

**Saint Luke's Hospital:
Growing with Kansas City**

2009 Report to the Diocesan Convention

FROM

G. Richard Hastings

President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Luke's Health System



2009 WAS A YEAR OF EXCITING CHANGES AT Saint Luke's Hospital—and signs of great things to come.

This year our New Saint Luke's project became much more real, as our new building began rising from its foundation. The first phases of this transformational construction project—the Muriel I. Kauffman Women's Heart Center and the Ellen J. Hockaday Center for Women's Care—will open early next year, and our new facility for Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute will open in 2011. Saint Luke's already offers the most advanced care, and our new facilities will provide our patients with the most comfortable place to heal.

As construction crews work outside, inside we're building on the foundation of care that began at Saint Luke's more than 126 years ago. From the most innovative technology—including the most advanced minimally invasive surgery equipment—to the latest clinical trials, patients continue to benefit from our commitment to delivering the highest quality care available. They also benefit from a team of physicians, nurses,

staff and volunteers who continue to earn Saint Luke's Health System the highest marks for customer satisfaction in our region.

Saint Luke's Hospital in 2009 was honored to again receive many leading awards, including being chosen best hospital by Kansas City consumers. We were also honored by many awards and accolades for our physicians and staff from colleagues across the nation and around the world.

We began a new era for Saint Luke's Hospital in late 2008 when Julie Quirin became the hospital's new CEO, and I returned full-time to my position as president and CEO of Saint Luke's Health System. Julie was an outstanding CEO at Saint Luke's South, and I'm confident she will be equally as successful as CEO of Saint Luke's Hospital.

While quality and innovation remain our foundation, we're also excited about our future as we work to ensure our hospital and health system continue to grow with our community. We are confident Saint Luke's commitment to the health of the people of Kansas City and the surrounding region will only grow stronger in the decades to come.

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

- Marie Tompkins of Kansas City, Mo., was named Saint Luke's Hospital's 2009 Volunteer of the Year. She was honored at the annual volunteer luncheon in April. Tompkins, a volunteer and member of Saint Luke's Hospital Auxiliary, has volunteered at Saint Luke's for 35 years, accumulating more than 10,590 hours of service. Over the years she has volunteered in many departments. She currently helps in the Emergency Department and Surgery Recovery Room performing a variety of clerical duties.
- Volunteers and Auxilians at Saint Luke's Hospital contributed a total of 69,024 hours in 2008, the equivalent of 34 full-time employees valued at more than \$2 million in payroll.

SPIRITUAL WELLNESS

- Through a new program called No One Dies Alone (NODA), Saint Luke's Hospital's Spiritual Wellness Department is reaching out to patients who have no family or

friends to be with them when they are dying. Nurses receive training on how to identify patients who may benefit from a NODA vigil, and volunteers spend a few hours at the bedside of dying persons who have no one else to depend on for support.

- Saint Luke's Hospital chaplain Marc Giedinghagen achieved certification as supervisor (teaching chaplain) by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education Inc. This significant achievement required years of preparation. Chaplain Giedinghagen currently serves as palliative care chaplain in addition to his supervision/teaching in Saint Luke's Health System's accredited Clinical Pastoral Education program. He began his clinical training at Saint Luke's in 2002, becoming staff in 2005. Chaplain Giedinghagen is Presbyterian and prior to coming to Saint Luke's served congregations for more than 20 years.
- Saint Luke's Hospital celebrated Saint Luke's Week in October 2008 with several activities, including the Blessing of Hands for all employees; Saint Luke's Day worship services featuring guest celebrant The Rev. Dr. William Beachy; and luncheon recognizing Roman Catholic Eucharist Ministers and featuring the music of palliative care physician Robert Schwab, M.D.; and celebration of Saint Luke's Hospital's employee Angel for an Angel program.
- Saint Luke's Hospital's Spiritual Wellness department invited individuals, nursing units and departments to participate in its first "Spirituality at Work" poster competition in September 2009. Posters will demonstrate how spirituality—integral to the mission of Saint Luke's—is integrated into patient care or in a team's work together. Posters will be presented in October 2009.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Kansas City consumers once again named Saint Luke's Hospital first for high quality services in the metropolitan area, according to National Research Corporation's 2008/2009 Consumer Choice Awards. Saint Luke's Hospital has ranked first in the Consumer Choice Award every year the NRC has presented the honor since its inception in 1997.
- Saint Luke's Hospital was named one of the top 125 hospitals in the United States, according to Consumers' Checkbook, a non-profit consumer information and service resource. The honor was announced in the May/June 2009 issue of *AARP The Magazine*.
- Saint Luke's Health System was recognized as one of the nation's Most Wired, according to the results of a survey and benchmarking study in the July 2009 issue of *Hospitals & Health Networks* magazine. This is the ninth time Saint Luke's has received the honor—more times than any other Kansas City hospital.
- Saint Luke's Health System in September 2009 was recognized as one of Kansas City's Best Places to Work by the *Kansas City Business Journal*. The health system was recognized as one of the top 10 large employers in Kansas City.

