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○ SUMMER | ○ 2011

# MARKEY *quarterly*

SEASONAL NEWS FOR MARKEY CANCER CENTER FACULTY AND STAFF

## WHY NCI?

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SEEKING NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE DESIGNATION

In just over a year, the Markey Cancer Center will be submitting its application for NCI designation. In Markey's case, sending the application will be the result of years of work.

NCI designation is awarded via a grant (called the P30 Cancer Center Support Grant, or CCSG) that incorporates a peer-review process, and Markey's application is set to be submitted in September 2012. The centers that get recognized are known for their scientific excellence, and many of them reach out specifically to underserved populations, much like Appalachian Kentucky.

The financial benefits of NCI designation are significant. All NCI centers receive substantial financial support in the form of grants. Designation is awarded in 3- to 5-year increments, and is re-evaluated each time the grant is up for renewal.

59 of the 66 NCI designated centers currently funded are like Markey: they

conduct research and provide care to patients. Others, though, are strictly research organizations, like the Purdue University Center for Cancer Research, or the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, which is affiliated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

When reviewing applications, the NCI looks especially for interactions between basic laboratory, clinical and population scientists. Besides that, investigators should also use shared research services and technologies that supplement their research efforts - one example at Markey is the interaction between scientists and our biostatistics core service.

Designated centers are also partici-



Illustration by Ranjith Krishnan / freedigitalphotos.net

pants in the NCI Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program, which is designed to promote and support clinical trials of new treatments and explore prevention/early detection methods.



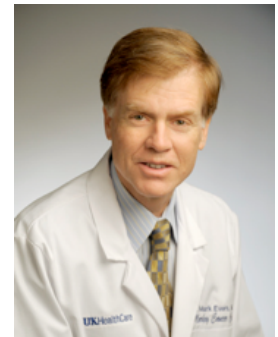
Photo by www.toastto.com

## MARKEY BY THE NUMBERS

States (including Kentucky) that currently do not have a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center . . . . .	16
Number of currently funded NCI designated centers across the United States . . . . .	66

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

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



Over the next year, you will be hearing more and more about the National Cancer Institute and what it means for our cancer center to be “NCI designated.” Securing and retaining that designation is very important to our goals here at the Markey Cancer Center, and we plan to submit our application for NCI designation in September 2012.

Planning for a successful application is one of our principle goals. We have already begun working toward it in many ways; our External Advisory Board will be coming for another meeting here in November, where they will review our progress and make recommendations on our next steps. Our program leaders continue to revise and improve both their research programs and application materials, and many other teams and individuals are planning for the application and the work that we have to do to submit it.

The front page of this newsletter covers some of the information that is important for each of us to recognize about NCI designation, but in addition to that, I would like to share some personal thoughts about what NCI designation would mean to the Markey Cancer Center.

As a state, Kentucky has some of the highest incidence rates of common cancers. Kentucky is number one for lung cancer rates and number two for colorectal cancer. This increased cancer rate is most evident in eastern Kentucky, where the Markey Cancer Center derives the majority of its patients. Kentucky currently does not have an NCI-designated cancer center; therefore, it is important that we are successful in our goal to achieve this status. This will ensure that we can offer the most cutting-edge clinical trials to our patients, and we will be able to continue to attract top-notch faculty and students. Having NCI designation will send an important message to the entire state that the Markey Cancer Center is the premier site for the treatment of complex cancers, which require a dedicated and concerted team of specialists and healthcare providers. Also, NCI designation will bring great benefits to the community as a whole, since numerous studies have shown that NCI designation leads to a growth in the local economy.

I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished together over the last two years. Everybody has worked together, toward a common goal. We are continuing to enhance our research base and have made some very prominent recruitments in the last couple of months that will provide additional basic science as well as clinical research expertise and funding. In addition, we have opened a number of new clinical trials and have increased the number of patient accruals to these trials, which will further our quest for NCI designation. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to achieve this lofty goal for the University of Kentucky, which will benefit our patients, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the entire region that the Markey Cancer Center serves.

## MARKEY DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Congratulations to the following Markey Difference Makers for the past quarter, and to Difference Maker of the quarter, Roger Yankey.

