



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

July 20, 2017

University of Missouri leaders discuss future look of system

By **Rudi Keller**

When Curator David Steelman asked Wednesday whether the University of Missouri was “one ship, four ships or seven ships,” University of Missouri Kansas City Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer was quick to answer.

“Here’s how I know we are in one big ship: What happened in Columbia on Nov. 9, 2015, significantly affected everything I did as provost in my first year,” she said.

But not everybody in the UM System is so sure. The university expanded in 1963, adding campuses in Kansas City and St. Louis to the existing campuses in Columbia and Rolla. The job of system chief officer was separated from Columbia campus chief officer. And the curators, in 1967, tried to unify it in the rules with a statement reaffirming “the basic concept that the University of Missouri shall be one University.”

On Wednesday, the Board of Curators spent 90 minutes on the question of “system-ness.” The discussion concluded a two-day development session for the board that included chancellors and other top administrators from each campus.

The backdrop of the discussions are the precipitous drop in enrollment on the Columbia campus and a significant cut to state funding at a time when new leadership wants to embark on big projects. In the first session, focusing on how research and economic development can enhance the university’s reputation, the group discussed ideas such as hiring 212 faculty to increase research at a cost of \$29 million annually for salaries and benefits and \$100 million to launch. They also heard about building projects, including a \$200 million medical research complex in Columbia, that so far are unfunded.

In early June, the university cut \$101 million and eliminated 474 positions. Some were left unfilled, but many were lost to layoffs. The cuts will continue after a consulting firm reports its study of administrative duplication sometime in September, President Mun Choi said.

Choi, who began his job March 1, said he’s been frustrated by the lack of coordination, even on standard university statistics.

“Even for something as straightforward as determining retention rates or graduation rates, there has to be independent massaging of the data to give a common set of data,” Choi said.

The problem is that each campus has been allowed to develop its own systems instead of being directed to use a single system, said Gary Allen, vice president for information technology.

“This occurs at every level of the hierarchy,” he said.

That will change, Choi said. “We are going to be the same until we have to be different.”

That doesn’t mean everything will happen in the system administration, Choi said. When a campus has developed a good platform for online learning, he said, it will be offered system-wide. And students should be able to enroll in classes on the campus that fits them best instead of each campus trying to offer duplicate degree programs, he said.

In an interview after the meeting, Choi said the two-day discussion helped new administrators and curators understand the university and the goals he is trying to achieve.

“I think you will see a university system that is more collaborative, where we share in the joys of success at one campus because it is happening as part of our family of university campuses,” Choi said. “And I think you are going to see benefits that reach to students, whether it comes to more offerings of courses, especially distance learning courses, and partnership among the faculty members at the four campuses.”

Falling revenue means changes have to be made quickly, said Maurice Graham, chairman of the curators. And new leadership is the time to change, he said.

“We are getting people to look at things with a fresh eye, with an innovative eye, with a eye that understands we have some important decisions to make, just like lots of other universities,” Graham said.

The university needs to be one ship, Steelman said. And the discussions showed that not everyone understands that.

“That is the most candor I’ve heard in any meeting and I’ve been on for four years,” Steelman said.

The days of each campus acting like an independent university are over, he said. That has damaged all the campuses and it makes it difficult to set priorities for the university as a whole, he said.

“We are making progress. The question is are we making it fast enough?” Steelman said. “It is very hard for universities to act rapidly but we need to move on a faster time frame than we are used to and then we have to get it done.”

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MISSOURIAN

UM curators, leaders say campuses must work together

EDWARD MCKINLEY, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The need for the four University of Missouri campuses to work as a cohesive system and not simply look out for their own interests was a recurring theme at a two-day development workshop involving UM System leaders.

“Are we all in this together?” asked Curator David Steelman of Rolla.

The Board of Curators and leaders from across the UM System gathered at MU's Bradford Research Center on Tuesday and Wednesday to talk about how to work together more cohesively. The wide-ranging conversations were focused on how the system is not only facing hard times with the budget and low enrollment, but also with public perception both nationally and at home.

Topics covered throughout the two-day session ranged from engagement, enrollment and research to economic development and student success. But the conversation always seemed to circle back to the need for better teamwork within the system, greater flexibility for students and higher pay for faculty.

The UM System is comprised of MU, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Missouri University of Science and Technology. UM System President Mun Choi showed a list of schools that MU considers its peers; among them, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Then he showed a list of schools that viewed MU as a peer.

The lists had very little overlap.

What this shows, Choi said, is that MU considers itself to be a high-achieving and prestigious university, but other institutions around the country don't see it that way. Throughout the discussion, Choi and others said MU needs to work on changing policies to encourage more research, hire more talented faculty and better publicize the good work it's already doing.

Choi also called for MU to become more inclusive and welcoming to both students and parents, and said MU needs to provide more programs for students.

He said the public perception problem is at a crisis point, requiring an "all hands on deck" response. "This is a really critical period," he said.

"If we don't fix this now, there's going to be another New York Times article, another Washington Post article that we won't recover from," Choi said.

The Washington Post article included a poll showing that Americans have less faith in the value of higher education than they used to. UMKC Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer said the UM System should do what it can to combat that negative perception.