- Saint Luke's Hospital received the Gold Award in *Ingram's* magazine's 2009 Best of Business awards. Readers choose the winners of these annual awards, which were announced in the magazine's August issue.
- Saint Luke's Health System hospitals dominated Kansas City hospitals for the highest patient satisfaction. Data released in summer 2009 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) through its Hospital-Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) showed that five Saint Luke's facilities ranked among the 10 highest of all Kansas City area hospitals for "Overall Rating" and "Would Recommend" questions.

Saint Luke's Cancer Institute held the top position in the marketplace for "Nurse Communication" and ranks second following Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit for "Overall Rating."

Saint Luke's Hospital, Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit, Saint Luke's Cancer Institute, Saint Luke's South and Saint Luke's Northland Hospital exceeded the U.S. and Missouri and Kansas average ratings in the "Overall Rating" and "Would Recommend" categories.
- Saint Luke's Hospital ranks as one of the best hospitals in the nation for Urology, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2009-2010 list of America's Best Hospitals published July 21, 2009.
- Nearly 200 Saint Luke's Health System physicians were recognized in the March issue of *KC Magazine* as "super doctors." Key Professional Media asked more than 3,000 medical professionals one question based on particular specialties: "If you needed care, who would you choose?" *KC Magazine's* research team totaled the response and added medical professionals who had achieved "special recognition from their peers or have demonstrated other indications of expertise."
- Saint Luke's Hospital was honored to be chosen for a Magnet site visit by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in August 2009. Results of the visit and reaccreditation for Saint Luke's Hospital will be announced later this fall.
- Saint Luke's Health System received a 2009 Leadership Award for Value-Based Health Benefits from the Institute for Health and Productivity Management. Saint Luke's was recognized for its preferred premium and co-pay health plan design, free preventive care, addition of biometrics, collaborative diabetes and cardiovascular disease management program, free health coaching, free health risk appraisal and its online and onsite health enhancement programs.
- Saint Luke's Health System's Health Information Management (HIM) Department was chosen by the *ADVANCE* magazine as a runner up for HIM Team of the Year 2008 for Teamwork and Technology. *ADVANCE* magazine is read by 1.8 million health care professionals, and the honor recognized Saint Luke's seven-year effort to unite 11 segregated medical records departments into a single, cohesive group.

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

- For the first time in the 107-year history of Saint Luke's College, the beginning of the school year in August 2009 was marked by a Convocation—a traditional, academic ceremony designed to call together the learning community. All scholarship students were recognized and four faculty emeriti awards were bestowed—an unprecedented event in the school's history.
- Saint Luke's College's class of 2009 accomplished something extraordinary: Every graduate passed the National Licensure Registered Nurse Exam on the first try. The average pass rate across the nation is 88 percent, and only a handful of nursing programs in Missouri achieve a 100 percent pass rate in a given year.
- Saint Luke's Hospital's Clinical Laboratory Science program celebrated the graduation of seven students from its year-long program. The program provides students with their final 30 hours of college credit toward a baccalaureate degree. The Saint Luke's Hospital Clinical Laboratory Science program began more than 70 years ago and was among the first accredited programs in the United States.
- A newly established summer intern program, spearheaded by Peter Holt, M.D., president of Saint Luke's Hospital's medical staff, provided an opportunity for eight college undergraduates with an interest in health care to spend six weeks in a clinical or research area of emphasis at Saint Luke's Hospital during summer 2009. Students who chose a clinical area spent one week each in six different clinical services in an inpatient and/or outpatient setting. Those who chose a research program spent their entire time with an ongoing research project. The program, funded by Saint Luke's Hospital Foundation, supports Saint Luke's role as a teaching hospital and is also intended to serve as a recruitment tool, with the ultimate goal of seeing some of the students join the medical staff.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

