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Internal Search Under Way for Successor to Joshua Rosenbloom as Associate Vice Chancellor



Joshua Rosenbloom, professor of economics and associate vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, is en route to Washington, D.C., this summer in a new role. In August, he begins a visiting stint as a program director with the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation. He expects to be in Washington for the next two years.

Rosenbloom will work with the Science of Science and Innovation Policy Program. He will assist with the creation, management and decision-making process of the peer review panels that examine and score grant proposals in this field. He also plans to continue his own research, exploring the partnership between universities and federal agencies in supporting the nation's innovation economy.

"This will give me an opportunity to see the grant-making process from the NSF perspective," said Rosenbloom, who has participated in four NSF-funded research projects at KU since 1998. "It also gives NSF a better understanding of what's happening at the campus level across the country. The experience will be good for me, helpful to NSF, and useful to KU after I return."

An internal search for his successor as associate vice chancellor is under way. The search is limited to full professors at the Lawrence campus. Information about the position is available at <https://jobs.ku.edu>, position number 00003617. The review of applications begins June 18.

Pharmacy Ranks Second in NIH Research Funding

For the second time in three years, the School of Pharmacy is ranked second in the nation in research funding from the National Institutes of Health. The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy reported that KU received more than \$22 million in NIH research funding in fiscal year 2011. The NIH is the primary source of federal funding for schools of pharmacy.

KU moved up two spots from 2010. This is the 11th consecutive year KU has ranked in the top five. It has been in the top 10 every year since 1995.

"The fact that we remain among the top five programs year after year is a great testament to the quality of faculty researchers we have at the KU School of Pharmacy," said Ken Audus, dean. "They are doing important, world-changing research and bringing millions of dollars of outside funding into Kansas every year."

Deadline is June 15 for Strategic Initiative Level I Grant Proposals

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

The deadline for the first cycle of Level I proposals is 5 p.m. on Friday, June 15. By the end of August, the full council will review and score the proposals, provide feedback to the submitters, and advise the Provost on whether or not to provide funding. Subsequent submission deadlines are October 15, 2012 and February 15, 2013.

Level II proposals involve smaller amounts of money than Level I. They can be submitted at any time for an immediate review and decision by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

The inaugural membership of the council was announced recently. It is composed of:

- **Steve Warren**, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, Chair
- **Danny Anderson**, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- **Ken Audus**, Dean of the School of Pharmacy
- **Ann Brill**, Dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications
- **Perry Alexander**, Director of the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center
- **Victor Bailey**, Director of the Hall Center for the Humanities
- **Neal Kingston**, Professor, Psychology and Research in Education
- **Mabel Rice**, Fred and Virginia Merrill Distinguished Professor of Advanced Studies, Speech-Language-Hearing
- **Lauren Aaronson**, Professor, School of Nursing; Deputy Director, Heartland Institute for Translational Research
- **Jeff Vitter**, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, *Ex Officio*

“A key aspect of our strategic plan [Bold Aspirations](#) is to boost research opportunities by building synergies around the strategic initiative themes,” said Vitter. “The new grant program is a tremendous opportunity to put into action the exciting conversations and interactions experienced during our four summits earlier in the academic year. The funding through this program will be bottom-up – ranging from seed funding of initial collaborative efforts to major funding to facilitate large multidisciplinary research proposals.”

NCURA Video Highlights Technology Transfer for the Research Administrator

“Technology Transfer for the Research Administrator” is the title of a free National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) training workshop to be presented Thursday, June 14, 1-4:30 p.m., at the Simons Bioscience Research Labs Auditorium. The event is open to anyone at KU and is the latest in a series of NCURA video workshops made possible by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the Higuchi Biosciences Center.

According to NCURA, “Universities are involved in technology transfer activities related to the intellectual property generated by their faculty, staff and students. Research administrators need to understand the basics of these activities in order to obtain agreements that are compliant with federal law and promote research activities.”