"Maybe college isn't for everybody, but if you want an income kicker over \$1 million over your life then it's for you," she said.

Another topic the board discussed at length was personalization. Increasingly in this day and age, everything is more personalized to each person, so education and development should be especially personalized, Bichelmeyer said.

Throughout discussion of this topic, various members of the board expressed their belief in the importance of students forming relationships with faculty and the importance of offering classes online or off the traditional semester cycle.

The more connected they are to campus, the more likely students are to succeed, board members said. This could be done with first-year students through freshman interest groups, it could be

done with seniors through capstone classes, it could be done with the school reaching out directly to struggling students or it could be achieved in a number of other ways.

Online classes became a major topic of discussion for the board. Eventually, seamless online class signups between all four campuses of the UM System is a goal, said Steve Graham, senior associate vice president for academic affairs at MU.

Bichelmeyer expressed her belief in the importance of online classes, which can provide flexibility for students who are working, have a sick family member or some other personal issue.

While at Indiana University, Bichelmeyer helped develop an integrated online class system between each of the campuses in the state's university system. The technology allowed any student to sign up for online classes offered at other campuses.

The State University of New York System has the same capability with online classes, which is where MU Chancellor-designate Alexander Cartwright worked.

The issue with connecting the whole UM System under one online class portal, however, isn't just the technology. Campus policies would need to be changed at all four schools, different classes would need to be accepted and the revenue share between campuses would need to be resolved.

"If it were easy, we'd have it," Bichelmeyer said.

The topic of system-wide cooperation resurfaced when Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management at MU, expressed the need for the four campuses to help one another by passing along recruits.

Campus leaders said different students need different college experiences. Even though both MU and UMSL offer accounting programs, some students might succeed at one campus but not the other. For this reason, sharing freshman recruits could benefit the whole system.

If someone doesn't fit in at one of the four system schools they still might fit in at another, Morrice said. "St. Louis is different than Kansas City, is different than Rolla, is different than Columbia."

Bichelmeyer said she knows all four campuses are banded together because the the upheaval at the MU campus in the fall of 2015 affected her as provost at UMKC. She said the four schools of the system need to share the same systems, technology and policies . The four campuses of the system should think of themselves as different campuses of the same university, she said, not different universities in the same system. This breakdown between the system and the universities was compared to the breakdown between a university and the different colleges and departments it houses.

Bichelmeyer compared the UM System to that of a big family, like the one she grew up in. She said that in her own family her brothers and sisters would argue with her mother about which one she loved most, to which her mother would reply, "I love you each sufficient to your needs."

Bichelmeyer said the UM system and the allocation of resources between its four child campuses is like that, too. Even though MU is the flagship institute, it doesn't mean it is loved most.

Faculty pay was another major topic of conversation. Choi said that the UM system is in the lowest 20 percent of faculty pay around the country, despite being in the top 33 percent of performance. He said that the issue of faculty pay was among the most important facing the system, and that it had to be addressed as soon as possible.

If not, "the best faculty and staff will be recruited by other universities," Choi said.

Cartwright called for the system to build a "winning culture" by recruiting new faculty and staff that aren't just talented, but are also good people. He said he wants a faculty that is encouraged to take risks, and he wants his employees to recognize that "we're on the same team" and encourage one another.



Research remains top priority at UM Curators meeting: "that drives economic development"

By: Alyssa Toomey

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/research-remains-top-priority-at-um-curators-meeting-that-drives-economic-development-1/590149752>

Research took center stage at day two of the UM Board of Curators meeting, which was held at the Bradford Research Center in Columbia.

MU Vice Chancellor for Research Dr. Mark McIntosh kicked off the meeting with a presentation on research and economic development. He spoke about the need to work with companies in Missouri, improve research facilities and grow faculty salaries.

"AAUs everywhere are having issues," McIntosh said, adding that other universities don't have the same "brand" problems as Missouri, but they are all dealing with financial troubles.

On the topic of faculty salaries, McIntosh said the salaries are not competitive and that has an effect on recruiting new, strategic hires. UM System President Mun Choi agreed.

"This is a really critical issue for us," Choi said, adding that the system is facing a "severe depression" in terms of salaries that must be addressed.

McIntosh said the same is true for research space.

"We are out of high quality research space," he said, "We are short on high quality animal research space."

Incoming MU chancellor Alexander Cartwright also chimed in, saying "whoever we are hiring...must add value to the team."

The other portion of Wednesday's meeting focused on "system-ness," or essentially, how all four universities can work together. UMKC provost and executive vice chancellor Barbara Bichelmeyer led the conversation.

Curators discussed whether the system is a "one ship" or multi-ship entity. Bichelmeyer said she knows it's one ship because everything that happened on MU's campus in 2015 had a direct impact on what she did.

"The university system has to start working as one entity because money and resources are tight," Curator Steelman told ABC 17 News after the meeting.

Curator Steelman also said research needs to be the university system's top priority, in spite of the current budget crisis. "We have to prioritize research," he said. "That drives economic development, that creates jobs, that brings people to the state, that keeps people in the state."

Day one of the curators' meeting focused on enrollment strategies. You can read more about that [here](#).



