

# Research & Graduate Studies @ KU

News of Interest to the University Community

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May 2013

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## KU Moves to 39<sup>th</sup> in Federal Research Funding

Federally funded research at the University of Kansas increased in 2011 to a record \$162.7 million. That figure ranked KU 39<sup>th</sup> among national public research universities, according to an annual survey produced by the National Science Foundation. This marks the first time KU has ranked in the top 40 in this category.

The survey, which always lags by one year, ranked 896 public and private universities nationwide. According to the survey, KU conducts more federally funded research than all other universities in Kansas combined.

"All KU researchers can be proud of this recognition," said Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. "It's a meaningful measure of KU's national stature as a research university and a reminder of the importance of KU research to the university's mission and the economic development of the state."

A list of the 75 top-ranked public and private universities in the NSF survey is [available online](#). Total KU research expenditures from all sources of external grants and contracts exceeded \$256 million in 2011. Principal federal funding agencies included the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Energy.

## Governor Meets With Chancellor at BTBC



Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback (left) visited KU in Lawrence April 23 as part of his tour of Kansas higher education institutions during the legislative recess. He met with senior KU officials and others at the Bioscience & Technology

Business Center on West Campus to discuss his proposed budget and related matters. Joining him after the meeting for a presentation to news media were Chancellor Bernadette Grey-Little and Kansas Regent Dan Lykins (center) and Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer (right). Gov. Brownback continued his tour on April 25 with a visit to the KU Medical Center in Kansas City.

## International Humanities Meeting Also a Showcase for KU's Hall Center



KU's Hall Center for the Humanities hosted the annual meeting of the international Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes April 25-27. More than 150 participants, representing more than 80 institutions in the U.S., Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia came to campus for an event whose theme was "Humanities, Publics, and the State."

In addition to being a productive meeting for the Consortium – which met in Australia last year and will meet in Hong Kong next year – the event was a showcase for the Hall Center and its staff, led by Victor Bailey, the Charles W. Battey Distinguished Professor of Modern British History.

Sessions of the meeting were held at The Commons in Spooner Hall (above), the Spencer Museum of Art, and the Oread Hotel, with receptions at the Spencer Research Library and the Hall Center. A highlight of the meeting was a special session at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, followed by a reception and dinner.

Among the speakers at the meeting were Helen Small (left), tutor and fellow in English literature at Pembroke College, Oxford University. Her topic was "The Humanities and the Public Good." At right is Margaret Kelleher of University College Dublin in Ireland. KU panelists during the annual meeting were Don Stull, professor of anthropology, and Arienne Dwyer, professor of anthropology and co-director of the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities. Saralyn Reece Hardy, director of the Spencer Museum, chaired the session at the Nelson-Atkins Museum. The full program for the meeting is [available online](#).

In her [opening remarks at the meeting](#), Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little said "We must be evangelists for the humanities. The choir gathered here has been won over. It's time to take the show on the road. It's time to take our message to the managers and policymakers who wonder what someone would ever do with a degree in *that*, and show them the answer is usually 'anything.'" In his remarks to the group, Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, spoke of the humanities being integral to all four themes of KU's *Bold Aspirations* strategic plan. "The study of the humanities," he said, "is a study of choices and actions, an analysis of character and circumstance that extends from ancient Troy to modern Boston. Our students, our society, need to know that."

## Four KU Researchers Receive University Scholarly Achievement Awards

Four KU faculty members are recipients of the 2013 University Scholarly Achievement Awards, created in 2011 by Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little to recognize mid-career scholars who have made significant scholarly or research contributions to their fields. The annual awards are presented in four fields: arts and humanities; clinical science; science, technology and mathematics; and social science and professional programs. The 2013 recipients are:

- **Sally Cornelison**, associate professor, Department of Art History (arts and humanities)
- **Don Haider-Markel**, professor, Department of Political Science (social science and professional programs)
- **Mikhail Medvedev**, professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy (science, technology and math)
- **Thomas Prisinzano**, professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry (clinical science)

The four were chosen for contributions that advance the field of scholarship, exhibit novelty and originality, promote scholarly and research activity at KU, and enhance the university's national and international reputation. Recipients were nominated by their colleagues from KU and across the nation. The awards were presented by the Chancellor at a May 8 ceremony in The Commons at Spooner Hall.