This program will start with the policies and regulations that created most modern practices, such as the Bayh-Dole Act, the Tax Reform Act of 1986, and federal government rights and regulations. It will also provide an understanding of intellectual property, starting with patents, copyrights, and trademarks. The program will continue with the transfer mechanisms used to get intellectual property into the hands of the industrial collaborators with definitions of the different agreements (licenses and options) as well as the impact of the recent federal America Invents Act. It will also cover terms used in those agreements, such as exclusivity, fields of use, timeframes, royalties, equity, and patent cost recoveries. Examples will be shared and analyzed.

This is a DVD presentation of a workshop broadcast live by NCURA in April. Presenters at the workshop are:

Moderator: **Jilda Garton**, vice president for research and general manager of the Georgia Tech Research Corporation

Panelists:

- **Elaine Brock**, Division of Research Development and Administration, University of Michigan;
- **Cathy Innes**, Office of Technology Development, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and
- **Alexandra McKeown**, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

NIH Seeks Input on Proposed Modifications to the Biographical Sketch

The NIH has established a working group to examine the content of the Biographical Sketch (Biosketch) submitted with all NIH grant, cooperative agreement, and fellowship applications (see [NIH Forms and Applications](#) and [a sample Biosketch](#)).

The Biosketch includes sections for a Personal Statement, Positions and Honors, Selected Peer Reviewed Publications, and a list of current and prior research support. Together, these sections inform peer reviewers and NIH staff about the experience, capabilities, and significant scientific contributions of the proposed key personnel in support of their assigned role on the project. This part of the application is limited to four pages and applicants are encouraged to list no more than 15 publications.

Concerns have been raised about the Biosketch as currently configured. Some feel it does not allow applicants to fully describe the nature, significance or impact of their scientific accomplishments and capabilities. Further, some feel that the current Biosketch disproportionately advantages those with extensive publication records and unduly weighs publications that have appeared in highly prestigious journals. Accordingly, the NIH Working Group is requesting input from the biomedical research community to determine if the Biosketch should be modified to allow investigators to include a short explanation of their most important scientific contributions.

The format for the proposed modification has not been decided. Scientific accomplishments could be described in a short narrative section annotated with references to credibly document the asserted contribution to scientific understanding. References could include peer-reviewed publications or other types of scientific output such as data sets, videos, crystal coordinates, patents, licenses, or documented changes to standard medical practice or government policies. Alternatively, the Biosketch could be modified to associate a short paragraph with one or more of an individual's most significant scientific publications documenting and describing the advances and their subsequent scientific impact. [Both of these approaches](#) are being used successfully by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

The NIH Working Group seeks input to determine whether a short, documented description of an investigator's scientific contributions could offer a better indication of an individual's scientific capabilities and accomplishments than the list of publications that currently appears in the Biosketch. Will this modification help level the playing field across academic institutions and career stages, and more accurately describe advances that may have originated in collaborative, multi-author and team research settings? Will the proposed modification increase the quality and relevance of information available to peer reviewers? Will the benefits of this modification accrue to the following types of applicants?

- applicants at different career stages, especially early stage investigators
- applicants from underrepresented groups
- applicants from less research intensive institutions
- applicants engaged in team science
- applicants from different scientific fields
- applicants for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grants
- NRSA Fellowship applicants
- Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) applicants
- Other classes of applicants

The NIH Working Group welcomes comments on the proposed changes to the Biosketch from all members of the extramural community, including students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty members, scientific societies, grantee institutions, and the general public. Opinions about the potential to facilitate the evaluation of an investigator's contributions and capabilities are particularly important. Information on the content and format of the proposed narrative description and other relevant issues also will be useful. Any other creative, concrete suggestions for strengthening Biosketch are welcome.

Response to this RFI is voluntary. Responders are free to address any issue related to the NIH Biosketch, and will provide a summary of all input received that is responsive to this RFI. Responses can be anonymous.

Responses to this RFI will be accepted through June 29, 2012 and must be submitted electronically at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rfi/rfi.cfm?ID=27>. You will see an electronic confirmation acknowledging receipt of your response, but will not receive individualized feedback on any suggestions. Specific questions about this RFI should be directed to: BMWinfo@mail.nih.gov.