- Saint Luke's Hospital was one of six hospitals in the nation chosen to participate in the Aligning Forces for Quality: Equity Quality Improvement Collaborative, an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. As part of the involvement, the hospital will develop and share tools for improving cardiac care for African-American and Hispanic patients with acute myocardial infarction or congestive heart failure. Vice President of Clinical Diversity Michael Weaver, M.D., will lead the hospital's participation.
- Saint Luke's Health System welcomed a new class of diversity trainers in June. The 15 employees volunteered to help teach new employees about the health system's commitment to embracing diversity among co-workers and patients. The "Strength Through Diversity" training program began in 1997.
- Michael Weaver, M.D., was one of 57 physicians to complete a fellowship in cultural competency from the American Hospital Association's Institute for Diversity, Health Education Research Trust. He was also selected to participate in the first Disparities

Leadership Program, a year-long training sponsored by the Massachusetts Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

MILESTONES

- Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute celebrated a record year for heart transplants in 2008, thanks to the generosity of donors and families. The team performed a total of 42 transplants in 2008 (and a total of 410 transplants since the program began in 1985). As a result, Saint Luke's is in the top 10 percent of cardiac transplant programs nationally.
- With nimble fingers, a band of 10-plus volunteers who have stitched their way into the hearts of thousands of Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute patients celebrated 18 years and nearly 32,000 volunteer hours when they donated their 20,000th pillow. The group sews heart-shaped pillows for cardiac and thoracic surgery patients, who often clutch the pillow for comfort while they recuperate in the hospital.
- Saint Luke's Hospital celebrated 40 years of kidney transplants in June 2009 with a brief program featuring C.Y. Thomas, M.D., a retired physician who started Saint Luke's Hospital's program in 1969, and Thomas Crouch, M.D., the current medical director. It also featured Richard Witthar, the program's 25th patient 36 years ago, who was re-transplanted in 2007.
- Saint Luke's Hospital's Teen Clinic received a \$19,880 grant from the March of Dimes Foundation to help improve the health and well-being of teen mothers and their babies.
- Saint Luke's Hospital received two grants totaling \$30,000 from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and the REACH Healthcare Foundation's Bi-State Nursing Workforce Innovation Center to focus on innovative measures to address the nursing shortage and improve patient outcomes.
- Saint Luke's Cancer Institute in May 2009 achieved a milestone when it delivered its 1,000th High Dose Rate Brachytherapy (HDRB) treatment. HDRB uses a special treatment unit containing a high activity but physically small (4mm) source of radiation that is used to treat gynecological, prostate, pulmonary and breast tumors. Saint Luke's Hospital was the first in Kansas City to offer brachytherapy and has expanded its capabilities over the years.
- The Center for Breast Care at Saint Luke's Hospital became the only facility in the Kansas City region to receive accreditation in stereotactic breast biopsy after a survey last spring by the American College of Radiology. The accreditation assures that stereotactic breast biopsy procedures are being performed by appropriately trained personnel and meet stringent guidelines.
- Representatives from Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute and Saint Luke's Brain and Stroke Institute in February 2009 hosted a walking tour for area

legislators to showcase the hospital's Code NEURO and ST-elevated myocardial infarction (STEMI) processes. The legislators were instrumental in passing legislation that created Missouri's Time Critical Diagnosis (TCD) Task Force. The Task Force has worked to develop TCD policies for stroke and STEMI centers across the state with the goal of improving patient outcomes.

