

Research & Graduate Studies @ KU

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[Past Issues](#)

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December 2012

In this issue...

- 1 [Kristi Billinger Succeeds Nick Stevens as Assistant Vice Chancellor for RGS](#)
- 1 [Applications Sought by January 2 for New Proof of Concept Fund](#)
- 2 [December 13 Thursday Research Topics Focuses on Greenphire Cards](#)
- 2 [Final 2012-13 Strategic Initiative Grants Deadline is February 15](#)
- 2 [Standard Mileage Rate Increases](#)
- 3 [\\$750 Research Development Travel Fund Encourages Proposals](#)
- 3 [KU Network Explores "Professional Pursuits for Ph.D.'s" Each Month](#)
- 4 [Information on the NIH Research Performance Progress Report](#)
- 5 [New Human Subjects Protection Training Being Implemented](#)
- 5 [RGS Strategic Plan is Online](#)
- 5 [KU Veterans Day Run Raises \\$3,000](#)
- 6 [Karla Williams to Direct KU's Initial Shared Service Center](#)
- 6 [PhRMA Foundation Grant Program](#)
- 6 [MRIGlobal Honors Zidong Donna Fu](#)
- 7 [43 Complete "RA-101" Training](#)
- 7 [KUCR Elects New Board Members](#)
- 8 [United Way Research Chili Champ](#)
- 8 [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



Kristi Billinger Succeeds Nick Stevens as Assistant Vice Chancellor for RGS



Nick Stevens, assistant vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, is leaving that position in January to join the KU team that is working to implement the Shared Service Centers concept on the Lawrence Campus. He joined RGS in 2006 and progressed to his current position earlier this year.

Launching the Shared Service Centers is a critical component of the overall Changing for Excellence initiative. Stevens is the research administration goal leader for that initiative and will now be able to devote all his energy and project management skills to that high-profile university priority. "There is no one on campus better positioned to take on this assignment," said Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. "I am confident of his continued success in this new role."

Nick's successor as assistant vice chancellor is Kristi Billinger, associate director for finance and administration at the Life Span Institute. She will begin her new duties on January 7 and will oversee the Research Administration units (Pre-Award Services, Contract Negotiations), Post-Award Services, and Research Information Systems.

Billinger was assistant manager of Pre-Award Services for more than 12 years prior to joining LSI in 2010. Before that, she was an investment accountant for Investors Fiduciary Trust Company in Kansas City.

New \$200,000 Proof of Concept Fund to Support Commercialization of KU Research

KU has announced a new fund to support KU research projects that are near the commercialization stage and have the potential to become marketplace solutions in the near future.

The new Proof of Concept (POC) Fund will provide funding to mature KU research projects for one year to make the technologies more attractive for private investment, ideally within 12 months of being awarded funding. The fund will support projects in all areas of technology – including electronics, software, communications and engineering – that aren't eligible for proof-of-concept funding through KU's Institute for Advancing Medical Innovations (IAMI).

The POC Fund will award a total of \$200,000 in funding this year. Applicants may apply for up to \$50,000 per proposal.

“This new POC Fund will support KU inventions that are close to attracting industry investment,” said Julie Goonewardene, associate vice chancellor for innovation and entrepreneurship and president of the KU Center for Technology Commercialization. “In other words, this fund will help our most high-potential technologies cross the finish line in terms of being attractive to industry investors in the immediate future. So the key criterion here is the potential for commercial success. We look forward to reviewing some outstanding applications from KU researchers in various disciplines.” POC Fund applicants must clearly indicate the economic potential of their technology. Additionally, applicants must identify companies that would be suitable partners to develop a resulting commercial product. Preference will be given to applications that have a monetary or in-kind match from industry partners.

The application deadline is January 2. Award notifications will be made in February 2013. Proposals will be judged by a panel of KUCTC staff and outside consultants. Details and the [POC Fund application](#) are available at the Funding Opportunities site: <http://www.rgs.ku.edu/funding/>.

Entrepreneurship and commercialization continue to be key components of KU’s strategic plan, Bold Aspirations. Since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2011, KU has filed more than 185 patents, executed 18 license agreements with industry partners and created seven startup companies.

“Part of KU’s mission is to make discoveries that change the world, and that includes working to commercialize those discoveries into real-world solutions,” Goonewardene said. “This new POC Fund is the latest example of our efforts to do that.”

