UofL SOM Assistant Dean Selected for National Program to Train Women Executives

An assistant dean of the University of Louisville School of Medicine has been selected to the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program.

Kimberly A. Boland, M.D., has been elected for the 2017-2018 ELAM class. ELAM is a year-long fellowship for women faculty in schools of medicine, dentistry and public health. It provides leadership training with extensive coaching, networking and mentoring opportunities aimed at expanding the national pool of qualified women candidates for executive positions in the academic health sciences. Currently, ELAM alumnae hold leadership positions at 240 academic health organizations worldwide.

The election of Boland brings the total of ELAM fellows from UofL to 19, including School of Medicine Dean Toni M. Ganzel, M.D., M.B.A., who participated in 2003-2004.

Boland has served as assistant dean of resident education and work environment in the Department of Graduate Medical Education at the UofL medical school since August 2016. Additionally, she holds the positions of vice chair of medical education, director of pediatric residency training and professor in the UofL Department of Pediatrics.

Boland is the current president of the Kentucky Pediatric Foundation and immediate past president of the Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She also is chair of the Association of Pediatric Program Directors’ Mid-America Region and a member of its Curriculum Task Force.

In addition to overseeing the pediatric residency program, Boland oversees eight pediatric fellowship programs at UofL and assisted in the creation of the department’s Development and Behavioral Fellowship, Pediatric Child Abuse Fellowship, Pediatric Pulmonary Fellowship and Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Fellowship. She also serves the university on the Promotion and Tenure Committee and the School of Medicine Wellness Committee.

She is a past recipient of the Paul Weber Award herself, also with the School of Medicine Master Educator Award and Dean’s Educator Award for Distinguished Teaching along with five clinical teaching awards and seven faculty peer mentoring awards.

From Louisville, Boland earned her undergraduate degree from Notre Dame University and her medical degree from UofL. She completed her residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in pediatric critical care at St. Louis Children’s Hospital at Washington University in St. Louis. She is board certified in pediatrics and practices with University of Louisville Physicians.

For more information on the ELAM program, visit the program’s website.
School of Dentistry

Oral Medicine Faculty Member Chosen as Fellow of Duke-Johnson & Johnson Nurse Leadership Program

Michelle L. Baxter, a faculty member at the University of Louisville Schools of Dentistry and Nursing, has been chosen as one of 30 advanced practice nurses in the United States to participate in the Duke-Johnson & Johnson Nurse Leadership Program.

During the yearlong program, fellows will learn leadership and management skills to provide more effective and efficient health care services to underserved populations in their community.

Baxter, A.P.R.N., A.G.N.P.-C., and other 2017-18 fellows will participate in leadership retreats, distance-based learning and a health leadership project.

“I consider this fellowship opportunity a privilege and I am honored,” Baxter said. “I will capitalize on this experience to develop my advanced practice nursing leadership and management skills in order to broaden my interdisciplinary role as nurse practitioner in the setting of a university-based dental clinic.”

Baxter’s role as an oral medicine faculty member at UofL involves medical consultation and instruction with dental students and facilitating interprofessional relationships with dental faculty, staff and students.
School of Medicine

Training the Next Generation of Cancer Researchers

The University of Louisville is making strides not only in conducting cancer research, but also in educating and motivating the next generation of scientists.

The UofL Cancer Education Program is an intensive summer research and professional development program for outstanding undergraduate and health professional students, supporting their pursuit of careers in cancer research.

The UofL Cancer Education Program, funded by an R25 grant from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health, accepts about 30 trainees each summer. The students engage in a 10-week research project under the guidance of UofL cancer researchers and lab mentors in basic, clinical, translational, behavioral and population-based cancer research. The mentors are research-intensive UofL faculty, most of whom are affiliated with the James Graham Brown Cancer Center.

This spring, the program was renewed for five years with the leadership addition of director LaCreis Kidd, Ph.D., M.P.H., associate professor and Our Highest Potential Endowed Chair in Cancer Research in the UofL Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. David Hein, Ph.D., chair of the department, established the program and continues as director along with Kidd. More than 60 UofL faculty members serve as mentors and key contributors to the program.

