

KU Discovery & Innovation

News from KU Research

January 2015

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James Tracy Named Vice Chancellor for Research



James W. Tracy, left, former vice president for research at the University of Kentucky and professor of molecular and cellular biochemistry in its College of Medicine, **has been named KU's new vice chancellor for research.** The move is effective April 1.

Tracy succeeds Steve Warren, who served as vice chancellor for seven years before stepping down last May to return to full-time teaching and research. Mary Lee Hummert, vice provost for faculty development, has served as interim vice chancellor and will continue in that role until Tracy's arrival.

As vice chancellor, Tracy will oversee 10 research centers, two state surveys, two affiliated centers and core research laboratories at the Lawrence campus. He will also serve as president of the KU Center for Research Inc., and share overall responsibility for KU Innovation & Collaboration, KU's bi-campus technology commercialization office. He will work closely with the chancellor and senior leaders at KU, including the KU Medical Center's vice chancellor for research, Richard Barohn.

Tracy will hold an academic appointment with tenure in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. His academic background includes a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Purdue University and 24 years of faculty and administrative experience in the Department of Comparative Biosciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"I am excited and honored to join the University of Kansas," Tracy said. "The primary role of a chief research officer is to provide a climate in which discovery and learning can most effectively take place. It is, after all, the faculty, staff and students who fulfill the institution's mission and are responsible for its reputation. I am a strong advocate for research and creative activity in its many forms across the disciplines. I look forward to helping the university and its researchers achieve their individual and collective goals in a way that benefits the state of Kansas and society."

Deadline Nears for Level I Strategic Initiative Grant Proposals

The next deadline for Level I Strategic Initiative Grant proposals is Monday, February 16, at 5 p.m. This is the second and final Level I proposal cycle for the 2014-15 academic year.

Information about the program, including the application components, is **available online**. The site provides access to the secure, online application form. **Level II Strategic Initiative Grant** proposals are evaluated separately and can be submitted at any time.

Since its start in 2012, the Strategic Initiative Grant program has awarded more than \$5.4 million in Level I awards to Lawrence researchers for innovative, collaborative projects.



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The annual Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Awards ceremony in December was even more special than usual. The four honorees were recognized (from left): KU's Craig Lunte, Chemistry, and Victor Bailey, History; and Kansas State's Susan Brown, Biology, and Frank White, Plant Pathology. Also present and acknowledged was Dr.



Norge Jerome (shown with Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little), professor emerita of preventive medicine at the KU Medical Center. Jerome was the inaugural recipient of the Irvin Youngberg Award in 1982 and the first woman to receive any of the four Higuchi Awards.

KU Research Begins Proposal Peer Review

The KU Office of Research has introduced a Proposal Evaluation and External Review (PEER) service. Its purpose is to get a proposal to a well-qualified colleague of the PI's choosing at a key stage in the submission process: close enough to the deadline so the proposal is in near-final form but early enough to make changes. All disciplines are eligible.

The goal of PEER is to help strengthen the proposal and enhance its chances for success with the funding agency. To accomplish that goal, KU Research will compensate approved external reviewers (one per proposal) in the amount of \$500 for each written, confidential assessment.

Full details and the application form are available online. Questions can be directed to Rodolfo Torres, associate vice chancellor for research, torres@ku.edu, 864-7237, or Nancy Biles, assistant director, Pre-Award Services, kucrpeer@ku.edu, 864-7434.

KUIC to Host Medical Devices Summit

On Monday, February 2, you are invited to join speakers from all aspects of the medical device research-to-products continuum in a TED-like summit at the KU Medical Center. The program is sponsored by KU Innovation and Collaboration. **Program information and the registration form** are available online at the KUIC site.

Participants in the free, all-day event will hear perspectives from entrepreneurs with first-hand knowledge of success, intellectual property experts, and others. The goal of the summit is to inspire collaboration among attendees to help build and grow a robust medical device industry in the region.

Also featured will be a medical device commercialization plan competition. Clinicians, faculty, students and post-docs will put their medical device ideas to the test. The competition will challenge attendees and provide a network for brainstorming, feedback and future business opportunities.

"Medical Devices: From Research to Patient," is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Nursing Auditorium at KUMC. Lunch will be provided, with a reception following the program. For more information, contact **Tricia Bergman** at (785) 864-3303.