Training: December 13 Presentation Focuses on Greenphire Payment Cards



The December 13 Research and Graduate Studies *Thursday Research Topics* will be on “Using the Greenphire System for Processing Research Participant Payments.” The program is scheduled from 11:10 a.m. to noon at the Simons Laboratories Auditorium on West Campus. Greenphire was featured in a [KU news release last year](#). All *Thursday Research Topics* programs are recorded and made available on Blackboard for those who are not able to attend in person. These presentations are open to anyone with an interest in the topic, including KU researchers.

February 15 is Deadline for Final Cycle of Strategic Initiative Grant Proposals

Last spring, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jeff Vitter announced the creation of a [Strategic Initiative Grant program](#). He also established the [Research Investment Council](#) to evaluate Level I grant proposals and recommend action.

The first cycle of Level I recipients was announced in August. The second cycle of proposals is currently under final review. **The deadline for the third and final cycle of the academic year is 5 p.m. on Friday, February 15, 2013.**

Under the program, Level II proposals involve smaller amounts of money than Level I proposals, and can be submitted at any time for an immediate review and decision by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Online application forms for both Level I and Level II proposals are available at <http://www.provost.ku.edu/sit-grant-program>.

Standard Mileage Rate to Increase in 2013

The IRS has increased the standard mileage rate for business to 56.5 cents per mile. Please begin using the new rate effective January 1, 2013 for KUCR-related travel. If you need assistance, please contact RGSAccounting@ku.edu.

Reminder: KU Research Development Travel Fund Provides \$750 per Year

Off-campus travel for face-to-face meetings with potential funding agency officials can lead to future success in obtaining grants. For many years, the Research and Graduate Studies has encouraged and supported such meetings by providing up to \$750 for an annual research development trip by any eligible faculty or staff member. The chief requirement is that the researcher must have a scheduled, focused meeting with one or more program officers to discuss the possibility of funding for a future sponsored project.

While most such trips are to and from Washington, D.C., the \$750 can also be used to meet with foundation officials wherever they are located. The funding does not apply to trips to professional meetings that potential sponsoring program officials might attend. Note that the Travel of Research Investigators to Potential Sponsors (TRIPS) program has been discontinued. The KU Research Development Travel Fund is more flexible and cost-effective, allowing for overnight travel and travel to locations other than Washington.

To apply for a grant of up to \$750, complete and submit the fillable online Faculty/Staff Research Development Travel Fund form at <http://www.rgs.ku.edu/funding/travel-fund.shtml>. The form can also be used to request a cash travel advance, and will be used to report the results of the trip within 60 days of your return (along with the Travel Expense Report and appropriate receipts). Applications must be reviewed and approved by RGS before arrangements are finalized for a trip.

Applications can be mailed, e-mailed as a PDF, faxed, or delivered to: Michelle Ginavan Hayes, 147 Youngberg Hall, 2385 Irving Hill Road, Lawrence, KS 66045-7568, mginavan@ku.edu, FAX (785) 864-8128, phone (785) 864-7688.

New KU Network Explores “Professional Pursuits for Ph.D.’s”

Many KU staff members hold Ph.D. degrees and use their doctoral training in a range of alternative positions in higher education. While their work falls into many categories, they all share the experience of obtaining the Ph.D.

A new informal network has been created to give these staff members a chance to discuss opportunities and challenges unique to their career paths. Goals of the network include:

- Support each other while balancing administrative work with research and/or teaching;
- Share information about the variety of career paths open to those with doctoral training; and
- Partner with KU faculty members to offer their graduate students a broader view of career possibilities after the Ph.D.

The network plans to hold brown bag luncheon discussions on the second Friday of each month, starting Friday, December 14. Discussions will take place at 421 Anschutz Library from noon to 1 p.m. General topics include:

- How to use advanced academic training to develop the full potential of our roles within the university community;
- How to make time and secure resources for continued scholarly research; and
- How to translate our career paths for others to highlight the creativity and intellectual challenges that our work entails.

KU staff members who hold a Ph.D. degree are invited to join the monthly brown bag lunches. To join the information distribution list, contact Kristine Latta, director of the Office of Graduate Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at klatta@ku.edu. Inquiries are also welcome from interested faculty, graduate students, and postdocs.

NIH Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)

The National Institutes of Health has announced that the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) for most Streamlined Non-competing Award Process (SNAP) and Fellowship awards is now available for use in submitting non-competing proposals to NIH.