[MU accused of violating animal welfare laws](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-accused-of-violating-animal-welfare-laws>

By: Kevin Ko

COLUMBIA - [An advocacy organization in Washington, DC is accusing MU of breaking the law in emergency medical training.](#)

The [Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine](#) will submit a formal request to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Thursday. The organization is asking the APHIS to investigate the use of live pigs in emergency medical training by MU's Columbia School of Medicine. PCRM says current emergency medicine residency training at MU violates the Animal Welfare Act, which is enforced by the USDA.

John Pippen, the Director of Academic Affairs for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, said PCRM accuses MU of three violations.

"There is a requirement in the Animal Welfare Act that says you have to do a literature search and justify that use, either by reporting that there are no alternatives or you did find alternatives, but they were inadequate for your purposes," Pippin said. "We claim that this a violation because they did find an alternative, but they did not provide an adequate explanation for why they were not using the alternatives."

"Secondly, there is a clause in the animal welfare act that says you can not use animals in medical training unless it is unavoidable in medical training," Pippin said. "Obviously, it's not unavoidable because 89% of the programs we contacted did not use animals."

"The third violation that we reported is that the (university's) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) failed in its duty to enforce the Animal Welfare Act when it approved this protocol, despite those two violations."

Christian Basi, Director of MU News Bureau, said the university is aware of the upcoming complaint.

"We respectfully disagree with many of their assumptions," Basi said. "We take the care and use of our animals very seriously. We understand that they are providing us with a crucial piece of information and we would not be doing the research unless we felt that there was no other way to do it."

Pippin also said MU is the only institution out of five emergency medical residency programs in Missouri that use live animals for training.

"MU is among a small minority of schools in the country using animals," Pippin said. "Our survey has 170 emergency medical programs and 89% of them do not use animals."

[A 2004 study](#) conducted by the University of Virginia found that 87% of emergency medicine residency programs in the country provided live animal laboratories for procedural training. Basi said MU has reviewed different methods of training yearly and are continuing to look for alternatives.

"Currently, we use approximately six animals a year for specific instances of training," Basi said. "Every other time, we're using simulations and we always try to review that each year to determine if there is new technology available that would allow us to do simulations instead of live animals."

Pippin said PCRMB became aware of MU's use of live animals in emergency residence medical training by requesting and obtaining public records from the university.

"We track this information for a number of areas of medical training," Pippin said. "Once we had a list of accredited emergency medicine residency programs in the United States, we started contacting them and asking for information. We didn't just choose Missouri. We did not know at

that time that they were using animals, but when we got the public records, we followed that up with our information supporting the replacement of using animals for procedural training."

The survey conducted by PCRPM found live animals are used in eighteen emergency medicine residency programs, including MU, out of a total of 168 emergency medicine residency programs.

"It's substandard training," Pippin said. "The standard of practice in America in the 21st century is the use purpose-designed simulators to train these procedures."

Basi said the university will continue to look for alternative methods that are as effective as current methods.

"We would not be doing the research unless we felt that there was no other way to do it," Basi said. "As technology has become available, we have switched from using live animals to simulations. And as technology changes, we will hopefully be able to reduce the use of our animals."

Several national organizations say the use of animals in medical training is needed, including the Association of American Medical Colleges and Foundation for Biomedical Research.

"It is the association's firm belief that further restrictions on the use of animals in biomedical and behavioral research and education threatens progress in health care and disease prevention," the AAMC [states on their website](#).

"Computer models and cell cultures, as well as other adjunct research methods, reduce the number of animals used," FBR [states on their website](#). "But there is no way to completely replace animal testing and research because the pathway to fully duplicating a whole, living system does not yet exist."



(AAU science news website)

[How piglets could make IVF cheaper](#)

Posted by [Jeff Sossamon-U. Missouri](#) July 19th, 2017

[Generated from News Bureau press release: Piglets May Unlock Keys to In Vitro Fertilization in Humans](#)

Scientists have made a discovery in piglets that could decrease the costs associated with in vitro fertilization in people.

Parents seeking to have children through IVF spend between \$12,000 and \$15,000 each session plus the cost of medications, which could average between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Scientists were working with pigs to research stem cells and the mechanisms they use to proliferate, communicate, and grow in the body. During an attempt to improve how they grow the cells, researchers discovered a method that uses a special liquid medium that improves the success of IVF in pigs.

“It was a serendipitous discovery, really,” says R. Michael Roberts, professor of animal sciences at the University of Missouri. “Generally, there are multiple steps to producing viable embryos that we can then implant in pigs and cows involved in our research; however, it’s costly and sometimes yields very little return.

“We were seeking a way to do that more efficiently and stumbled upon a method that may have implications in human fertility clinics as well.”

In IVF involving pigs, scientists first extract oocytes, or eggs from female pigs as well as the “nurse” cells that surround them and place them in a chemical environment designed to mature the eggs. The eggs are then fertilized to create zygotes, or single-celled embryos that are allowed to develop for six days. These embryos are then transferred back into a female pig with the hope of achieving a successful pregnancy and healthy piglets.

“The chance of generating a successful piglet after all those steps is very low; only 1-2 percent of the original oocytes make it that far,” Roberts says. “Normally, researchers overcome this low success rate by implanting large numbers of embryos, but that takes a lot of time and money.”

