

## KU-MPH degree program under new leadership

**A** new era has begun for the Master of Public Health degree program at the University of Kansas. The KU program has moved from a joint partnership with Wichita State University, the degree program previously known as MPH Kansas, to an affiliated model. This structural change means students admitted to the University of Kansas will be allowed to take up to 12 hours of elective credit at Wichita State University. Although the universities will share courses, each institution will seek separate accreditation.

The KU-MPH degree program will continue to offer coursework at two sites, the KU Medical Center in Kansas City and the KU School of Medicine in Wichita. Directing the program in Kansas City is Simon Choi, PhD, MPH. Dr. Choi joined the MPH faculty in April, replacing Interim Director Christine Moranetz, PhD. Linda Frazier, MD, MPH, has taken over as the director of the MPH degree program at Wichita, replacing



*Simon Choi, PhD, MPH*



*Linda Frazier, MD, MPH*

Craig Molgaard PhD, MPH. Dr. Molgaard will remain the executive director of the KU-MPH degree program as a whole, and has been appointed Acting Chair of Preventive Medicine in Wichita.

### Meet Dr. Choi

Dr. Choi, assistant professor, Preventive Medicine, received his PhD from the University of South Carolina and his MPH from California State University, Long Beach. He has managed various research projects including drug abuse prevention collaborations, HIV risk behavior surveys, HIV

prevention collaborations, and school-based youth violence prevention programs. Dr. Choi has research experience in health communication and health education research. His work in health communication includes analyzing qualitative and quantitative data, content analysis, concept and message testing, and planning and implementing focus groups.

Recent areas of health communication research include genetics, hepatitis C, prostate cancer and birth defects. He has conducted research in the areas of violence prevention, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and HIV/AIDS.

Prior to joining the University of Kansas Medical Center, Dr. Choi worked at WESTAT, a private health consulting corporation, and Mercer University. At WESTAT, he worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on health communication task order contracts. While on faculty at Mercer University School of

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## Degree program co-sponsors Kansas Public Health Conference

**T**he annual Kansas Public Health Conference was held September 25-27, in Lawrence, Kan., at the Holiday Inn Holidome. This year's conference theme, "Public Health: Honestly, the Best Policy," was co-sponsored by the University of

Kansas Master of Public Health degree program.

Faculty and staff from the Departments of Preventive Medicine in both Kansas City and Wichita played an integral role in planning and execution of several public health conference activities that occurred throughout the week.

Three outstanding speakers with strong connections to public health gave presentations during the conference. Jan Schlichtmann, JD, opened the sessions with his speech, "David vs. Goliath: Don't Stand Under the Giant When He Falls." Schlichtmann, an attorney whose story is chronicled in *A Civil Action*, waged a legal crusade on behalf of eight families in Woburn, Mass., against two of the nation's largest corporations, W.R.

Grace & Co. and Beatrice Foods. The events surrounding this story changed the course of U.S. environmental policy.

Jeffrey Wigand, PhD, former Vice President of Research for Brown and Williamson Tobacco, also addressed the more than 350 conference participants. Wigand, who stands as the highest-level whistleblower ever to emerge from within the tobacco industry, became nationally known when his story was featured in the motion picture, *The Insider*.

Finally, Scott Harshbarger, President and CEO of Common Cause and former Massachusetts Attorney General, closed the two-day conference. Common Cause is a non-profit organization devoted to citizens' lobbying aimed to promote an open, honest and accountable government.

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As we are all aware, the last few weeks have been horrific. The impact of the terrorist acts in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., have left us in profound grief as a society for those lost and their families and friends, as well as shocked by the end of an age of innocence and safety for Americans and their allies. As a country we appear to be suffering from a form of post-traumatic stress disorder, at the same time we gird for what will likely be a long, prolonged and costly struggle against terrorism.

As public health practitioners we have a variety of responsibilities in the present situation. Like the martyred firemen and policemen and other emergency workers in New York City, many of us are the front line in various emergency centers throughout the nation. The threat of bioterrorism, especially, has emerged as a public health threat where members of the American Public Health Association and local societies such as the Kansas Public Health Association are now seen by our national leaders as key resources for knowledge of and prevention of bioterrorist acts. Whether a sanitarian or an infectious disease expert or a toxicologist or computer scientist, the public health practitioner and his knowledge base and unique skills are now crucial to national and local defense initiatives. At the same time our MPH students from the military

are forced to curtail plans for furthering their MPH training as their professional responsibilities are heightened.