KU's mission, said the Chancellor, "is to lift students and society by educating leaders, building healthy communities and making discoveries that change the world. These four faculty embody that mission every day through their teaching and scholarship. The award recognizes the value of their achievements to the state, nation and world and is a strong reminder of the world-class faculty we have here at KU."

## Nationally Respected KU Educational Testing Center Expands Scope

Using high-quality evaluation programs to improve the performance of K-12 students, adults, and public agencies is the focus of a restructured University of Kansas research group with a long track record of success. Its new name reflects its expanded mission, and the need for its work is growing nationwide.

The Achievement and Assessment Institute combines the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE), established in 1983, and the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service, established in 1997. The new structure includes four centers that represent the diversity of services and partners: Center for Educational Opportunity Programs, Center for Public Partnerships and Research, Agile Technology Solutions, and CETE. Neal Kingston, professor of psychology and research in education (below), is director of the institute, which employs more than 300 staff and students on the Lawrence campus. The focus of the institute, says Kingston, is to leverage KU's capabilities to serve the increasing research needs of schools and other public agencies whose increasingly limited resources provide a niche opportunity for KU.



“We have partnered with Kansas state agencies for more than 30 years,” he said, “especially the Department of Education. Combined, the U.S. Department of Education and Kansas agencies account for 90 per cent of our research funding. In the future, we expect to work with more states and more federal agencies, and we plan to branch out into contract work in addition to research.”

The Achievement and Assessment Institute has a current portfolio of grants that includes approximately \$27 million in such funding. Effective July 1, it will be recognized by KU's Office of Research and Graduate Studies as one of just 12 designated university research centers and institutes. Others in this elite category are the Biodiversity Institute, Bioengineering Research Center, Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis, Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets, Center for Research on Learning, Hall Center for the Humanities, Higuchi Biosciences Center, Institute for Policy & Social Research, Information and Telecommunication Technology Center,

Life Span Institute, and Transportation Research Institute.

Kingston envisions the Achievement and Assessment Institute as an entrepreneurial organization. He is working with the KU Center for Technology Commercialization to find ways of maximizing the licensing potential of research. For example, a conference in Lawrence in July will provide a forum to make presentations to companies and other researchers about groundbreaking research stemming from the Dynamic Learning Maps project, a comprehensive alternate assessment system designed to measure what students with cognitive disabilities know and can do. KU received a \$22 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education in 2010 to support development of the program, and 14 states are planning to implement it starting in 2014.

Another example of the institute's expanded scope is the Career Pathways Assessment System, which uses computer-based tests to help students determine their career readiness. The system was introduced in 2011 and is currently guided by a consortium of three states: Kansas, Colorado and Mississippi. Kingston would like to expand that consortium and move in other directions as well, while keeping the focus on service to public agencies.

“Kansas pays less than most other states for its testing programs because it relies on KU rather than existing commercial vendors,” said Kingston. “The state pays about \$10 per set of tests per student per year. The national average is two to three times that amount. On our own, or in cooperation with commercial vendors, the institute could help other states reduce their costs and maintain high levels of quality.”

More goes into standardized tests than most people realize, said Kingston. The content must be written, edited and reviewed to ensure accuracy. Data must be gathered on whether the tests accomplish their purpose. Technical manuals are developed for how to administer the tests, and complicated reports are generated once the tests are given. Increasingly, the delivery of tests involves computer software. KU has the capacity to do all of this work in one institute.

Beyond education, the institute seeks more contract work with agencies that need specialized evaluation, professional development, and systems planning services but lack the staff to carry out this work themselves. “The institute has the respect of state agencies everywhere,” said Kingston. “Now we want to leverage that intellectual capital to assist a wider range of public sector clients.”

