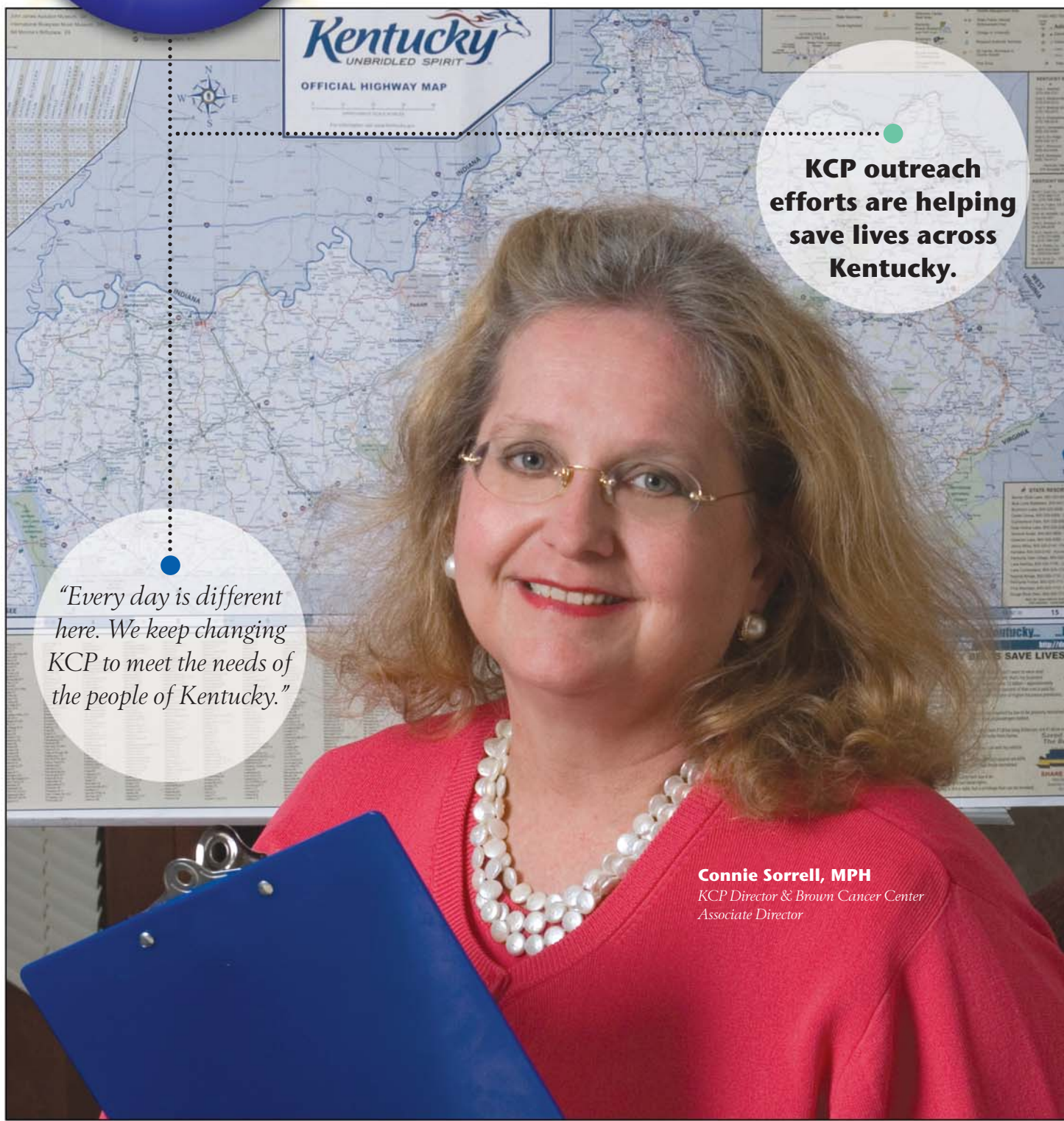




DISCOVERIES

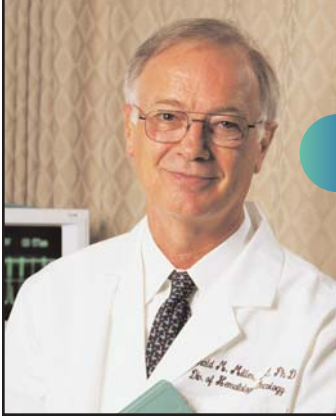
A publication of the JAMES GRAHAM BROWN CANCER CENTER



KCP outreach efforts are helping save lives across Kentucky.

“Every day is different here. We keep changing KCP to meet the needs of the people of Kentucky.”

Connie Sorrell, MPH
KCP Director & Brown Cancer Center
Associate Director



letter FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Dear Friends,

As we think back on the history of the Brown Cancer Center, it is hard to adequately appreciate the importance of the Kentucky Cancer Program. For more than twenty years, it has been an integral part of our mission. Widely recognized as one of the very best cancer education and prevention programs in the nation, Connie Sorrell and her team have truly made a difference in educating Kentuckians about their increased risk of cancer. Many times, KCP has been the face of Brown Cancer Center throughout the state. Each of the KCP offices is a “Brown Cancer Center Embassy” in the region that it serves.