Sharon Baker  
Catherine Bannon  
Gina Carlton  
Farrah Cates  
Patrice Compton  
Jenny Delap  
Ashley Dennis  
Samantha Eddington  
Alexandria Elkins  
Laura Gibson  
Donna Gilbreath

Kimberly Haire  
Scarlett Hawthorne  
Virginia Hodskins  
Denise Holly  
Jeanette Hoskins  
Tricia Jackson  
Jill Lee  
Karen Lindsey  
Lora Maynard  
Gay McGarey  
Peggy Meece

Jessica Meniffee  
Stacie Montgomery  
Barbara Mucha  
Sarah Mullins  
Fida Noel  
Nikaleigh Pennie  
Angela Pennington  
Carla Repass  
Stacy Richey  
Jennifer Rogers  
Edward Romond

Sharon Schimmel  
Courtney Shacklette  
Virginia Smithers  
Ronita Thornsberry  
Sandra Vice  
Melanie Wilson  
Laura Wright  
Roger Yankey  
Allyson Yates  
Elizabeth Yost

### 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

## REDA GRAY, CUSTOMER SERVICE

This quarter, Markey Quarterly introduces you to Reda Gray, who is often the first person patients see when they come to Markey for appointments. She is stationed at the front desk of the Ben Roach Building.

**Hi Reda. Thanks for taking time to talk to us. Would you mind sharing your background? How did you come to work at Markey?**

I worked in interior decorating, and I was a manager – that was my career. Then I retired, and eventually I just needed to get out. So I applied for my original job at UK, and I got it. I didn't start at Markey when I came to UK – I started in main customer service at the hospital. And then, my boss asked me to come over here.

I wasn't sure about it at first. I wasn't sure I'd like the change. But he convinced me to try it for a week. There hadn't been anyone at the front desk before, and when I got here, we were pretty much starting from scratch. Three weeks went by before my boss asked me how much I liked it. By that time, I was settled in, and I loved it. The doctors were telling me how much they appreciated what I was doing. It still is a great environment.

**So much of what you do is about helping people. How do you stay motivated every day?**

Well, number one, if you wake up and you're not feeling well, you've just got to shake it off. The patients I'm dealing with are worse off than I am, and I try to remember that. If you work at the Markey Cancer Center, you have to have a big heart. If I go home at the end of the day, and I've done something for someone that has made their day better, I'm warm all over.

**You have built a stellar reputation for going the extra mile for patients. Can you give some examples of the kind of things you do to help them?**

I really try to get to know them. If I know they need a wheelchair, I make sure one is waiting for them when it's time for their appointment. I try not to give people directions – turn here, turn there. If it's possible, I actually walk with them. Things like that make a big difference when they're here – they may not know where they're going, and they may be intimidated.

**What's one aspect of your job you think people would find surprising?**

There is so much more to this job than what people see. Most people would be really surprised at how close I get to the patients. I see them over the course of their treatment on a



pretty regular basis – that's a lot of visits. And I don't think people realize how hard we all have to work at keeping things clean and sanitized. This job is definitely more than just sitting at the desk.

**What about when you're not at work? What do you do in your spare time?**

I love to be with my friends. I love to shop. And my family is so important to me – I have two daughters, and two granddaughters, and my first grandson is coming in September. So we are all excited about that.

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

Oh, that's a hard one. I love them all. I love music, period – I'm always playing something, and having the piano out here (in the Roach building lobby) is so relaxing. I don't have a favorite song – it's all uplifting. Jazz, country, pop – just give me the music, and I'll listen!

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



# NOTEWORTHY

## WELCOME

**Kelly Bell**, MSW, LCSW, Supervisor, Psych-Oncology Services  
**Simeon Cherrix**, Program Coordinator, Hematology and Blood and Marrow Transplantation  
**Jennifer Christian**, Administrative Coordinator, Hematology and Blood and Marrow Transplantation  
**Jenny Delap**, Senior Social Worker  
**Garretson Epperly**, Imaging Facility Specialist, BBSRB (working with Dr. Jianhang Jia)  
**Mihail Mitov**, Research Associate (working with Dr. Allan Butterfield)  
**Vicki LaRue**, Abstractor Coordinator, KCR  
**Brooke Povah**, Administration / STEPS  
**Crystal Reed**, Clinical Research Associate, MCC-RCO  
**Elizabeth Reilly**, Genetic Counselor  
**David Rust**, Programmer Systems Analyst, KCP/KCR  
**Colleen Thomas**, Admin Support Associate, MCC-RCO  
**Elaine Wittenberg-Lyles**, Associate Professor (Department of Communication) and Markey Cancer Center

## PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to Markey members for publishing 115 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals in April, May and June.

## GRANTS

**Donald Cohen**, Ph.D., professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, was awarded a total of \$599,669 for fiscal year 2011 as part of a one-year grant from National Center for Research Resources for the purchase of “iCyt Reflection Cell Sorter for Flow Cytometry Facility Upgrade.”

**Rolf Craven**, Ph.D., associate professor of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology, was awarded a total of \$150,000 for fiscal year 2011 as part of a one-year grant from Kentucky Lung Cancer Research Fund for “Stable Isotope-Derived Metabolomics to Elucidate the Mechanism of a Tumor-Associated Cytochrome in Lung Cancer Growth and Metabolism.”