Ye Yuan, a former research assistant professor in Roberts’ lab, and Lee Spate, a senior research specialist in animal sciences, set out to increase the efficiency and quality of piglet embryos before they are implanted.

In one study, the team analyzed various special growth factors used when culturing pig stem cells and added two factors—fibroblast growth factor 2 (FGF2) and leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF). When added with a third factor—insulin-like growth factor—the combination created the special fluid environment the oocytes needed to become competent for fertilization and further development to embryos that could provide a successful pregnancy.

Together, the three compounds create the chemical medium called “FLI,” which could revolutionize both piglet and human IVF treatments.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Records show Fulton Medical Center losing millions of dollars

By **Brittany Ruess**

Financial records released Wednesday by University of Missouri Health Care show the Fulton Medical Center has been losing millions of dollars in recent years and has incurred nearly \$12.5 million in uncompensated care since 2015.

Nueterra, now NueHealth, and MU Health purchased the 37-bed, acute care hospital in 2014 for \$6 million at 65 percent and 35 percent ownership stake, respectively. MU Health paid \$1.15 million in cash and provided a loan guarantee for \$2.75 million for its stake.

MU Health notified NueHealth on Tuesday that it was selling its minority interest, citing low revenue and patient volumes. The local health care provider has invested \$1.6 million in Fulton

Medical Center and is seeking reimbursement of those costs, MU Health spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said.

Fulton and Callaway County officials have been meeting with Fulton Medical Center CEO Mike Powell for months, discussing the possibility of a tax to offset the hospital's uncompensated care costs. Officials have not decided whether they will pursue a tax.

Fulton Medical Center absorbs the costs of indigent care, also referred to as charity care, when patients cannot afford their medical bills and have incomes low enough to fall under hospitals' policies for free care. Fulton Medical Center's indigent care costs rose from about \$340,000 in 2015 to \$837,000 in 2016. Indigent care costs this year as of May are nearly \$95,000.

Those figures are mild compared to Fulton Medical Center's bad debt, another form of uncompensated care.

Hospitals incur bad debt when patients who make too much to qualify for indigent care cannot afford their medical bills or do not pay them, said Dave Dillon, spokesman for the Missouri Hospital Association. These patients either don't have insurance or had a procedure not covered under their insurance, he said.

From January to May, the Fulton Medical Center incurred more than \$2 million in bad debts. The total bad debts was nearly \$5 million in 2015 and more than \$4 million in 2016.

The cost of uncompensated care — indigent care plus bad debt — at hospitals statewide in 2014 was \$1.3 billion, Dillon said. Uncompensated care totaled to \$1.2 billion in 2015, which Dillon said was a "slight pull" after about 250,000 Missourians bought health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

Bad debt is not written off by hospitals, but is potentially unrecoverable, Dillon said.

In Callaway County, 17 percent of the adults under 65, or 4,425 people, are uninsured, according to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, a study spearheaded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Seven percent of Callaway County children, or 681 children, are also uninsured.

Fulton Medical Center has lost money every month between January 2015 and May 2017, except for three months — November and December 2015 and October 2016 — according to budget reports from MU Health. From January to May this year, losses totaled to more than \$1 million. Losses in 2015 and 2016 combined were more than \$5.5 million.

A NueHealth spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment Wednesday afternoon.

The financial records also give reasons for cost variances, or the difference between what was budgeted and actual costs.

Explanations for the variances show surgeries at the hospital have not materialized as expected. In 2016, six surgeries were performed based on a budget of 36 surgeries.

Surgery and endocrinology departments were down \$177,000 and a surgeon was building his or her practice at a slower pace this year, according to the documents. As of May, the hospital was also down \$442,000 from its expected budget between the emergency room, X-ray and CT scan departments.

The emergency room department was up \$396,000 in 2015 because of an increase in the emergency room rate from \$800 to \$1,250 per visit, but fell the following year by \$47,000.

The Boone Hospital Center Board of Trustees is considering an agreement with MU Health Care, or one of three other health care companies, as a part of its lease negotiations for the hospital. Brian Neuner, chairman of the trustees, said MU Health's decision to sell its ownership stake in the Fulton Medical Center is not affecting the negotiations.

MISSOURIAN

Stagnant patient growth drives MU Health Care sale of stake in Fulton Medical Center

GINA BALSTAD, 17 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **A lack of new patients has prompted MU Health Care to sell its 35 percent stake in the Fulton Medical Center, officials announced Tuesday.**

MU Health Care entered into a minority, non-controlling stake with the medical center in 2014 in an agreement with primary owner NueHealth, said Mary Jenkins, MU Health spokeswoman. The goal of this agreement was to provide “access to quality and affordable care” in the rural community.

MU Health Care decided to sell after investing approximately \$1.6 million in the medical center while seeing no increase in patient volumes. Officials had discussed this with NueHealth in the months leading up to the decision.

While Fulton Medical Center has 37 inpatient beds, on days such as July 12, Jenkins said, only 12 were used. This was a common situation.

"This has been a very difficult decision for us," Jenkins said. "We are disappointed we couldn't make this work for the residents of Callaway County."

