

KU Discovery & Innovation

News from KU Research

September 2014

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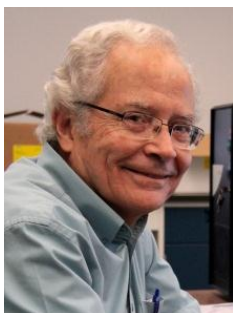
Picking Succeeds Michaelis at Higuchi Center



A historic leadership transition took place in August at KU's Higuchi Biosciences Center. After 25 years as director, Eli Michaelis, University Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, stepped down from that role. **His successor is William Picking**, left, Foundation Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

"It's an honor to follow someone of Eli's stature," Picking said. "Thanks to his commitment and strong leadership, it has been a great resource for biomedical science researchers across the entire KU system. I'm excited to now have an opportunity to guide its research

mission and to work with the high-quality current and future scientists who have a stake in the Higuchi Biosciences Center."



Michaelis, left, plans to continue his research on brain function, the nervous system and diseases of aging, such as Alzheimer's disease. "It's an exciting time to be in my field of study," he said. "Neuroscience research is a priority for the nation. KU's bi-campus Alzheimer's Disease Center is one of only 29 such centers in the U.S. designated and funded by the National Institute on Aging. I will remain director of one of its core components, and I look forward to continuing my research."

"We're fortunate to have a researcher of Bill Picking's caliber moving into this leadership role," said Mary Lee Hummert, interim vice chancellor for research. "The center grew in stature under Eli, and we are grateful to him for his years of service."

KU Research to Fund Commons "Starter Grants"

The Commons – a program in Spooner Hall supported by the Biodiversity Institute, the Spencer Museum of Art, and the Hall Center for the Humanities – seeks "Starter Grant" proposals for interdisciplinary, collaborative research ideas at the conceptual stage. Awards of up to \$10,000 each, funded by the Office of Research, will be made to assist teams as they seek to find their common language and methodological approach.

"This program is a very promising initiative and will help fill a gap," said Rodolfo Torres, associate vice chancellor for research. "It complements the Strategic Initiative Grants that target research proposals at a more developed stage."

The **Starter Grants application form is available online**. The deadline for submission is November 3, with awards to be announced November 25. An **information session** for prospective applicants is planned Thursday, September 18 at 1-2 p.m. at The Commons.



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A \$500,000 gift from the Hall Family Foundation last spring permanently endowed the directorship position at the Hall Center for the Humanities. A September 10 Lied Center investiture ceremony for Victor Bailey (above, speaking) was heavily attended by colleagues, friends and family. Bailey, the Charles W. Batey Distinguished Professor of Modern British History, has led the Hall Center since 2000.

Humanities Lecturer John Symons to Discuss “Posthuman Descendants”

John Symons, professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy at KU (below), will speak at The Commons in Spooner Hall on Tuesday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m. The program is the second in this year’s Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series, and is free and open to the public.



Symons’ talk is “What Can We Teach Our Posthuman Descendants?” The term was introduced by Oxford philosopher **Nick Bostrom**, who described a “posthuman” as an individual who has gone beyond “the maximum attainable capacities by any current human being without recourse to new technological means.”

In his lecture, Symons will discuss the posthuman, including what the term might mean and how we can talk to and think about our posthuman descendants.

Symons’ research addresses basic questions concerning the nature of mind and science. He came to KU in 2012 from the University of Texas at El Paso. His current interests include a focus on the role of technology in the development of science and human nature. His recent publications have focused on the role of computational models and software on scientific inquiry.

KU Research to Host DOD Funding Panel

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) funds a wide range of research. Subject areas include health, social sciences, engineering, and computer science. KU Research will host a **discussion of DOD research opportunities** on Tuesday, October 7 from 1-2:30 p.m. at The Commons in Spooner Hall. The program will offer insight into DOD’s funding goals and broad areas of interest. For more information, contact Bob Rummer, research development director, at bobrummer@ku.edu, 864-3149.

KU to Host Ground Water Conference

The **59th Annual Midwest Ground Water Conference** will be held in Lawrence September 30-October 2. The conference draws attendees from 14 states, from the Dakotas to Kentucky and Ohio to Arkansas. This broad region has ground water resource issues similar to those in Kansas, but has different aquifer systems and approaches to addressing them.

Keynote speaker for the conference will be William Alley, former chief of the U.S. Geological Survey Office of Ground Water. Banquet speaker will be Rex Buchanan, acting director of the Kansas Geological Survey, on “Induced Seismicity.” The technical sessions will include both oral and poster presentations.

The Midwest Ground Water Conference is an annual meeting held at the invitation of a participating state. This will be the first such conference in Kansas since 1998.



Science met family fun September 13 during the **Monarch Watch fall open house** at Foley Hall. The event attracted an estimated 800 people for outdoor games and show-and-tell involving honey bees, caterpillars, moths, tarantulas, various unusual insects and other local butterflies. This year, Monarch Watch gave out 445 monarch pupae to youngsters who attended. (Photos courtesy Monarch Watch and Chip Taylor)

art+science exhibition opening September 17



KU Libraries is hosting an exhibition highlighting the creative practices of art, design and architecture and the contributions they make to interdisciplinary research.