- Cabot Westside Health Center celebrated Dr. Seuss Day with a special visit by Kansas City Chiefs linebacker J.P. Darche. Darche and other volunteers participated in the Reach Out and Read program, which promotes literacy by integrating reading in clinic waiting rooms.
- The Centering Pregnancy Program of prenatal care at Saint Luke's Women's Care's Teen Clinic was granted official approval from the Centering Healthcare Institute. The approval recognizes Saint Luke's as having met rigorous standards for the provision of group prenatal care. The Teen Clinic has provides essential services to hundreds of pregnant teens to ensure healthy deliveries, reduce the number of repeat teen pregnancies and provide a support system to encourage patients to complete their high school educations.
- Despite the challenges of the tough economy, donors, Saint Luke's Hospital Foundation received four significant gifts totaling \$8 million near the end of 2008 that will enhance patient care and research programs.
 - Henry Bloch's \$1.5 million gift established an endowed chair in honor of his wife, Marion. The first occupant of the Marion H. Bloch Endowed Chair in Gastroenterology and Medicine is John H. Helzberg, M.D.
 - Programs that will benefit from a \$1.5 million gift from the McWilliams Memorial Hospital Trust, Bank of America trustee, include Crittenton Children's Center, Cabot Westside Health Center, Saint Luke's women's and children's services, Saint Luke's community service clinics, social work services and community partnerships, such as the respite care program for the homeless in cooperation with the Salvation Army.
 - A gift of \$1.2 million from the estate of Satish Bansal, M.D., who passed away in September 2008, recognizes the many years of care Dr. Bansal received from Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute, including a heart transplant in 1997.
 - Gifts totaling more than \$4 million from the estate of Marilyn Lee Altenderfer will provide general support for cardiovascular research, education and cardiac rehab services.
- A \$75,000 grant from Aetna will help Saint Luke's continue its community education initiative to enhance health through education and screenings in the Kansas City community. Aetna announced the grant in December 2008.

OUR PEOPLE: RECOGNITION AND HONORS

- Julie Quirin became chief executive officer of Saint Luke's Hospital in December 2008. Quirin had been president and CEO of Saint Luke's South since 2002. She assumed the position as part of a succession plan and filled the role previously held by G. Richard Hastings, who maintains his position as president and CEO of Saint

Luke's Health System. Quirin joined Saint Luke's Health System in 1996 as vice president of marketing and strategic planning.

- Debbie Summers, R.N., advance practice nurse at Saint Luke's Brain and Stroke Institute, was lead author of the American Heart Association's scientific statement outlining the clinical guidelines for the nursing care of patients with acute ischemic (blood clot) strokes. These guidelines serve as the principle source of evidence for nurses throughout the United States, and they were published in *Stroke Journal* in August 2009.
- Mark Woods, Pharm.D., F.A.S.H.P., B.C.P.S., clinical coordinator and residency program director of Saint Luke's Hospital pharmacy, was invited by the Singapore Ministry of Health to serve as visiting expert in pharmacy in November 2008.
- Alan Forker, M.D., was honored with advancement to Mastership by the American College of Physicians at its annual Convocation Ceremony in April 2009. Dr. Forker is director of outpatient lipid diabetes research at Saint Luke's Hospital and has chaired the hospital's Institutional Review Board for clinical research since 2006.
- Robert S. Bonney, senior vice president of Saint Luke's Health System, received the American College of Healthcare Executives Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Regent's Award at a presentation at the Missouri Hospital Association's annual meeting in November 2008.
- Gary M. Gaddis, M.D., Ph.D., Saint Luke's/Missouri Endowed Chair for Emergency Medicine, was an invited speaker at several international meetings in 2009. He was also elevated to senior associate editor of *Academic Emergency Medicine*, a publication of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine.
- Eight Saint Luke's pharmacists received notice in fall 2008 that they passed national certification exams administered by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties. Fewer than 8,000 (3.5 percent) of the 230,000 pharmacists in the United States achieve this distinction.
- Frederick V. Plapp, M.D., Ph.D., and Cynthia E. Essmyer, M.D., in collaboration with two physicians from the Mayo Clinic, published "Successful Models for Shaping Test Utilization Patterns in Academic and Community Hospital Settings" in the June/July 2009 issue of *Clinical Leadership & Management Review*.
- In September 2008 the Day Rehabilitation Program held a ceremony to dedicate a room in honor of Charles Kelly, M.D., who served as medical director of Rehabilitation Services from 1976 to 2006. Dr. Kelly joined the Saint Luke's medical staff in 1976 and introduced the practice of patient-focused, coordinated, interdisciplinary treatment by organizing the first rehabilitation team.
- Dennis Arce, M.D., was recognized by University of Missouri-Kansas City Department of Surgery residents as the Outstanding Surgical Attending and Educator for 2009.