KUIC to Host NSF Grant Seminar

KU Innovation and Collaboration will present a free, all-day seminar on Tuesday, February 3 on the topic of NSF Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR/STTR) grants. The program begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. at the Bioscience & Technology Business Center.

The seminar presents essential information for crafting a competitive proposal to meet the mission, standards and requirements of the grant program. The presenter is Michael Kurek, a partner in BBC Entrepreneurial Training & Consulting, Ann Arbor. Over his 30-year career, Kurek has held senior management positions in marketing, sales and business development for a number of life science companies. His background includes a Ph.D. in genetics from Florida State and an M.B.A. from Boston University.

Lunch will be provided, but space is limited. **Program information and the registration form** are available online at the KUIC site.



The Science Coalition, a broad-based national advocacy group of which KU is a member, features a video of Kansas Congressman Kevin Yoder (above) on its ["Science 2034"](#) site. In it, Yoder states "There are so many personal issues as well as economic reasons to invest in scientific research that I think it should continue to be one of those bipartisan initiatives where everybody has a reason to be a champion for science in Washington." Yoder represents the Third District, which includes the KU Medical Center. The Science Coalition notes that Yoder, "In his short time in Congress [since 2011], has distinguished himself as an advocate for federal research funding."

Undergraduate Research Awards Made

This spring, **51 KU students will receive Undergraduate Research Awards.** UGRA recipients are awarded \$1,000 to fund their faculty-mentored research and creative projects, which represent departments from across campus and explore a wide range of topics.

Students apply for the award by writing a four-page research proposal under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Applications are evaluated on the merit of the applicant's proposal, the applicant's academic record and a recommendation letter from the faculty mentor.

The competition is coordinated by the Center for Undergraduate Research and funded by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the Office of Research, Undergraduate Studies and the Office of the Provost.

Proposals for summer and fall 2015 UGRAs are due March 26. Interested students are encouraged to attend the upcoming information sessions and proposal workshops. More information is available on the [Center for Undergraduate Research website.](#)

KU Research Notes

NSF Releases New Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) NSF 15-1

The NSF PAPPG has been revised to implement Uniform Guidance: Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, which went into effect on December 26, 2014. [The new PAPPG](#) will apply to all proposals submitted on or after that date.

NIH Announces New Biosketch Format

NIH will require use of the new format for proposals submitted on or after May 25, 2015. Investigators are encouraged to begin using the new format now. The page limitation has been increased from four to five pages, and additional resources are available to support the new requirements. [The new format page](#) is available online, and [additional information](#) is also available. You may also contact [Megan Todd](#) or [Bob Szrot](#) in Pre-Award Services if you have any questions.

Uniform Guidance TRT Presentation on Courseware

Those unable to attend the December session of Thursday Research Topics, a Uniform Guidance update by Alicia Reed and Anita Abel, the presentation and slides are now [available for online viewing](#) via BlackBoard.

Reminder: [Grant Coordinators Meeting](#) is January 22.



Prasad Gogineni, right, director of the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets and Deane E. Ackers Distinguished Professor of Engineering, gave the featured faculty research presentation December 13 at the annual meeting of the KU Center for Research, Inc. Board of Trustees. He spoke at the Lied Center Pavilion on "Radar Sounding and Imaging of Antarctic and Greenland Ice Sheets."

Hall Center Hosts Anna Deveare Smith



Award-winning playwright and actress Anna Deveare Smith, left, is the next Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series speaker. Her talk is Wednesday, February 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lied Center. The title is "Snapshots: Portraits of a World in Transition." The program is free and open to the public, with support provided by the Sosland Foundation of Kansas City.

Smith's groundbreaking solo shows, based on interviews dealing with social issues, "blur the lines between theater and journalism." Her *Fires in the Mirror* was the finalist for the 1993 Pulitzer Prize in drama. She received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama in 2013. Smith has also starred in such films and series as *Philadelphia*, *The West Wing*, *Rachel Getting Married*, and *Nurse Jackie*.

Changes to Financial Conflict of Interest Training Module Improve Accessibility

The Office of Research has changed its online Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) training module from Rocket Ready to Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), to improve accessibility. CITI also provides Human Subjects and Responsible Conduct of Research training modules for the Lawrence campus.

