Celebrating ten years of helping reduce the burdens and disparities of health problems through discovery, outreach, learning, service, leadership, and engagement.

University of Kentucky College of Public Health
111 Washington Avenue
Lexington, KY 40536
As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the College of Public Health, it is important to remember that the roots of public health at the University are almost 100 years old. The Department of Hygiene and Public Health was established in the College of Arts and Sciences, along with a University Dispensary, in 1917. By 1920 courses in public health were listed for the first time in the university catalog and in 1937 the MSPH degree was offered for the first time.

One metric of our success in the “modern” era is students that have completed the principal degrees offered by the College. Since 2004, the College has awarded over 350 MPH degrees, 87 MHA degrees, 12 academic doctorates and 72 professional doctoral (DrPH) degrees, and has become a Top 25 School of Public Health, as ranked by US News and World Report. Our graduates are working from the bench to the community all over the US, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Canada, Africa, and China.

In this issue, we commemorate and celebrate our past, present, and future.

1917 University of Kentucky President Frank McVey establishes the “Department of Hygiene and Public Health” in the College of Arts and Sciences.
1928 John S. Chambers, M.D. is appointed Director of the Department and Professor of Public Health. He proposes a School of Public Health for the university.
1932 President McVey agrees to establish a “Summer School in Public Health” with 30 – 40 students annually.
1938 to 1955 Thirty-eight Master of Science in Public Health (M.S.P.H.) degrees are awarded by the University of Kentucky.
1998 The University of Kentucky Board of Trustees approves establishment of a School of Public Health in the College of Medicine. Dr. F. Douglas Scutchfield is named its first director.
2000 First Master of Public Health class of 37 students enrolls in the School of Public Health.
2001 First Doctor of Public Health class of 14 students enrolls in the School of Public Health.
2000 Kentucky School of Public Health, Public Health Grand Rounds begin with presentations offered at 15 sites using the Kentucky Telecare and Kentucky-Telelinking Networks.
2000 First Master of Public Health class of 37 students enrolls in the School of Public Health.
1978 Richard R. Clayton, PhD Claudia M. Hopenhayn, MPH, PhD Robert H. McKnight, MPH, ScD

From the Dean

Founding Faculty Retire

College of Public Health Milestones
In 2004, the Board of Trustees approved creation of the College of Public Health, the first new college at the University of Kentucky in over 30 years, making UK one of only seven universities in the United States that includes all six health care colleges on one campus. The UK College of Public Health initially consisted of five core academic departments: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Health Behavior, Health Services Management, and the Graduate Center in Gerontology that migrated to CPH from the College of Medicine and Environmental Health that migrated to the Graduate School into the College of Public Health. In 2005, the UK College of Public Health successfully completed a comprehensive self-study and a Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH) site visit that led to 5 years of accreditation. In 2010, the CPH was re-accredited and received 7 years of accreditation from CEPH. This affirms the mission and vision of the College of Public Health and serves as the foundation for the next decade of challenges and opportunities facing our college in undergraduate, graduate and professional education as we execute our research, teaching, service and practice responsibilities. From the very beginning, our collective goal has been to train our students for leadership in the 21st century public health workforce and, through research, service and practice, to improve the public’s health and reduce health disparities.

Dean Stephen W. Wyatt has served as President of the Council on Education for Public Health since 2010. The board of CEPH is responsible for adopting criteria by which schools and programs are evaluated, for establishing policies and procedures, for making accreditation decisions, and for managing the business of the corporation. “It truly is an incredible group to work with; they are dedicated to partnering with schools and programs of public health and the public health practice community, to ensure our future public health workforce is well-trained,” said Dean Wyatt. “The opportunity to serve academic public health during my five years on the Council has been so gratifying.”

In 2007, the College established its public health scholarship endowment funds ensure that the next generation of promising public health professionals will have the opportunity to learn from expert faculty who are leaders in their fields. We can help you make certain your gift accomplishes what you value in public health.

For assistance with making a gift, please contact:

Michael D. Smith, PhD
Chairperson, CPH Development Committee,
(859) 218-0458

In 2014, Drs. James and Barbara Holsinger created the Commonwealth Professorship with a generous donation. The professorship will provide support to the Dean of the College of Public Health or any full professor in any department of CPH that is engaged in public health scholarly activity.

John Wiggs Public Health Student Endowed Scholarship Fund.

UK’s lifelong learning program for older adults, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, has been thriving in the College of Public Health since 2005, annually offering 1,500 older Kentuckians intellectual stimulation, physical activity, creative outlets, and social engagement. They are celebrating a special anniversary – the fiftieth – this year. In 2009 the OLLI received the first of two $1 million dollar endowment gifts from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

As part of the joint anniversary celebration, the halls of the College building are exhibiting art created by twenty members of the lifelong learning program.
Endowed Professors and Chairs

This group of scholars is recognized for their outstanding academic service and leadership for each having made significant contributions in scholarly achievements and in encouraging extramural funding among faculty. The University and the College of Public Health have benefited tremendously from the leadership and achievements each of these professors have provided over the years and look forward to inspiring future professors to continue academic excellence among colleagues and students.