- Richard Moe, M.D., Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute, was featured in the June 2009 issue of *Ingram's* magazine as one of Kansas City's Fittest Execs.
- Don Sipes, vice president of Regional Services for Saint Luke's Health System, was admitted to the North Central Missouri College Hall of Fame during a gala in Trenton, Mo. He was honored as a distinguished alumnus, and recognized for his career accomplishments.
- Poster presentations from radiologists associated with the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) and Saint Luke's Hospital were honored at the Radiological Society of North America meeting in December 2008 in Chicago. Of the 250 posters presented, only 15 received Design Excellence Awards and fewer than 40 received Cum Laude Awards. The UMKC-Saint Luke's teams received awards in both categories.
- Sammie "Jean" Jones, rehabilitation technician II, was named Saint Luke's Hospital's employee of the year in May 2009. She was recognized for her positive energy, compassion, and her willingness to go above and beyond for patients and her co-workers. She joined Saint Luke's Hospital in 2002.
- Annual winners of Saint Luke's Hospital's 2009 Research Day in May included Jagdish Nachnani, M.D.; Michael Selden, M.D.; Kim Day, Pharm.D.; and Sue Lasiter, Ph.D., R.N. Research Day is an annual opportunity to showcase Saint Luke's work to translate scientific and engineering discoveries into effective new therapies for people in Kansas City and around the world. The 2009 competition was the largest ever with more than 44 entries.
- Harry E. Wilkins III, M.D., M.H.C.M., Saint Luke's Hospital's medical director for trauma and surgical critical care, received a master of science degree in health care management from Harvard School of Public Health in June 2009.
- Lorra Embers, director of Rehabilitation Services and Wound Care, in spring 2009 became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). Embers joined Saint Luke's Hospital in 1979. Fellow status represents the highest standard of professional development, an honor held by only 7,500 health care executives in the nation.
- Saint Luke's loss became Harvard's gain in March 2009 when student intern Peach Telar learned she was accepted to a summer study program at the Ivy League university in Boston. The junior at Cristo Rey Kansas City, a Catholic college prep school, began working at Saint Luke's Hospital's Nursing Staffing Office under the guidance of Mary Eidson, nursing project analyst, in August 2008. She was featured on Channel 9 news for her accomplishment.
- Pamela Smith, R.N. III, certified breastfeeding educator for Saint Luke's Hospital's Mother/Baby Unit, was named chairwoman of the Board of Directors for the Mother and Child Health Coalition.

- The June 1, 2009, issue of the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* featured an article by Doug DeJong, R.Ph.D., M.B.A., F.A.S.H.P., Saint Luke's Health System director of pharmacy, titled "Quality Improvement Using the Baldrige Criteria for Organizational Performance Excellence." DeJong reviewed the Baldrige review process and theory and described Saint Luke's Hospital's long history of distinguishing itself through quality initiatives.
- Julie Quirin, CEO of Saint Luke's Hospital, was elected to a one-year term as president of the Kansas City Metropolitan Healthcare Council that began January 1, 2009. Her responsibilities include presiding over council meetings and guiding discussions on association policies and activities.
- Carole Decker, R.N., Ph.D., director of cardiovascular outcomes research, was recognized for having the best abstract at the spring meeting of the European Society of Cardiology Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professionals (CCNAP) in April 2009 in Dublin, Ireland. More than 500 delegates from 28 countries presented 145 abstracts at the conference.
- Two Saint Luke's pharmacists, Greg Teale, Pharm.D., and Amber Lucas, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S., F.A.S.H.P., were named to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Council of Public Policy, a 10-member group of pharmacists from across the United States who help determine ASHP professional policies.
- Tracy Stevens, M.D., was one of six 2009 recipients of the WomenHeart Wenger Award for outstanding contributions to women's health. She was honored in May at a dinner at the Embassy of Italy in Washington, D.C., for her long-time commitment to delivering quality heart care to women at her practice and as medical director of the Muriel I. Kauffman Women's Heart Center at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute.
- James O'Keefe, M.D., was included in *USA Today's* Most Influential Doctors in America list. Created by Santa Fe medical information firm Qforma, the list included about 6,000 specialists in the treatment of high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and asthma from more than 300 U.S. metro areas.

