

In this issue...

- 1 Rodolfo Torres Named Associate Vice Chancellor in RGS
- 1 Reminder: Timely Filing of Grant Progress Reports is Required
- 2 Congratulations: KU Cancer Center Achieves NCI Designation in July
- 2 Graduate Studies to Host Series of Workshops for Fellowship Seekers
- 2 Poet Nikky Finney Opens Humanities Lecture Series September 6
- 3 New KU Conflict of Interest Policy Nears Implementation
- 3 Training: "Research Administration 101" Begins September 12
- 4 KU Entrepreneurship "Boot Camp" Offers Introduction for Researchers
- 4 Training: Next NCURA Video Workshop Coming in September
- 4 Training: OMB Circulars A-21, A-110
- 5 October 15 is Deadline for Next Cycle of Strategic Initiative Proposals
- 5 Availability and Benefits of KU IT Research File Storage
- 5 KCALSI Patton Trust Grants Go to Two KUMC Researchers Institute
- 6 KCALSI Animal Health Symposium
- 6 Sigma Xi is Organizing a Postdoctoral Researcher Colloquium in October
- 7 UPCOMING EVENTS



Rodolfo Torres Named Associate Vice Chancellor

Rodolfo Torres, professor of mathematics at the University of Kansas, assumes new duties this month as an associate vice chancellor for research and graduate studies and a vice president of the KU Center for Research, Inc.



The associate vice chancellor shares in the oversight of research administration, strategic planning and other research-related responsibilities at the Lawrence campus. Joseph Heppert also serves as an associate vice chancellor, as does Julie Goonewardene. All three report to Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies.

"Rodolfo has a broad perspective of the university and a deep appreciation of its research mission," said Warren.

"Much of his own research is collaborative, involving colleagues from different fields and other countries. On campus, he is widely recognized as a faculty leader who understands complex issues and listens to a variety of viewpoints. I look forward to working with him."

Torres succeeds Joshua Rosenbloom, professor of economics, who is currently on leave from KU as a visiting program director with the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Torres joined the KU faculty in 1996 following visiting appointments at Washington University in St. Louis, the Courant Institute at New York University, and the University of Michigan. He became a full professor in 2003. Torres is the recipient of 15 grants from the National Science Foundation since 1993 in support of research, conferences, equipment and international collaborations. He has also received six teaching awards at KU, including a Kemper Excellence in Teaching Award in 2003. He served the past five years in university governance roles, including his final year as president of the Faculty Senate.

Torres' academic background includes an undergraduate degree from the Universidad Nacional de Rosario in Argentina and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, all in mathematics.

Timely Filing of Grant Progress Reports Required

Research and Graduate Studies has seen an increase in the number of notifications from federal agencies related to delinquent progress reports, project outcome reports, etc. In addition, agencies are showing less tolerance for late or missing reports. RGS recently started reminding principal investigators when these reports are due. Timely filing of progress reports is an award requirement and delays in filing may affect future funding.

Congratulations to University of Kansas Cancer Center on NCI Designation



Celebrating the long-anticipated [announcement](#) July 12 were Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little; Roy Jensen, director of the KU Cancer Center; and Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services. Congratulations to everyone on the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses involved in the multi-year effort that led to this milestone for KU. (KC Star photo)

Office of Graduate Studies to Hold Fellowship Workshops in Early September

Advance registration is required for each of the following, using the links below.

- **[Ford Foundation Fellowship Workshop](#)**
Ford Foundation Predoctoral, Dissertation, or Postdoctoral Fellowship
September 10, Noon – 1 p.m., Alcove G, Kansas Union
- **[National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Workshop](#)**
NSF Predoctoral Fellowship
September 11, Noon – 1 p.m., Centennial Room, Kansas Union
- **[National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants Workshop](#)**
NSF dissertation improvement grants from the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, & Economic Sciences or Biological Sciences
September 12, Noon – 1 p.m., Centennial Room, Kansas Union
- **[National Institutes of Health F31 & F32 Fellowship Workshop](#)**
NIH National Research Service Award F31 (Predoctoral) or F32 (Postdoctoral) Fellowship
September 13, Noon – 1 p.m., Centennial Room, Kansas Union

Humanities Lecture Series Opens September 6 with Author Nikky Finney



Award-winning poet and teacher Nikky Finney will be the first Hall Center for the Humanities Lecture Series speaker on Thursday, September 6, at 7:30 p.m. in Woodruff Auditorium at the Kansas Union. The title of her talk is "Making Poetry in our Anthropocene Age."