New Financial Conflicts of Interest Declaration and Management for NIH Grants

In August 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) issued new rules governing the declaration and management of financial conflicts of interest (FCOI). **Institutions must implement these new rules no later than August 24, 2012.** Compliance with the new rules is a requirement that applies to all NIH funded investigators – defined as anyone *responsible for the design, conduct or reporting of research*. Failure to comply will result in your inability to apply for or receive NIH funding.

The DHHS rules relating to FCOIs include a number of changes. The most important are:

- Lowers the threshold amounts of compensation and equity for disclosure of *significant financial interests*;
- Broadens the scope of financial interests to include some kinds of sponsored travel;
- Requires that KU – not the investigator – determine whether a significant financial interest creates a conflict;
- Requires that investigators be trained at least every four years about financial conflicts of interest and their regulation; and
- Requires that KU report to NIH certain details of management plans adopted to mitigate identified conflicts.

Detailed information about the new rules is [available at the NIH website](#).

In response to these new requirements, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies is:

- Implementing a new, electronic system for individuals to report on significant financial interests (as well as potential conflicts of time and commitment as required by the Kansas Board of Regents). This system will replace the current annual KBOR-mandated declaration process.
- Developing online training materials for researcher use.

Current plans call for the new reporting system and online training to be available by early or mid-July. Additional details will be communicated as the system takes shape.

Investigators (anyone responsible for the design, conduct or reporting of research, including sub-awardees) associated with an NIH-funded project must 1) complete the declaration process before submitting a renewal or any new application for NIH funding, and 2) complete the mandated training prior to expending funds from renewals or new NIH proposals submitted after August 24.

If this applies to you, the most important thing you can do now is to ensure adequate lead time to address new requirements as you work with [Pre-Award Services at KUCR](#) (or through the Life Span Institute or Higuchi Biosciences Center) to prepare your NIH renewal or proposal. Please be sure that Pre-Award Services, kucrpmgmt@ku.edu, is aware of all individuals (PI, co-PI, key personnel) on your project who meet the definition of investigators as early as possible in the process of preparing your proposal.

If you have questions about the new DHHS requirements, or how KU is responding to them, contact Susan MacNally, Director of Research Integrity, at (785) 864-4148, sumac@ku.edu.

NIH Post-Submission Application Materials Reminder

This is a reminder that NIH updated their policy on post-submission application materials (materials submitted after submission of the grant, but prior to initial peer review) in September 2010. The purpose of this mechanism is not to correct oversights/errors discovered after submission of the application, but to address unforeseen administrative issues. All post-submission materials must conform to NIH policy. Acceptable post-submission materials include:

- Revised budget pages
- Biographical sketches
- Letters of support or collaboration resulting from a change in senior/key personnel due to the hiring, replacement, or loss of an investigator
- Adjustments resulting from natural disasters
- Adjustments resulting from change of institution
- News of an article accepted for publication (a copy or summary of the article should not be sent)

Unacceptable post-submission materials (for all applications except those listed under Exceptions below) include:

- Updated Specific Aims or Research Strategy pages
- Late-breaking research findings
- New letters of support/collaboration that do not result from a change in senior/key personnel due to the hiring, replacement, or loss of an investigator

Exceptions exist for:

- RFAs with only one due date,
- Specific FOAs that allow post-submission materials to facilitate the goal of the program
- Institutional training and training-related grants (not fellowships (F series) or career (K series) applications)

More details can be found [online](#), along with [frequently asked questions](#) about this process.

NIH eRA Commons Updates

- **NIH Just In Time (JIT) Update**

NIH has recently adjusted settings in eRA Commons so that the JIT link becomes active for every application within 24 hours of release of the impact score. If an application receives an impact score of 40 or less, the Principal Investigator will then receive an email, approximately 2 weeks after the release of impact scores, requesting JIT information be submitted. Requested documentation could include Other Support, HSC-L and IACUC approvals, and other materials deemed necessary by NIH. Applicants should not submit any JIT information until it is officially requested by the granting agency and all JIT information should be submitted electronically by an institutional Signing Official. More information about JIT can be found [online](#).