Inevitably, comparisons are made to Pearl Harbor and other times and trials. What kind of a conflict is this? Over a decade ago Garfein and Neugat (1991) pointed out in JAMA that the morbidity and mortality profile of each conflict through history changes with technological change, and that changes in warfare are "increasingly devastating for non-combatants, particularly civilian women and children." The old distinction between the direct effects of warfare on combatants and the indirect effects (social disruption, material deprivation, famine, communicable disease) on non-combatants is much less firm. Civilian casualties are now the rule, and not the exception, in most of the conflicts we witness across the globe.

It is difficult to reconcile the ethics of public health with these new patterns, especially when one's own country is now the battleground of choice for those who practice terrorism. I would like to share a conversation with a young friend shortly after the events of September 11. She is a 28-year-old single mother of two who works very hard to support herself and her family. "Why do they hate us so much?" she asked me. I tried to answer, but the answer was so complicated and historical and social that I was not very effective. Eventually she quietly said,



*Craig A. Molgaard, PhD, MPH*

mainly to herself, "I'm so glad that I do not understand that kind of hatred."

It struck me as a quintessential American remark, emphasizing the quiet dignity and self-respect of our people when facing the hatred that spawns such terror. Beyond the saber rattling and banner waving, if we can come through to the other side after we do what must be done, and still think and say such things, we will have won.

Reference: Garfield RM, Neugat AI. Epidemiologic Analysis of Warfare: A Historical Review. JAMA. 1991;266(5):688-92.

## **KU-MPH degree program admission information**

Admission to the Master of Public Health program requires a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. Two official copies of all academic transcripts should be forwarded for all post-secondary education. These materials should be forwarded to the Department of Preventive Medicine at either the Kansas City or Wichita campus, depending on where the applicant would like to complete his/her coursework. An undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for admission as a regular graduate student.

Successful applicants must have at least one year of responsible work experience in the health field, other evidence of training or experience that indicates adequate preparation for the curriculum, or a degree in a recognized health field.

Submission of an official report of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is

required with an averaged score at the 50th percentile or better, if applicant does not have a post-baccalaureate degree. Other professional test scores (e.g., Graduate Management Admissions test (GMAT), Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT), or comparable foreign graduate or professional test) are acceptable in lieu of the GRE. Test scores must not be more than five years old. Additional requirements for admission include the submission of at least three letters of recommendation from faculty members and/or employers, a description of previous professional experiences, and a personal written statement of career goals and objectives. Copies of any pertinent publications or reports authored by the applicant can also be helpful in evaluating a candidate's potential for success in public health. These materials should be sent to the Department of Preventive Medicine to

the attention of the MPH Program.

All master's degree applicants whose citizenship is not of the U.S. and/or whose native language is not English must obtain an official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 570 for regular admission. TOEFL scores should be sent from your ETS center directly to the Kansas University Medical Center in Kansas City. Candidates for admission must also achieve a score of 40 or better on the Test of Spoken English (TSE) within the first semester from the student's date of admission to Graduate School in order to continue as a student in the MPH program.

Applicants are considered without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, disability, or national origin. Diversity in the student body is encouraged. For more information regarding admission, in Kansas City contact Joseph O'Toole, 913-588-2720; in Wichita contact Becky Gruhn, 316-293-2627.

## New KPHA board member makes service a sport

**K**imber Richter, PhD, MPH, knows how to stay on the ball.

After spending several years as an active member of the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) and providing invaluable service to committees within the organization, she was recently named to the KPHA Board of Directors. Dr. Richter, an assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine in Kansas City, is one of three board members elected at large by the KPHA membership.

But Dr. Richter's service to the community is not confined to her work with KPHA. In addition to being a member of the American Public Health Association, the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco and the Association for Medical Education and Research on Substance Abuse, Dr. Richter loves soccer. In the fall of 2000, she founded a small indoor soccer league at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

"I really enjoy public health service and I really love playing soccer and promoting soccer," said Dr. Richter.