EXAMPLES OF OUR COMMITMENT TO CARING

- Saint Luke's Hospital opened the Kansas City area's first cord blood donation center in December 2008, giving women who give birth the opportunity to donate blood from their umbilical cords for use in treatments for leukemia, sickle cell anemia and dozens of other diseases and disorders. Donation is possible through a new association between Saint Luke's Hospital and the St. Louis Cord Blood Bank based at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center. There is no charge for the donor to participate.
- Saint Luke's Community Education program now offers nearly 50 programs annually, attracting hundreds of senior citizens to hear Saint Luke's physicians and clinicians speak on a wide variety of health topics.

- Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute expanded its presence at Saint Luke's hospitals in suburban locations, adding additional days for elective procedures and emergency procedures at Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit and Saint Luke's Northland Hospital. Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute cardiologists also now see patients at Cushing Memorial Hospital in Leavenworth, Kan.
- Saint Luke's Hospital's first Women In Training program was held at Loose Park in April and May 2009. More than 100 participants gathered each week to hear Saint Luke's speakers on topics ranging from heart health to nutrition and begin or kick-start their walk/run program. The program has been held for more than a decade at Saint Luke's suburban hospitals.
- "Forensic Investigations: From Scene to Courtroom," an educational conference for physicians, nurses, public health officials, law enforcement representatives, emergency medicine providers, prosecutors and community advocates, was held in May 2009. Sponsored by Saint Luke's Hospital's Forensic Care program, the program was part of the hospital's long-term commitment to helping victims and prosecutors in cases of sexual assault. Saint Luke's Hospital established the nation's first private rape center in 1974, and today it is one of only a handful of hospitals in Kansas City with emergency room nurses who are all credentialed as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners.
- Jewish physicians from Saint Luke's spoke at a special speakers series at the Jewish Community Center. The L'Chaim (To Life) lecture series provided current information about disease prevention and health care. Topics included skin cancer, diabetes, heart disease, the aging eye and more. The series was free and open to the public.
- In September 2009 Saint Luke's Hospital held its annual Family Health Festival at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The event featured fun for the entire family, including the annual Teddy Bear Clinic, and free health screenings and information for adults. This was the third year for the event held in partnership with St. Paul's.
- Through their holiday fundraising activities, Saint Luke's Hospital employees collected \$756 for families at Cabot Westside Clinic and Saint Luke's clinics.
- Saint Luke's Hospital celebrated Donate Life Month in April with a series of events for the public and employees, including blood and marrow drives, education sessions, awareness programs and a ceremony honoring recipients and donors.
- Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute's Heart Safe Community initiative expanded with the donation of automated external defibrillators at City Union Mission and Northland Therapeutic Riding Center, thanks to a donation by Todd and Cheryl Grace in memory of their son, Carter.
- Saint Luke's Hospital's Security Department purchased its first hybrid car in January 2009, resulting in a 45 percent decrease in fuel consumption. Coupled with the

reduced price of fuel compared to the previous year, the new vehicle is saving the department \$1,000 per month.

- Saint Luke's Health System's 2009 Global Health Volunteer of the Year awards recognized Patricia Wever, R.N., of Hedrick Medical Center in Chillicothe, Mo., and Tara Konrady, R.N., of Saint Luke's Internal Medicine, for their work to help the underserved in Honduras and the Dominican Republic. Jerry Keuhn, D.O., of Wright Memorial Hospital in Trenton, Mo., was recognized for his work to improve the health of the people of Haiti.

TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Three new clinical trials at Saint Luke's Brain and Stroke Institute for patients with acute stroke may help widen the window of opportunity for acute treatment with clot-busting drugs and interventional embolectomy devices that can reverse or minimize stroke's often debilitating or lethal impact. The three trials are the SENTIS trial, where doctors insert a partially inflated balloon into the descending aorta to divert blood from the lower body to the brain to increase circulation; the ImpACT-24 study, where doctors use a tiny implant in the upper palate to stimulate nerves at the base of the brain; and the MISTIE trial, which involves dripping a clot-busting drug into a clot caused by a hemorrhage to dissolve it, up to 54 hours after the onset of treatment.
- The brain trust on Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute's fifth floor has expanded with the addition of three new researchers who began work in July 2009. The hospital was one of just four centers nationally selected to be funded by an American Heart Association grant for an entirely new fellowship training program in outcomes research. The competitive fellowship positions drew applicants from across the country, and their research projects will include studying how to best measure and improve the appropriateness of treatment procedures and how to inform patients of their options at the time of treatment.
- Building on the burgeoning demand for minimally invasive surgeries, Saint Luke's has tripled its capacity to perform robotics procedures. Saint Luke's Hospital purchased its first da Vinci Surgical System in 2002, and recently upgraded it and added a second device. A third device acquired by Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit was put into use in December 2008.
- The complete electronic medical record moved forward at Saint Luke's Hospital with the implementation of the collection of patients' home medications now being collected during the admissions process.
- Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute was selected as a study site for a prosthetic heart valve that could require reduced post-surgical anticoagulation (blood thinning) therapy. The Prospective Randomized On-X Prosthetic Heart Valve Anticoagulation Clinical Trial (PROACT) is the first FDA trial to explore lower anticoagulation with mechanical heart valves.

- Minimally invasive surgeons at Saint Luke’s Hospital are among the most experienced in the Kansas City area at performing Single Incision Laparoscopic Surgery (SILS). SILS has been used for patients requiring cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal), spleen removal and appendectomies.
- Saint Luke’s Brain and Stroke Institute is participating in Phase 3 clinical studies comparing the safety and effectiveness of the investigational drug alemtuzumab to the FDA-approved therapy Rebif (interferon beta-1a) in people with relapse-remitting multiple sclerosis. The study will look for differences between these two drugs in the progression of disability and in the number of relapses (flare-ups) and brain lesions caused by MS. The study will also examine side effects and risks during and after treatment.
- A paper highlighting research led by Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute’s John Spertus, M.D., M.P.H., was published in the March 3 *Annals of Internal Medicine*. “Factors Associated with Differences in Outcomes of Black and White Patients After Heart Attack” presented Saint Luke’s research that indicates risk factors—not care differences—impact health outcomes in black heart attack patients. Dr. Spertus is clinical director of outcomes research at the Heart Institute.
- Saint Luke’s Cancer Institute offers Kansas City’s only cancer-exclusive genetic counselors, including two board-certified, masters-trained genetic counselors who have extensive experience in cancer risk counseling. The counselors devote 100 percent of their time to cancer research, which is unique in Kansas City.
- Saint Luke’s Hospital offers Kansas City’s only dedicated geriatric research program, which is led by Duane A. Lundervold, Rh.D., L.P.C. Dr. Lundervold organizes a collaborative effort to conduct both basic and clinical research with older adults, addressing areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.
- Saint Luke’s Hospital is the area’s only health facility participating in a trial for an investigational treatment for Peripheral Arterial Disease involving the removal of stem cells from a patient’s own bone marrow and injection into the leg to possibly improve blood flow. Keith B. Allen, M.D., of Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute, is the principle investigator.
- A collaborative effort led by Steven Laster, M.D., interventional cardiologist, and Michael Borkon, M.D., cardiothoracic surgeon, is making it possible for patients with most infrarenal abdominal aortic aneurysms to be successfully treated in a minimally invasive manner. The “hybrid” procedure brings together the best of surgical and invasive skills to benefit the patient.