## Research Administration Updates

### May 9 “TRT” Session Focuses on Federal Responsible Conduct of Research

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies offers a monthly “Thursday Research Topics” program that’s open to all interested persons. The topic for the May 9 session is “Federal Responsible Conduct of Research Requirements Overview.” The presentation will be led by Bill Sharp. TRT begins at 11:10 a.m. and concludes at 11:50 a.m. in the Simons Labs Auditorium. All TRT presentations are recorded and available online for later viewing.

### Online Checklist Ensures Smooth Transition of Research Activities

As the academic year comes to a close, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies requests your help in assisting any KU employees who are leaving the university to meet their institutional obligations to their research activities. For example, someone participating on an externally sponsored project may still need to submit an annual report to the sponsor. Or materials or equipment purchased under a sponsored project may need to be transferred to the oversight of another individual. These kinds of issues are much easier to address *before* an employee leaves the university.

If you are aware of research employees in your area who will be leaving the university, we encourage you to direct them to the [online Research Employee Separation Checklist](#). The checklist was devised to help collect relevant research-related information from departing employees as well as to help them recognize any obligations they may need to fulfill prior to leaving.

### Use of eRA Reporting Module Now Required; Other Changes Take Effect

The use of the eRA Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Module for submitting Streamlined Noncompeting Award Process (SNAP) and Fellowship progress reports is now required for awards with start dates on or after July 1 i.e., due dates on or after May 15 for SNAP awards and on or after May 1 for Fellowships. Standard deadlines for progress reports still apply: six weeks prior to the end of the current year for SNAPs and two months prior to the end of the current year for Fellowships.

The format of the RPPR is new. Investigators will answer questions 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

In addition, the functionality of the Progress Report Additional Materials (PRAM) expanded April 18 to allow requests from the awarding Institutes and Centers for additional materials following submission of an RPPR (such as NIH Public Access Compliance materials or other clarifications on the RPPR submission). The PRAM feature allows the grantee to enter, review, and submit information electronically in response to these specific requests from NIH for additional materials following the submission of an RPPR. The use of PRAM is not mandatory yet, but NIH expects to mandate its use in the future. [More information](#) and an [instruction guide](#) are available online.

## Keywords Requested for Sponsored Project Proposals

In response to the university's strategic plan, *Bold Aspirations*, RGS is working to better enable KU researchers to pursue multidisciplinary strategic initiatives. As part of this effort, RGS Pre-Award Services staff are starting to ask investigators submitting proposals for sponsored project funding to select keywords describing the project from a standardized list. Use of standardized keywords will improve RGS tracking and reporting of research, and will facilitate collaboration by grouping researchers with similar interests. If you have any questions about this please contact Nancy Biles, [nbiles@ku.edu](mailto:nbiles@ku.edu), (785) 864-5042.

## Michelle Ginavan Hayes Named SSC Manager of Research Administration



Michelle Ginavan Hayes, interim manager of Post-Award Services and a 15-year veteran in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, has been named manager of research administration in KU's new Liberal Arts and Sciences Shared Service Center (SSC), effective June 1.

The SSC concept is a crucial element of the all-campus "Changing for Excellence" initiative, and Liberal Arts and Sciences is the pioneering SSC. Kristi Billinger, assistant vice chancellor, said "Having someone as competent and steady as Michelle as the first manager of research administration will benefit both RGS and the SSC as we work together closely in the future."

Billinger added, "I will miss Michelle's daily presence in Youngberg Hall, as well as her breadth of experience and sound judgment in all areas of research administration. We wish her all the best in her important new role at KU."

## Summer Road Construction Likely to Result in West Campus Congestion

Road construction projects by the City of Lawrence and KU will alter travel to and around campus May 20 to August 19, and may make driving to Youngberg Hall and the West Campus research facilities a challenge. The projects include:

- Iowa Street will be limited to one lane north and south from Harvard Road south to Irving Hill Road, i.e., the bridge that passes over Iowa Street;
- 15th Street, which is Bob Billings Parkway west of Iowa Street, will be closed from Engel Road west to Crestline Drive, i.e., from the intersection where the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center is located to the street that leads up to the Dole Institute of Politics, the Lied Center, Nichols Hall, and Youngberg Hall;
- Work on Wakarusa Drive at the intersection with Bob Billings Parkway will force the detour of north-south traffic on Wakarusa in the vicinity of the Life Science Research Labs and the Wakarusa Research Facility; and
- Short-term parking lot improvements will occur at Youngberg Hall and Higuchi Hall.

