DESIGNATION ACCOMPLISHED
MARKEY ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION FOR NCI CANCER CENTER DESIGNATION

As an officially designated NCI Cancer Center, Markey can now display the NCI CC icon shown above.

COVERAGE ROUNDPUP
Click the links below to visit recaps and coverage about Markey’s announcement.

UK President’s Blog
UK Now Press Release
Lexington Herald-Leader Story 1
Lexington Herald-Leader Story 2
Lexington Herald-Leader Slideshow
Louisville Courier-Journal Story
WLEX (18) Video
WLEX (18) Story
WKYT (27) Story and video
WTVQ (36) Story

July 12 was a banner day for the Markey Cancer Center, as officials announced that Markey had successfully competed for National Cancer Institute Cancer Center funding.

A crowd of dignitaries, researchers, physicians, and staff heard from speakers who each offered personal perspective and congratulations on the accomplishment. Afterward, employees enjoyed an ice cream social in the Markey/College of Dentistry courtyard.

A crowd watched as Markey announced a successful application for NCI designation on Friday. U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, pictured, spoke about how much Markey’s success would mean to the people in the region he represents. (Image by UK Public Relations.)
FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

It is with great pleasure that we share with you some very exciting news for Kentucky and our region: Markey Cancer Center has recently earned National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation. This honor was made possible after years of collaboration and the collective efforts of our outstanding researchers, clinicians and staff members.

Earning NCI designation is a distinction that signifies national excellence in clinical care and cancer research. NCI designation is the ultimate recognition for an academic cancer center and signifies that we have achieved the highest standard in the industry. We are the only NCI-designated cancer center in Kentucky and one of only a handful in the nation. To earn this designation, we had to pass a rigorous review process, much of which you’ve seen me outline in columns such as this one, speeches, and presentations over the past couple of years.

At Markey, we’re winning in the fight against cancer, and being accepted into the NCI’s elite group of cancer centers gives us yet another opportunity to make sure our patients receive the care and compassion they deserve. As a result of this new NCI designation, patients will benefit from:

• New drugs and treatment options only offered at NCI centers
• Access to trials only available at NCI centers
• Peace of mind knowing they are receiving care at one of the country’s best cancer centers

Gaining NCI designation is a significant achievement for Markey and Kentucky, strengthening Markey’s reputation as a front-runner in cancer treatment and research. NCI designation also brings increased federal research funding which boosts the local and state economy.

Finally, I would like to extend a special thanks to our patients for trusting us in their care. NCI designation is the beginning of a new chapter in innovation and healing at Markey, and I am grateful to share that new chapter with each of you.

Establishing the Dr. Joseph F. Pulliam Pilot Award

The Markey Cancer Center lost a friend and accomplished colleague when Dr. Joe Pulliam died on April 16, 2013. Born in Frankfort, KY, Dr. Pulliam was an avid bird watcher and protector of the environment who loved gardening with native plants to provide a natural habitat for wildlife. He was an undergraduate of the University of Kentucky and a graduate of the UK’s Medical School. Among his many roles at UK, Dr. Pulliam was an Assistant Professor of Pathology and served as the co-director of the Biospecimen and Tissue Procurement Shared Resource Facility (BSTP SRF).

To honor Dr. Pulliam’s initiative and achievements, and to stimulate investigator usage of the BSTP SRF, Markey is establishing the Dr. Joseph F. Pulliam Pilot Award. This annual competitive award will provide funds for investigators in the cancer center to conduct translational research projects using human tissue samples. Markey’s goals are to provide two awards of $500 to $1,000 per investigator each year, and to establish a gift fund of at least $25,000 that would provide an annual payout of at least $1,000 in perpetuity.

Please consider making a financial commitment in support of this award. Contact Katharine Dennis at 859-421-7149 or katharine.dennis@uky.edu if you have questions or would like a payroll deduction form.

MARKEY BY THE NUMBERS

U.S. institutions (including Markey) with an NCI-designated Cancer Center, a federally funded Alzheimer’s disease center (UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging) and a Clinical and Translational Science Award ................................................................. 22

Total number of NCI Cancer Centers (including Markey) .................................................. 68
MEET A MARKEY MOVER
DON KELLY AND TRACY BARLOW, UK HEALTHCARE / MARKEY AMBASSADORS

This quarter, we introduce you to Don Kelly and Tracy Barlow who are among a number of Ambassadors stationed throughout UK HealthCare to guide patients and guests during visits. Don and Tracy are the primary Ambassadors at Markey.

Where are you from originally and how did you end up working at Markey?

Don: I grew up in southwest Ohio. My wife and I served as pastors together for 30 years. She passed in 2010. I was living with my daughter in Lexington, and visited a friend in the hospital when I met an Ambassador and realized this would be a good way to continue my ministry- meeting new people and building connections with those I see every day.

Tracy: I’ve lived in Lexington my whole life and was working at Speedway where I met a lot of people who worked at UK. Based on that, getting to know people who worked here, I was encouraged to apply for a job as an Ambassador.

What is your role in patient care?

Don: When people stop at the front of the loop, they often say, “I’m lost.” I tell them, “You’re not lost. You’re here. If you were lost, you’d keep going without knowing where you needed to be. But I can help you get where you need to be.” As Ambassadors, we are here to help patients feel welcome and positive about their visit. No one wants to have cancer, so it’s important for patients to know that everyone here at Markey cares about them.

Tracy: “Where is...” You name it, I’ve helped someone find it.

What’s one of the most common questions you get asked by patients?

Don: “Am I in the right place?” and “Where do I park?”

Tracy: “Where is...” You name it, I’ve helped someone find it.

What should other employees know about your role?