The Owensboro Cancer Research Program is another very important program of the Brown Cancer Center. This program is absolutely “one-of-a-kind” and represents an important extension of our drug development research program. We have been extremely fortunate to attract Dr. Davis, who is one of the few people with the academic and commercial experience to direct a program of this type. We believe that under his leadership, this program will rapidly become a major strength of the Center. As we move forward toward NCI designation, it will be these types of programs that will bring the national and international distinction to the BCC.

As we celebrate our annual Cancer Survivors’ Day, we are reminded that Kentucky continues to bear a disproportionate burden of cancer. We continue to appreciate the remarkable strength of our patients and their families. We are committed to providing the very best care for cancer patients in the short term, and to finding the answers that will provide relief for this suffering in the future.

As we approach the summer, we remain focused on educating our community on the risk of skin cancers. Each year more than 10,000 lives are lost to skin cancer, and the Brown Cancer Center is out to change that. We are excited to partner with the Stan Browning Melanoma Cancer Foundation to begin a grassroots melanoma campaign this summer...look for us at local tennis, golf and swim tournaments where we will be sharing information on how you and your family can play it safe in the sun.

Donald Miller, MD, PhD

Director of the James Graham Brown Cancer Center

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Discoveries is published for the friends, faculty and staff of the James Graham Brown Cancer Center.

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Cancer Research PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED

BETWEEN UofL & OWENSBORO MEDICAL HEALTH

The University of Louisville and the Owensboro Medical Health System (OMHS) are partnering to develop new drugs derived from tobacco and other plant sources.

UofL President James Ramsey, James Graham Brown Cancer Center Director Donald M. Miller and OMHS President Jeff Barber announced the partnership at a press conference preceding Owensboro Night at the State Capitol in Frankfort.

"This partnership will take advantage of synergies between the nationally-known drug development research program at University of Louisville James Graham Brown Cancer Center and the unique resources available in Owensboro for plant-based pharmaceuticals," said Ramsey.

UofL researchers Kenneth Palmer and Keith Davis, experts in plant biotechnology, already are based in Owensboro. They are collaborating with the Brown Cancer Center's A. Bennett "Ben" Jenson and Shin-je Ghim, the researchers behind the cervical cancer vaccine released last year, to develop a second-generation vaccine that will be grown in tobacco plants.

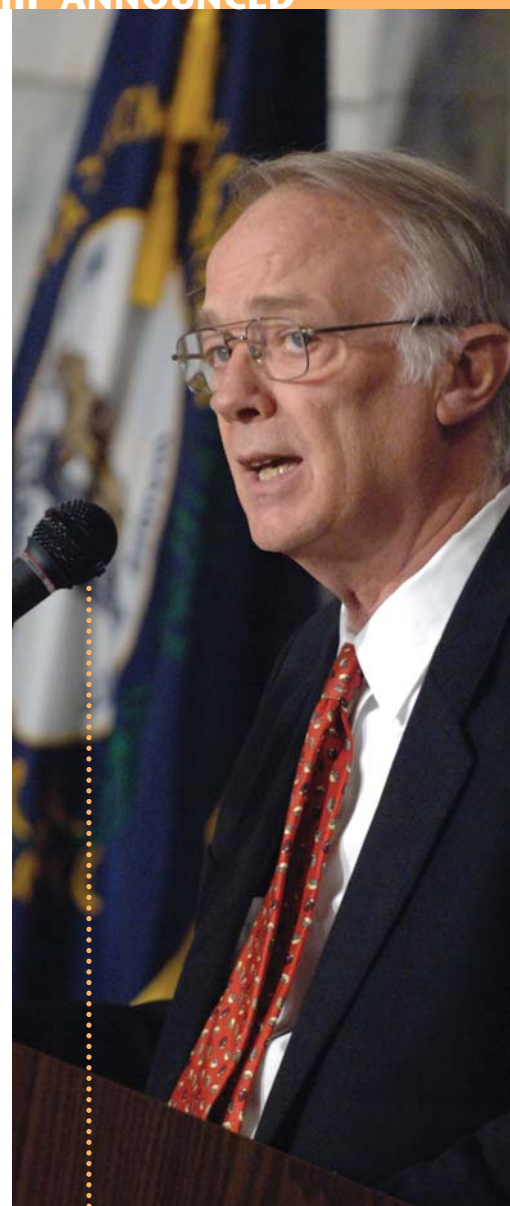


The tobacco-based process, more cost effective than many other methods, involves inserting genes needed for vaccine development into a virus that grows in the plants or directly into the tobacco genome. The leaves of the plants are then harvested, processed and purified to derive a key vaccine ingredient. The process takes advantage of a state-of-the-art facility in Owensboro, owned by Kentucky Bioprocessing, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of OMHS.

Davis will direct the new center, which initially will employ three researchers with the goal of attracting up to 10 scientists. Four laboratories have been built at OMHS Mitchell Memorial Cancer Center to house the research program.

"The future for plant-made pharmaceuticals and the potential benefits to cancer research and treatment are limitless," said Miller. "This partnership is a great opportunity for Brown Cancer Center researchers who already have more than a dozen new drugs in development."

"This is an opportunity for intellectual and manufacturing expertise, both developed right here in Kentucky, to truly make a difference for patients with cancer and other chronic illnesses," said Barber. ■



"This partnership is a great opportunity for Brown Cancer Center researchers who already have more than a dozen new drugs in development."

Donald Miller, MD, PhD
Director of the James Graham Brown Cancer Center