



Spring 2022

**Kentucky Ambulatory Network  
Research. Quality. Transformation.**



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## New KAN Director

Spring is here! In the spirit of growth and new beginnings, I am happy to kick off my time as the new director of the Kentucky Ambulatory Network with some **NEW STUFF** and **NEW BEGINNINGS** announced in this newsletter. Created with the purpose of updating our materials, links are given for **new online membership forms** for either institutions or individuals interested in joining KAN. We also are introducing **new advisory board members** who will help us guide KAN activities in the months and years to come! Additionally, we are asking KAN members to **help us plan for the future**. An online form is provided in order to solicit your feedback, ideas, and interests. We sincerely hope you'll take a moment of time, appropriate for Spring, to reflect on how we can grow this organization and make it better, ensuring that we are conducting programs and studies that are important to our members and the communities that we serve.

<https://familymedicine.med.uky.edu/kentucky-ambulatory-network-kan>



Karen Roper, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and serves as the Director of Research Administration for the Division of Research. She earned her Graduate Degree in Experimental Psychology from the University of Kentucky.

## New KAN Coordinator

Courtney Ortiz, PhD, joined the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the end of January, 2022. She was previously at the University of Kentucky Hospital as a social work case manager. She obtained her graduate degree from the Graduate Center for Gerontology where her research interests included the decision-making processes of older adults.

Feel free to contact Courtney at [KAN@uky.edu](mailto:KAN@uky.edu) or (859) 218-6135 if you have any questions!



## Joining KAN

If you know a colleague who may be interested to become a KAN member, please invite them and share these links.

### KAN Organizational Member Form

<https://redcap.uky.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=N-H9WYWWHTN9437A>



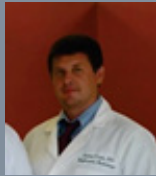
### KAN Individual Member Form

<https://redcap.uky.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=7RE8ANJFL37JD37X>



## KAN ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

### New Members



### Current Members



### From Top to Bottom

James (Brandon) Crum, DO  
Jennifer Stephens, MBA  
Roberto Cardarelli, DO  
Larry Oteham, DO  
Gerry Stover, MS  
Brent Wright, MD

## KAN Advisory Council Member Changes

James (Brandon) Crum, DO, is a diagnostic radiology specialist in Pikeville, KY. His interests include Black Lung Disease.

Jennifer Stephens, MBA is the Senior Director of Physicians and GME at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital. She is excited to be on the advisory council and see what kinds of opportunities KAN can provide for the residents and medical students at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital.

Roberto Cardarelli, DO, MHA, MPH, FAAFP, transitioned from being the KAN Director to being on the Advisory Council. He is the Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine as well as the Chief Medical Officer of Ambulatory Services at the University of Kentucky Hospital.

## KAN Registry Project

The KRP is a project in which the goal is to build a large patient registry which KAN and its members can utilize to recruit individuals for appropriate research studies without having to burden our clinics. Flyers will be displayed at participating KAN member clinic sites for patients who are interested in participating in research studies to self-enroll in a recruitment database. The flyers have a link to an online survey and a QR code.

Enrolled patients are only giving consent to be contacted for any future project. KAN maintains the database of registrants, and can query individuals based on the clinic site. Hence, we can query patients for a clinic and this may be useful for KAN clinics pursuing quality Improvement projects. There are currently 135 patients in the KAN registry database. Contact Courtney at [KAN@uky.edu](mailto:KAN@uky.edu) or (859) 218-6135 if you would like to display our recruitment materials or have an interest in utilizing the registry!

## DFCM Connect

DFCM Connect is an online community where KAN members can go to communicate with other professionals with similar interests. Files can be shared, discussions created, upcoming events and any important announcements. If you are not a member of DFCM connect, we encourage you to try it out as we have about a year left on our contract with this platform, and want to attempt to get the most out of it we can.

<https://ukydfcm.connectedcommunity.org/home>

# KAN MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## James (Brandon) Crum, DO



Location: Pikeville

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

Research Interests:  
Black lung disease,  
diffuse dust fibrosis,  
COVID-19

Dr. Brandon Crum, DO was born and now practices medicine in Pike County, Kentucky. Dr. Crum is a graduate of Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine and our new KAN Advisory Council Member.

Dr. Crum is a founding partner in United Medical Group, a multidisciplinary private clinic in Pikeville, KY. Dr. Crum is a board-certified radiologist and a certified B Reader. He is also a world-renowned advocate and physician in the diagnosis and understanding of pneumoconiosis or black lung disease.