Those who previously completed FCOI training through Rocket Ready do not need to take the CITI training until their Rocket Ready training expires. Investigators on Public Health Service (PHS)-compliant awards must complete FCOI training before engaging in research and at least every four years thereafter. The Conflict of Interest staff will email investigators when their training is about to expire.

The FCOI regulation promotes objectivity in research by establishing standards that provide a reasonable expectation that the design, conduct, or reporting of PHS-funded research is free from bias resulting from investigator financial conflicts of interest. The CITI training reviews the PHS regulation, how the regulation affects investigators, and KU-specific conflict of interest policies and procedures.

All CITI training modules are available at any time to anyone with a KU logon ID. [Access the KU portal for CITI courses here](#), or through the [CITI homepage](#) using the "Log in through my institution" option and list of institutions. If you have questions contact [Sara Crangle](#) at (785) 864-3319.



Jean Hall, right, received the 2014 Steven F. Warren Research Achievement Award December 17 at a ceremony in The Forum at Marvin Hall. She is shown with her proud mother and daughter. The award was conferred by Mary Lee Hummert, interim vice chancellor for research (with flowers presented by the award's namesake, former vice chancellor Steve Warren). Hall is an associate research professor and director of KU's bi-campus Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies. She is affiliated with the Center for Research on Learning in the Life Span Institute.



Francis Collins, right, director of the National Institutes of Health, was a spirited participant in the humorous closing segment of the **final Comedy Central "Colbert Report"** program December 18. Here he is shown singing "We'll Meet Again" with country musician Willie Nelson, actor Bryan Cranston and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. Collins appeared on the Colbert program several times over the years to discuss such serious topics as obesity, Ebola, the federal BRAIN Initiative and the importance of federally funded basic science research.

Upcoming Events

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

JANUARY 22

KU Grant Coordinators Meeting

10:30 a.m.

Simons Labs, Auditorium

JANUARY 22-24

Water Charrette: "Food Deserts"

Spooner Hall, The Commons and The Forum at Marvin Hall

JANUARY 27

**Science on Tap: Leonard Krishtalka,
"Tackling the Biodiversity of The Planet"**

7:30 p.m.

Free State Brewing, 636 Massachusetts St., Lawrence

JANUARY 30 / FEBRUARY 6, 13 / MARCH 6

The Commons Presents: "Red Hot Research"

4 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

FEBRUARY 2

Summit: "Medical Devices: From Research to Patient"

7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

KU Medical Center, Nursing Auditorium

FEBRUARY 2

**The Commons Presents: Margaret Atwood, ". . . The Arts,
The Sciences, The Humanities, the Inhumanities, and the
Non-Humanities. Zombies Thrown In Extra"**

7 p.m.

Kansas Union, Ballroom

FEBRUARY 3

**"Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR/STTR) Grants:
How to Be Successful at NSF"**

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bioscience & Technology Business Center, 2029 Becker Drive

FEBRUARY 4

Art in the Library: "Science, Art, Optics & Illusion"

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. (for ages 7-11)

Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont, Lawrence

[Collaboration with the Spencer Museum of Art]

FEBRUARY 6

Higuchi Biosciences Center "Science Talks," with Susan Lunte, Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry; Jianming Qiu, Microbiology; and Juergen Richt, Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University

1:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Simons Labs, Auditorium

FEBRUARY 12

Thursday Research Topics: TBA

11 – 11:40 a.m.

Simons Labs, Auditorium

FEBRUARY 14

Art in the Library: "Art Detectives and Thieves"

3 – 4 p.m. (for ages 7-11)

Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont, Lawrence

[Collaboration with the Spencer Museum of Art]

FEBRUARY 16

Deadline: Strategic Initiative Grants Level I Proposals

FEBRUARY 18

**Humanities Lecture Series: Anna Deveare Smith,
"Snapshots: Portraits of a World in Transition"**

7:30 p.m.

The Lied Center

FEBRUARY 19

**Lecture: Andrew Revkin,
"Science and the Environmental Writer"**

7 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

FEBRUARY 19-21

"Engineering Expo"

8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Thursday-Friday), 9 a.m. – Noon (Saturday)

School of Engineering

MARCH 2

**Deadlines: Vice Chancellor for Research Book Publication
Award and the Byron Caldwell Smith Book Awards**

Hall Center for the Humanities

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