Under the 2014 agreement, MU will be reimbursed for the investments it made in the hospital. If the hospital cannot pay this, NueHealth will.

The amount MU Health will receive is still being discussed.

In 2015, MU and NueHealth wanted to offset the costs of the hospital by opening a 10-bed, \$36.1 million surgical hospital, according to previous *Missourian* reporting. But the proposal failed at the state level when a review board voted 5-2 against it.

The Fulton Medical Center plays a role in the economy of the community, said Bruce Hackmann, the economic development director for Callaway County.

"Anyone who is looking at your community, whether it is a new business, or someone moving here," Hackmann said, "a hospital and health services in general are some of those things they are looking at and wanting to see that those kind of services are available."

NueHealth officials could not be reached for comment on Wednesday. Fulton Mayor LeRoy Benton was unavailable.

Despite this event, MU Health Care will continue its presence in Callaway County through a family medicine outpatient clinic that sees 15,000 patients a year, Jenkins said.

MU Health has a total of 57 outpatient clinics, most of which are in Columbia but serve a large number of rural residents.

Other methods MU Health has adopted to reach out to rural communities include a traveling mammogram provided by Ellis Fischel Cancer Center and the use of telemedicine, in which patients and physicians can communicate via video chat.



[MU Health to sell its stake in Fulton Medical Center](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-health-to-sell-its-stake-in-fulton-medical-center>

By: Stephanie Lorenc

FULTON - After two months of discussion, MU Health announced it will sell its 35 percent stake in the Fulton Medical Center, which has been experiencing financial issues for several years.

“First I want to say this was a difficult decision for us, we were disappointed that we couldn’t make Fulton Medical Center sustainable in our venture with NueHealth., said Mary Jenkins, MU Health Public Relations Manager. "Our concern was that despite MU health care investments totaling \$1.6 million over the last 3 years the hospital has continued to have low in-patient volume and lose money.”

MU Health joined NueHealth in December 2014 to purchase Fulton Medical Center with a goal of making health care more accessible in Fulton and Callaway County.

“The hospital has struggled there under previous owners and we hoped the new arrangement with NueHealth could make the hospital sustainable, and that hasn’t been the case, Jenkins said. "We just believe its not a sustainable model for us at this time.”

The money MU Health has invested is expected to be reimbursed and MU Health plans to reinvest that in MU health care facilities and technology. Although MU Health will be selling back its ownership of the Fulton Medical Center, it still plans to have a strong presence in Callaway County.

“As far as Fulton and Callaway County go, MU health care has had a long standing presence there, we’ve operated a family medicine clinic there for more than 40 years and see more than 15,000 outpatients each year at our family medicine clinic in Fulton, so we’re going to continue with a strong presence in Callaway County through our family medicine clinic,” Jenkins said.

She said MU Health was only a minority owner and was a non-controlling owner, therefore the Fulton Medical Center is still operational.

KOMU 8 News reached out to Fulton Medical Center and NueHealth and neither have responded.



MU selling its minority interest in the Fulton Medical Center

By: Josh Matejka

FULTON, Mo. - **The University of Missouri confirmed with ABC 17 that it will sell a non-controlling minority interest in the Fulton Medical Center.**

The university said it will sell its 35 percent stake in the facility to NueHealth, which has majority ownership. MU has had a stake in the center since 2014. A university spokesperson said the decision was disappointing, but was made due to low in-patient volume and continuous money loss.

The university said it will continue to have a presence in Callaway County through its clinic, University Physicians-Callaway Physicians.



(Kansas City local NPR affiliate)

University Of Missouri And Other Schools With Tiger Mascots Commit To Tiger Conservation

By [LAURA ZIEGLER](#) • 16 HOURS AGO

The University of Missouri is among a consortium of schools with tiger mascots that are ramping up efforts to address the dwindling global tiger population.

The University of Missouri (Truman the Tiger,) Louisiana State University (Mike the Tiger), Auburn University (Aubie the Tiger) and Clemson University (The Tiger and Tiger Cub) are committing to more and better research, education and awareness, across disciplines, related to tiger conservation efforts.

University of Missouri spokesperson Sheena Rice says the school has had a "[Tigers for Tigers](#)" student group for almost 20 years but is proud to support this new effort.

At this point she's not clear of the university's financial commitment.

The increased conservation efforts were initiated by Clemson University President James P. Clements, a member of the [Global Tiger Initiative Council](#).

Brett Wright, Dean of the Clemson University College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences, says in [a release](#) that those who cheer on the tiger at games and spirit rallies should understand the plight of the animal in the wild.

"These universities share the tiger mascot and benefit from that majestic symbol of strength, dignity and beauty, so they share a moral responsibility to apply all of our resources to save the animal that inspires that symbol," Wright says.

[Kansas City Zoo](#) Conservation Manager Stacia Pieroni says part of each ticket to enter the zoo goes toward animal conservation campaigns, including the [Tiger Conservation Campaign](#), coordinated by the [Association of Zoos and Aquariums](#).

The Kansas City Zoo has two Sumatran Tigers.

