

Office of the President
December 15, 2020

1. UK Involved in COVID-19 Investigational Vaccine Clinical Trial

The University of Kentucky, in partnership with Baptist Health Lexington and Norton Healthcare in Louisville, has been selected as one of multiple testing sites for the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson's Phase 3 clinical research study, called the ENSEMBLE trial, to evaluate Janssen's investigational COVID-19 vaccine candidate. The full randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial is designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a single vaccine dose of the Janssen investigational COVID-19 vaccine candidate versus placebo in approximately 60,000 people. The UK, Baptist Health Lexington and Norton Healthcare research teams plan to enroll at least 2,000 local volunteers for the trial. UK's Dr. Richard Greenberg, an infectious disease expert with four decades of experience in vaccine development, leads this local effort.

2. Historic Enrollment, Retention Rates for UK

This fall, the University of Kentucky reached a historic level for enrollment and retention rates. UK has more than 31,000 students enrolled for the first time ever at 31,108, a nearly 2 percent increase over last year, preliminary figures show. Also, preliminary retention figures — the percentage of students who return for their second year — is at 85.9 percent, nearly 1 percentage point higher than last academic year and about 4 percentage points higher than in just Fall 2016. UK is more diverse than at any time in its more than 155-year history. Nearly 7 percent or 2,100 of students are Black, up more than 5.8 percent from last year. Hispanic or Latino students now comprise about 5% of the student body with about 1,600 students, up 9.7 percent over last year.

3. UK Recognized as 'Top College for Diversity' and 'Diversity Champion'

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity publication and website in higher education today, has recognized the University of Kentucky as a 2020 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award recipient and a 2020 Diversity Champion. This is the fourth year in a row UK has received both honors. The HEED award recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion throughout their campus. Colleges that rank in the top tier of HEED Award recipients are honored as Diversity Champions.

4. Moving Forward with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

On October 1, President Eli Capilouto announced the next stage of UK's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative by identifying six workstreams that will oversee the work of 17 project teams. The workstreams focus on faculty and staff; students; culture, policies and programming; facilities and finances; research; and community outreach. A complete listing of the leadership, workstreams and projects can be found at <https://www.uky.edu/president/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>. The workstreams and project teams are working to address cultural change at the university and facilitate a deeper understanding of anti-racism work across the enterprise by developing specific action plans for each of their project areas.

5. Fall Semester Efforts to Keep Campus Safe During Pandemic

Working from its Restart Playbook, the University of Kentucky began classes August 17, offering in-person and remote instruction and welcoming students back into residence halls under COVID-19 safety protocols. A massive informational campaign was employed to keep the campus community up to date on all safety guidelines. All students who planned to be on campus were required to have a COVID-19 test, and all students and employees on campus are still required to complete a daily health screening, physically distance from others and wear masks at all times unless in a room alone or eating. Free testing has been provided at various locations on campus. Students who test positive are assisted by UK Health Corps, including receiving isolation housing for students who reside on campus. In early September, UK began a re-testing effort of 5,500 students in Fraternity and Sorority Life, and by mid-September, UK had begun a wastewater testing program of residence halls in a continued effort to use science and data to drive safety decisions. In further efforts to keep the community safe and deter behaviors that can lead to the spread of the virus, the university has enforced the Code of Student Conduct, citing students who violate the code by creating a condition whereby others could be harmed by hosting large gatherings in violation of local and state guidance. Also, on October 1, prior to UK's first home football game, President Eli Capilouto and Mayor Linda Gorton announced that Lexington and UK Police had formed a partnership to monitor and respond to off-campus violations. As the semester progressed, other safety measures were announced including: requiring students to get a flu shot; strongly encouraging students to be tested again before leaving for semester break; requiring COVID-19 testing upon re-entry to the spring semester; holding a virtual December Commencement ceremony; and compressing the Spring 2021 academic calendar, including canceling Spring Break, to encourage students to stay on campus as much as possible to avoid spreading the virus. Throughout the semester, UK's Counseling Center has provided special programming in support of students.