The Anthropocene is a term coined to suggest that humans now act as a geophysical force changing the climate of the planet, and ushering in a new geological period. What is the damage done to the earth's ecosystems that might concern a contemporary poet? How does the Anthropocene ultimately matter to our human intersections with each other, the natural world, art, and culture? Finney, a child of activists, came of age during the civil rights and Black Arts movement, and became fascinated by the powerful synergy between creativity and history.

Finney received the National Book Award for poetry in 2011 for *Head Off & Split*. Other books include *The World is Round*, *Heartwood*, and *On Wings Made of Gauze*. In 2007 she edited *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South*. She is a Provost's Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Kentucky and a professor of English and creative writing.

New KU Conflict of Interest Reporting System Nears Implementation

KU faculty and unclassified staff submit a financial conflict of interest report each year. The report is required by the Kansas Board of Regents and KU policy and is intended to ensure any real or potential conflicts with university responsibilities are disclosed and managed. This year, some dramatic changes to the reporting system are being implemented and it's important you be ready to respond promptly.

First, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued new rules in 2011 ("Promoting Objectivity in Research") that immediately affect investigators on currently funded or proposed projects sponsored by a federal agency that has adopted new Public Health Service (PHS) regulations. Researchers who are subject to these regulations were notified over the summer of three procedural changes that apply to them specifically:

- **Defining an Investigator:** Principal investigators on a PHS-compliant project must identify all persons contributing to the project who meet this definition of an investigator:
 - "The project director or PI and any other person, regardless of title or position, who is responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of research funded by the PHS, or proposed for such funding, which may include, for example, persons who are subgrantees, contractors, consortium participants, collaborators, or consultants."
- **Training:** The new regulations take effect August 24, 2012. To prevent the withholding of award funds, every investigator on a PHS-compliant project must have completed an online KU tutorial prior to release of funds for new awards, competitive renewals, or non-competitive renewals. Successful completion of the 45-minute tutorial is good for four years. PIs, Co-Is, and key personnel of affected projects were sent a link to the tutorial on August 1.
- **Research Certification of Financial Interests:** All investigators on a PHS-compliant project will submit a special conflict of interest certification prior to the submission of the proposal or prior to the availability of funds for pending or renewing awards. This first certification may take more time because it will be a complete new baseline filing in the new reporting format. Subsequent certifications, including the annual certification in September, will be quick and easy if all disclosures are up-to-date.

A new bi-campus [KU Individual Conflict of Interest Policy](#) covering these federal regulations is now posted and available for review, with an effective date of August 24. Procedures to implement the policy on each KU campus are being written and will also be posted.

Second, starting in mid-September, all KU faculty and unclassified staff will be asked to submit their annual conflict of interest report. Turnaround is required within 30 days. This will be a complete new baseline filing, with no option to "confirm no changes." The new system being introduced this year uses a form similar to the one required for PHS-compliant projects (and investigators who've already been certified will only need to confirm that the form is up-to-date). Again, completing the form may take more time initially but subsequent years will be easier. To aid in the process, the Research Integrity office anticipates holding help sessions for faculty and unclassified staff in September at the Budig Instruction Lab.

There will be a learning curve for everyone at KU (and other universities around the country) as the new conflict of interest regulations and policy take effect. Every effort has been made to create a smooth transition with the least amount of burden on researchers and others. Questions and concerns about the new system can be directed to Diane Etzel-Wise, coi@ku.edu, 864-7429, or Susan MacNally, sumac@ku.edu, 864-4148, at the Lawrence campus.

Training: "Research Administration 101" Begins September 12

Each fall, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies offers a free, 10-week, 20-hour course on research administration, "RA 101," to interested members of the KU community. This year's edition will begin on Wednesday, September 12, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. and continue on consecutive Wednesdays through November 14 in the Apollo Room at Nichols Hall. A [detailed schedule](#) is now online at the KU Calendar for each of the 10 dates. For more information, contact Bill Sharp, assistant director of research administration, at (785) 864-7430 or wsharp@ku.edu.

KU Entrepreneurship “Boot Camp” Offers Introduction for Researchers

The KU Center for Technology Commercialization will hold a first-ever “boot camp” on Tuesday, October 9, an all-day event designed to introduce key aspects of entrepreneurship to faculty, staff, graduate students, and postdocs at the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses. The program is free, and is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oread Hotel in Lawrence. Registration is required, lunch is provided, and a reception will follow.