Tracy: Our purpose in keeping the Markey loop clear isn’t to hinder employees, it’s to help patients. During peak times, we may see up to 60 cars an hour. So it’s important to keep traffic moving. But, we know employees also rely on deliveries. If you order lunch, have it delivered outside the loop near the booth. That way, patients aren’t burdened with extra cars, deliveries aren’t confusing and employees can still get lunch. We can work with that, it’s a win-win.

For fun: what’s the best movie you’ve seen year or the best book you’re read this year?

Don: I read “Becoming a Person of Influence” by John C. Maxwell. As your life connects with others, you are an influencer. This book gives insightful ways to interact more positively with others. Hurting people need a positive influence.

Tracy: I enjoyed watching “The Odd Life of Timothy Green”. I love fairy tales.

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

WELCOME

Kevin Dean, Clinical Research Office
Rachel Stewart, Post-doc fellow trainee
Jennifer Whittington, Post-doc fellow trainee
Erin Wolf-Horrell, Graduate fellow trainee
Suzanne Rudges, Post-doc fellow trainee
Janice Ortega, Post-doc fellow trainee
Jennifer Whittington, Post-doc fellow trainee
Erin Wolf-Horrell, Graduate fellow trainee
Suzanne Rudges, Post-doc fellow trainee
Janice Ortega, Post-doc fellow trainee
Kate Zaytseva, Post-doc fellow trainee
Xiaopeng Xiong, Post-doc scholar (Gao laboratory)
Yanan You, Post-doc scholar (Liang laboratory)
Wei Li, Post-doc scholar (Huang laboratory)
Dr. Jian Fu, Center for Research on Environmental Disease
Rong Gao, Visiting scholar (Fu laboratory)
Yuxin Hu, Visiting scholar (Fu laboratory)
Jiao Chen, Visiting scholar (Fu laboratory)

LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS AND POSITION CHANGES

Kathleen O’Connor, PhD, promoted to Professor.
Trey Alexander, promoted to Administrative Research Assistant Principal.
Lara Sutherland, promoted to Data Management Specialist.
Jesse Yannelli, promoted to IS Technical Support Specialist I.
Katie Bathje, promoted to Cancer Control Program Director.
Qing Ye, promoted to Research Associate Senior.

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Markey authors were responsible for 108 manuscripts and publications in journals from April through June 2013.

Notable publications include:


NEW ONLINE: FIND A RESEARCHER

The Markey website features a new directory of Markey researchers, complete with updated profiles and links to key publications.

Email mccrc@uky.edu for instructions on how to be included in the directory.
NOTEWOOTHY, continued

GRANTS

Vivek Rangnekar, PhD, and B. Mark Evers, MD, were awarded National Cancer Institute funding for the study “Interdisciplinary Research Training in Cancer Biology.”

Amrita Machwe, PhD, was awarded American Cancer Society funding for the study “Enhancing Existing Cancer Chemotherapies by Inhibition of WRN and BLM Helicases.”

Cai Huang, PhD, was awarded American Cancer Society funding for the study “PIPKIgamma ubiquitination in breast cancer cell migration and metastasis.”

Meenakshi Upreti, PhD, was awarded National Cancer Institute funding for the study “Targeting solid-tumor vasculature with coencapsulated arsenic- and platinum-based.”

Ellen Hahn, PhD, was awarded funding from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky for the study “Promoting Responsive Smoke- and Tobacco-Free Policy Adoption and Implementation.”

MARKEY DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Congratulations to the following Markey Difference Makers for the second quarter of 2013.

Susanne Arnold
John Dixon
Rachel Donaby
Debra Haggard
Virginia Hardesty
Scarlett Hawthorne
Linda Leach
Laura Marsh
Peggy Meece
Linda Mills
Lisa Minke

Janki Patel
Amy Penticuff
Holly Price
Kris Shera
Barbara Simon
Lynn Simpson
Donica Sweat
Robbin Washington
Galisa Watts
Roger Yankey

UPDATE: Man of the Year

In the last Markey Quarterly, we told you about Kristopher Shera, a former Markey patient who was UK’s candidate for the 2013 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Man of the Year.

In June, Shera was named the 2013 Man of the Year for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Kentucky & Southern Indiana Chapter after a successful 10-week fundraising campaign that resulted in $24,561. The 10 chapter candidates raised more than $116,000 total.

Shera was the first Markey patient to serve as UK’s official candidate for the campaign. He was treated last year at Markey for non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & SELECTIONS

Allan Butterfield, PhD, has been awarded the 2013 Discovery Award from the Society for Free Radical Biology & Medicine. He will be recognized at the society’s 20th annual meeting in San Antonio (November 2013). Dr. Butterfield is a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Director of the Markey Free Radical Biology in Cancer Shared Resource Facility.

Mark Filburn, service line financial manager, was selected for the Association of Cancer Executives Administrative Fellowship Program, a unique one-year program designed to cultivate executive leaders by promoting excellence and enhancing skills in leadership for both business and clinical management aspects of cancer care.

Heidi L. Weiss, PhD, was appointed as a Provost’s Distinguished Service Professor. This award recognizes and honors professors for consistently high levels of achievement in their contributions to their disciplines and the university. Dr. Weiss is a professor in the Departments of Surgery and Biostatistics and Director of the Markey Biostatistics Shared Resource Facility.

Patricia Hughes, RN, DNP, nursing director for cancer services, was awarded the 2013 Marion E. McKenna Leadership Award. The award is sponsored by the Delta Psi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau and was established in honor of Dr. Marion E. McKenna, former dean of the UK College of Nursing. The award is given annually to the Delta Psi member who best demonstrates excellence in leadership.

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) with your story idea.