This season, four teams comprised of medical students, graduate students,

physical therapy students and faculty and staff from the Department of Preventive Medicine in Kansas City are competing in a nine-game season. The season

concludes with a play-off night, and the winners of the league will receive T-shirts.

"We have a lot of fun playing other allied health students and it's really a great stress reliever," said Simon Choi, PhD, MPH, assistant professor, Preventive Medicine, Kansas City.

Along with Drs. Richter and Choi, Preventive Medicine team members include Jasjit Ahluwalia, Delwyn Catley, Won Choi, Kulmeet Dang, Ed Ellerbeck, Samuel Jean, Niaman Nazir, and Joseph O'Toole. Currently, Dr. Richter and fellow soccer enthusiasts are contemplating a new outdoor soccer league for the spring.

On top of founding the KUMC indoor soccer league, Dr. Richter is secretary of the Kaw Valley Soccer Association, a



*Kimber Richter, PhD, MPH*

youth soccer league in Lawrence, Kan. She has also coached and managed other women's soccer teams in the area.

In addition to her busy work and soccer schedule, as a KPHA board member, Dr. Richter will serve as a representative of the membership regarding KPHA policy decisions and activities which includes setting the association's legislative agenda.

She is a four-year member of the Conference planning committee and was Chair of the Conference Committee in 1999. She chaired the First Annual Call for Papers in 1998 and the Poster Session Committee from 1995-1996 and 1998-present.

Dr. Richter received her MPH from the University of Kansas Medical Center in 1996. She then went on and received her PhD in Behavioral Psychology from the University of Kansas in 1998. She serves as co-director of the required clerkship, Health of the Public, for fourth-year medical students at KUMC. She also serves as co-instructor for the MPH core requirement, Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health. Dr. Richter has served as a guest lecturer in several graduate nursing classes and has directed medical student research in Studies in Community Health.

## Wichita nurse selected for national community leader award

**A**rneatha Martin, RN, MN, ARNP, co-president and CEO of the Center for Health and Wellness, Wichita, was selected as a 2001 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. Martin, who was one of 10 leaders selected nationwide, is an adjunct MPH faculty member at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Martin's Center for Health and Wellness has served as a preceptor site for MPH students since its inception in 1998.

The purpose of the Community Health Leadership Program is to honor and support outstanding individuals who have created or significantly improved programs that further develop key health services within their communities. Martin was selected for the award from among 577 nominees nationwide. The nomination was submitted by Ruth Wetta-Hall, RN, MPH, MSN, teaching associate, Preventive Medicine.



*Arneatha Martin, RN, MN, ARNP*

"Arneatha understands the needs of her community," said Wetta-Hall. "Two of Arneatha's key philosophies are to respect the dignity and self-esteem of every individual and to provide high quality care to all people, regardless of their skin color. Every patient at the center knows that the clinic staff cares about them as a person, and not as a paycheck."

The Center for Health and Wellness sees about 15,000 patients yearly - less than 30 percent of those patients are insured. Many clients pay for their services through volunteerism at the clinic. Clients may deduct \$10 from their bill for every hour of service they provide to the Center for Health and Wellness. Additionally, clients may also deduct money from their bill for each hour they spend in classes learning about their disease.

Martin was presented the award in Washington, D.C., on June 27 at the National Press Club and was recognized at a community reception on July 12 hosted by the Dean of the KU School of Medicine-Wichita, Dr. S. Edwards Dismuke. Each recipient of the Community Health Leader award and his/her program receives \$100,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. A personal stipend of \$5,000 is included in that balance for each leader to use to support his/her program. More information about the award program can be found at <http://www.communityhealthleaders.org/>.

## Hooding ceremony held

The Master of Public Health degree program at the University of Kansas held its second annual hooding ceremony May 19, at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City. Graduates from the Summer 2000, Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 semesters were eligible to participate. After the hooding ceremony, graduates and their guests were invited to a luncheon hosted by Dr. Donald Hagen, Executive Vice Chancellor, KU Medical Center.