Sessions will be led by nationally recognized experts with Silicon Valley experience. There will also be opportunities for individual coaching by the presenters, based on a short business proposal you can submit in advance. Proposals submitted by September 25 will be reviewed at the boot camp. If you would like to continue pursuing a startup company, you can compete to present your proposal to a group of investors in Silicon Valley in May.

Online registration for the KU Entrepreneurship Boot Camp is now available at the [web site](#), along with the [preliminary agenda](#). Enrollment is limited. For more information, email [KUCTC](#) or phone (785) 864-7189.

Training: Next NCURA Video Workshop Coming in September

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies offers research-related video workshops on a regular basis during the year. The National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) produces the programs on a variety of relevant topics and RGS offers them to the campus at no charge.

The next NCURA video workshop will be shown Thursday, September 13 from 1-4:30 p.m. at the auditorium in the Simons Research Labs on the West Campus Research Circle. The topic is “Export Controls and Other Security Concerns.” It will cover these timely topics as they apply to research, addressing export control and its applicability in the everyday life of the pre-award research administrator (proposal review, award negotiations), department administrator (field research trips, foreign travel, shipments), and faculty members (conferences, meetings, sharing of data, etc.).

The session will also include a discussion of other national security issues, e.g., security plans or access to classified information, that may arise in contract negotiations. How to start from the very basics in building an internal export control management plan will be included. New federal export control reform initiatives and their effect on universities will also be discussed.

Moderator for the September 13 NCURA video workshop will be Randall Draper, director of the Office of Contracts and Grants at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He will be joined by panelists Elizabeth Peloso, director of export compliance at the University of Pennsylvania; Lisa Mosley, director of research advancement at Arizona State University; and Ajay Kuntamukkala, partner, Hogan Lovells.

Training: Familiarity with OMB Circulars A-21 and A-110

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars A-21 and A-110 provide the overarching regulatory framework under which federal agencies make financial awards to universities such as KU to sponsor research and educational projects. Joanne Altieri, director of research administration at Research and Graduate Studies, will lead a two-session workshop designed to familiarize KU employees involved in the administration of externally sponsored projects with these vital documents. The workshops do not presume prior familiarity with the circulars but will go into some detail. Recipients will receive personal copies of both OMB circulars for future reference. Dates and topics are:

August 29: A-21 “Cost Principles for Educational Institutions”

September 5: A-110 “Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education: Uniform Administrative Requirements”

Both sessions will be held from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Simons Research Labs Auditorium at the Higuchi Biosciences Center on West Campus. Attendees must register in advance by sending an email to resadmin-events@ku.edu. (Since enrollment is limited, attendees should indicate if they are not able to attend both sessions.) If you are interested in this training but cannot attend one of these sessions, there will be future opportunities in spring 2013.

October 15 is Deadline for Next Cycle of Strategic Initiative Grant Proposals

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jeff Vitter announced the creation of a [Strategic Initiative Grant program](#) last spring. He also established the [Research Investment Council](#) to evaluate the grant proposals and recommend action. The first cycle of Level I proposals, which had a June 15 deadline, are currently under final review. The deadline for the second cycle is 5 p.m. on Monday, October 15. The deadline for the third and final cycle of the 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. They can be submitted at any time for an immediate review and decision by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

Availability and Benefits of KU IT Research File Storage

KU Information Technology and the Office of Research and Graduate Studies have partnered to offer a new central storage solution designed specifically for research data. Principal investigators, core lab directors, and unit managers can request up to 250 GB of storage for their research data at no charge. Additional storage is available for a nominal fee.

Two tiers of Research File Storage are available:

- **Primary Research Storage** is intended to house the primary copy of research data, and is back up nightly to tape and stored off site.
- **Secondary Research Storage** is intended for data that already exists on a primary source elsewhere. It is offered as a back-up service for departmentally housed data and is not backed up to tape or stored off site.

Customers can access stored data from within the KU network or remotely via the KU Anywhere virtual private network, whether at home, across the country, or around the world. In addition, data storage experts monitor the performance, capacity, and accessibility of the Research File Storage system continuously and are on-call to resolve issues should any arise. Research File Storage services and systems feature robust security protocols to meet stringent state, federal, and individual grant requirements for protecting data.

For more information, visit the [Research File Storage](#) page on the KU IT web site. Questions can be directed to the KU IT Customer Service Center at 864-8080, itcsc@ku.edu.