[The World Wildlife Fund](#) lists the Amur, Bengal and Indochinese Tiger as endangered. The Malayan, South China and Sumatran Tigers are listed as critically endangered.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Former MU Health doctors plead guilty to defrauding federal programs

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Two former doctors with the University of Missouri School of Medicine pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court to defrauding federal health care programs for more than \$190,000.

Kenneth L. Rall, 82, and Michael E. Richards, 65, both of Columbia, waived their right to a grand jury and pleaded guilty to one count apiece of health care fraud before U.S. Magistrate Judge Matt Whitworth, according to a news release from the office of Tom Larson, acting U.S. attorney for the Western District of Missouri.

Rall worked for the university between July 1, 1998, and June 1, 2012, and was chairman of the radiology department in the School of Medicine until he resigned that position in December 2011. Richards, who had been head of mammography, worked at MU from July 10, 2003, to June 1, 2012. Both had been attending physicians at University Hospital and faculty members in the School of Medicine.

Rall and Richards admitted that they signed interpretations of exams performed by residents at the hospital without having viewed the images, the U.S. attorney's office said. Rall admitted to signing more than \$120,000 in fraudulent claims filed between March 2010 and December 2011 while Richards admitted to signing \$70,000 in fraudulent claims during that time, according to the release.

The number of records the men said they reviewed but did not was in the hundreds, the U.S. attorney's office said. A teaching physician's review and signature signature was required for the federal health benefit programs to pay the claims.

Rall and Richards are each subject to up to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

MISSOURIAN

Former MU Health doctors plead guilty to fraud

BENNITO L KELTY, 17 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Two former MU physicians pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court to a \$190,000 fraud scheme involving two separate counts of fraud, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Kenneth L. Rall, 82, and Michael E. Richards, 65, pleaded guilty to individual counts of health care fraud and waived their rights to a grand jury. Rall, a radiologist, and Richards, a mammography technologist, were physicians and faculty members at the the MU School of Medicine.

The maximum sentence for each is 10 years in federal prison without parole.

A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after an investigation by the U.S. probation office is completed.

An investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Kansas City revealed that both had lied about viewing certain images reviewed by resident physicians, violating the policies of the federal health benefit programs Medicare, Medicaid and Tricare, a health care program created by the Department of Defense.

All three of the health benefit programs require a radiologist to review X-ray images before approving payment to the hospital. Both admitted to certifying hundreds of files that they had not viewed.

The former MU physicians admitted to filling claims to receive more than \$190,000 from federal health benefit programs. Rall admitted that he filed false claims to receive \$120,000 between March 2010 and December 2011 and Richards admitted to falsely claiming more than \$70,000 between March 2010 and December 2011.

Rall and Richards resigned in June 2012.

Rall was the chairman of the radiology department when the violations occurred and just been named the Doctor of the Year by the Boone County Medical Society, [according to previous Missourian reporting](#).

According to court records, Rall already faced felony charges in 1986. He was hired by the department of radiology in 1998.

MU Health Care agreed to pay \$2.2 million to resolve the False Claims Act allegations that two former physicians falsely submitted claims for radiology services to Medicare, Medicaid and other federal programs.

Since 2009, the federal government has collected more than \$19.3 billion from cases involving health care fraud, according to the Department of Justice.



[Two former MU physicians plead guilty to health care fraud](#)

JEFFERSON CITY- Two former doctors at the University of Missouri pleaded guilty to federal charges on Monday.

Kenneth Loem Rall and Michael Edward Richards pleaded guilty to engaging in a health care fraud scheme totaling nearly \$200,000, according to the the US Attorney for the Western District of Missouri.

Both men served as attending and teaching physicians at University Hospital. Rall worked at MU for nearly 14 years and was the chairman of the department of radiology when he resigned in 2011. Richards was employed by MU for 10 years and was the head of mammography.

Rall and Richards admitted to falsely certifying they viewed hundreds of files and records, when in fact they did not actually view the images. The two admitted to causing a combined \$190,000 in fraudulent claims to be filed with the federal health benefit programs between March 2010 and December 2011.

Federal health benefit programs like Medicare and Medicaid pay for diagnostic tests as long as the results are analyzed or reviewed by a teaching physician. If the results are viewed by a resident, a teaching physician must sign off on the resident's interpretation.

Rall and Richards face up to ten years in federal prison without parole.



Two physicians at MU plead guilty to health care fraud

By: Marie Bowman

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - Two physicians at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, Kenneth Loem Rall, 82, and Michael Edward Richards, 65, both of Columbia, have pleaded guilty in federal court to a health care fraud scheme that totaled more than \$190,000, according to a release from the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri.

Rall and Richards admitted they falsely certified that they had viewed hundreds of files and records, when in fact they did not view the images. In each instance, the federal health benefit plan caused money to be paid, relying on their certification that they had done the work required by the pertinent regulations.

Rall was chairman of the department of radiology at the School of Medicine until his resignation from that position on Dec. 20, 2011. Richards was head of mammography. Rall and Richards were both attending physicians in the university hospital, and teaching physicians and members of the faculty of the School of Medicine.

Rall and Richards could each face up to 10 years in federal prison without parole.