The use of the RPPR is not yet required and grantees may continue to use eSNAP or paper submissions as appropriate. A full list of activity codes for which grantees may submit RPPRs at this time can be found on the NIH RPPR webpage at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/>. NIH expects to require use of the RPPR for most SNAP awards and Fellowships in the spring of 2013.

Grantees must determine which format they will use (RPPR or eSNAP) before starting the process in the eRA Commons. Once a progress report has been initiated as either an RPPR or an eSNAP, the only way to change the progress report format is with the assistance of the eRA Help Desk (switching may take eRA up to two business days).

Standard deadlines for progress reports still apply (six weeks before the end of the current year for SNAPs and two months before the end of the current year for Fellowships).

A full list of activity codes grantees can use to submit RPPRs (as of October 19, 2012) appears below:

Activity Codes	
R01-like SNAPs	D71, DP1, DP5, G08, G11, G13, P40, R00, R01, R03, R18, R21, R33, R34, R36, R37, R56, RC1, RC2, RL1, S10, S21, S22, SC1, SC2, SC3, UB1, UC2, UH1, UH2, UH3, UP5, P01, P20, P30, P40, P41, P50, PL1, R24, S11, U01, U10, U19, U24, U34, U54
Individual K SNAPs	K01, K02, K05, K06, K07, K08, K18, K22, K23, K24, K25, K26, K99, KL1
Education SNAPs	D43, K30, R13, R25, RL5, T14, T36, U13, U2R
Fellowships	F05, F30, F31, F32, F33, F34, F37
SBIR/STTR SNAPs	R41, R42, R43, R44, U43, U44

Similarities and Differences between RPPR and eSNAP

The RPPR and eSNAP modules have a number of *similarities*:

- Where possible, information is pre-populated from NIH systems for the grantee, including PD/PI information, grant number, project title and period, performance sites, and personnel.
- Publications in PD/PI's MyNCBI account will be displayed for easy association with the progress report.

The RPPR and eSNAP have some *differences*:

- The RPPR will have separate screens for each of the following reporting components:
 - Cover Page
 - Accomplishments
 - Products
 - Participants
 - Impact
 - Changes
 - Special [agency specific] Reporting Requirements
 - Budget [applicable only for non-SNAP awards]

- The format of the report will be new. Users will answer questions by using a checkbox, entering text or uploading a PDF, or selecting “Nothing to Report.”
- New information to be provided by grantees through the RPPR includes:
 - Foreign component information
 - Dollars spent in foreign countries, including subawards
 - Organizational affiliation of personnel at foreign sites
- Effort on All Personnel report will be rounded to nearest whole person month.
- Other features of the RPPR include:
 - Specific location to report on competitive revisions/administrative supplements associated with the award.
 - Public Access compliance status will be displayed
 - Other support will only be required if there has been a change
 - Notice of Award link

More information is at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/>, and an instruction guide is at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/rppr_instruction_guide.pdf.

New Human Subjects Protection Training Being Implemented

The **Human Subjects Committee – Lawrence Campus (HSCL)** is implementing a new human subjects protection training program. The Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative, or CITI, will provide all KU researchers and associates with access to expertly updated human subjects training. This program will take the place of the existing tutorial, starting in January 2013. The HSCL encourages KU researchers to try out the new training modules, even though training in CITI won’t be required until a researcher’s three-year certification on the existing system has expired. CITI benefits include modules in other languages, such as Spanish and Chinese. Users will also have access to their own accounts for accessibility and portability. Check the HSCL site, <http://www.rcr.ku.edu/~rcr/hscl/index.shtml>, for more information in the coming weeks.

Research and Graduate Studies Strategic Plan Available Online

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies Strategic Plan addresses goals in five principal areas: Increase the Impact of Faculty Research and Creative Activity; Increase the Efficiency and Effectiveness of RGS Support Services; Improve Doctoral Research and Education, Recruitment, Time-to-Degree, and Completion; Characterize and Address Major Research Infrastructure Needs; and Engage Businesses Across the Research and Translation Continuum. The plan is available at http://www.rgs.ku.edu/-downloads/RGS_Strategic_Plan091112.pdf. Comments are welcome at rgs@ku.edu.