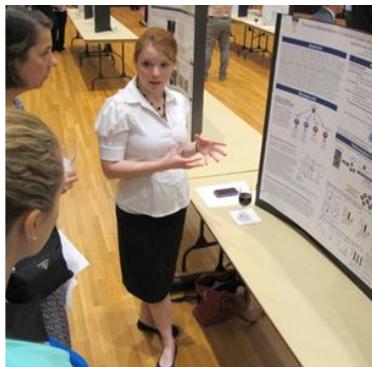
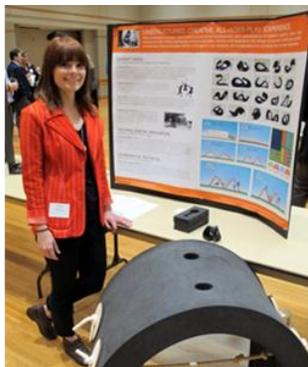
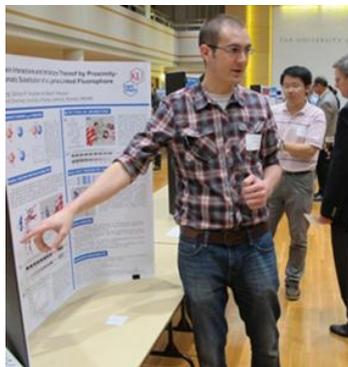
As a result of these projects, the West Campus road system will likely be congested all summer. Plan accordingly and allow extra time. Detours on and around campus will be clearly marked. Bus routes to and around campus, especially on its east side, also will be affected. KU will provide [updated construction information](#) as the work progresses.

## KU Undergraduates Showcase Their Research at Annual Symposium

More than 90 undergraduate students presented their research at the Kansas Union on April 27 during the 16th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. The event, hosted for the first time by KU's new Center for Undergraduate Research, featured papers and posters and concluded with a banquet and the presentation of the K. Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award to Cima Katz, professor of visual art, and Adrian Melott, professor of physics and astronomy. They were [chosen from among 14 nominees](#).

Supporters of the symposium included the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, KU's chapter of the Sigma XI international research society, the University Honors Program, the McNair Scholars Program, and the Office for Diversity in Science Training. The [full program from the symposium](#), listing presenters and sessions, is online.

## KUCTC Innovation Fair Highlights Entrepreneurial Students



Presenters at the KUCTC Innovation Fair included, from left: David Hymel, Medicinal Chemistry; Sophia Hilleary, Design; and Amy Newton, Molecular Biosciences.

The KU Center for Technology Commercialization held its inaugural Innovation Fair on April 30 in the Kansas Union Ballroom. The event showcased the technological innovations of KU graduate and undergraduate students, and the 2013 Jim Baxendale Commercialization Award was presented to Lisa Stehno-Bittel (see below).

The fair gave student and the public an opportunity to learn about KU technology, discover opportunities for collaboration, and network with faculty, students and company representatives. The focus of the event was a poster session presented by graduate and undergraduate students. A panel of judges reviewed the 25 posters. Doug Girod, Executive Vice Chancellor, KUMC (left) and Jeff Vitter, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, flank the honorees:



*Second Place, Undergraduate Division, \$500*

Daniel Kennedy, Physics and Astronomy

*First Place, Undergraduate Division, \$1,000*

Sophia Hilleary, Design

*Second Place, Graduate Division, \$500*

Wenjuan Yan, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering / CEBC

*First Place, Graduate Division (Tie), \$1,000 each:*

Nikki Galvis, Bioengineering; Alice Riley, Mechanical Engineering. Third from left is Karthik Ramachandran, accepting the Baxendale Award (see below) on behalf of Lisa Stehno-Bittel. (Group photo courtesy KU Public Affairs)

## KU Medical Center Researcher Receives Baxendale Commercialization Award



Lisa Stehno-Bittel, professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science in the School of Health Professions, is the 2013 recipient of KU's Jim Baxendale Commercialization Award. It was presented April 30 at the KU Center for Technology Commercialization Innovation Fair, and accepted in her absence by Karthik Ramachandran.