**B. Mark Evers**, M.D., director of the Markey Cancer Center and professor of Surgery, was awarded a total of \$75,842 for fiscal year 2011 as part of a one-year grant from AM Biotechnologies, Inc., for “SBIR: New Reagents for Synthesizing Nucleaseresistant siRNA.”

**Charlotte Kaetzel**, Ph.D., professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, was awarded a total of \$128,700 for fiscal year 2011 as part of a three-year grant totaling \$386,100 from Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America for “Crosstalk between gut bacteria and intestinal epithelial cells in IBD.”

**Guangxiang Luo**, M.D., MPH, professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, was awarded a total of \$185,625 for fiscal year 2011 as part of a two-year grant totaling \$408,375 from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Transgenic mouse models of HCF infection and replication.”

## AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & SELECTIONS

**John R. van Nagell Jr.**, MD, was recognized for his years of service by the Kentucky General Assembly House of Representatives. House Resolution No. 23 recognizes Dr. van Nagell for dedicated and outstanding service to the Kentucky medical community. Van Nagell is the American Cancer Society Professor of Clinical Oncology and is the director of the Ovarian Cancer Screening program, which is the largest of its kind in the U.S.

**Stephanie Dixon Sutphin** was named the local 2011 Woman of the Year by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Kentucky & Southern Indiana Chapter. Sutphin is a hematology/oncology pharmacy specialist. As the 2011 Woman of the Year, her 10-week fundraising campaign drew in \$21,388.

**Catherine Rainwater**, RN, BSN, CRNI, was selected as a member of the RN Examination Council for the Infusion Nurses Certification Corporation. Rainwater works in the Outpatient Malignant Hematology Program as a Team Leader for leukemia, myeloma and autologous and allogenic stem cell transplant populations.



### UK TEAM RAISES NEARLY \$3,000 IN RELAY FOR LIFE

The Markey Cancer Center / Kentucky Medical Services Foundation Relay for Life team, pictured above, raised \$2,998 in this year’s Relay for Life, the signature event of the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Dennie Jones was this year’s “Fight Back” speaker, and Dr. Susanne Arnold presented medals during the survivor ceremony. UK HealthCare sponsors the Fayette County Relay for Life.

# ‘A toast to life’

## SENDING OFF DR. LEWIS KELLY AFTER 27 YEARS AT MARKEY

Dr. Lewis Kelly retired in May. He shared the toast below, which he wrote, at a reception in his honor.

### TO LIFE

For better or worse / For richer or poorer / In sickness and in health / ‘til death do us part / We’re MARRIED to it!

In point of fact / Not one of us can do much about how we got here / Nobody knows \_\_\_ really \_\_\_ how much of it we’ve got / Not one of us gets out of it alive / And / Very few of us get more out of it than we put in.

A day is no less precious than a year / Or a decade, or even a whole generation / If it’s well spent.

How much MORE of it would I bargain for ... if I could? / And with what justification?

If we have learned anything from life at all / It is that we can’t bargain ... no matter how deeply desired or impeccably justi-

fied / We can “hedge” a little or a lot by taking care of ourselves / But, in the end, Life chooses its own terms / All we can do is give the best account of ourselves for the privilege.

Nonetheless, most curiously / It is life’s terms that have given us each TODAY / LIFE has chosen YOU and it has chosen ME! / For better or worse, / For richer or for poorer, / And all the rest:

So let us LIVE IT ... FILL IT ... DO LIFE NOW ... / Let there be no effort spared ... nothing “left on the field”. / Then let there be a CELEBRATION OF LIFE in all of its fullness, / And / Let there be no regrets!

TO LIFE!!



# Markey welcomes new sister center in India

In May, the Markey Cancer Center welcomed representatives from the Kailash Center Hospital in Waghodia, Baroda, India, who signed a memorandum of understanding making the two institutions sister centers.

**Dr. Yogendra Shah** and **Dr. Vikram Patel** represented the Kailash center, and **Dr. Mark Evers** and **Dr. Vivek Rangnekar** represented Markey during the ceremony. Dr. Rangnekar’s leadership helped bring the two centers together.

Kailash Cancer Hospital serves a largely rural area, similar to Markey’s patient base, and also faces challenges related to smoking in its local population.

Kailash is Markey’s second international sister center. The first is the Shanghai First People’s Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Center, in China. That agreement has been in place since April 2010.



### LEARN MORE

Markey Cancer Center  
Lexington, Ky.

Kailash Cancer Hospital  
Visit <http://parimal.info/>  
and click on Health Care.

Shanghai First People’s Hospital  
<http://www.firsthospital.cn/>