6. Assistance to UK Employees Continues During Pandemic

As many University of Kentucky and UK HealthCare employees continue to deal with issues surrounding the pandemic, the university has provided assistance in a number of ways. UK employees who are facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 have

a choice between two different funds offering assistance. They are the UK Employee COVID-19 Response Fund and another fund operated by the UK Staff Senate — the Crisis Relief in Situations Involving Staff and Faculty (C.R.I.S.I.S.) Program. UK faculty and staff members and individuals and organizations outside the university can contribute to both funds. An on-campus childcare center for school-age children of employees was established. UK has partnered with the YMCA of Central Kentucky to open the Y Academy at the corner of Nicholasville Road and Alumni Drive. Staff there assist children who are attending school remotely. Also, UK Human Resources continues to offer assistance to employees through mental health, nutritional, organizational and other counseling and support.

7. UK Celebrated December 2020 Grads with Virtual Commencement Ceremony

UK celebrated the accomplishments of its December 2020 graduates with a virtual Commencement ceremony Friday, December 4. The university partnered with commencement vendor Marching Order to execute the virtual ceremony, which featured many of the same portions of an in-person Commencement such as recognition of the graduates and messages from President Eli Capilouto, a student speaker and president of the UK Alumni Association. Graduates from May and August 2020 were also invited to participate, however this ceremony is not a replacement for the traditional UK Commencement ceremonies. The university is committed to honoring the December, August and May 2020 graduates in person at an appropriate time when it can be done in a safe and healthy way.

8. Markey Joins National Consortium to Address Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer

The University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center has joined a consortium of 17 cancer centers around the country to better understand the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to disrupted cancer prevention, detection and care. Markey joined this collaboration as a direct response to sobering forecasts from the National Cancer Institute that the pandemic may have prevented some patients from undergoing much needed screenings and hindered access to procedures that could result in an uptick in late-stage presentations and cancer death. The cancer centers are working together with funding from the NCI to study the impact of the pandemic on the continuum of cancer care from prevention to survivorship. This work will further examine whether differences in demographics impact cancer prevention and control, cancer management, and survivorship during the pandemic.

9. Joint Children's Hospital Heart Program Opens Outreach Clinic in Ashland

UK HealthCare's Kentucky Children's Hospital (KCH) and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Joint Heart Program opened an outreach clinic at PrimaryPlus-Ashland October 9. Pediatric cardiologists Drs. Louis Bezold III, and Bradley Keller will see pediatric and adult congenital heart patients on the second and fourth Friday of every month. Opening this additional site will ensure the continuity of the KCH, UK HealthCare's and Cincinnati Children's commitment to providing the best heart care possible close to home. As a "one-program, two-sites model," the Joint Heart Program, which launched in 2016, was ranked 14th in the country for pediatric cardiology and

heart surgery in the 2020-2021 U.S. News and World Report listing of Best Children's Hospitals. This ranking reflects its high-level expertise from nationally recognized physicians and the quality of care provided for its patients.

10. Evers Elected to the National Academy of Medicine

Dr. B. Mark Evers, professor of surgery in the College of Medicine and director of the UK Markey Cancer Center, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service. Evers is one of 100 new U.S. and international members elected by their peers. According to the Academy, Evers was elected for his expertise on intestinal hormones and hormonal arcades in oncogenesis. His seminal insights defined the role of gut hormones on normal physiology and metabolism, pioneering innovative understanding of neuroendocrine cell biology and the role of neurohormonal pathways in the development and progression of neuroendocrine tumors.

11. Markey Surgeon Named Chair of National Commission on Cancer

Dr. Tim Mullett, UK thoracic surgeon and medical director of the Markey Cancer Center Affiliate and Research Network, has been named chair of the Commission on Cancer (CoC), a national program of the American College of Surgeons. The CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients. As its chair, Mullett will lead the program in establishing accreditation standards to ensure quality, multidisciplinary and comprehensive cancer care delivery in health care settings. Mullett came to UK in 1996 as a cardiothoracic surgeon treating problems of the heart and lungs and was responsible for establishing UK's lung transplant program. But soon, he saw a need to focus his efforts on lung cancer, one of Kentucky's highest cancer rates. He developed a practice as a dedicated thoracic surgeon who worked primarily with lung and esophageal cancer patients and served as surgical director of the Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Clinic at Markey from 1998 until 2013.