- **Communications from NIH Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR) Available**

Beginning on May 25, 2012, communications from the NIH DRR will be accessible to applicants in the eRA Commons. Applicants will be notified by email to check their Commons account when new information is available. In order to avoid delays in the e-notification process, it is vital that all Principal Investigators and Individual Fellows are registered in the Commons and all email addresses are checked periodically for accuracy.

A major function of the NIH DRR is to determine whether applications are properly prepared and are compliant with NIH's submission policies. DRR will notify an applicant when: 1) additional information is required before application can be assigned to a scientific review group (SRG) and NIH Institute or Center (IC) for funding consideration; 2) an applicant's request for an IC assignment cannot be honored; or 3) it has been determined that the application does not comply with NIH policy. More information can be found [online](#).

Sponsored Projects Reference and Training Resources Available Online

Research and Graduate Studies has recently made available an online reference and training resource for KU personnel involved in the administration of externally sponsored projects. Available through [BlackBoard](#), the resources include video workshops and presentations on a wide variety of research administration topics, easy access to an online "Guide to Managing Federal Grants for Colleges and Universities," as well as an index by topic of resources available both on the BlackBoard site and elsewhere on the Web. Since many of the materials included on the site are subscription-based, the site is available only to KU employees. To request access, email William Sharp, Assistant Director, Research Administration, at wsharp@ku.edu.

Barlow Receives Louise Byrd Graduate Educator Award

Steven Barlow, professor in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences and Disorders, is the 2012 recipient of the Louise Byrd Graduate Educator Award. It was presented May 12 during the annual Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.

"Professor Barlow is an internationally recognized scholar in his field, so it should come as no surprise that he is being recognized for his contributions as an outstanding graduate faculty mentor," says Thomas Heilke, dean of graduate studies. "His impact on the lives of his students and his department is substantial. The selection committee, comprised of previous awardees, is delighted to have such a distinguished scholar and mentor receive this award."

Louise E. Byrd served for many years as secretary of the Graduate School. The award was established in 1984 and recognizes faculty who have demonstrated extraordinary devotion to graduate students and graduate education and who have distinguished themselves as scholars.

Two Dissertations Awarded Argersinger Prizes

Two KU graduates received the 2012 Marnie and Bill Argersinger Prize for outstanding doctoral dissertations at the annual Doctoral Hooding Ceremony May 12.

Kathryn Mickle, ecology and evolutionary biology, received the prize for “Unraveling the Systematics of Palaeoniscoid Fishes—Lower Actinopterygians in Need of a Complete Phylogenetic Revision.” **Halle O’Neal**, art history, received the prize for “Written Stupa, Painted Sutra: The Relationships of Text and Image and the Construction of Meaning in the Japanese Jeweled-Stupa Mandalas.”

The Argersinger Prize was established through KU Endowment in 1992 and is named in honor of William J. Argersinger and his wife. He was KU’s first vice chancellor for research and graduate studies and dean of the graduate school.

All of the dissertations nominated were defended with honors, the highest mark given to a dissertation defense. “In a typical academic year, fewer than 10 percent of all dissertations defended at KU earn honors,” said Thomas Heilke, dean of graduate studies. “KU grants more than 250 research doctoral degrees a year. Additionally each department can only nominate one graduating doctoral candidate per year. Earning honors and being nominated for this award means you have achieved a significant accomplishment.”

Other Argersinger Prize nominees were:

- **Jo Zanice Bond de Perez**, “Race, Place and Family: Narratives of the Civil Rights Movement in Brownsville, Tennessee and the Nation,” American studies.
- **Alexander Grenning**, “Palladium-Catalyzed Allylic Alkylation via Decarboxylative and Retro-Claisen C–C Cleavage Methods,” chemistry.
- **Hilary Hungerford**, “Water, Cities, and Bodies: A Relational Understanding of Niamey, Niger,” geography.
- **Makiko Imamura**, “Functions of the Common Ingroup Identity Model and Acculturation in Intercultural Communication: American Host Nationals’ Communication with Chinese International Students,” communication studies.
- **Brian Ruzicka**, “Ultrafast Optical Studies of Electronic Dynamics in Semiconductors,” physics and astronomy.

