

Research and Graduate Studies @ KU

Updates from the Office of Research and Graduate Studies



NIH renews \$10.1 million KU COBRE

A collaborative University of Kansas-led program for health-related basic research in protein structure and function will continue for another five years, thanks to a \$10.1 million grant awarded recently by the National Institutes of Health.

The program, one of 80 Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in 23 states, is directed by Robert Hanzlik, a professor of medicinal chemistry on KU's Lawrence campus. Other institutions participating in the grant are the KU Medical Center, Wichita State University and Kansas State University. The COBRE receives administrative support from KU's Higuchi Biosciences Center, and additional funding from the KU Center for Research and the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation.

The COBRE in Protein Structure and Function focuses on identifying and understanding cellular proteins responsible for normal cell functioning, as well as cell dysfunction in disease states, such as cancer, said Hanzlik. To develop therapeutic remedies for those diseases, it's necessary to understand the proteins involved in those diseases. This requires broadly trained scientists with expertise in a number of areas, as well as specialized equipment in the core labs.

During the initial five years of the COBRE, also funded at \$10.1 million, the center supported a total of 23 investigators drawn from 12 different departments at the four participating institutions. Ten junior faculty researchers were mentored to the point they received major independent investigator grants from NIH. Other outcomes of the first grant included six scientific conferences, three grant writing workshops, 226 peer-reviewed publications, and 69 additional research grants to participating researchers totaling more than \$22 million.

The original funding of the COBRE helped support the remodeling of 6,000 square feet of lab space at KU. It also helped inspire construction of the 17,500-square foot Structural Biology Center (SBC).

This COBRE is one of two on the Lawrence campus. The Center for Cancer Experimental Therapeutics is directed by Barbara Timmermann, chair and professor of medicinal chemistry, and also involves researchers at the KU Medical Center, Emporia State University, and Kansas State. It was established in 2000 and renewed in 2005. Each award was for \$10 million.

The KU Medical Center hosts two COBRE programs: Novel Approaches for Control of Microbial Pathogens, and Nuclear Receptors in Liver Health and Disease. A fifth COBRE is based at Kansas State: Center for Epithelial Function in Health and Disease. Both the Lawrence and KU Medical Center campuses are participants in that COBRE.

KU junior investigators who have now "graduated" from the COBRE in Protein Structure and Function or one of its pilot projects are: **Brian Blagg**, associate professor of medicinal chemistry; **Roberto De Guzman**, assistant professor of molecular biosciences; **Heather Desaire**, associate professor of chemistry; **Susan Egan**, associate professor of molecular biosciences; **Julian Limburg**, assistant

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In this issue:

[NIH renews \\$10.1 million KU COBRE](#)

[Graduate Studies Office moves to 213 Strong Hall](#)

[Graduate Studies fall meeting is September 25](#)

[RGS seeks to purchase KU graduate student art](#)

[Dedication planned for Structural Biology Center III-IV](#)

[Translational biology and medicine symposium at KUMC](#)

[Consider applying for KTEC PIPELINE](#)

[Economic Policy Conference focuses on "Insuring a Healthy Kansas"](#)

["Art@MRB" opening reception planned](#)

[Research annual reports are online](#)

[Science teachers 'Think Green' at CEBC this summer](#)

[KBA's Tom Thornton to speak at K-State on "Federal R&D"](#)

[Historic CERN "first-beam" event in September](#)

Research Administration

Upcoming Events

Produced by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. For more information, please contact Kevin Boatright at kboatright@ku.edu.

Research and Graduate Studies @ KU

professor of chemistry; **William Picking**, professor of molecular biosciences; **Emily Scott**, assistant professor of medicinal chemistry; **Jeffrey Staudinger**, associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology; and **Liskin Swint-Kruse**, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, KUMC.

Current COBRE investigators or pilot project leaders at KU include: **Chris Fischer**, assistant professor of physics; **Scott Hefty**, assistant professor of molecular biosciences; **Todd Holyoak**, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, KUMC; **Mario Rivera**, professor of chemistry; **Wonpil Im**, assistant professor of molecular biosciences and bioinformatics; and **Liang Tang**, assistant professor of molecular biosciences.

Graduate Studies Office moves to 213 Strong Hall

The Graduate Studies Office moved August 7 from 222 Strong to a new location just down the hall: 213 Strong, previously home of New Student Orientation (now in 154 Strong). Included in the move are Sara Rosen, associate vice provost and dean; administrative professionals Rochelle Montgomery and Christine Kosirog, and receptionist Abbey Algaier. Joining the staff soon as program coordinator is Roberta Pokphanh, previously a project coordinator in Molecular Biosciences.