Two KUMC Faculty Receive Patton Trust Research Development Grants



The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI) recently awarded three \$50,000 Patton Trust Research Development Grants, which provide funding to promising research programs exploring the genetic basis of diseases affecting children. The grants help to assist researchers' work in gathering key data that

better positions the research programs to compete for significantly larger federally funded grants. Two of the new recipients are faculty at the KU Medical Center:

- **Timothy Fields, Associate Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.** Fields' research team is exploring treatments for polycystic kidney disease, one of the most common potentially fatal genetic disorders for which no specific treatments are available. The mortality rate of infants born with this kidney disease is alarmingly high. Approximately 30 percent of the infants who survive the neonatal period will die from the disease before adulthood.
- **Brian Petroff, associate professor, Internal Medicine.** Petroff's research team is exploring a recent discovery that a commonly used drug, tamoxifen, could potentially decrease birth defects. The theory being tested is that tamoxifen can improve the DNA quality of women who are considered high-risk due to age and chemotherapy treatments. The drug could potentially decrease birth defects by improving or repairing DNA damage in both eggs and embryos.

The third recipient was Stephen Kingsmore, director of the Center for Pediatric Genomic Medicine at Children's Mercy Hospital & Clinics. KCALSI has provided the scientific expertise to screen the grant applications funded by the Paul Patton Charitable Trust funds since 2007.

KCALSI Animal Health Research Symposium is August 27



The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute and the KC Animal Health Corridor, in cooperation with the veterinary schools of the University of Missouri and Kansas State University to offer a symposium on "Accelerating Innovation to Commercialization." The event is scheduled for Monday, August 27, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Kansas City (MO) Convention Center. Keynote speakers are Guy Palmer, Regents Professor of Pathology and Infectious Diseases and Creighton Chair and director of the Paul G.

Allen School for Global Animal Health at Washington State University, and James Cook, professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Palmer will speak on "The River That Runs Both Ways: Global Innovation in Animal Health," and Cook will speak on "Innovation in Orthopaedics – Building Bridges from Bench to Bedside . . . and the Kennel." Registration information and a full agenda are online at the [KCALSI web site](#).

KU Postdoctoral Researcher Colloquium Being Organized by Sigma Xi

Sigma Xi, the global honorary science research society, is accepting abstracts from any KU postdoctoral researcher or fellow for its first annual KU Postdoctoral Researcher Colloquium on Friday, October 12, from 1-4 p.m. in the auditorium at the Simons Research Labs. The goal of the event is to provide a forum for postdoctoral researchers to share their work with a general audience and refine their presentation skills.

Speakers must submit a 300-word abstract by September 1 for talks that are 15-17 minutes in length, with 3-5 minutes for questions. Notification of acceptance will be made on September 15.

To submit an abstract, or for more information about the colloquium, contact Melinda Toumi, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Chemistry, at melindatoumi@gmail.com, 864-3896, or (785) 979-2477.

Upcoming Events

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

August 13

Jayhawk Welcome and Information Fair
for KU Graduate Students
1:30 – 3 p.m.
Ballroom, Kansas Union

August 29

OMB Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for
Educational Institutions"
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Simons Research Labs Auditorium

September 5

OMB Circular A110: "Grants and Agreements
with Institutions of Higher Education: Uniform
Administrative Requirements"
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Simons Research Labs Auditorium

September 6

Humanities Lecture Series: Nikky Finney
"Making Poetry in Our Anthropocene Age"
7:30 – 9 p.m.
Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

September 10

Ford Foundation Fellowship Workshop
Noon – 1 p.m.
Alcove G, Kansas Union

September 11

National Science Foundation Graduate Research
Fellowship Workshop
Noon – 1 p.m.
Centennial Room, Kansas Union

September 12 – November 14

Workshop: Research Administration 101
2:30 – 4:30 p.m. on Consecutive Wednesdays
Apollo Room, Nichols Hall

September 12

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation
Improvement Grants Workshop
Noon – 1 p.m.
Centennial Room, Kansas Union

September 13

NCURA Workshop Video: “Export Controls
and Other Security Concerns”
1 – 4:30 p.m.
Simons Research Labs Auditorium

September 13

National Institutes of Health F31 & F32 Fellowship
Workshop
Noon – 1 p.m.
Centennial Room, Kansas Union

October 4

Common Book: “Who, Then, is One’s Neighbor?”
Eula Biss, Author of *Notes from No Man’s Land*
5 p.m.
Ballroom, Kansas Union

October 9

KU Entrepreneurship Boot Camp
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
The Oread Hotel, Lawrence

October 12

Sigma Xi First Annual KU Postdoctoral
Researcher Colloquium
1 – 4 p.m.
Simons Research Labs Auditorium

October 15

Deadline: Strategic Initiative Grant Program
Level I Proposals
5 p.m.

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