MPH graduates and staff after 2nd annual hooding ceremony

KU-MPH graduates

\* Denotes KU School of Medicine - Wichita

### SPRING 2001

Hisham Alomran, MD  
Removing the Pediatric Cervical Collar: Current Practice Patterns  
**Publishable Paper Thesis**

Suzanne Schrater, PHARM D\*  
Prescription Benefit of Project Access  
**Practicum/Project: Project Access, Wichita, Kan.**

Meenakshi Sharma, MBBS  
Communication about side effects of Prescription Drugs: Do Physicians Understand Patients' Expectations?  
**Thesis**

Lolem Ngong\*  
Determining HIV/AIDS-related Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Sexual Practices of Cameroonian Youth Ages 13-24 Years Old: A Pilot Project  
**Thesis**

Katherine Shuster  
Prenatal Breastfeeding Education and Infant Feeding Choice Among Adolescent Mothers  
**Practicum/Project: Stormont Vail Healthcare, Topeka, Kan.**

Roberta Sullivan, RN  
Effects of Provider Feedback Characteristics on Patient Adherence to NCEP LDL Goal in an Ambulatory Cardiology Practice  
**Thesis**

Jinny Wilson  
A Descriptive Analysis of Abusive Head Trauma in Jackson County, Missouri  
**Thesis**

### FALL 2000

Methapan Arunakul  
An Evaluation of an Emergency

Assistance Program  
**Practicum/Project: Crosslines Cooperative Council, Inc., Kansas City, Kan.**

Laurie L. Hornberger, MD  
Life Experiences, Attitudes and Beliefs of Incoming Primary Care Residents Regarding Adolescent Health Issues  
**Thesis - HONORS**

Michael L. Kincaid, DDS  
Alternative Methods of Treatment for Alcohol and Drug Abuse: The Medicine Wheel Concept  
**Practicum/Project: Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kan.**

John Eric Martin  
Two Parts of a Larger Response to a Rural County's Concern about Cancer:  
I. A Pancreatic and Kidney Cancer Literature Review  
II. A Smoking Survey Within the School District  
**Thesis - HONORS**

Barbara Deenihan, MT-ASCP\*  
Menopausal Health Information in Popular Magazines: An Examination of Topic Frequencies and Readability Scores  
**Research Practicum/Project: Dept. of Preventive Medicine - Wichita, Kan.**

Carol Moyer  
Antimicrobial Resistance: Is it a Problem in Kansas?  
**Practicum/Project: Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease, Topeka, Kan.**

Chunqiao Tian, MD  
I. Fecal Occult Blood Tes (FOBT)

Among Medicare Beneficiaries for Screening Colorectal Cancer, Kansas State, 1998-1999  
II. Impact of Self-Directed Service on Medicaid Physically Disabled Populations, Kansas State, 1997-1998  
**Practicum/Project: Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc., Topeka, Kan.**

Tammy A. Von Busch, DVM\*  
Gestational Age at Which Air Force Women Presented for and Occupational Safety Assessment During Pregnancy  
**Practicum/Project: McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kan.**

### SUMMER 2000

Edwin Gabbidon, MS\*  
The Descriptive Epidemiology of Gang Weapons in Wichita, KS; 1991-1999  
**Thesis**

June Klug, MN, MBA\*  
Development of a Data Collection Tool in a Low and Very Low Calorie Diet with Behavioral Modification Outpatient Clinic  
**Practicum/Project: Via Christi Prevention and Wellness Center, Wichita, Kan.**

Peggy Smith\*  
Corporate Responses to Pregnancy-Related Work Restrictions  
**Research Practicum/Project: Dept. of Preventive Medicine - Wichita, Kan.**

Malaika N. Woods  
Predictors of Clinical Trial Participation  
**Thesis**

## KU-MPH Alumni advantage - *Pioneering new paths in public health*

**D**iane Heilman Felt, MPH (Wichita, 99), is the Director of Nutrition and Pastoral Care at Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital in El Dorado, Kan. Felt, who says she utilizes the information learned in the MPH degree coursework everyday, was able to use the research from her thesis, "Attitudes, Values, Beliefs and Practices Surrounding End-Of-Life Care," in a very practical way. Felt used her findings to help the hospital justify hiring a chaplain, which it did just this year.

D. Charles Hunt, MPH (Kansas

City, 99), works as an Epidemiologist/Health Risk Manager in the Bureau of Health Promotion at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The principle role of his position is to direct a scientific, population-based health risk telephone survey program and to serve as coordinator of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) for Kansas. Hunt is also helping build chronic epidemiology capacity for the state of Kansas.