Named for KU's former technology transfer director, the award recognizes a faculty member who excels in translational research and research commercialization. The award was first presented in 2005 to Val Stella, University Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, as the KU Technology Transfer Leadership Award. It was renamed in 2012 and will now be given annually.

Building on her more than 15 years of experience in the area of diabetes research, Stehno-Bittel co-founded Likarda LLC in 2012. The startup company, located at the Bioscience & Technology Business Center at the KU Medical Center, has successfully cured diabetes in laboratory rats by transplanting its engineered cell clusters, known as Kanslets. Eventually, with further testing and development, the clusters could be transplanted in companion animals using a minimally invasive surgical procedure.

According to Stehno-Bittel, she and Ramachandran, a recent KU bioengineering Ph.D. graduate, “realized that some of the techniques we had been working on for human health had immediate applications to animal health. We had patented an efficient process to create simplified, miniaturized islets, the insulin-producing cells of the body. The new islets produced more insulin and were more likely to survive a transplant procedure.”

Stehno-Bittel joined the KU faculty in 1995. In addition to her ongoing faculty appointment, as president of Likarda she oversees the translation of scientific innovations into alternative therapies for chronic conditions common to companion animals. Her academic background includes a B.S. in physical therapy from KU and a doctorate in physiology from the University of Missouri-Columbia, with a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Mayo School of Medicine.

## Senator Moran Expresses Strong Support for Biomedical Research Funding



U.S. Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas (left) recently made two non-partisan public statements in support of the National Institutes of Health and biomedical research funding. While unable to attend the April 8 [Rally for Medical Research](#) in downtown Washington, attended by nearly 10,000 people, the following statement was read on his behalf:

"Our nation has long recognized the importance of a sustained commitment to advancing medical research. Longstanding, bipartisan support in Congress for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the focal point of our nation's medical research, has been an integral part of establishing the United States as a world leader in life-saving medical research and innovation.

"Medical research has saved or improved the lives of millions of Americans and has the potential to positively impact millions more. Given the vast amount of progress made over the last century and the great potential current research holds, now is not the time to waiver on America's commitment to advancing cures and treatments for disease. On March 23, 2013, the Senate adopted a bipartisan amendment that Senator [Dick] Durbin and I offered to the 2014 Budget Resolution to boost funding for NIH and support our country's investment in biomedical research. Previously on June 14, 2012, I offered an amendment in the Senate Appropriations Committee to increase funding for NIH in 2013. These amendments were fully paid for and would have prioritized medical research without adding a dime to our nation's annual deficit. I offered these amendments to send a clear signal to our nation's researchers and scientists that Congress supports their work and needs to make sure they have the resources needed to carry out their important research.

"By investing in medical research, we are investing in our future. Thank you for attending the rally today and thank you for the incredible work you do to bring hope to millions of individuals and their families. . Please know that I will continue to advocate for a strong, consistent national support of medical research because it is essential to saving and improving lives, growing our economy, reducing health care costs, and maintaining America's role as a global leader in medical innovation."

On April 14, during a Senate Committee on Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services Budget, Moran told Secretary Kathleen Sebelius "I'm pleased to see the department has requested an additional \$471M increase for the National Institutes of Health, the focal point of our nation's medical research capacity. In the last 30 years biomedical research has yielded significant scientific discoveries that have extended life, reduced illness, lowered healthcare costs, and driven economic growth. . In my view, whether you come from the perspective of being a caring person who wants to make sure everyone has access to the latest technologies and lifesaving advances, or you want to make sure that we save every penny that we can, medical research does both. I'm pleased to see that the administration's budget request increases the funding for NIH. I believe we need to continue that federal commitment to advancing that research. I worry that if there's any break in that pattern that we will lose those who are committed to scientific research on our behalf. We want to remain a global leader. We don't want people who are considering pursuing a career in medical research to decide that the funding is on-again, off-again."