12. UK Emergency Department Nurses Featured in Worldwide Documentary Film

The documentary "In Case of Emergency: Without Them, We Don't Stand a Chance" features rare, behind-the-scenes footage of nurses and their patients in emergency departments across the nation. The film includes three emergency nurses at UK HealthCare's Chandler Emergency Department: Michelle Lyon Akpunonu, Khay Douangdara and Karina Molina. Each was interviewed and followed by the documentary crew in January 2019 to give insight to various topics and issues that nurses face every day. Their answers are real, raw and powerful. The documentary, produced by Carolyn Jones, was several years in the making. Her team is "focused on helping the American public see how critical nurses are to the health of our nation."

13. 'One Day for UK' Raises More Than \$2 Million During 24 Hours of Giving

For 24 hours on September 16, more than 50 colleges, programs and causes at the University of Kentucky participated in the second annual university-wide giving day, "One Day for UK." Donors contributed 3,539 gifts for a total of \$2,644,378, including a \$1.75 million transformative gift. This year's digital giving day more than doubled the first year's total. Gifts came in from 47 states.

14. UK Debate Launches Coalition to Support K-12 Debate Education

The Intercollegiate Debate Team, one of the most successful collegiate debate teams in the country, launched a new program this fall called the Bluegrass Debate Coalition (BDC) to share their resources and expertise with middle school and high school debaters across the state of Kentucky. The BDC works with Kentucky schools to make competitive debate available to every middle school and high school student in the state. Debate has been proven to increase student academic performance. It also enriches and expands college and career opportunities and provides intellectual and networking tools for young people to thrive as active, responsible leaders in their communities. The BDC offers free educational resources, supports the development of new debate programs and hosts free online tournaments.

15. UK CAER, Mining Engineering to Launch New Electronics Recycling Program

Jack Groppo, a UK mining engineering professor and a researcher at the UK Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER), is spearheading an effort to turn domestic electronics waste into a Kentucky industry. He, along with fellow mining engineering faculty member Josh Werner, are building an electronics recycling program at UK that will educate, train and conduct research in a field that they believe holds great promise for the next generation of scientists, engineers and technicians. Groppo says most recycling of electronics for metal-rich components is done outside of the U.S., but he wants to create a sustainable, transformative electronics recycling program at the University of Kentucky. The program has had early support and success from both industry and the university. Lexmark is partnering with UK to explore recycling and recovery of precious metals from end-of-life electronic products.

16. Gen.G to Offer Esports Scholarship for UK Student

Global esports organization Gen.G announced a \$1 million commitment to developing the next generation of leaders in the gaming industry, with UK as a foundation partner. Gen.G has pledged to commit \$100,000 annually for 10 years through the establishment of the Gen.G Foundation. The fund will be used to support diverse students enrolled in a U.S. university or college who are interested in majoring in gaming, esports, entrepreneurship, journalism or content creation, with one scholarship reserved for a UK freshman.

17. Pandemic Takes UK Dance Performances to Alternative Venue

The Department of Theatre and Dance students could not take the traditional stage with a live audience during the COVID-19 pandemic, so they found an alternative. UK dance students presented three performances of “Once Vacant: Bodies in motion still” October 17 and 18 at a location more conducive to safety guidelines during the pandemic — a parking lot. The sold-out dance concerts were at the Orange Lot located at Kroger Field, where the audience maintained physical distance inside their cars that surrounded the dancers and provided lighting for the performances. Choreographers and UK faculty members Susie Thiel, Stephanie Harris and Theresa Bautista centered the dance around the questions, what does the body mean in spaces and places, how can we excavate our feelings through Covid-19, and how can entropy lead to liberation?

18. Alumni Association Launching Directory Project

Staying connected and fostering lifelong engagement to alumni is at the heart of the UK Alumni Association’s mission. That is why the Association launched an alumni data verification campaign in September, the first step in the UK Alumni Directory project. The association is partnering with a nationally recognized directory firm, Publishing Concepts Inc., to contact alumni and let them know how to update their educational and professional contact information. The last UK Alumni Association directory was published four years ago, and this project is expected to be completed by fall 2021. Participation will ensure alumni receive relevant communication from UK and that they are invited to events in their area and other programs that may be of interest to them

19. Faculty and Staff Achievements

Camille Burnett (College of Nursing) was inducted into the 2020 class of the American Academy of Nursing Fellows.

