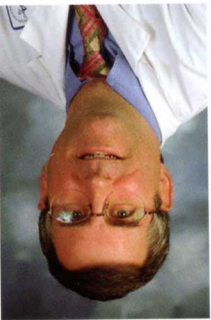


Saving Your Breath

Experts at UMKC's Asthma Clinical Research Center are collaborating to find new research outcomes and better treatments for asthma sufferers.



Gary Salzman

parted in research studies conducted by the Asthma Clinical Research Center (ACRC), sponsored by the

American Lung Association (ALA) and in collaboration with Truman Medical Center and Children's Mercy Hospital. One of only 20 asthma clinical research centers nationwide, UMKC is part of a research network that includes Duke University Medical Center and Washington University School of Medicine. The network is the largest of its kind, conducting clinical trials on a large number of subjects to provide information important to the health care of asthma patients.

A Lifelong Mission

UMKC first began the ACRC in 1999 after receiving a \$750,000 five-year grant from the American Lung Association. UMKC received the designation primarily because of the research of Gary Salzman (M.D., '80), professor of medicine and director of the ACRC.

When Linda Gregory ordered tickets to see a concert, her first consideration wasn't how close she'd be to the stage, it was how close she'd be to an aisle.

"When you have asthma, you think differently in social situations," she says. "Will I have my rescue medication? Is the place going to have an accessible area where I can leave?"

Gregory, who at 51 has had asthma for 15 years, says that she has to be very careful of her surroundings. Smoke or other strong odors can trigger an attack of wheezing, coughing and shortness of breath.

When Gregory saw an advertisement for an asthma trial conducted by the Asthma Clinical Research Center at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, she called to volunteer.

"A research study is a good way for people like myself to get care for their asthma and to also feel like they're doing something helpful," she says. Gregory is one of about 200 Kansas City asthma patients who have partici-