The **Doctoral Hooding Ceremony**, always a major highlight of **Commencement Weekend** at KU, is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lied Center. Candidates, faculty hooders, or guests who require accommodations, should contact the Office of Graduate Studies at (785) 864-8040, [graduate@ku.edu](mailto:graduate@ku.edu), for information and assistance. Congratulations, graduates!

## ***Upcoming Academic Symposia and Workshops of Interest***

### **June 6-7: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual NanoFrontiers Symposium, Christopher Bond Life Sciences Center, Columbia, MO**

KU is a sponsor of this regional conference on nanotechnology and research at the University of Missouri-Columbia. It will feature nationally known speakers and participants from the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and other government and industry organizations. The symposium provides a platform for nanotechnology researchers and practitioners in various fields. Technical sessions will include nanomedicine, nanomaterials, energy, sensing technologies, and commercialization/regional infrastructure. Posters on nanotechnology as it relates to energy, life sciences and engineering will be on display. Registration is complimentary and available until May 28, or until capacity is reached. For more information and to register, go to the [NanoFrontiers web site](#).

### **June 11: Workshop on Fragment-Based Drug Design, KU School of Pharmacy, West Campus**

KU's NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Protein Structure and Function (COBRE-PSF) is sponsoring this free regional workshop. In recent years, fragment-based drug design has emerged as an effective alternative to high-throughput screening for identifying lead compounds in drug discovery. The process starts by screening small molecules, i.e., fragments of drugs, for their ability to bind to potential drug targets. Fragments that bind specifically are then "stitched together" using synthetic chemistry to generate larger lead compounds for further optimization into potential drug candidates. The morning session of the workshop will feature nationally known researchers in the field. The afternoon session will feature regional researchers and COBRE-PSF core laboratory directors. The workshop will provide a platform for researchers to discuss fragment libraries, biophysical techniques such as nuclear magnetic resonance, X-ray crystallography or surface plasmon resonance to identify and measure binding, and ways to optimize lead compounds to improve affinity and selectivity. The workshop is free but on-site lunch is available for \$12. Registration is required. For more information, and to RSVP, please contact Robert Hanzlik at [rhanzlik@ku.edu](mailto:rhanzlik@ku.edu) or Cynthia Beall at [beall@ku.edu](mailto:beall@ku.edu), (785) 864-3674.

### **June 20: KCALSI Research Symposium: Integrating Technology into Translational Research, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, Weaver Auditorium, 1750 Independence Ave., Kansas City, MO**

This symposium is presented jointly by the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute and Frontiers: The Heartland Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. It is open to the public and will feature an outstanding group of national and regional speakers. The [complete agenda](#) is available online. A light breakfast is scheduled from 7:30 to 8 a.m., and the program will continue through 5:30 p.m., including lunch. [Online registration](#) is required but the \$45 fee is waived for Frontiers partners, including KU faculty, staff, and students at all campuses. The Lawrence and Medical Center campuses are also KCALSI stakeholder institutions.

## KU Campuses Combining to Strengthen Human Subjects Research Reporting

Research involving human subjects is important to the health care, drug discovery, and behavioral science programs of the University of Kansas. Protecting the safety and welfare of participants is paramount, and all such research at KU complies with federal rules that are extensive, strict, and ever-changing.

Managing and documenting the review, approval, and monitoring of human subjects research is a complex challenge for universities, hospitals, and other research institutions. To increase the efficiency of the compliance process, and to provide more information to researchers, KU is introducing a new web-based computer system at all campuses, starting with the Lawrence campus in mid-June. Implementation of the system will provide a transparent and near-seamless application approval and follow-up experience for human subjects researchers throughout KU.

“KU is committed to helping researchers conduct high-quality human subjects research with the least amount of administrative burden,” said Susan MacNally, director of research integrity at the Lawrence campus. “The new system is streamlined and user-friendly, and allows us to move from a system of compliance that relied on paper and e-mails to one that is entirely electronic and will be coordinated across campuses.”