KU Veterans Day Run Raised Money for Veterans Scholarships

The KU Veterans Alumni Chapter, the Collegiate Veterans Association, and the Office of Graduate Military Programs sponsored a run on Veterans Day that involved nearly 300 faculty, staff, and students. The raised more than \$3,000 for veterans scholarships. *(Photo courtesy Bill Steele, Graduate Military Programs)*



First Director Named for Liberal Arts and Sciences Shared Service Center



Karla K. Williams, director of financial operations and human resources in the School of Business since 2006, has been named director of KU's initial Shared Service Center, effective December 26. The center will meet the human resources, financial, and research administration needs of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Institute for Policy and Social Research, and the Hall Center for Humanities. More information about Shared Service Centers, one of the outcomes of KU's *Changing for Excellence* initiative, is at <http://cfe.ku.edu/ssc/>. According to Jason Hornberger, assistant vice provost for business operations, "Karla's 23-year tenure with the university, as well as her knowledge of finance and human resources and her focus on meeting the needs of faculty and staff in the School of Business, led the search committee to identify her as the top candidate among a very strong pool of KU candidates."

PhRMA Foundation Grant Program in Translational Medicine and Therapeutics

The **PhRMA Foundation** has established a new program to support scientists in the field of translational medicine and therapeutics (TMT). By distributing annual funds of up to \$350,000 through research starter grants and postdoctoral fellowships, the program aims to build a cadre of highly trained and qualified TMT investigators.

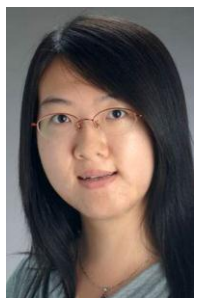
TMT focuses on improving health care and medicine by bridging basic and clinical research. The science links clinical need to basic research and the resulting novel discoveries to therapeutic outcomes, addressing patients' needs in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and advancing development of medical therapies worldwide.

Working collaboratively to translate clinical need into research and research findings into treatments, scientists often gain deeper insight into the biological mechanisms they investigate. The TMT grant program supports training and career development for individuals engaged in such research. To this end, the PhRMA Foundation has identified program priorities for the short and long term: support individual grants for early-career academics, and invite potential partners and stakeholders to participate in additional funding for centers of excellence in TMT.

Postdoctoral awards will be offered for a period of two years, with the second year contingent on progress in the first-year activities. Research Starter Grants (\$100,000 for a one-year period) will support the work of academic scientists as they begin careers in TMT. Postdoctoral Fellowships (\$60,000 annual stipend) will support graduates with doctoral degrees who seek to expand and refine their training in TMT.

Applications must be received by February 1, 2013. Funding will begin July 1, 2013. Grant recipients will be notified in May. More information, and online applications after January 2, can be found at <http://www.phrmafoundation.org/>.

MRIGlobal Awards Travel Grant to KUMC Doctoral Student



Zidong Donna Fu, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Therapeutics at the KU Medical Center, is the recipient of a travel grant from Kansas City-based **MRIGlobal** to attend the prestigious annual Society of Toxicology Conference. Fu will present her research on the regulation of xenobiotic metabolizing genes by calorie restriction as an MRIGlobal-sponsored scholar.

The announcement was made at the Central States Regional Chapter of Society of Toxicology meeting, held at Kansas State University in October. The travel award competition was open to women or underrepresented minority student members of the chapter. The title of Fu's talk was "Calorie Restriction Feminizes the Hepatic Expression of Drug Metabolizing Enzymes and Transporters in Mice."

The Society of Toxicology Conference will be held in San Antonio next March. It is the world's largest forum to showcase discoveries and achievements in toxicology research. More than 7,500 scientists from academia, government, and industry participate in lectures, training, and scientific sessions. At the conference, Fu will be introduced at a special Organization of Toxicologists event by Robert Casillas, MRIGlobal's vice president of strategic global health and security.

43 Complete “Research Administration 101” Training in November



Congratulations to the 43 KU staff members, including 11 from the Medical Center, Wichita, and Parsons campuses, who attended at least 8 of the 10 sessions offered this fall and received graduation certificates. Some of the Lawrence graduates are shown above following the final session on November 14. This was the first year “RA-101” was provided remotely using distance learning technology. All of the 2012 graduates are listed below.