John Augusto, assistant dean, is now located in the Graduate Application Processing Center, 313 Strong Hall, along with application specialists Gina King and Amy Price. The KU-Ft. Leavenworth Program is housed in 308 Strong Hall. Adrian Lewis, the new director of that program, arrived this summer from the University of North Texas. Joining him as assistant director is Dawn Tallchief, formerly with KU's Academic Achievement and Access Center. Bill Steele is program assistant in the office.

The Graduate Studies Office will hold an open house later in the semester. KU Learning Communities will be housed in 222 Strong during the coming year.

Graduate Studies fall meeting is September 25

The regular fall semester meeting of graduate directors, as well as department chairs, staff and directors involved with graduate education, is scheduled for Thursday, September 25 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the Big 12 Room of the Kansas Union. Additional information will be distributed in early September. You can also contact Rochelle Montgomery at 864-7234.

RGS seeks to purchase KU graduate student art

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) invites KU graduate students to submit existing art works for ongoing display in the new graduate studies offices, 213 and 313 Strong Hall. RGS will purchase a limited number of these works, which will be identified and featured prominently in public spaces and inner offices. For consideration, students should submit images of up to three of their works via .JPG or .PDF file format, along with contact information and a suggested purchase price (\$250 to \$300 per work), to: Megan Gannon, Graphic Design Coordinator, Office of Research and Graduate Studies, mgannon@ku.edu, 864-7778. The deadline for submission is Tuesday, September 2. A review panel will make its decisions by September 15, with delivery by September 22 and installation the week of September 29.

Dedication planned for Structural Biology Center III-IV

Construction of the Structural Biology Center (SBC) Phase III on the West Campus is now complete and most of the lab and office space is occupied. Completion of SBC Phase IV is anticipated in October.

Thursday, October 23, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., is the anticipated date of a public dedication ceremony and open house for both parts of the expanded facility. This promises to be a highlight of KU's annual Homecoming Week. More information will be provided as the date approaches.

Research and Graduate Studies @ KU

Translational biology and medicine symposium at KUMC

KU's new Center for Technology Commercialization (KUCTC) is hosting a symposium at the KU Medical Center Tuesday, September 16 on the topic **"Translational Biology and Medicine: People and Ideas at Work!"** The event is scheduled from 3 to 6 p.m. in Wahl Hall West, and all faculty and staff are welcome to attend. Remote video feed locations for those unable to attend are available. For Wichita campus location contact Penni Smith, (316) 293-3505, for Lawrence campus location contact Paula Conlin, (785) 864-4775, or Michael Hulet, (785) 864-7793.

Featured speaker for the symposium is Dr. Steven D. Averbuch, vice president, oncology transition strategy and development, and head, pharmacodiagnosics, oncology global clinical research, Bristol-Myers Squibb. Averbuch is a KU graduate, with a B.S. degree in pharmacy and an M.D. degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago. He has extensive experience in academic medicine as well as such corporate pharmaceutical companies as Merck and AstraZeneca.

A panel will join Averbuch on the program. Participants are Val Stella, University Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, KU; David M. Chao, president and CEO, BioMed Valley Discoveries, Inc., and Executive Vice President, Stowers Institute for Medical Research; and Cory Berkland, assistant professor of pharmaceutical chemistry and chemical and petroleum engineering, KU. Jim Baxendale, director of KUCTC, will moderate the panel, and a wine and cheese reception will follow.

The symposium is supported by KUCTC, the Office of Therapeutics, Discovery and Development, and KU Endowment. For more information, contact Elaine Spielbusch, espielbu@kumc.edu, (913) 588-5721.

Consider applying for KTEC PIPELINE

September 4 to October 4 is the time period for applications to KTEC PIPELINE, the nation's premier state-sponsored technology entrepreneur fellowship / venture development program. PIPELINE is sponsored by the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation and seeks to identify high potential technology entrepreneurs, match them with best-in-class training, resources and mentors, and facilitate their dynamic growth in Kansas.

PIPELINE was established in 2006, and its charter class included Lisa Friis, associate professor of mechanical engineering at KU. Participants must want to work tenaciously on their venture, whether it is a start-up or an existing business. The program requires attendance at scheduled three-day seminars that occur at least four times during the year – as well as approximately five days of independent work per quarter. Each Innovator is provided a stipend, designed to assist in advancing ventures and providing a source of funds to pursue projects uncovered during the KTEC PIPELINE process.