Tyrone E. Borders, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Health Management and Policy is the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Endowed Chair in Rural Health Policy.

Ann Coker, PhD, professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the College of Medicine and in the Department of Epidemiology, is the Verizon Wireless Endowed Chair in the Center for Research on Violence Against Women since 2007.

Richard A. Crosby, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Health Behavior, is the Good Samaritan Endowed Chair in Health Education, Research, Health Promotion and Preventive Services since 2013. From 2004 to 2013, Dr. Crosby was the Development Dimensions International (DDI) Endowed Professor in Health Behavior.

James Holsinger, MD, PhD, professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health, is the Charles T. Wethington Jr. Endowed Chair in the Health Sciences since 2001.

Glen Mays, PhD, professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy, is the F. Douglas Scutchfield Endowed Professor in Health Services Research since 2011.

Lawrence Prybil, PhD, LFACHE, professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy is the first Norton Healthcare Endowed Professor in Healthcare Leadership. The professorship was established in 2012.

F. Douglas Scutchfield, MD, professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health, is the Peter P. Bouiesworth Endowed Professor of Health Services Research and Policy since 1997.

In 2012, Norton Healthcare announced it will endow a professorship and support an annual student scholarship. Norton Healthcare provided $250,000 to fund the Professorship in Healthcare Leadership and support an annual $10,000 scholarship for the College’s Master of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME).

Innovations in Academic Programs

In addition to the MD/MPH dual degree program that began in 2009, the following programs are now offered.

MHA The Master of Health Administration program was transferred to the College in 2010 and is designed to provide graduate level education to individuals who, after appropriate managerial experience, are capable of assuming senior leadership positions in a variety of health service organizations. The program has more than 350 alumni who are working in healthcare organizations in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 31 other states, and abroad. In 2012, the program was re-accredited for a seven-year period by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME).

MBA The JD/MBA dual degree program was recently approved for students enrolled in the JD and the MBA program. Students can complete the dual program in four years, one year less than completing each program individually. The JD/MBA combination adds significantly to graduates’ employment prospects. The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that health care administration is growing at a rapid pace, and having a JD/MBA degree gives graduates added advantages to employers in both health administration and law.

PhD in Biostatistics/Epidemiology In 2009, the College started offering a dual-focus doctorate in biostatistics and epidemiology that is tailored to the strengths and needs of each student. This tailoring is possible as a result of a strong epidemiology faculty and the Department of Biostatistics that includes divisions of cancer biostatistics as well as biomedical informatics, the largest department in the college.

Commitment to Service

A core characteristic of the College of Public Health is a commitment to creating outcomes and products addressing public health problems, reflecting excellence in discovery, outreach, learning, service, community engagement, and leadership. The College of Public Health is also committed to empowering citizens and mobilizing communities to improve public health through its expertise and resources and being accountable to internal and external constituencies for the education, research, and service provided by members of the College of Public Health. CPH has established strong partnerships with the 57 local and district health departments in Kentucky, with the Kentucky Department for Public Health and with a variety of community-based organizations around the state and across the nation. The Office of Workforce Development and Community Engagement serves to coordinate the efforts of the University of Kentucky College of Public Health, other Kentucky public health education programs, and the public health practice community throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We strive to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as public health practitioners. The public health workforce of today faces tremendous time challenges that may prevent professional development; therefore, we offer learning through both distance and face-to-face education. Our goal is to improve access to training, education, resources, and to improve partnerships across the state and the region to facilitate a culture of learning communities that further our public health objectives and the health of populations.

We take great pride in the fact that three of the first 11 local health departments in the U.S. to become accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) are located in Kentucky. Faculty members in the College provided significant consultation and the technical assistance needed for these local health departments to achieve accreditation.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The productivity of CPH faculty/staff in the extramural funding arena is important and impressive. CPH faculty/staff research efforts range from bench research activities to community-based research. These efforts are directed at issues that present significant challenges to the health and well-being of Kentuckians including research on: aging-related issues, cancer, injury prevention, occupational safety and health, HIV, and public health systems. College faculty members guide millions of dollars annually in collaborative research, with funding sources ranging from NIH and CDC, to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This extramural funding provides numerous opportunities for students to participate in the conduct of some exciting, innovative and ground-breaking research. Access to faculty in five additional UK health careers colleges (Dentistry, Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy) and numerous Centers and Institutes further expands opportunities for students.

CCTS Receives $20 Million from the National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded $20 million to the University of Kentucky in 2011 to move research discoveries to health care solutions more quickly.

The five-year funding, awarded through the NIH’s institutional Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program, is the largest research funding award ever received by UK and will be used to support research at UK’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS), making it part of a select national biomedical research consortium. Dr. Stephen Wyatt, dean of the College of Public Health, serves as a co-principal investigator of the program and associate director of the CCTS. Numerous CPH faculty members are involved with the CCTS, serving as directors for CCTS Cores and providing support to CCTS researchers.

NIH launched the CTSA program in 2006 to encourage collaboration across scientific disciplines and spur innovative approaches in tackling research challenges. With the addition of the 2011 recipient institutions, the program is fully implemented and includes 60 CTSA’s across the nation. The UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) is the only designated CTSA in Kentucky.