“The renewal of this program is a clear indication that the trainees are excelling in cancer research during and after completion of the program. In addition, UofL and the James Graham Brown Cancer Center are providing cutting edge research, professional development and networking opportunities for the next generation of cancer research scientists,” Kidd said.

Since it began in 2012, the program has trained more than 150 students, including college undergraduates and medical, public health, dental and nursing students from more than 25 universities across the United States. More than one-third of the trainees have continued their studies as medical, doctoral and MD/PhD students at UofL. Others have continued their cancer research training at institutions such as Johns Hopkins University and Columbia. The five-year award of $1,593,000 supports the students’ research activities, subsistence payments, travel and housing.

To sharpen their professional skills, the trainees participate in engaging professional development activities. The activities include a 90-second elevator pitch contest, speed networking and public speaking activities that allow trainees to connect with their audience and deliver engaging oral presentations.

At the conclusion of the program, the students deliver their work in the form of research posters and oral presentations to faculty, judges and fellow students. Many of the students also present their research at Research!Louisville as well as at regional, national and international scientific meetings. Research conducted in the program is frequently published with a student as first author.

One goal of the UofL NCI Cancer Education Program is to reach underrepresented minorities for participation. Of the 156 students who have completed the program, 53 are underrepresented minority students.

“The NCI R25 Cancer Education Program is well poised to prepare the next generation of young investigators in the field of cancer research or clinical oncology,” Kidd said.

The Cancer Education Program is integrated with other summer research activities on UofL’s Health Sciences Center campus, including the Summer Research Scholar Program for students in the School of Medicine and the School of Dentistry’s Summer Research Program.
Facility and Students Receive Awards at Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference

Several School of Nursing faculty and students were honored at the annual Midwest Nursing Research Society conference April 6–9 in Minneapolis.

MEPN students Jaclyn Hayden and Meredith Grisanti received third place in the Master’s Student Poster Competition for their research, Predicting Grief Intensity after Perinatal Loss. Their mentor is Professor Marianne Hutti, Ph.D., W.H.N.P.-B.C.

Assistant Professor Fawwaz Alaloul, Ph.D., R.N., received the Mid-Career Investigator Award from the Health of Diverse Populations Research Interest Group in recognition of his outstanding research and tireless efforts in addressing the needs of diverse populations.

Heather Hardin, a postdoctoral fellow at Case Western Reserve University and 2014 UofL School of Nursing Ph.D. alumna, received the Adolescent Health New Investigator Award.

UofL Owensboro Nursing Program Has Perfect First-time Pass Rate on RN Licensure Exam

The University of Louisville School of Nursing Owensboro Extension program achieved a 100 percent pass rate in 2016 for first-time takers of the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, NCLEX-RN. The UofL traditional undergraduate nursing program in Louisville achieved a 93 percent pass rate. State boards of nursing administer the standardized exam to determine whether a prelicensure nursing school graduate is prepared for entry-level practice as a registered nurse. The pass rate includes all graduates who took the NCLEX for the first time in 2016.

“We are thrilled that our program has achieved a perfect pass rate for 2016,” said Amy Higdon, M.S.N., R.N., director of the UofL School of Nursing Owensboro Extension and assistant professor. “This is a huge accomplishment and would not have been possible without the hard work and determination from our students. Thank you to the dedicated faculty and staff who have worked endlessly to support our students and the program.”

The pass rates for UofL’s School of Nursing programs in Louisville and Owensboro are above the national average of 87.8 percent, according to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

“We have strong programs with faculty and students who work together to succeed,” said Ruth Staten, Ph.D., A.P.R.N.-C.S.-N.P., UofL School of Nursing associate dean for undergraduate programs and associate professor. "The NCLEX pass rates are just one outcome that demonstrates the excellence that defines our B.S.N. traditional programs. We are very proud of the faculty, staff, students and graduates that contribute to the well-being of the community."
Public Health and Information Sciences

Study Seeks Local Children Potentially Affected by Coal Ash

Understanding whether children who live closer to coal ash storage sites and power plants have greater neurobehavioral disorders than children who live further away is the focus of a University of Louisville study funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

UofL School of Public Health and Information Sciences researcher Kristina Zierold, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, is one of just a few scholars in the United States investigating the health impacts from exposure to coal ash.