Two university doctors plead guilty to health care fraud

By: Dan Claxton

JEFFERSON CITY — **In separate cases, two University of Missouri School of Medicine physicians pleaded guilty to involvement in a health care fraud scheme totaling more than \$190,000.**

According to the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, Kenneth Loem Rall, 82, and Michael Edward Richards, 65, both of Columbia, waived their rights to a grand jury and pleaded guilty to one count of health care fraud.

Both were attending physicians at University Hospital and were members of the faculty of the School of Medicine. Both admitted to signing interpretations of exams performed by residents at the hospital without actually viewing the images. They said they falsely certified that they had viewed hundreds of files and records when they had not, in fact, seen them. Rall admitted to causing \$120,000 in fraudulent claims to be filed with federal health benefit programs; Richards admitted to more than \$70,000 in false claims.

Ralls and Richards are both subject to prison sentences of up to 10 years. Sentencing has not been set.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou prof with Greitens ties ponders a run at McCaskill's Senate seat

By Kevin McDermott St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 17 hrs ago

A Mizzou economics professor with ties to Gov. Eric Greitens says he is considering joining the shifting field of potential candidates for the Republican nomination to run next year against U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo.

Aaron Hedlund, 33, says he has been talking with Republican leaders in Missouri and Washington about running.

"I've been encouraged by many people to do it. I'm giving it very serious thought," said Hedlund, who stressed the need for a "free-market conservative" approach to "getting things done."

In addition to his role as an assistant professor of economics at the University of Missouri at Columbia and as a former researcher for the conservative think tank The Heritage Foundation, Hedlund was an unpaid adviser to Greitens during last year's gubernatorial campaign and during the transition in January.

Greitens has made no endorsement in Missouri's Republican primary race for the Senate.

McCaskill, who will seek her third Senate term next year, is viewed as one of the most vulnerable incumbent Democrats in the chamber.

Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley has been pressed by party leaders including Vice-President Mike Pence to jump in, but hasn't decided yet. At least two of the state's Republican

members of Congress — Reps. Ann Wagner of Ballwin and Vicky Hartzler of Harrisonville — considered and rejected running as party elders have played up Hawley.

Still, with Hedlund, there are at least a half-dozen other Republican candidates either announced or considering it. The others are:

- State Rep. Paul Curtman, a Republican from Franklin County;
- Former Missouri Republican Party Chairman Ed Martin;
- Tony Monetti of Warrensburg, a retired Air Force pilot and assistant dean of aviation at the University of Central Missouri Aviation Department;
- Austin Petersen of Kansas City, who ran for president last year as a Libertarian;
- Missouri Treasurer Eric Schmitt.

MISSOURIAN

Man sentenced to 18 years for campus sexual assaults

KELLYN ALISE NETTLES, 19 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Zachery Jones, 23, was sentenced to 13 years in prison for first-degree rape and five years in prison for attempted rape in the first degree. The terms will run consecutively for a total of 18 years, and Jones will receive credit for his time already served, according to CaseNet.

Jones was originally charged with a count of sodomy as well, but that charge was dropped when he pled guilty to both rape charges in a plea agreement, said Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jessica Caldera.

According to the probable cause statement, Jones approached two women in the early hours of March 5, 2016. He attempted to rape the first victim at the intersection of University and Hitt streets; when she escaped and called the police, he fled the scene and approached the second victim 20 minutes later near her MU residence hall.

“At about 100 feet away from my dorm, right across from the Student Center, (I could not have been more in the center of campus), I was so excited to crawl into bed and fall asleep,” the second victim wrote in her Victim Impact Statement. “But then, suddenly, I was tackled from behind and slammed into the concrete by a man hiding in the bushes.”

Caldera believes that while it may be human nature for victims to wish they’d made different decisions, even when they do everything right, someone like Jones can still make them a victim.

The second victim “lived on the Mizzou campus and she was walking home, another thing she should be able to do,” Caldera said.

“One year or one hundred years in prison, I will still be a victim of rape and I will have to live with that for the rest of my life,” the victim wrote. “What (Jones) did to me will always be a part of my life, but I will never let it define who I am or what I’m worth. My past does not define my future.”

Jones must serve at least 85 percent of his 13-year sentence, about 11 years, and 40 percent of his five-year sentence, two years, before he can be eligible for parole. He also must complete the Missouri Sex Offender Treatment Program before he can even be considered eligible, Caldera said.



Total solar eclipse provides new way to study sun

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/total-solar-eclipse-provides-new-way-to-study-sun>

COLUMBIA - An [eclipse](#) is an astronomical event that occurs when one celestial object moves into the shadow of another. But, for scientists, this is an astronomical event that will open doors to research that's never been done before.

Parts of twelve states in the US will be able to see totality during the total solar eclipse on Aug. 21. Totality is expected to last no longer than 2 minutes and 40 seconds depending on [where you are](#) on Earth. This marks the longest scientists have ever been able to study the sun's corona. NASA Scientist Alex Young has been studying the sun's atmosphere his entire career.

The sun's corona can be seen during a total solar eclipse. The corona is hundreds of times hotter than the sun's surface, [according to NASA](#). But the reason behind the corona's heat is still unknown to scientists.

“So we know why the corona is hot,” Young said. “We know it's because there's lots of magnetic energy that's being released in the corona that's heating it up. But the question is exactly how — that's the part we don't completely understand.”

