

**Testimony before the House Committee on Health and Human Services
By Barbara Atkinson, M.D.
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Chairman Morrison and Members of the Committee:

I am Barbara Atkinson, Executive Vice Chancellor of the University of Kansas Medical Center and Executive Dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine. It is my pleasure to appear before you today and provide you with an update on the remarkable things happening at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Our School of Medicine celebrated its centennial in 2005 and our School of Nursing celebrates that same milestone this year.

While our campus hugs the Kansas-Missouri state line in Kansas City, in fulfilling our mission of research, education and service we take seriously our obligation to serve the needs of all Kansans. We train doctors, nurses and other health care professionals for Kansas and through our presence at outreach clinics, our Area Health Education Centers, our preceptor sites, our continuing education, rural health and telemedicine outreach—we touch the lives of Kansans in every part of our state.

We have 4000 KU doctors, 3000 KU nurses, and 3300 KU allied health professionals living in Kansas. This is a significant number if you consider we have graduated just under 10,000 graduates total in our School of Medicine's history and have graduated a total of 5,000 nurses during that school's 100 year history.

We work diligently to be good stewards of the state funds you invest with us. It is estimated that the \$106 million we receive in state general funds creates an economic impact of over \$1.5 billion. We leverage the state's investment with funds we generate from tuition, competitive grants, clinical income and private donations.

We currently have 1413 students in our School of Medicine. This includes 14 MD/PhD students, 717 medical students on our campuses in Kansas City and Wichita, and 682 Residents and Fellows. The School of Medicine's Class of 2005 had a mean undergraduate GPA of 3.66.

We have 529 students in our School of Nursing. Three hundred ten of them are undergraduates, 181 are graduate students and 38 are pursuing PhDs. This year for the first time our School of Nursing will offer a PhD in nursing degree through distance education. The School of Nursing Class of 2005 had undergraduate GPA mean of 3.70

Our School of Allied Health enrolls 503 students. One hundred seventy-three of these students are undergraduates, 271 are graduate students and 59 are PhD students.

In addition to these students we also enroll a number of graduate students in programs including Masters in Health Policy and Management and Public Health, and a Ph.D in biomedical research.

Last year our researchers successfully competed for over \$75 million dollars in external grants and awards. \$38.4 million was awarded in National Institutes of Health grants.

These dollars have significantly enhanced the ability of the Medical Center to hire additional faculty in both our basic science and clinical departments. These faculty members have come from some of the most distinguished universities in the United States including Tufts, Duke, Emory and UCLA.

In the last four fiscal years we have successfully recruited 122 new faculty to the School of Medicine. Thirty-six of these faculty have been in basic science, 29 in clinical research, and 57 in clinical positions. The expansion of our clinical faculty has allowed us to serve more patients and to generate more clinical revenue. We are currently in the preliminary stages of planning a new center for advanced medicine that would house our clinical practices in a unified space—enhancing patient care and greatly improving the efficiency with which care is delivered.

The work our faculty does to earn clinical income and successfully compete for grants helps leverage the investment of state dollars. In our School of Medicine's basic science departments, state appropriations and tuition dollars make up less than half of faculty salaries. In our clinical departments state funds and tuition make up less than a third of faculty salaries. Clearly, my colleagues work hard to create a solid return on your investment.

There is an excitement at the KU Medical Center as we plan for the next generation of advances in health care and health education. We have designed and will begin deploying a new curriculum in our School of Medicine next year. As medicine advances we must adapt and change the ways we prepare health care professionals. Our School of Nursing recently began training its students using an electronic medical record platform and we will begin using this technology to educate our medical students beginning with the incoming class this fall. These innovations will allow our schools to remain on the leading edge of health education and prepare our students to be successful their careers as healers and caregivers.

We are also very excited about the initiative now underway to obtain National Cancer Institute designation for our KU Cancer Center. This effort builds on a rich history of cancer research at the Medical Center. KU's commitment to cancer research was strengthened ten years ago when we created the Kansas Cancer Institute under the direction of Dr. William Jewell. In 2003 the Institute was renamed the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute in recognition of a \$15 million commitment from the Kansas Masonic Foundation.

When I was appointed Dean of the KU School of Medicine developing a world-class cancer center became a very high priority for our school. As many of you know, Chancellor Hemenway has declared this effort now to be our university's top priority.

As a pathologist much of my work has been in the field of cancer diagnosis. I am pleased to be joined today by Dr. Roy Jensen, also a cancer pathologist, who I recruited to serve as the first full time director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center.

Dr. Jensen is a native Kansan who grew up in Gardner and attended Neosho County Community College and graduated from Pittsburg State University. He attended Vanderbilt University for his medical education and assisted them as a faculty member in obtaining NCI designation for their cancer center. Mr. Chairman, with your permission I will turn this briefing over to Dr. Jensen who is prepared to discuss the KU Cancer Center initiative and I will be happy to respond to your questions at the conclusion of his remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Atkinson, M.D.