients. Two, I'm here to help employees. I'm a personal servant to everyone here and I enjoy doing whatever I can to help.

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

I own some residential property so a lot of my free time is spent with maintenance.

**A few questions – for fun. What's your favorite book; what's your favorite food; and what's your favorite song?**

My favorite book is the Bible. Right now, I'm reading *Blue Like Jazz* by Donald Miller and *Outlive Your Life* by Max Lucado. My favorite food is filet mignon with a salad. And my wife and I can't hear *Color My World* by Chicago without dancing, so I'd have to say that's my favorite song.

# NOTEWORTHY

## WELCOME

**Patty Hughes**, Oncology Service Line nursing director  
**Marta Wood**, Clinical Research Associate  
**Patricia Levitt**, Clinical Research Associate  
**Chaney Kieckbusch**, Programmer Systems Analyst (Senior)  
**York Dobyms**, Data Base Analyst  
**David Rust**, Programmer Systems Analyst (Senior)  
**Bront Davis**, Data Base Analyst  
**Stuart Jarrett**, Research Associate

## LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

**Lowell Anthony**, named Chief of Medical Oncology  
**Xianglin Shi**, named Associate Dean for Nonclinical Faculty Development, College of Medicine

## PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Markey authors were responsible for 241 manuscripts and publications in journals from April 2012 through September 2012.

Third-year Hematology and Medical Oncology fellow Adam Lye published “Immunonutrition: Does it have a role in improving recovery in patients receiving a stem cell transplant?”, co-authored by John Hayslip (Nutrition and Cancer, 64:503-507).

Work from the Edith Glazer laboratory on the drug ruthenium (J Am Chem Soc, 134:8324-8327) was highlighted in Chemical and Engineering News (Issue 21, p. 32 and a website update on May 9).

## GRANTS

Rina Plattner, PhD, was awarded National Cancer Institute R01 funding for her study “A role for c-Abl/Arg in Melanoma Progression.” The grant totals \$315,543 and runs through August 2017.

Ellen Hahn, PhD, was awarded National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences R01 funding for the study “FRESH: Dual Home Screening for Lung Cancer Prevention,” totaling \$450,790 and lasting through May 2017.

Ellen Hahn, PhD, was also awarded Kentucky Department for Public Health funding for the study “Community Partnerships for Tobacco Use Prevention,” totaling \$114,263 and lasting through June 2013.

Zhuo (Joy) Zhang, PhD, was awarded National Cancer Institute R03 funding for the study “Apple Peel Extract Inhibits Cr(VI)-induced Lung Cancer,” totaling \$74,250 and lasting through August 2014.

## AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & SELECTIONS

**Robin Vanderpool** and a team from the Rural Cancer Prevention Center placed first and second in their respective topical areas for posters at the CDC Cancer Conference in August. The posters were on HPV vaccines.

**Comprehensive Breast Care Center recognitions:**  
**Toni Mucci** - Certified Breast Nurse Navigator  
**Mincha Parker** - Certified Breast Examiner  
**Jessica Meniffee** - Markey Outpatient Clinical Nurse Excellence Award  
**Stephanie Mullins** - RDMS certification, Breast Ultrasound

## MARKEY DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Congratulations to the following Markey Difference Makers for the 2nd and 3rd quarters.