Qualifications include:

- Bachelor's degree;
- Currently running or contemplating a technology-oriented business;
- At least three (3) years of business or scientific management experience;
- Beginning or growing a business in Kansas;
- Ability to take feedback and integrate advice and counsel into his/her work;
- Willingness to work toward scaling/growth in his/her business;
- Ability to manage uncertainty and ambiguity and to take measured risk; and
- Strong interpersonal and business communication skills.

More information, a complete list of guidelines, and an online application are available at www.ktecpipeline.com.

Economic Policy Conference focuses on "Insuring a Healthy Kansas"

The Institute for Policy and Social Research (IPSR), with support from the Grant County (KS) Chamber of Commerce and Pioneer Communications, will hold its annual Kansas Economic Policy Conference on Thursday, October 30 in the KU Union. Live video-conferencing will be provided with a site in Ulysses.

The theme of the conference is "Insuring a Healthy Kansas." Keynote speakers will be:

Research and Graduate Studies @ KU

- **Sandy Praeger**, Kansas Insurance Commissioner and President, National Association of Insurance Commissioners, “Access to Health Insurance in Kansas and Across the Nation”
- **Nancy Turnbull**, Associate Dean for Educational Programs, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, “Health Reform in Massachusetts: Progress so Far, Challenges Ahead and Some Lessons for Kansas”

As the number of people with health insurance keeps falling while costs continue to rise, access to quality, affordable health care remains an important concern for Kansas and the nation. This year's conference will explore the range of issues facing the state. The program will begin by assessing the current status of health care in Kansas. Later, participants will learn lessons from the recent Massachusetts health care reform, and then explore the nuances of health care reform in Kansas.

For more information and to register, go to <http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/conferen/kepc08/>.

“Art@MRB” opening reception planned

The third annual exhibition of “Art@MRB” opens officially September 26 with a reception from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the Multidisciplinary Research Building. For the first time, the featured artists are all graduate students at KU: Tammy Keiser in the Department of Theatre and Film, and Mari LaCure and Jody Wood in the Department of Art.

The artwork for the exhibition was selected by a review panel. The students receive an honorarium for their efforts and will be present at the reception. Their work will remain on exhibit throughout the academic year.

“Art@MRB” is sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, the Office of the Dean in the School of Fine Arts, and the Department of Art. The reception is free and open to the public. The art is available for viewing during normal MRB business hours.

Research annual reports are on-line

All KU annual reports of sponsored research expenditures and awards, from FY1998 through FY2007, are on-line at http://www.rgs.ku.edu/depts/r-info/annual_reports/annual_reports.shtml. Each report provides dollar amounts by academic unit, research center and sponsoring agency. For more information about these reports, contact Bob Collins at the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, rcollins@ku.edu, 864-7400.

Science teachers ‘Think Green’ at CEBC this summer

Four area high school teachers spent six weeks this summer doing research at the Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis (CEBC), with funding from the Kansas NSF EPSCoR program. All of the research projects had one thing in common – the environment.

- **Alan Gleue**, physics teacher at Lawrence High, focused on capturing sunlight with fruit-based dyes. These “smoothie” solar cells are cheaper to make than standard solar cells, but not as effective. One of the key ingredients is titanium oxide. With help from Javier Guzman, KU assistant professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, Gleue determined that the solar cells work best with “nano-sized” titanium oxide, tiny particles that are a thousand times smaller than the diameter of a human hair.
- **Jason Sutton**, biology teacher at Gardner-Edgerton High in Gardner, Kan., studied the environmental effects of a new class of chemicals called ionic liquids. While these chemicals do not evaporate and cause air pollution, little is known about how they will impact land and water resources. Aaron Scurto, KU assistant professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, helped Sutton test the effects of ionic liquids on pond water snails. This work has been turned into an inexpensive and simple “ecotoxicology” lab activity for high school students.
- **Carolyn Pearson**, physics teacher at Bonner Springs High, and **Steve Stultz**, biology teacher at J.C. Harmon High, both in Kansas City, Kan., worked with Susan Williams, KU associate professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, to study biodiesel formulations. Pearson and Stultz made biodiesel from different blends of soybean oil and coconut oil, and tested the shelf-life and fuel properties.

Research and Graduate Studies @ KU

The teachers created lesson plans related to their summer research, so they and their future students will all benefit from their experience at CEBC.