*If you are an alum from the Master of Public Health degree program at the*

*University of Kansas, we want to hear from you! We're interested in knowing where you currently work and how the MPH degree has enhanced your career. Also, we'd like to know about any honors or awards you may have received because we love bragging about how great our alumni are. To submit information for publication in the Alumni Advantage, please e-mail Becky Gruhn at [bgruhn@kumc.edu](mailto:bgruhn@kumc.edu), or mail information to Alumni Advantage, c/o Becky Gruhn, KU School Of Medicine-Wichita, 1010 N Kansas, Wichita, KS, 67214.*

## Honas wins student poster competition

**J**eff Honas, MS, Wichita MPH student, took first place in the Kansas Public Health Conference student poster contest, Sept. 26, Lawrence, Kan. Honas was one of 17 entrants competing for the honor. His prize includes an all-expense paid trip to the American Public Health Association's 129th annual meeting and exposition, Oct. 21-25, Atlanta, Ga.

Honas' poster was titled, "Predictors of Retention and Dropout in a Weight Loss Program." His data included 866 weight loss patients who were examined for 16 weeks at the Prevention and Health Center at the Via Christi Regional Medical Center in Wichita. Dropout and retention rates were measured at 8 and 16 weeks. The following six variables: sex, race, marital status, age, body weight and body mass index (BMI) were evaluated in characterizing the retention rates.

Honas originally produced the poster to fulfill a course requirement in the MPH elective PRVM 875: Management of



*Wichita MPH student Jeff Honas talks about his poster with a conference participant.*

Public Health Data taught by Doren Fredrickson, MD, PhD, associate professor, Preventive Medicine and Terri Jones, MT (ASCP), MPH, teaching associate, Preventive Medicine.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November

- 15** Great American Smokeout
- 21** Thanksgiving recess begins
- 26** Classes resume
- 26** Application for Degree cards due for December 2001 graduates

### December

- 1** World AIDS day
- 7** Last day for December 2001 master's candidates to defend
- 13** Last day of classes
- 17** Last day for December 2001 master's candidates to file theses and other materials in their graduate divisions' offices
- 17-21** FINALS
- 31** December degrees awarded (formally conferred at May 2002 commencement)

## MPH students participate in The Community Health Project

**F**ive MPH students participated in The Community Health Project (CHP), a unique service learning internship offered through the Department of Preventive Medicine in Kansas City this summer.

Christine Moranetz, PhD, clinical associate professor, Preventive Medicine, and Faculty Advisor for CHP, works with MPH students interested in combining elective coursework or their capstone courses with the CHP.

"MPH students have this unique opportunity to participate in a great interdis-

ciplinary internship working with diverse populations served by public health and social service agencies throughout the State of Kansas," said Moranetz.

While most sites are in the Kansas City metropolitan area, many agencies are available to mentor CHP interns in Wichita, Topeka, Lawrence, Manhattan, Salina and Emporia.

The CHP occurs during June and July. This year 38 interns served in 28 different agencies. In addition to receiving academic credit, students receive \$2,000 scholarships.

The CHP is funded by the Kansas Health Foundation, which has supported the program since its inception in 1993.

MPH students interested in applying for the CHP should contact the MPH coordinators on the respective campuses in February when the applications are made available. Inquiries regarding the CHP can be made to Jennifer Harader, CHP Executive Director, at 913-588-2762, or by e-mailing [chealth@kumc.edu](mailto:chealth@kumc.edu).

## KC welcomes new faculty

**K**evin McCarter, PhD, assistant professor, recently joined the faculty of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City. Dr. McCarter earned his MS and PhD in statistics from Kansas State University. His dissertation research was in the area of survival analysis and reliability theory. His research interests include survival analysis, statistical computing/simulation, and mathematical statistics.

Dr. McCarter teaches biostatistics in the MPH program, and team-teaches ICM 850 (Clinical Epidemiology and Prevention) with Dr. Won Choi to medical students. He is a scientific co-director of the Research Design and Analysis core of the Mental Retardation Research Center. Prior to coming to the medical center, Dr. McCarter was an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan., where he was on faculty for three years.

