



Courtesy of Rick Hays/Marshall University

Marshall University President Stephen Kopp speaks Tuesday after announcing the school will receive \$750,000 in a research partnership with the University of Kentucky.

## MU to help speed up innovations in health

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HUNTINGTON — Marshall University will receive \$750,000 for research that officials hope will lead to new health care discoveries aimed at better treatment of patients locally and nationwide.

Under a five-year agreement, Marshall will do subcontract work with the University of Kentucky, which unveiled \$20 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health at its own news conference earlier Tuesday.

The funding at Marshall will support clinical research by offering training fellowships and early stage clinical research trials, said Dr. Charles McKown, dean of Marshall's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

"Overall, our goal is to promote and encourage interdisciplinary research that leads to creative new ideas and speeds the translation of scientific discoveries to health improvements for people in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Appalachian region and throughout the nation," said Philip Kern, associate provost for Clinical and Translational Science at UK, in a news release.

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# Marshall

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McKown said the partnership is based on the short distance between the two university medical centers and the similar makeup of the rural Appalachian residents they serve.

"We are geographically close and share patients," McKown said. "We help care for patients that are interchangeable."

Patients, he said, are among

the oldest in the country and face higher rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

But the clinical research won't just help patients. McKown said the funding will open up new employment and expanded medical training opportunities. And those folks will be the ones discovering better, more efficient ways to treat patients.

Marshall and UK are among the 60 medical research institutions now part of the Clinical and Translational Science Award.

Marshall will benefit with access to expertise and research networks at UK's Center for Clinical and Translational Science and have opportunities to apply for research grants accessible only through the Clinical and Translational Science Award network.

The work will be enabled by Marshall's new Translational Genomic Research Institute that is being built as part of the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center. The institute is expected to open by the end of June.

"Marshall has significant strength in cancer and gene sequencing, and there is considerable potential for research synergy with UK's Markey Cancer Center," Kern said.

This isn't the first collaboration with the University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science. In April, Marshall was among four higher education institutions to jointly participate the first Appalachian Health Summit, held in Lexington.