“art + science: Collaborative Research at the University of Kansas” opens September 17 in the Watson Library Gallery. At 6:15 p.m., panelists Celka Straughn and Stephen Goddard of the Spencer Museum of Art will speak on “Collaborative Research with the Art Museum.”

The exhibition showcases the Arts-Research-Collaboration (ARC) initiative, led by the Spencer Museum of Art, and its current investigation into practice-led research at KU.

Related: At 3:30-5 p.m. on September 18 in Watson Library, postdoc Steven Duval and Rebecca Blocksome, art editor at Spencer Museum of Art, will discuss the history of practice-led research, the role of hybrid practices in collaborative research, and their work with ARC.

Large Data Summit Scheduled Sept. 21-22

It is not too late to attend the Large Data Management Genomic Biodiversity Summit, September 21-22, at The Commons. The event is free and open to all interested persons, but registration is [required and available online](#).

Invited speakers include representatives of Argonne National Laboratory, the Field Museum of Natural History, the University of Oklahoma, Microsoft, and Internet2. KU presenters include Jeff Vitter, provost and executive vice chancellor; Kris Krishtalka, director of the Biodiversity Institute; and Jorge Soberón and Pauly Cartwright of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Patent Attorneys to Discuss IP Topics

Two Workman Nydegger patent attorneys will discuss the intellectual property aspects of the recently passed America Invents Act on Monday, September 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bioscience & Technology Business Center. Carl Reed and Paul Taylor will speak, followed by 30 minutes for discussion and questions. Lunch is provided and an [RSVP is required at the KUIC website](#) by September 26.

KU United Way Campaign Starts Oct. 1

“Live United” is the theme of the [2014 United Way campaign](#) at KU. This once-a-year appeal invites faculty and staff to support many local programs that affect the education, health and self-sufficiency of the community.

Stephen Mazza, dean of the School of Law, is the 2014 KU campaign chair. Last year, faculty and staff contributed more than \$270,000 to United Way. Please consider a generous gift when you receive your pledge materials.

Regional Event at KU to Focus on NMR

The 7th Great Plains Regional Annual Symposium on Protein and Biomolecular NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) will take place October 17-18 at Simons Labs. Event sponsors include the Higuchi Biosciences Center and the NIH COBRE in Protein Structure and Function, led by Bob Hanzlik, professor of medicinal chemistry. Jennifer Laurence, associate professor of pharmaceutical chemistry, is one of four symposium organizers.

Plenary speaker for the symposium is [Arthur Pardi](#), professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Registration information, other speakers, and the complete schedule are [available online](#). Poster session abstract submissions are due October 10th.



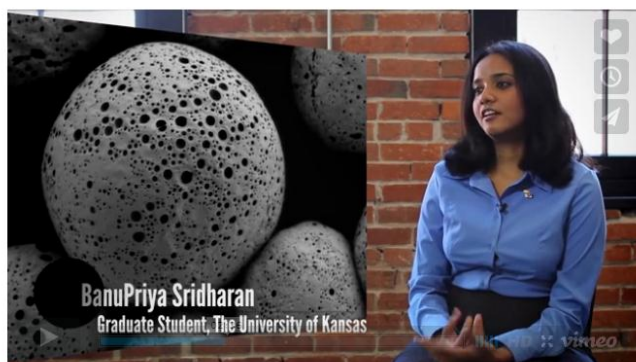
2014 State of the State -
Kansas Economic Policy Conference

[The Affordable Care Act in Kansas:
Impacts on People, Business, and Providers](#)

Registration has begun for the October 23 [Kansas Economic Policy Conference](#), sponsored by KU’s Institute for Policy & Social Research. Keynote speakers on the impact of the Affordable Care Act in Kansas will be Scott C. Brunner, senior analyst & strategy team leader, Kansas Health Institute; Arthur Daemmrich, associate professor of history and philosophy of medicine, KU School of Medicine; Sandy Praeger, Kansas insurance commissioner; and Andy Allison, former director of Arkansas Medicaid.

The program begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Kansas Union and at a satellite location in Ulysses, and concludes at 2:15 p.m. Panelists during the morning sessions and luncheon session include representatives of hospitals and insurance companies, as well as business leaders and KU faculty.

[Registration is \\$55 and can be done online](#). Complete program information is available at the website.



KCALSI Showcases KU “Science to Art”

More than 20 KU graduate students from the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses attended the September 9 **Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI)** Annual Dinner as guests of KCALSI and KU. One highlight this year was the “Science to Art” silent auction, showcasing 12 images created by local researchers and selected for sale.

During the dinner, a **video of the contributing scientists** was shown. Among those featured were BanuPriya Sridharan, above, Bioengineering (shown with polymeric microspheres taken on a scanning electron microscope), and Aishik Chakraborty, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. Both of their images sold, generating funds for local STEAM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and art) education programs.