Center for Research on Learning, McGraw-Hill Launch Fusion Reading

McGraw-Hill Education launched the Fusion Reading™ program in April at the International Reading Association's 57th Annual Convention in Chicago. Developed by KU’s Center for Research on Learning (CRL), *Fusion Reading* is a two-year, supplemental reading course designed to significantly improve the reading performance of students in sixth through 12th grade who have fallen two or more grade levels behind in reading. *Fusion Reading* has been piloted in a variety of school settings since 2006 with strong results. The program is now available to middle and high schools across the country.

Fusion Reading was developed as part of a U.S. Institute of Education Sciences-funded grant. The author team consisted of Donald Deshler, Irma Brasseur-Hock, and Michael Hock.

"The Center for Research on Learning has a long history of producing instructional materials that engage struggling readers and help them improve reading achievement," said Hock, director of the Institute for Research on Adolescent Learning at CRL. "Together, McGraw-Hill Education and CRL are sharply focused on significantly raising skill levels among struggling readers through our collaboration, which is rooted in research and data-driven instruction."

Fusion Reading is a comprehensive and highly structured program designed to teach reading strategies in a sequence supported by explicit instruction, extensive practice, feedback and ongoing assessment to monitor progress. Flexible lesson plans also offer options for completion of the course in one, two or three year formats. It offers a collection of print and online instructional tools and learning strategies that build on nearly 30 years of research and experience with students who struggle to read and learn, including students with disabilities and English Language Learners. A major goal of the program is to increase student motivation by linking reading with personal goal attainment and relying on highly engaging reading materials that appeal to struggling students in urban settings.

New President Selected to Lead Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute



Wayne Carter, vice president of global research for Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. in Topeka, was named president and CEO of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSIS) in May. He starts his new position June 18, succeeding Daniel Getman.

Carter, a resident of Lawrence, currently serves as chairman of the board of the new Center for Animal Health Innovation in Olathe and has been actively involved in the KC Animal Health Corridor. He is also vice chairman of KansasBio, a 200-member trade group that serves as the unified voice of the bioscience community in Kansas.

At Hill's, Carter was responsible for leading new product discoveries to commercialization. Earlier in his career, he worked for 11 years at Pfizer, the world's largest research-based pharmaceutical company for human and animal health drugs. He is a graduate of Purdue University with B.S.,

D.V.M., and Ph.D. degrees.

"The greater Kansas City area is an exceptional region for the development of the life sciences," said Carter. "There are so many unique attributes to the region, but one of the most exciting is the broad community support for the advancement of human and animal health initiatives. I am honored to continue and grow these programs and the economic development for the region."

"Dr. Carter brings a proven record of success in human and animal research and product commercialization as well as strong leadership skills and a business-driven focus," said Patrick James, chairman of KCALSIS and senior managing director of Quest Diagnostics. "We are very pleased to have him join KCALSIS and continue the momentum of life sciences in the region."

Among the initiatives he's particularly eager to support are the Translational Research Initiative, one of the Big 5 initiatives announced by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, and Frontiers, a partnership of 3 medical centers, 10 health systems, and 15 community organizations working together on translational research projects.

Upcoming Events

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

Through July 20

"Cryptograph: An Exhibition for Alan Turing"
Spencer Museum of Art, Gallery 318 North

Through July 22

"39 Trails: Research in the Peruvian Amazon"
Spencer Museum of Art, Gallery 318 South

June 14

NCURA Video Presentation:
"Technology Transfer Issues for
the Research Administrator"
1 – 4:30 p.m.
Simons Biosciences Laboratories, Auditorium

June 15

Level I Proposal Deadline:
Strategic Initiatives Grant Program

July 20

BTBC Entrepreneur Education Series
"Technology Doesn't Sell Itself: Build a Successful
Strategy to Launch Your Product"
Michael Johnson, President, Ingenium Partners and
Miller Heiman
4 p.m.
Bioscience & Technology Business Center
2029 Becker Drive, Lawrence