Coal ash is generated when power plants burn coal for energy. It includes many elements, but fly ash, which is comprised of small, spherical particles, is the greatest component. The composition of fly ash varies, but it frequently contains toxic metals such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, manganese, mercury; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); and radioactive elements.

Most coal ash is stored in open landfills or ponds, and because it is not classified as a hazardous waste, there are limited federal regulations that govern its use, storage or disposal.

“Children are exposed to fly ash through inhalation and ingestion from fugitive dust emissions that come from power plant emissions, landfills and sludge ponds, putting these children at risk of developing emotional and behavioral issues such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and neurobehavioral performance problems like the ability to concentrate,” Zierold said.

An estimated 1.54 million children in the United States are exposed to coal ash. Kentucky ranks in the top five states for the amount of ash generated and ash storage, according to a 2011 Earth Justice report.

Study Details

Zierold is recruiting 300 children ages 6-14 who live in neighborhoods located between 150 feet and a 10 mile radius of coal ash landfills and ponds in Louisville. Specific zip codes include: 40109, 40118, 40177, 40211, 40214, 40215, 40216, 40258, 40272.

The research team will conduct in-home air sampling to determine the presence of fly ash and metals. Parents will be asked to fill out questionnaires that will help characterize environmental exposure history and health history of the children.

In addition, researchers will collect toenail and fingernail clippings of children to test the level of metals such as manganese, chromium, and lead found within the children’s bodies. Children also will be asked to take tests on a computer to evaluate neurobehavioral performance.

All testing will be completed within the homes of those who take part in the study, which allows for one child per household. Parents will receive a $100 Visa gift card and the participating child will receive a $25 Visa gift card.

As the study progresses, Zierold plans to provide community members with the findings, both through direct contact and through community meetings. Upon completion of the study, Zierold will evaluate the relationships between coal ash and emotional and behavioral disorders and neurobehavioral performance.

Those interested in taking part in the study should contact Kristina Zierold at 502-216-9673 or click here to email her. More information also can be found on the study’s website.

Louisville power plant.
April is National Minority Health Month, and we are pleased to announce that Governor Bevin has proclaimed April as Minority Health Month in Kentucky.

There is much work to be done to improve the health of Kentuckians and to ensure that all Kentuckians have an opportunity to achieve their optimal level of health. We invite you to review the data and recommendations included in the 2015 Minority Health Status Report on our webpage. The 2017 report will be released in early 2018.

Click here for a link to the federal Office of Minority Health 2017 National Minority Health Month website, which includes social media messages, upcoming events, graphics, and more. We ask you to consider this year’s theme “Bridging Health Equity Across Communities” in your upcoming efforts to improve the health of Kentuckians.

Thank you for all of your work to reduce disparities and promote equity within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Do not hesitate to reach out to OHE for support or with any questions.
2017 Louisville Women’s Prep Summit
by Karen Krigger MD, MED, FAAFP, AAHIVM(S) and Southeast Co-Director of the American Academy of HIV Medicine.

HIV and Women: The facts
Almost a quarter of people living with HIV in the US are women with 86% of these diagnoses attributable to heterosexual activity. 13% of HIV positive women are infected through injection drug use. While more than 61% of HIV positive women are black, 32% of white women with HIV acquired their infection through injection drug use. The good news - annual HIV diagnoses have declined 20% from 2010-2014. This is right in our backyard. Of the more than 3.3 million HIV testing events in the US in 2013, transgender people were 3 times the national average in receiving a new HIV diagnosis (CDC.gov).