Young said there's observational evidence of nanoflares — explosions bigger than a nuclear bomb — on the sun. He said there's so many of them going off that they are putting energy into the corona and heating it up. He said they know magnetic energy is being released in the form of heat in the corona. However, he said the details is what they're trying to figure out.

“And so if we can understand the different parts of it, basically understanding the bigger picture, that's ultimately going to tell us all the physics of what's happening all over the sun.”

Young said researchers will be able to study the corona in a way like never before with new technologies that will allow scientists to learn about the sun in a whole new way.

“This is huge,” Young said. “This is huge again because it’s covering such a large area of land and it’s going for so long. We’re having an opportunity to not only study the corona for such a long period of time, which is something we’ve never been able to do before, we’re gonna have so many scientists that are here — not just from the US but from around the world — that are coming to the US to take observations.”

Young said there’s going to be so much data that they are expecting but also data that they are not expecting.

“Technologies and living organisms are going to be part of this grand data set and we’re going to see this eclipse in a way that no one has ever seen before and with detail and with views that no one has ever had,” Young said.

Former NASA Astronaut Linda Godwin grew up in Jackson, Missouri. She received her undergrad from Southeast Missouri State and set her sights on NASA after receiving her doctorate in physics from MU in 1980.

Godwin applied to NASA to become an astronaut. Although she was not selected to be a NASA astronaut at first, NASA offered her a job and she moved to Houston, Texas to work at the Johnson Space Center.

She was selected to be a NASA astronaut in a later selection process. Godwin served as a flight controller and payloads officer in Mission Control for several shuttle flights prior to being selected as an astronaut candidate. Godwin said it took 11 years to get to her first mission.

“I flew in 91. That was my first flight,” Godwin said.

Godwin has been on four shuttle missions as a mission specialist and as payload commander. She said she had a lot of confidence in the suit.

“Viewing the Earth was just awesome and it was kinda cool to be outside and be in my own suit,” Godwin.

Godwin retired from NASA in 2010. Godwin teaches in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at MU.

Although she teaches astronomy, Godwin said she’s not doing anything scientific with the eclipse.

“The people that are gonna gather the data for this, I hope they have a way to stand back and just experience it,” Godwin said. “So that’s kind of what I want to do is just experience it.”

For complete coverage visit our Show Me Eclipse webpage at komu.com/eclipse.

MISSOURIAN

Show-Me State Games to return Friday

LORETTA LEE 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — For the 33rd year, the annual Show-Me State Games will continue this weekend with more than 40 competitions in total for participants and athletes of all ages and ability levels.

The Olympic-style state sports festival will return Friday-Sunday and continue July 28-30, after the Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program archery tournament and a few other competitions ended in June.

On Friday, the Shelter Insurance Torch Run will begin at 11 a.m. in downtown Jefferson City. It will continue in Columbia from 3 p.m. at Traditions Plaza to 3:30 p.m. at its final destination, Shelter Insurance, where a ceremony featuring First Ward City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem Clyde Ruffin and a ribbon-cutting will be held. Marketing coordinator Emily Lorenz said about 30 people will participate in the torch run in Columbia. The torch will finally light the cauldron at the opening ceremony Friday evening at Mizzou Arena.

The opening ceremony will start at 7 p.m. at Mizzou Arena. It is free and open to the public.

MU athletes will attend the opening ceremony, including volleyball player Alyssa Munlyn, football player Damarea Crockett, baseball player Trey Harris and women's basketball player Amber Smith. They will answer questions from KOMU news anchor Jim Riek, Lorenz said. In addition, Miss Missouri, Jennifer Davis, will lead the "oath of athletes," an annual tradition at the opening ceremonies to promote sportsmanship. The MU athletes and Miss Missouri will be signing autographs when the opening ceremony concludes.

"We are certainly excited about the 33rd annual Show-Me State Games. Our mission of health, fitness, family and fun for all Missourians is something that we take a lot of pride in," executive director Dave Fox said.

Thousands of athletes from across the state of Missouri will have an opportunity to participate in the activities in the next two weekends, Fox said.

Though registrations have ended for team events, anyone interested in powerlifting, wrestling, 3D archery, cycling, martial arts, triathlon, disc golf, fencing, judo, target archery, mountain biking, 5K and 10K races, mini golf and shooting can still sign up on-site.

The United States Tennis Association will be in attendance at this year's tennis games, Lorenz said. The organization is giving players, families and friends the opportunity to try modified equipment such as low compression tennis balls, junior racquets and junior nets. Representatives will also be available on-site to share information and knowledge on the modified equipment. They will also provide local participation opportunities for individuals to get involved with in the tennis community.

Missouri Orthopaedic Institute will have athletic trainers and volunteers to provide medical assistance for minor injuries. MU Health Care has made [heat safety information](#) available to participants, volunteers, spectators and officials. It will also provide emergency medical services at the events. The National Weather Service issued an excessive heat warning through Saturday evening. It forecasted highs in the upper 90s for Friday through Saturday and the lower 90s on Sunday.

Lorenz said about 20,000 participated last year at the Games. Hosted by the University of Missouri, the Show-Me State Games are the largest state games in the nation. They started in 1985 as a nonprofit program of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health.