KBA's Tom Thornton to speak at K-State on "Federal R&D"

Tom Thornton, president and CEO of the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA), will speak in Manhattan August 21 on "The Anatomy of a Federal R&D Project." His focus is the statewide effort to pursue placement of the \$451 million National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan. KBA has been the leader of this initiative on behalf of a broad coalition that includes KU.

Thornton is speaking in conjunction with a KansasBIO "BIG Thinker Reception," from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Kansas State Alumni Center. Everyone is welcome to attend. RSVP and more information should be directed to (913) 495-4334, info@kansasbio.org, www.kansasbio.org.

Historic CERN "first-beam" event in September

On September 10, scientists at the \$10 billion, Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Geneva will attempt for the first time to send a proton beam around the 27-kilometer-long tunnel of the world's most powerful particle accelerator. (The energy of the beam will be 450 GeV, where one GeV equals one billion electron volts.) Beam will begin circulating at about 9 a.m. local time in Switzerland, 2 a.m. in the U.S. Central Time Zone. More information about U.S. participation in the LHC and its experiments is available at <http://www.uslhc.us>. Another site of interest is <http://lhc-first-beam.web.cern.ch/lhc-first-beam/Welcome.html>.

Research Administration

"Research Administration 101" returns next month

Research 101: A Guide to the Administration of Sponsored Projects at the University of Kansas," will again be offered this fall by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. It's a 10-session course designed to help campus administrators and support staff manage externally-sponsored grants or contract accounts. The course also provides an excellent opportunity to develop contacts with people from a number of departments and disciplines across campus.

The free course starts September 17 and continues through November 19. All sessions take place on Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Apollo Room in Nichols Hall on the West Campus.

Each session addresses a wide range of issues related to research projects, including submitting grant proposals, award spending and monitoring, intellectual property issues, the responsible conduct of research, and how research funding is measured at KU. KU faculty and staff who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion, and their participation will be noted in their personnel files.

To learn more about Research 101, including topics and handouts from fall 2007, visit http://www.rcr.ku.edu/ra_101/ra_101.shtml or contact Susan MacNally in Research Integrity sumac@ku.edu, 864-4148. Topics for each week are posted on the KU calendar. Registration is required and can be done via e-mail. Send your name, affiliation, e-mail address and phone number to resadmin-events@ku.edu.

Next TRIPS flight takes off September 16

KU established the TRIPS program -- Travel of Research Investigators to Potential Sponsors -- as a way of helping researchers meet face-to-face in Washington, D.C. with funding officials. Participants travel out and back, normally in one day, aboard the KU airplane. There is no charge to the researcher. The only requirement is that you must have a scheduled meeting with one or more program officers to discuss the possibility of funding for a future sponsored project.

The first TRIPS flight of the new academic year is Tuesday, September 16. Other dates this year are November 12, December 3-4, January 29, April 21 and May 7. (The December flight leaves on the third and returns on the fourth.) On

Research and Graduate Studies @ KU

each of these dates, the KU plane will leave the Lawrence airport at approximately 6 a.m. Central, arriving at Washington Dulles between 9:30 and 10 a.m. Eastern. The return flight leaves around 5 p.m. Eastern and arrives in Lawrence at approximately 7:30 p.m. Central. Each researcher is responsible for making his or her own meeting and transportation arrangements, including transit to and from the airport, and for any accompanying expenses while in Washington.

More information about TRIPS is available at <http://www.rgs.ku.edu/depts/rgs/trips/index.shtml>. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Also at that site is information about how to apply to the KU Center for Research for a grant from the Faculty/Staff Research Development Travel Fund. KUCR will pay for one trip a year per researcher to visit a sponsor. A maximum of \$750 per trip is available.

Personal vehicle mileage rate change

The personal vehicle mileage rate for travel using KU Center for Research funds increased July 1 to \$.585 per mile. This rate was established in accordance with IRS guidelines and is effective with travel occurring through December 31, 2008.

Per diem rate increase

Per diem rates for domestic and international travel increased July 1 as follows:

- Domestic (U.S. and U.S. territories): \$50 per day, \$12.50 per quarter day
- All international: \$60 per day, \$15 per quarter day

These rates apply to travel using KU Center for Research funds.

Frequently Asked Question: Proposal Services

Q: Now that we have started FY09, do investigators need to worry about using new fringe benefit rates for proposal submissions?

A: No. For proposal preparation budgeting purposes, the current fringe benefit rates will remain the same for FY09. To view the rates, please go to http://www.kucr.ku.edu/depts/proposals/start/budgets/budget_prep.shtml.