Allan Butterfield (College of Arts and Sciences) has been named among the world’s leading Alzheimer’s disease experts by Expertscape, an online base of biomedical expertise.

Beth Kraemer (UK Libraries) received the 2020 Paul A. Willis Outstanding Faculty Award.

Alan Daugherty (College of Medicine) was selected to serve as chair of Scientific Committee of the Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Foundation.

Sharon Lock (College of Nursing) was inducted into the 2020 class of the American Academy of Nursing Fellows.

Nathan Vanderford (College of Medicine) received the 2020 Hartford-Nicholson Award from the Society of Research Administrators International.

Linda Van Eldik (College of Medicine) was named an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow.

Sharon Walsh (Center on Drug and Alcohol Research) was a featured expert on opioid use disorder in the “Your Fantastic Mind” television series on PBS.

Lovoria Williams (College of Nursing) was inducted into the 2020 class of the American Academy of Nursing Fellows.

April Young (College of Public Health) was a featured expert on opioid use disorder in the “Your Fantastic Mind” television series on PBS.

Office of Distance Learning (Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovations) won two SANSational Awards by WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) and the WCET State Authorization Network for providing “high-quality comprehensive solutions” to meet the challenges of delivering distance education to students in other states while meeting federal regulations, institutional requirements, and student needs.

The Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky’s Southeast Kentucky Downtown Revitalization Project and the UK Food Connection (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment) won Awards of Excellence from the University Economic Development Association for “transforming their campuses into engines of economic prosperity through leading edge initiatives.”

20. Student Achievements

Edwina Barnett (Biomedical Engineering) was named to the first cohort of Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows, a program of the Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Jared Brewington (Physics and Astronomy) is one of 52 students nationally named to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science Graduate Student Research Program.

Alyssa Donawa (Computer Science) was named to the first cohort of Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows, a program of the Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Abelline Fionah (Chemistry) was named to the first cohort of Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows, a program of the Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Michael Frazier of Powell County has been named the 2020 recipient of the Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Award in education in recognition of his continued efforts in defense of the First Amendment.

Michelle Gervais (Physics and Astronomy) is one of 52 students nationally named to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science Graduate Student Research Program.

Michael Di Girolamo (Foreign Language and International Economics/Chinese and International Studies) of Lexington has been awarded a Critical Language Scholarship to study Chinese.

Xava Grooms (Computer Science) was named to the first cohort of Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows, a program of the Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Skyler Hornback (Chemical Engineering) of Sonora, Kentucky, is one of 2020’s 56 recipients to be awarded a scholarship from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation.

Julia Parker (Biosystems Engineering) was named to the first cohort of Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows, a program of the Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Alexis Smith (Biochemistry) was named to the first cohort of Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows, a program of the Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Kayla Titialii-Torres (Biology) was named to the first cohort of Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows, a program of the Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Andres Vindas Melendez (Mathematics) was named to the first cohort of Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows, a program of the Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

JaMaya Wilson (Materials Science and Engineering) was named to the first cohort of Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows, a program of the Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Kentucky Kernel is the 2020 recipient of the James Madison Award from the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center for making an outstanding contribution to the First Amendment.

21. Alumni Achievements

Calli Brooks (International Studies and Spanish Language/Linguistics, of Goodlettsville, Tennessee) was selected to participate in the Teaching Assistant Program in France.

Tsage Douglas (Public Health and Foreign Language and International Economics/French, of Georgetown, Kentucky) was selected to participate in the Teaching Assistant Program in France.

Colby Hall (Biology, of Somerset, Kentucky) is the new leader of Shaping Our Appalachian Region.

Matthew Melton (Public Health, of Stanton, Kentucky) is one of 58 recipients nationwide to receive a fellowship from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi — the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Monon Rahman (Mechanical Engineering, of Lexington, Kentucky) was named Outstanding Intern during the 2020 NASCAR Drive for Diversity Awards, which honor the motorsports industry's diversity leaders and recognizes top achievements.