When he has time, he likes to exercise, and in particular, enjoys bicycle riding and weight lifting. In addition, he is a SCUBA diver and holds an advanced rating, with specialty training in search and recovery, low-visibility diving, and ice-diving.

### Rebecca Lee

Rebecca Lee, PhD, joined the faculty in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Kansas City campus in August. Dr. Lee developed her interests during her master's thesis, completed at San Diego State University. This work focused on promoting walking for exercise in ethnic minority women, recently published in *Women and Health* (Lee, R.E., Goldberg, J., Sallis, J.F., Castro, C.M., Hickmann, S.A., & Chen, A.H. A prospective analysis of the relationship between walking and mood in sedentary ethnic minority women. *Women and Health*, 2001; 32 (4): 1-15.). Dr. Lee received her doctoral training with a dual focus in community psychology and behavioral medicine from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Md.

She continued her work with her doctoral dissertation focused on understanding motivation for physical activity (In Press, *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*).

Dr. Lee completed her postdoctoral fellowship focusing on environmental determinants of cardiovascular health behaviors (physical activity, tobacco use and dietary habits) at the Stanford Center for Research in Disease Prevention, in the Stanford School of Medicine.

## Publications

**Engelman KK, Ellerbeck EF,** Totten B. Improving Systems of Preventive Care via Academic Detailing by Medical Students. *Academic Medicine*. 2001;76:565-566.

Howard PA, **Ellerbeck EF, Engelman KK,** Dunn MI. Warfarin for stroke prevention in octogenarians with atrial fibrillation. *American Journal of Geriatric Cardiology*. 2001;10:139-144.

**Ellerbeck EF, Ahluwalia JS,** Jolicoeur DG, Gladden J, Mosier MC. Direct observation of smoking cessation activities in primary care practice. *Journal of Family Practice*. 2001;50(8):688-693.

**Molgaard CA, Frazier LM,** Golbeck AL. Neurologic diseases. In J. Olsen (Ed.), *Teaching Epidemiology: A guide for teachers in epidemiology, public health and clinical medicine* (pp. 229-236). Oxford University Press. 2001.

**Dismuke SE, Burns BW, Moranetz CA, Ellerbeck E.** Curriculum assessment for prevention topics and the population perspective. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. 2001;20(4):286-90.

**Dismuke SE, Ellerbeck E.** Research training in population health. (editorial) *Medical Education*. 2001;35(6):524-5.

**Ellerbeck EF, Engelman KK,** Gladden J, Mosier MC, Raju GS, **Ahluwalia JS.** Direct Observation of Counseling on Colorectal Cancer in Rural Primary Care  
(Continued on page 8)

## Dismuke named Dean of KU School of Medicine-Wichita

**S.** Edwards Dismuke, MD, MSPH, is public health personified. His dedication to community and public service initiatives directly reflects his personal commitment to population-based health. So it was no surprise when Dr. Dismuke was named Dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Effective July 1, 2001, Dr. Dismuke officially left his position as Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine and now has the honor of being one of only a handful of board certified Preventive Medicine physicians to become Dean of a community-based medical school.

Before being named Dean, Dr. Dismuke spent 10 years as Chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine on both the Wichita and Kansas City campuses. He was instrumental in the creation of the Master of Public Health degree program

at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

In 1998, Dr. Dismuke was named the first Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Professor in Public Health, a position that was specifically designed to incorporate the philosophies of public health within primary care. He has an impressive community service background and is very involved in all aspects of preventive healthcare and population health.

Dr. Dismuke received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee and his master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina's School of Public Health in Chapel Hill. He is board certified in both Preventive Medicine and Internal Medicine.



S. Edwards Dismuke, MD, MSPH

Following Dismuke's new appointment as dean, the Department of Preventive Medicine was officially separated into two departments, one at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City and the other at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita campus. Jasjit

Ahluwalia, MD, MPH, MS, was named Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine in Kansas City, while Craig Molgaard, PhD, MPH, was named Acting Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine in Wichita. The two departments jointly sponsor the KU-MPH degree program.

## Students benefit from EPA grant

In January 2000, Linda Frazier, MD, MPH, and Craig Molgaard PhD, MPH, of the KU-MPH program in Wichita, received a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a literature review on children's environmental health.