Brenda Barski	RGS Accounting	Ken Schmidt	RGS Post-Award Services
Sara Crangle	RGS Post-Award Services	Jessica Small	RGS Pre-Award Services
Jenny Ding	Bioengineering Research Center	Sara Spencer	Center for Research on Learning
Sylvia Dupuis	RGS Post-Award Services	Kathryn Stotts	RGS Pre-Award Services
Jeremy Fite	RGS Pre-Award Services	Sandra Studley	RGS Pre-Award Services
Christopher Griffith	RGS Research Integrity	Megan Todd	RGS Pre-Award Services
Kimberly Grunewald	General Counsel	Cynthia Walker	RGS Pre-Award Services
Jim Hammen	Mechanical Engineering	Kim Wittman	RGS Pre-Award Services
Jana Hare	Advanced Learning Technologies	Kara Wozniak	RGS Post-Award Services
Paula Hinman	Kansas Geological Survey	Jessie Yoon	Kansas African Studies Center
Kim Iles	RGS Research Integrity	Alyse Zadalis	Inst. for Policy & Social Research
Adrienne Landry	Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies	LaVonda Cash	KUMC-Wichita
Debbie Limones	Life Span Institute	Steve Fennel	KUMC
Crystal Lumpkins	Journalism and Mass Communications	April Fleming	LSI / Parsons
David Lytle	RGS Post-Award Services	Dianne Fleming	KUMC-Wichita
Debra Mitra	RGS Financial Services	Laura Hanigan	LSI / Parsons
Matt Quijas	Provost Business Services	Tamara McMahon	KUMC
Roxanne Rachlin	Social Welfare	Virginia Miller	KUMC-Wichita
Mary Ann Roesner	RGS Research Information Systems	Kristen Peterson	KUMC
Rachel Saalweachter	RGS Contract Negotiations	Tammy Schoenhofer	LSI / Parsons
John Schneiderwind	Hall Center for the Humanities	Don Warn	KUMC
		Rosey Zackula	KUMC-Wichita

KUCR Elects New Board Members at Annual Meeting

At the KU Center for Research, Inc., annual meeting on December 7, the following persons were elected to four-year terms on the Board of Trustees: Neeli Bendapudi, Dean, School of Business; Sam Campbell, President and Chairman, Crititech, Inc.; Cynthia Enright, Partner, iValuation; Joe Flannery, President, Weaver’s Department Store; Dan Flynn, President and CEO, Deciphera Pharmaceuticals; Neal Kingston, Professor, Psychology and Research in Education; Susan Lunte, Distinguished Professor, Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry; Greg Williams, President and CEO, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce; and Judy Wu, Distinguished Professor, Physics and Astronomy. Wayne Carter, President and CEO, Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, Inc., was elected to complete a one-year term. Trustees completing their service included KU faculty members Gary Minden, Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Joane Nagel, Professor, Sociology; and Paulette Spencer, Distinguished Professor, Mechanical Engineering.

Judy Wu made the annual faculty research presentation on the topic “Playing Electrons and Photons at Nanoscale.” The meeting was hosted by the School of Engineering in the Spahr Classroom at Eaton Hall. A reception and tour followed at the new Measurement, Materials & Sustainable Environment Center (M2SEC).



United Way Research Chili Champ Crowned

Rhonda McGuire of the Higuchi Biosciences Center, shown at left with Steve Warren, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, came out on top at the finals of the research centers United Way chili recipe contest, held November 19 at the School of Pharmacy. The preliminary and final cook-offs raised funds for the KU United Way campaign. Support **United Way** at <http://unitedwaydgco.org/index.html>.

Upcoming Events

News of interest to the research community. Additional details are available at the [KU Calendar](#).

December 13

Thursday Research Topics: "Using the Greenphire Process to Pay Human Research Participants via Debit Card"

11:10 a.m. – Noon

Auditorium, Simons Research Labs

December 14

Nomination Deadline: University Scholarly Achievement Award

Brown Bag: Professional Pursuits for Ph.D.'s

Noon – 1 p.m.

421 Anschutz Library

December 17

Bold Aspirations Visitor and Lecture Series: Wim Jiskoot
"Unwanted Immunogenicity of Therapeutic Proteins"

11 a.m.

2020 School of Pharmacy Building

University Distinguished Professor Lecture: Ann Cudd
"Justice and Freedom: A Cooperative Venture for Mutual Advantage"

5:30 p.m.

Kansas Union, Big 12 Room

January 2

Application Deadline: KU Proof of Concept Fund

January 29

Nomination Deadline: Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Award

February 12

Dedication: Biodiversity Institute Renovation Project

February 15

Application Deadline: Strategic Initiative Grants, Level I

February 21

Dedication: Advanced Computing Facility Project



Best Wishes for a Safe and Enjoyable Semester Break

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