FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2018

KU School of Medicine-Wichita receives $1 million endowment from Virendra and Urvashi Patel

Scholarship to support students interested in practicing in southeast Kansas

WICHITA, KAN. – The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W) has received a gift of $1 million to establish a scholarship for medical students. The Virendra C. Patel, M.D., and Urvashi V. Patel Scholarship, through KU Endowment, will give preference to KUSM-W students who are from or interested practicing in southeast Kansas.

The Patel family made the gift in recognition of the long association that their family has with medicine in southeast Kansas. Virendra Patel is an established orthopaedic surgeon who maintained a successful practice in Independence, Kansas, for more than 30 years after immigrating to the United States from India. His son, Om, has followed in his footsteps and is a fourth-year resident in KUSM-W’s Orthopaedic Surgery Program.

“We are very thankful for the generous support of Dr. and Mrs. Patel in endowing the Virendra C. Patel, M.D., and Urvashi V. Patel Scholarship at KU School of Medicine-Wichita,” said Garold Minns, M.D., dean of KUSM-W. “Given the cost of medical education, scholarship support is very critical for our students, especially those interested in primary care or rural medicine. Dr. Patel has been a steadfast health care provider in southeast Kansas, and we believe the Patel scholarship will help us continue to provide future generations of physicians for the region and our state.”
“My hope is for this endowment to encourage aspiring physicians in rural Kansas to achieve their dreams,” said Patel. “Practicing medicine and living in a small community has been so rewarding for me and my family and I want medical students in Kansas to understand the opportunities that rural and community medicine can provide, and know that they can achieve their dreams in smaller communities.”

The Patel scholarship is slated to be awarded in spring 2019. KUSM-W students will be able to apply through the Student Financial Aid Office.

The Patels now reside in Dallas, where Patel practices at Comprehensive Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation in Richardson, Texas.

###

The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita educates tomorrow’s physicians and health care leaders through community partnership to improve the health of Kansans. We doctor Kansas.

KU Endowment is the independent, nonprofit organization serving as the official fundraising and fund-management organization for KU. Founded in 1891, KU Endowment was the first foundation of its kind at a U.S. public university.