The resulting 594-page monograph, "Environmental Health and Human Development: An Overview," was submitted to the EPA after one year. The project provided student assistantships for four MPH students. The literature retrieved was also used to create the web-based MPH course, Children's Environmental Health (PRVM 837), the first of its kind in the United States.

The project officer for the grant was Dr. David Chen from the EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection. The purpose of the project was to compile information from a wide variety of sources on critical periods in development, children's vulnerability related to increased exposure and special sensitivity to toxicants during fetal life, childhood and adolescence. The project also reviewed the epidemiologic and environmental risk factors for key children's health problems such as congenital malformations, neurobehavioral disorders, childhood cancer and others.

### New Grants:

Cancer Research Foundation of America  
"The Measurement and Role of Psychological Stress in Smoking Cessation among Low-Income African-Americans"  
Fellowship Award: Shawn K. Jeffries, PhD  
P.I. - Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, MD, MPH, MS  
9/15/01 - 9/14/03  
\$80,000

National Cancer Institute, RO1  
"Helping African American Light Smokers Quit"  
P.I. - Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, MD, MPH, MS  
8/21/01 - 7/31/05  
\$2,402,253 Total Award  
\$1,604,016 Direct Costs

Cancer Research Foundation of America  
"Understanding Smoking among College Students"  
P.I. - Kari Jo Harris, PhD, MPH  
9/15/01 - 9/14/02  
\$39,610

State of Kansas Attorney General's Office (VAWA)  
"BRIDGE Program Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Advocacy Program"  
P.I. - Zita Surprenant, MD  
10/1/01 - 9/30/02  
\$48,521

National Institute for Drug Abuse, R03  
"Role of Controllability in Scheduled

## Chin recognized

Tom D. Y. Chin, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus of Preventive Medicine and of Internal Medicine, and former Chair of Preventive



Tom D.Y. Chin, MD, MPH

Medicine, will be honored for his commitment and service to tropical medicine and public health during the 50th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Nov. 11-15, Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Chin was a charter member of this Society.

Smoking Reduction"  
P.I. - Delwyn Catley, PhD  
5/01/01 - 4/30/02  
\$50,000

National Institute for Drug Abuse, R03  
"Smoking Controllability and Moderation of Tobacco Effects"  
James Grobe, PhD (PI), Delwyn Catley, PhD (Co-investigator), Jasjit. S. Ahluwalia, MD, MPH, MS  
5/01/01 - 4/30/02  
\$50 000

## New leadership for KU-MPH program

(Continued from page 1)

Medicine, he coordinated the MPH program and developed a new course on Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Dr. Choi's research interests can be categorized as encompassing health disparities, health promotion, and disease prevention. A theme of his current research is obesity and disease risk in the adolescent and minority populations. More specifically, his research will focus on the relationship between Type 2 Diabetes and obesity among minority populations. His current endeavors include population-based examination of ethnic differences in rates of Type 2 Diabetes as well as the use of waist circumference as a marker to examine the risk of hypertension.

### Meet Dr. Frazier

Dr. Frazier, associate professor, Preventive Medicine, earned her medical degree at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y., and received her

MPH degree in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Frazier is board certified in internal medicine and preventive medicine. Since 1996, she has taught the MPH core course in epidemiology (PRVM 800). Electives that she teaches include Children's Environmental Health (PRVM 837), Reproductive Epidemiology (PRVM 838) and Health Communication (PRVM 877). These courses reflect her public health and research interests in improving reproductive outcomes by reducing hazardous exposures in the preconception and prenatal periods, and increasing consumer awareness of behavioral changes needed to reduce reproductive risk factors. Students who have worked with her on capstone projects have investigated reproductive health knowledge among college students, physician management of job exposures during pregnancy and other topics.

Prior to joining the KU School of Medicine-Wichita, Dr. Frazier was a faculty member at the Duke University Medical Center for more than 10 years, directing the General Internal Medicine Fellowship and co-directing the residency in occupational and environmental medicine. She has received major grants from the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She is the lead editor of the textbook, *Reproductive Hazards of the Workplace* (1998, John Wiley & Sons). She has authored 14 book chapters, more than 20 published abstracts and 25 peer-reviewed publications in journals such as *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association* and *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

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