Errol Allen	Peggy Meece
Cathy Anthony	Jessica Meniffee
Donna Areaux	Sarah Miller
Marcia Ballard	Stacie Montgomery
Trina Black	Toni Mucci
Anna Burkett	Sue Mucha
Gina Carlton	Elizabeth O'Dell (Grounds)
Farrah Cates	Deborah O'Nan
Becky Cochran	Mincha Parker
Christie Conley	Michelle Peel
Almita Cummins	Grace Puckett
Shelia Cummins	Elizabeth Reilly
Nadine Deehan	Kara Reynolds
Alexandria Elkins	Cindy Robinson
Vivian Fryman	Jennifer Rogers
Dr. Richard Gibbs	Dr. Edward Romond
Catherine Gibbs	Heather Russell-Simmons
Donna Gilbreath	Brenda Saenz (Security)
Amy Graham	Sharon Schimmel
Reda Gray	Brenda Sharp
Kim Haire	Bobby Shelton (PPD)
Becky Hancock	Vivian St. John
Virginia Hodskins	Donica Sweat
Heather Hollon	Dr. Margaret Szabunio
Brandi Jones	Ronita Thornsberry
Crystal Kendrick	Kellie Thurman
Kristy Kroger	Shauntia Walker
Michelle Carroll Kubajak	Edna Ware
Sarah Lail	Odessa West
Linda Leach	Crystal Williams
Sharron Madden	Dr. Heather Wright
Stephanie Malicote	Jo Ann Wright
Dr. Suleiman Massarweh	Jessica Zehnder
Gay McGarey	Kathy Zeller
Dr. Patrick McGrath	

# Educated patients are more engaged in healing: The Don and Cathy Jacobs Health Education Center

Empowering patients with knowledge is at the core of the Don and Cathy Jacobs Health Education Center. Located on the first floor of the concourse of Pavilion A, between the parking garage pedway and gift shop, the Health Education Center is a central resource to help patients and their families find factual, evidence-based answers to often confusing and complex medical questions. In addition to serving the patients and caregivers, the Health Education Center is also a partner to health care providers caring for patients.

Multiple studies have shown that educated patients are more highly engaged in the healing process. Recommendations from The Joint Commission of Accredited Hospital Organizations, the Institute of Medicine, and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality state that health care systems must make effective patient education and communication an organizational priority. Because lack of communication is a main reason for medical errors, making patient education a new patient safety standard.

“Common patient questions are about a new diagnosis, what to expect for various procedures, how to prepare for surgery and treatment, how to manage chemotherapy and radiation side effects, alternative medicines, pain control and treatment, nutrition, how to talk to a doctor, how to tell children and family about a diagnosis, hospice and end of life issues,” said Judi Dunn, BSN, RN, patient education manager at UK HealthCare and BSN-DNP student at the UK College of Nursing. “We believe health care providers teach the patients, and our role is to supplement that education by listening and finding the resource that will help patients learn best.”

Free of cost, the Health Education Center offers resources for every level of understanding, including pamphlets with pictures, books, audio books, videos, interactive computer programs, models, posters, health applications for smart phones and tablet computers, newsletters as well as access to health websites and databases. The most important resource is the staff. “We have a medical librarian and nurses on staff,” said



Dunn. “If a patient calls the Health Education Center, we will deliver the information they request to his or her bed during their stay.”

Clientele is not limited to patients. “Fifty percent of our effort supports clinicians,” said Dunn. “We get calls from doctors, nurses, pharmacists, PAs. Anyone can call or stop by and we will help them customize information to support their efforts to provide the best possible care for their patients. We provide patient education information in other languages, for example Farsi, Arabic, Chinese or Spanish.” This cultural competence allows patients and doctors to speak the same language and that education is key to ensure patients have the best possible health outcome when they come UK Hospital and the Markey Cancer Center.

In addition to directly supporting patients, the Health Education Center also provides services to nurses. A Nurse Patient Education Certification Course is offered through the center to help nurses develop work processes and mentor others to adopt best practice patient and family education. “We can also help nurses with Krames On-Demand,” said Dunn.

For more information on how the Health Education Center can help you and your patients, call 3-7808 or visit [ukhealthcare.uky.edu/HEC](http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/HEC).

## NEW MARKEY SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULE

For more Markey Support Group information, contact Joan Scales at 859-323-1403.

In Treatment Support Group - First Friday of each month, 2-3:30 p.m.

Newly Diagnosed Support Group - Second Wednesday and fourth Tuesday of each month, Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Survivors Support Group - Third Tuesday of each month, 5-6:30 p.m.

Young Adult Support Group - Third Wednesday of each month, 4-5:30 p.m.

Head and Neck Cancer Support Group - First Tuesday of each month, 4-5:30 p.m.

View all Markey events at <http://www.ukhealthcare.uky.edu/markey/About/Markey-Events/Markey-Events-Home/>.