Dr. Crum has been credited with identifying the largest cluster of complicated black lung in Central Appalachia with his 2016 article describing 60 cases of complicated black lung found at his clinic in an approximately 18-month period. He continues to be very active with multiple current research topics in chronic lung disease. Dr. Crum is currently working on publications on the progression of black lung disease after patients no longer work in the mines. He is also researching diffuse dust fibrosis and COVID-19 in younger adults (< 50 years of age ).

You can learn more about this work from this special series story from NPR :  
<https://www.npr.org/2016/12/15/505577680/advanced-black-lung-cases-surge-in-appalachia>

Dr. Crum is also very active in medical education. He teaches for numerous medical schools and programs including virtual radiology courses.

Dr. Brandon Crum learned about KAN from Dr. Larry Oteham, DO, who is also on the KAN Advisory Council. With his strong background in black lung disease research, and his clinic being an independent clinic, he feels KAN would be beneficial to him in assisting with his research needs.

**Please reach out to KAN if you are interested in knowing more about Dr. Brandon Crum's research interests and connecting with Dr. Crum!**





### CDC Awards Coordination of Stroke Care grant to our Kentucky Partners

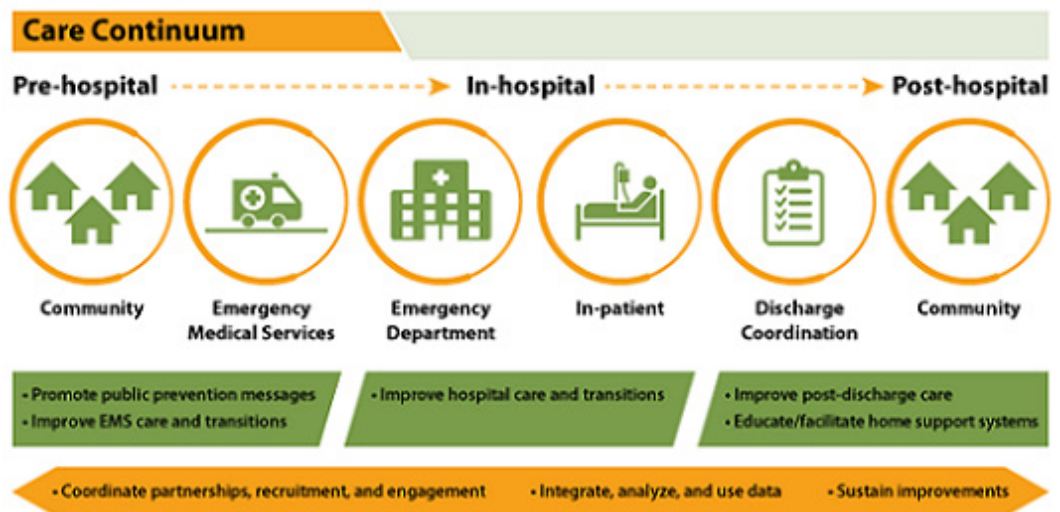
The burden of stroke and cardiovascular disease has been particularly challenging in the state. Nevertheless, a strong partnership between the UK HealthCare Kentucky Regional Extension Center (KY REC), University of Kentucky, University of Louisville and Kentucky Department for Public Health’s Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program has led to a \$1.8 million grant by the CDC’s prestigious Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Program. KAN director Karen Roper is the lead implementation evaluator for the grant. UK College of Medicine’s Dr. Larry Goldstein is the principal investigator with Brent McKune of the KY REC as a co-investigator.

Through the three year funding cycle, the team will work to coordinate and expand existing efforts in the state to improve stroke-related health outcomes by working with Kentucky health care systems and community providers to implement comprehensive stroke systems for those at high risk for stroke and those who have had a stroke. Several stroke care improvement projects have already been established in Kentucky and have made noteworthy progress in improving the quality of stroke care over the years. The goal of this grant will be to coordinate and expand these existing programs to create a more cohesive and extensive approach to impact high risk patient populations. While this grant will focus efforts in the high priority areas of Kentucky, defined as counties with a stroke death rate greater than 80.4 per 100,000, the overarching goal of improving stroke-related health outcomes will be a statewide effort.

Every 40 seconds in the U.S.



Important to the efforts of primary care professionals across the state, in one initiative of the grant, ***the team will seek to increase the number and percent of clinics or health care system sites that have a protocol in place to identify populations at highest risk for stroke events.*** Participants will receive technical assistance in utilizing Electronic Health Records to identify patients at highest risk for stroke-related events as well as stroke and patient education for those identified patients. ***If your clinic would like to participate in this effort or would like additional information, please contact Lacy Shumway at [Lacy.Shumway@uky.edu](mailto:Lacy.Shumway@uky.edu).***



# TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS

Please let us know your expectations and goals for KAN by completing the survey via the link or QR code below! **The first 6 people to complete the survey will receive KAN Swag!!**

<https://redcap.uky.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=AMNR7NTPEW97EC8Y>