SUMO Consortium to Host Conference

KU’s Consortium Targeting Small Ubiquitin-related Modifier (SUMO) for the Treatment of Inflammatory-Related Diseases will host the 1st Annual Midwest Regional SUMO Conference October 13 at Pharmacy, Room 1020. The conference is free. It runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Keynote speaker will be **Michael Matunis**, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Johns Hopkins. The title of his talk is “SUMO Functions: From Chromosome Alignment to Malaria Parasite HemaZoin.”

Also on the program is **Jeroen Roelofs**, assistant professor of biology at Kansas State, and consortium members Nancy Muma, Pharmacology and Toxicology; Yoshiaki Azuma, Molecular Biosciences; and Jeff Staudinger, Pharmacology and Toxicology. There will also be a poster session. Contact Staudinger for more information at stauding@ku.edu.

The interdisciplinary SUMO Consortium was established with a \$300,000 Strategic Initiative Grant Level I award.

KU Research Notes

“RA-101” Continues September 24–November 19

“**Research Administration 101**” (RA 101) is a free, user-friendly orientation sponsored by KU Research. It is designed to help educate campus administrators and staff about the management of externally-sponsored grants and contracts. It addresses a wide range of issues related to research projects, including submitting grant proposals, award spending and monitoring, intellectual property issues, and the responsible conduct of research.

Sessions are held once a week on Wednesdays from 2:30–4:30 p.m. through November 19, except for September 17. The location is the Ron Evans Apollo Auditorium in Nichols Hall. To enroll, participants should send an e-mail with their name, affiliation, phone, and e-mail address to resadmin-events@ku.edu. Past participants are welcome to drop in on any session for a refresher.

Celebrate National Postdoc Appreciation Week

The KU Postdoctoral Association will host a noon-hour gathering in the Relays Room of Burge Union on Friday, September 26. The event celebrates National Postdoc Appreciation Week. In addition to free food, there will be door prizes and an opportunity to network with postdocs from other departments. **RSVP by September 19.**

Fosher Named Administrative Associate at KU Research



Christine Fosher joined KU Research in September as an administrative associate in the Office of the Vice Chancellor. She was previously with the Center for Mental Health Research and Innovation in the KU School of Social Welfare. She held positions in

the KU Center for Research from 1998 to 2007, primarily in Proposal Services, and was at the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets during 2007–09. Her background includes a degree from the University of New Hampshire.

Conflict of Interest Reporting is Under Way

KU faculty and unclassified professional staff are required as a condition of employment to file an Annual Conflict of Interest and Time Commitment (COI) Certification. You received an e-mail notification in early September and have 30 days in which to complete the process. Contact coi@ku.edu if you have questions, or visit the **Conflict of Interest website**.

Upcoming Events

Additional details are available at the [KU Calendar](#).

SEPTEMBER 17

art + science Panel Discussion: “Collaborative Research with the Art Museum,” Celka Straughn and Stephen Goddard

6:15 p.m.

Watson Library, Third Floor West

SEPTEMBER 18

Interdisciplinary Starter Grants: Information Session

1 – 2 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

SEPTEMBER 22

Large Data Management Genomic Biodiversity Summit

9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

SEPTEMBER 24 THROUGH NOVEMBER 19

“Research Administration 101”

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Nichols Hall, Ron Evans Apollo Auditorium

SEPTEMBER 26

Celebration of National Postdoc Appreciation Week

Noon – 1 p.m.

Burge Union, Relays Room

SEPTEMBER 29

Intellectual Property Protection Strategies: Best Practices

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Bioscience & Technology Business Center, Room 109

SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 2

59th Annual Midwest Ground Water Conference

Holiday Inn Convention Center, Lawrence

OCTOBER 7

Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series: John Symons, “What Can We Teach Our Posthuman Descendants?”

7:30 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

OCTOBER 7

Research Opportunities at the Department of Defense

1 – 2:30 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

OCTOBER 13

1st Midwest Regional SUMO Symposium

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

School of Pharmacy, Room 1020

OCTOBER 14

Collab BREW Entrepreneurship Gathering

4 – 5 p.m.

Bioscience & Technology Business Center, KU Catalyst

OCTOBER 17-18

7th Great Plains Regional Annual Symposium on Protein and Biomolecular NMR

Simons Laboratories, Auditorium

OCTOBER 23

Kansas Economic Policy Conference: “The Affordable Care Act in Kansas: Impacts on People, Business and Providers”

8 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Kansas Union and Ulysses, Kansas Satellite Location

OCTOBER 29

Research on the Leading Edge: Julian Go

3:30 – 5 p.m.

Hall Center for the Humanities

NOVEMBER 12-13

Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas

Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan

NOVEMBER 13 [RESCHEDULED FROM OCTOBER 23]

KU Grant Coordinators Quarterly Meeting

10:30 a.m. – Noon

Simons Laboratories, Auditorium

FEBRUARY 16, 2015

Deadline: Strategic Initiative Grants Level I Proposals

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