



Summer
2022

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

We share in the heartbreak of everyone in the state for those affected by the flooding in Eastern Ky and the devastation that comes with it. Many of you are KAN members and part of the communities we serve and our hearts go out to you.

22 Years

Happy last days of summer days to our KAN membership! We begin this issue wanting to celebrate our history and our successes and envision our future with an eye toward bringing all of you into our planning and upcoming initiatives!

HISTORY

YOUR Kentucky Ambulatory Network (KAN) is part of a nationwide consortium of primary care practice-based research networks (PBRNs) devoted to patient-centered research. Here at KAN, we can celebrate our founding in 2000 by Kevin Pearce, MD and Mary Barron, RN, BSN. We have proudly housed KAN out of the University of Kentucky Department of Family & Community Medicine for all of our 22 years! Roberto Cardarelli, DO took over directorship responsibilities in 2013 with help from prior coordinators Jennifer Schilling and Kim Haney. This newsletter finds us now celebrating with Dr. Pearce as he enters retirement, and Dr. Cardarelli who is leaving UKHC to become the Chief Medical Officer at Catholic Health Initiatives of Lexington. Dr. Cardarelli, we are thankful, will remain on the KAN board.

Dr. Pearce quickly found that KAN thrived on conducting research predominantly in quality improvement and practice transformation. From the beginning, the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians (KAFFP) and the Kentucky Primary Care Association (KPCA) have been special partners for KAN. For example, their engagement led to the development of the EQUIP (Enabling Quality Improvement in Practice) infrastructure to support practical QI in small primary care practices. EQUIP-4-PCPs was developed by KAN for quality improvement in practice for two disease projects: EQUIP-4-DM was diabetes focused, and EQUIP-4-CRx had a controlled substance focus. Ever since, KAN has worked to bring to our clinic partners new areas of implementation science and promote the use of evidence-based practices and guidelines. Dr. Cardarelli, for example, developed CE modules on pain management and opioids through his Central Appalachia Inter-Professional Pain Education Collaborative (CAIPEC) initiative, funded by the Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change.

Through the years, KAN has remained strong thanks to the participation and dedication of its members. KAN projects have been funded through several grants (see list!) that have provided opportunities for the advancement of knowledge through research opportunities which inform practice. They have also helped with the growth of KAN.

Past Grant Funding
US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
AHRQ
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
Pfizer Consortium Group
Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians (KAFFP)
UK Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS)

PLANNING AND KAN FUTURE

As your new KAN Director and Coordinator, we want to provide you with the resources you need to conduct research which will better inform practice. In addition to continuing the above work in research and professional education, examples of what we can offer our members includes a host of research services including library resource assistance, study development and IRB assistance, and help in developing research funding opportunities and grant writing. We also hope to facilitate connections with peer KAN members who have similar interests.

PBRN's such as KAN must be willing to adapt to address the changing environment and the critical challenges faced by primary care. As we meet with members of other organizations throughout our state, we are hearing more and more the desire that PBRNs work to address health policy and advocacy needs. Examples might be addressing issues of prior authorization reform and practice-level data recommendations. Also suggested is that PBRNs participate more in training the future generations of primary care researchers. Our KAN board has also expressed support for creating opportunities in both of these areas.

What areas of KAN involvement

interest you?! We have initiated an interest survey for our members, asking you to inform us of your potential research areas of interest (heart disease? cancer? continuation of care? other?) and areas in which KAN membership may help you to develop your practice, access educational and QI opportunities, and connect with others. How can we support your efforts? We are here to help!

Karen Roper, PhD, KAN Director
Courtney Ortz, PhD, KAN Coordinator

THE NEXT 4 PEOPLE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY WILL RE- CEIVE KAN SWAG!!!!

[https://redcap.uky.edu/
redcap/surveys/?s=AMN-
R7NTPEW97EC8Y](https://redcap.uky.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=AMN-R7NTPEW97EC8Y)



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Visit us on the web at [https://medicine.
uky.edu/departments/familymedicine//](https://medicine.uky.edu/departments/familymedicine//)

**KAN Member, Dr. Mary Sheppard,
Co-Associate Director of New Aortic
Research Center**



The Saha Aortic Center (<https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/sahaaortic/>) is a new research center focused on aortic disease. The Saha Aortic Center will promote research and education to advance clinical care for diseases of the aorta. Aortic disease can lead to the expansion and rupture of the largest blood vessel in the body, leading to potentially deadly internal bleeding.

Alan Daugherty, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Physiology and Director of the Saha Cardiovascular Research Center in the UK College of Medicine, will serve as director of the Saha Aortic Center.

David Minion, M.D., program director and UK College of Medicine professor of surgery, and Mary Sheppard, M.D., KAN Member and assistant professor of family and community medicine, surgery, and physiology in the UK College of Medicine, will serve as co-associate directors for the center. Dr. Mary Sheppard is particularly passionate about her clinical work and research because it impacts her personally (<https://www.research.uky.edu/news/uk-physician-mary-sheppard-treating-rare-dis-ease-personal>). This research center will be instrumental in advancing aortic research and treatment throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

If you have questions or interest in aortic research, please reach out to Courtney Ortz, KAN coordinator, at kan@uky.edu and she will help get you connected!

**KAN Board Member Spotlight
Jennifer Stephens Roberson**



Location: Lake Cumberland Hospital
Somerset, KY

Education: MBA

Interests: Medical student and
Resident education

Jennifer Stephens Roberson received her Master's in Business Administration (MBA) and has worked in a variety of healthcare settings her entire career. She became a KAN Advisory Council Member earlier this year.

Jennifer is currently the Senior Director of Physicians and Graduate Medical Education at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital. One of her director roles in her current position is to develop and implement policies for the GME department and provide oversight with compliance. She is passionate about changing healthcare in South Central Kentucky and believes a good place for change to start is with medical students and residents that are working their way through training programs.

Jennifer is interested in KAN because several of the medical students and residents at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital have interest in research both in their internal medicine and family medicine programs. KAN is a great resource to assist these individuals with getting involved in research.

Please reach out to KAN if you are interested in connecting with Jennifer Stephens Roberson and would like to contribute with helping medical students and residents participate in research.

Upcoming Events

KAN will have an exhibit at the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians Conference!!

2022 Annual Conference

August 25-27, 2022

Campbell house, Lexington, Ky

for more information, please go to

[http:// WWW.kafp.org/2022-annual-meeting/](http://WWW.kafp.org/2022-annual-meeting/)

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP

University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health

Appalachian Research Day: Come Sit on the Porch

September 21st, 2022

Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, Paintsville, KY

For more information contact: Beth Bowling, RN, Rural Project Manager

beth.bowling@uky.edu

606-439-3557, ext. 83545

The Kentucky Primary Care Association (KPCA)

Call for Presenters at the 2022 Annual Fall Conference

October 10-12, 2022

The goal is to provide participants with workshop opportunities that emphasize skill-building, increase relevant competencies, and enhance overall career development and workshops that are directed to Community Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics.

For more information, please go to <https://www.kpca.net/annual-conference/>

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-H9WYWWTHTN9437A>



KAN Individual Member Form

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