“Good Customer Service” is topic of satellite broadcast

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the Higuchi Biosciences Center will host a live satellite broadcast Tuesday, September 9 on “Good Customer Service for Research Administrators: How to Support the Research Endeavor at Your Institution.” The program is a service of the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) and is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Simons Auditorium in the Higuchi Biosciences Center. Participants may bring a brown bag lunch to the meeting.

A panel of experts will discuss who the customer is and what constitutes good customer service. Presenters will examine the role of the central sponsored programs office and its relationship to principal investigators. Topics will include how to communicate with customers, as well as how speed, accuracy, transparency, politeness and compliance contribute to good customer service.

All interested KU persons are welcome to attend at no charge. To register, please send an e-mail to resadmin-events@ku.edu, with the subject “NCURATV September 9th.” In the body of the message, include your name, affiliation, e-mail address and phone number. Those who pre-register will receive program handouts by e-mail the day prior to the program.

Research and Graduate Studies @ KU

Upcoming Events

September 4, 3:45 p.m.
Chancellor's Convocation
Budig Hall

September 6, 8 a.m.
Monarch Watch Fall Open House
Foley Hall, West Campus

September 9, 10:30 a.m.
NCURA Broadcast: "Good Customer Service for Research Administrators"
Simons Auditorium, Higuchi Biosciences Center

September 10, 4 p.m.
Second Annual Welcome Reception for KU / Haskell Indian Nations University NIH Funded Programs
Kansas Room, KU Union

September 15, 3:30
"Will Race Survive in the U.S.?: The Possibilities and Impossibilities of the Obama Phenomenon"
Speaker: David Roediger, University of Illinois
The Commons at Spooner Hall

September 16
TRIP Flight to Washington, D.C.

September 16, 3 p.m.
Symposium: Translational Biology and Medicine
Wahl Hall West, KUMC (Remote video feed available on Lawrence and Wichita Campuses)

September 17, 2:30 p.m.
Research Administration 101: Session 1
Apollo Room, Nichols Hall

September 23, 7:30 p.m.
"The 2008 Election: What's at Stake?"
Speaker: Susan Estrich, University of Southern California
Woodruff Auditorium, KU Union

September 24, 2:30 p.m.
Research Administration 101: Session 2
Apollo Room, Nichols Hall

September 24, 7:30 p.m.
"My Role as Publisher, Designer and Editor at McSweeney's Publishing House"
Speaker: Eli Horowitz, McSweeney's
Hall Center Conference Hall

September 25, 9 a.m.
Graduate Studies Fall Meeting
Big 12 Room, KU Union

September 26, 4 p.m.
Opening Reception: "Art @ MRB"
Multidisciplinary Research Building

October 1, 2:30 p.m.
Research Administration 101: Session 3
Apollo Room, Nichols Hall

October 4, 4 p.m.
"Is Public Policy Possible?"
Jerry Gaus, University of Arizona
Hall Center Conference Hall

October 7, 7:30 p.m.
"The Post-World War II Conservative Intellectual Movement in America"
George Nash, Historian
Hall Center Conference Hall

October 8, 2:30 p.m.
Research Administration 101: Session 4
Apollo Room, Nichols Hall

October 13, 3:30 p.m.
"Katyn – A Stalinist Crime: The Massacre of Polish Prisoners of War in the U.S.S.R., Spring 1940"
Anna Cienciala, KU emeritus
Hall Center Conference Hall

October 15, 2:30 p.m.
Research Administration 101: Session 5
Apollo Room, Nichols Hall

October 22, 2:30 p.m.
Research Administration 101: Session 6
Apollo Room, Nichols Hall

October 22, 7:30 p.m.
"The Obsolescence of the Concept of Race"
Charles Johnson, University of Washington
Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium

October 23, 3:30 p.m.
Dedication and Open House: SBC Phase III-IV
Structural Biology Center

October 24, 4 p.m.
"What Do We Owe the World's Poor?"
Loren Lomasky, University of Virginia
Hall Center Conference Hall

October 27, 7:30 p.m.
"Conquering the Wilderness: Imaginative Imperialism and the Invasion of Legoland"
Michael Chabon, Author
KU Union Ballroom

October 28
KU Energy Council Conference
TBA

October 29, 2:30 p.m.
Research Administration 101: Session 7
Apollo Room, Nichols Hall

October 30, 8:30 a.m.
Institute for Policy and Social Research
Kansas Economic Policy Conference: Insuring a Healthy Kansas
KU Union