In an effort to eradicate HIV in Louisville, the 2017 Louisville Women’s PrEP Summit will be held June 27, 2017 (National HIV Testing Day) at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3640 River Park Drive 40211. The event is free and open to the public with dinner and registration from 5:15-6:00 pm. Advance reservations for dinner and babysitting services are requested. The program will be from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. with a 20 minute HIV introduction, followed by 60 minutes of interactive learning stations including HIV testing, STD games, recognition of STD signs and symptoms, a trauma expert, needle exchange information, and information on PrEP/PEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis/Post Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV) and other HIV prevention strategies. Finally, there will be a 30 minute presentation on PrEP, including how to access PrEP services. There will be a $5.00 Kroger gift card or equivalent TARC tickets for each person receiving HIV testing. Additionally, there will be “safer sex” packages, and other giveaways. This event is sponsored by Project Compassion, Redeemer Lutheran Church; Volunteers of America, University of Louisville Health Science Campus students, Kentucky AIDS Alliance, Louisville Metro Department of Health and Wellness, HSC LGBTQ Center, and many other supporters.

While a lot of PrEP information has targeted men having sex with men, women are at risk of HIV and are viable candidates for PrEP if their partner is HIV positive, their partner or themselves are injection drug users, if they do not know the HIV status of their partners, or if their partners are not monogamous. By providing dinner and babysitting services for attending women, both cis (a person who identifies as the gender they were assigned at birth) and transwomen, this workshop hopes to create a space and time for women to place their needs first, for just a couple of hours, as they educate themselves about HIV protection. Call for reservations at 852-7181, or visit our eventbrite page by clicking here.

I hope to see you there, and I encourage you to share the information about this coming event.

2017 Women’s PrEP Summit
June 27, 2017

Did you know...?

For transgendered women, those assigned male birth, but whom identify as female, the statistics are not uplifting in our war on HIV. Currently there are a million transgender people in the US, 84% are transgender women. 43% of transgender women living in the southern US received a diagnosis of HIV from 2009-2014. This is right in our backyard. Of the more than 1.3 million HIV testing events in the US in 2013, transgender people were 3 times the national average in receiving a new HIV diagnosis (CDC.gov).

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Events and Announcements

- **The West Louisville Forum, Solutions for Urban America**
  Wednesday, May 3
  12:00—1:00 pm
  Location: St. Stephen Family Life Center
  This month’s forum will be presented by Yvonne Carnell, Writer, Your Black World and Founder of BreakingBrown.com. Her topic is “Winning the Derby Race: The Black Community Getting Out of the Starting Gate”

- **2nd Annual Knock out Stroke**
  Friday, May 12
  10:00 am—2:00 pm
  Location: Muhammad Ali Ctr.
  Medical experts from the University of Louisville Stroke Program, the state’s first Certified Comprehensive Stroke Center, will share tips on how to manage high blood pressure and other risk factors related to heart disease and stroke. Guests will learn how to monitor their blood pressure, the importance of physical activity and how to incorporate it into their daily routine, recognizing the symptoms of stroke and understanding the latest treatment options. Plus, WAVE 3’s Dawne Gee will share her personal experience in suffering a stroke. The event is free and open to the public and includes lunch, door prizes and the opportunity to tour the Muhammad Ali Ctr. Museum at your leisure. Attendees are asked to register here or by calling 852-7522.

- **Commencement**
  Saturday, May 13
  Location: KFC Yum! Center
  The president, faculty and graduating class will host commencement exercises.
  10:00am—College of Arts and Sciences, Kent School of Social Work, School of Dentistry, School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies, School of Law, School of Medicine, and School of Public Health and Information Sciences
  2:00pm—College of Business, College of Education and Human Development, JB Speed School of Engineering, School of Music, and School of Nursing

- **Brown Cancer Center Mammograms for UofL Employees**
  Tuesday, May 16
  Location: Gottschalk Circle, next to the Shumaker Research Building
  The James Graham Brown Cancer Center unit will be on Belknap Campus to provide mammograms for women 40 years and older. Call 502-852-6318 to schedule an appointment. Co-sponsored by the UofL Women’s Center.