CTSA funding will be used to support essential infrastructure including supporting the Clinical Research Development and Operations Center (CR-DOC) located at UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital, where patients participate in clinical research studies. It also will be used for educational programs for future investigators, for community engagement, to fund research pilot grants and an informatics program.

Currently, UK’s translational research center is a collaboration of more than 200 individuals from 12 UK colleges, the Offices of the President, Provost, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, and Vice President for Research, and all components of UK HealthCare across the Commonwealth.

The success of our faculty and staff in an extremely competitive extramural funding environment is nothing short of amazing,” said Stephen W. Wyatt, D.M.D., M.P.H., Dean of the CPH. “The research portfolio of our faculty and staff provides incredible opportunities for our students to support UK’s research priorities, including clinical and translational science; builds bridges to other campus academic units; and increases the stature of our College nationally.”

Since Founded, CPH Receives More Than $226 Million in Research Funding

The University of Kentucky College of Public Health (CPH) received more than $226.4 million in grant funding for research since fiscal year 2005. This total includes more than $75.5 million in primary awards for which CPH faculty members serve as the principal investigators and more than $150.9 million in collaborative awards for which CPH faculty members participate in multidisciplinary research teams. With 38 CPH faculty and staff members receiving grant awards as principal investigators for their research projects, all six of the CPH’s constituent departments and five research centers received extramural funding during the past fiscal year. Primary awards to CPH principal investigators have almost doubled, and collaborative awards to CPH co-investigators have more than tripled between fiscal year 2005 and fiscal year 2013.

“The success of our faculty and staff in an extremely competitive extramural funding environment is nothing short of amazing,” said Stephen W. Wyatt, D.M.D., M.P.H., Dean of the CPH. “The research portfolio of our faculty and staff provides incredible opportunities for our students to support UK’s research priorities, including clinical and translational science; builds bridges to other campus academic units; and increases the stature of our College nationally.”
Director Dr. Mark Evers arrived in 2009. NCI designation has been the goal for Markey since Cancer Center HealthCare’s overall mission of ensuring no Kentuckian will have to travel outside of Central and Eastern Kentucky, the designation also strengthens UK’s ability to apply for federal research grants available only to NCI-designated cancer centers, with the potential to bring millions in additional funding to the area. Additionally, the NCI designation allows Markey to communicate its status to other medical centers across the country with the potential to bring millions in additional funding to the area.

UK also joined an elite group of medical centers across the country who have earned the “trifecta” of national federal funding. UK is one of only 22 medical centers in the United States that have earned an NCI designation, have a federally-funded Alzheimer’s disease center (UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging), and have earned the Clinical and Translational Science Awards grants. As the major referral center for Central and Eastern Kentucky, the designation also strengthens UK’s current efforts in research, recruiting and improving many of the programs at Markey. Faculty from the College of Public Health played pivotal roles in Mark Evers’ successful proposal to NCI. As a result of the designation, patients will have access to new drugs, treatment options and clinical trials offered only at NCI centers. The UK Markey Center will be able to apply for federal research grants available only to NCI-designated cancer centers, with the potential to bring millions in additional funding to the area.

Earning NCI designation was a lengthy process that required strong efforts in research, recruiting and improving many of the programs at Markey. Markey Cancer Center Earns Prestigious National Cancer Institute Designation The University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center was joined by national, state and local leaders in July 2013 to celebrate its designation as a National Cancer Institute cancer center. The UK Markey Cancer Center is the 68th medical center in the country to receive this prestigious designation, and is the only NCI-designated cancer center in the state of Kentucky. The award recognizes extraordinary alumni who have made outstanding contributions at the local, state, national and/or international level in public health or health care leadership. The inaugural Outstanding Alumni Award was presented to Youssuf J. Ahmad, DrPH, MHSA, MBA, FACHE, a 2008 doctoral graduate of the college. This award reflects Dr. Youssuf’s significant contributions to his profession and community, as well as our mission to ensure graduates are prepared to address health problems efficiently and effectively.

Dr. Ahmad is the President and CEO of Mercy Health in Cincinnati, a division of Catholic Health Partner (CHP). Prior to this role, he was the Senior Vice President and Chief Network Transformation Officer for the Central Division of CHP. Dr. Ahmad also lead the development, and prepare students for careers in public health. For undergraduates who will live through much of the 21st century, this is a highly engaging and relevant program that will contribute much to the public good. Despite the importance of public health to the health of our society, this workforce is facing critical challenges, namely a precipitous decline in numbers and resources. The public health workforce shortage is emerging at a time when public health must take on more responsibility in addition to the ongoing role of preventing disease and promoting health. UK CPH joined many accredited schools of public health across the country in accepting the responsibility for introducing critical population health content and concepts to students pursuing bachelor’s degrees. The Bachelor in Public Health degree integrates well with many other program majors at the university, bringing critical national and global issues into discussion within a wide array of disciplines, and will contribute to the University’s ability to address critical needs for an educated citizenry, foster leadership