Stephanie Dyson Elms, human subjects administrator for the Lawrence campus, said the new system enables researchers to log in from any location and check the status of their applications. If a compliance question has been raised that’s slowing their approval, they can respond immediately. Using the new system, the researcher always has instant access to the approved version of documents related to a project, such as the approval protocol and informed consent form, thus helping to ensure compliance with federal requirements, even within large study teams and on complex projects.

“Use of this new system is a significant step forward for KU,” said Dyson Elms, “and aligns us with the best practices of other research universities nationwide. Information about the new system will be available to KU researchers soon at the [Research Integrity website](#). Training opportunities for researchers will begin this summer and continue into the fall.

## New Furlough Policy Allows KU to Retain At-Risk Grant-Funded Researchers

Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, concluded an April 18 campus memo about the federal funding sequester with the following statement of special interest to the KU research community:

“These are uncertain times. Going forward, dealing with the federal sequester will require a heightened degree of fiscal discipline. That will inevitably have an impact on individual KU researchers – faculty, staff, postdocs, students – whose work is funded by federal grants.

“In this environment – made more complicated by the uncertain state budget situation – it’s important that KU have the flexibility to protect research personnel as much as possible. Toward that end, a group led by Ola Faucher, director of human resources, has developed an expansion of KU’s existing Furlough and Temporary Salary Reduction Policy as it concerns the Lawrence campus only.

“The original policy was adopted in 2009 in response to the threat of state budget cuts. That policy – which has never been implemented – excluded “Faculty/staff who are 100% grant funded” from being subject to furloughs. Under that policy, however, the most likely result of a sudden loss of grant funding would have been layoffs.

“To avoid unnecessary layoffs and provide flexibility to principal investigators, the 2009 policy has been expanded. Grant-funded faculty and staff are now able to be furloughed. The expanded policy allows KU the ability to retain at-risk, grant-funded researchers, recognizing that the loss of a specific number of work days over time is preferable to a layoff or a change in appointment. Furlough days could be scheduled with less disruption to one’s research program and personal life.

“The inclusion of grant-funded personnel is the most significant change, but I encourage you to review the entire document at the [KU Policy Library](#). As with the original policy, KU hopes it will never need to implement mandatory furloughs in response to the loss of funding from any source. In uncertain times, however, it’s important that we acknowledge that possibility and be prepared for it.”

## Upcoming Events

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

### May 9

Thursday Research Topics: “Federal Responsible Conduct of Research Requirements Overview,” Bill Sharp  
11:10 – 11:50 a.m.  
Simons Bioscience Labs, Auditorium

### May 18

KU Doctoral Hooding Ceremony  
3:30 p.m.  
Lied Center

### June 5-7

NanoFrontiers Symposium 2013  
All Day  
Bond Life Sciences Center  
University of Missouri – Columbia

### June 11

NIH COBRE in Protein Structure and Function:  
Workshop on Fragment-Based Drug Design  
All Day  
School of Pharmacy, West Campus

### June 13

Thursday Research Topics: “Travel,” John Luther  
11:10 – 11:50 a.m.  
Simons Bioscience Labs, Auditorium

### June 14

Groundbreaking Ceremony: Bioscience & Technology  
Business Center (BTBC) Main Facility Phase II  
10 a.m.  
2200 Becker Drive, West Campus Research Circle

### June 20

Research Symposium: “Integrating Technology into Translational Research”  
Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALS) and Frontiers: The Heartland Institute for Clinical and Translational Research  
8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Kansas City University for Medicine and Biosciences  
1750 Independence Ave., Kansas City, MO

### July 25

Quarterly RGS Grant Coordinators Meeting  
10:30 a.m.  
Simons Bioscience Labs, Auditorium

### August 26

KCALS) Animal Health Research Symposium  
Kansas City (MO) Convention Center

### October 1 *[Rescheduled from May 7]*

KCALS) Annual Dinner  
Sheraton Kansas City (MO) Hotel at Crown Center

### October 24

Quarterly RGS Grant Coordinators Meeting  
10:30 a.m.  
Simons Bioscience Labs, Auditorium

### November 20

BioResearch Central Summit, presented by KCALS), Missouri Bio, and KansasBio  
Ritz Charles Convention Center, Overland Park, KS

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