

# KU Discovery & Innovation

News from KU Research

August 2015

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## Defense SBIR /STTR Funding is Seminar Focus

KU Innovation and Collaboration (KUIC), the university's bicampus technology commercialization office, will host the third in a series of seminars next month aimed at supporting [proposals for federal SBIR/STTR funding](#). On September 15, the workshop will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Bioscience & Technology Business Center. The topic is proposal preparation for the Department of Defense. All interested persons are welcome to register. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Many federal agencies have [Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer grant programs](#). During the past year, KUIC hosted seminars on the SBIR/STTR programs at the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health.

The September 15 seminar presents essential information for crafting a competitive proposal to meet the mission, standards and requirements of the Department of Defense SBIR/STTR program. Topics covered include:

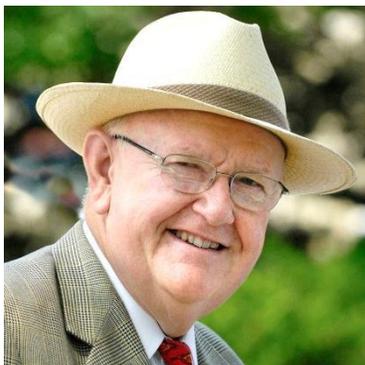
- Up-to-date information on the SBIR/STTR program;
- How to get registered so you can submit;
- Practical advice on how to address each section of the proposal;
- Strategies for targeting your proposal to meet the reviewers' expectations;
- Technological innovation and commercial merit – what this really means;
- Avoiding common problems and pitfalls;
- Preparing a credible commercialization plan;
- Navigating the submission process; and
- What to do once you learn you are going to be funded (and what to do next if you are not).

The seminar will be led by Becky Aistrup, principal consultant with [BBC Entrepreneurial Training & Consulting](#). She was SBIR/STTR program director for the Minnesota Science and Technology Authority, and her background includes more than 20 years of experience working in industry and consulting with technology companies on SBIR/STTR funding.

# KU 150

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS 1865-2015

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[FORMER KU CHANCELLOR ROBERT HEMENWAY](#) (left), who passed away on July 31 at the age of 73, is remembered as a strong advocate for research at the University of Kansas. During his tenure (1995-2009), the KU Center for Research, Inc. took its present form, several research facilities were constructed (Multidisciplinary Research Building, Shankel Structural Biology Center, Hall Center for the Humanities), externally sponsored research expenditures more than doubled, and KU obtained NCI Cancer Center designation. The Hemenway Life Sciences Innovation Center at the KU Medical Center was named in his honor in 2009.

## Strategic Initiative Grant Program Changes

The Strategic Initiative Grant (SIG) Level I awards program is suspended for the fall semester. There will be no new call for proposals and no Research Investment Council evaluation process.

The decision is entirely a reflection of the university's (and the state's) unsettled budget situation. It is premature to say whether the competition can or cannot resume in the spring.

During this hiatus, all [active SIG Level I awards](#) will continue to be funded as scheduled.

Since 2012, the SIG Level I program has fostered research collaborations, generated grant proposals and publications, and contributed to achieving the Bold Aspirations goals. To date, 19 awards have been made, a total investment of more than \$5 million.

The smaller SIG Level II program, which is administered by the KU Office of Research, will continue. There will now be three deadlines for the submission of proposals: October 9, February 5 and May 6. The turnaround time for review and a decision will still be approximately two weeks, starting from the deadline date. Due to budget constraints, however, it will not be possible to fund all meritorious proposals.

## Rick Perlstein is First Humanities Lecturer



Rick Perlstein (left), an historian of conservatism and bestselling author, will present the [first Humanities Lecture Series presentation of the 2015-16 year](#).

He will speak on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Woodruff Auditorium at the Kansas Union. His topic is "The Invisible Bridge: From Nixon to Reagan to Palin and Beyond." The event is free and open to the public.

At KU, Perlstein will explore the post-Vietnam War, post-Watergate time period, and the repercussions that still reverberate today in how politicians make decisions about global warming, the financial crisis, and the Middle East.

This is the first of six Humanities Lecture Series programs scheduled this year. The series, presented by KU's Hall Center for the Humanities, continues on October 21 when urban ethnographer Alice Goffman of the University of Wisconsin-Madison presents "On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City."



Above: Whitney Baker (center), KU Libraries, talks about bumper sticker culture. Below: David Frayer (right), Anthropology, discusses Neanderthals and their jewelry.



## June 22 Research Speed Dating a Success

Opening night of the [Free State Festival in Lawrence](#) featured a different but very fun kind of professional presentation by a diverse group of KU researchers.

"KU Research: Speed Dating Edition" showcased seven KU faculty and staff, each at a table taking 10 minutes to share their work with the public. The listeners then rotated to the next table and the process began again.

Sponsors for the sold-out event were the Spencer Museum of Art, the KU Natural History Museum, the Life Span Institute, KU Libraries and the KU Office of Research.



NOTABLE KU ALUMNUS CLYDE TOMBAUGH (left), the youthful discoverer of Pluto in 1930, was in the news in July. NASA's [New Horizons spacecraft](#) passed within 6,000 miles of Pluto. The probe contained some of Tombaugh's ashes, taking him "Far Above" and making him the first to reach

what could now be called the "KU-iper Belt" region of our solar system. Tombaugh received B.S. (1936) and M.S. degrees (1939) in astronomy at KU. He died in 1997.



THE **KANSAS CITY AREA LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE**, in cooperation with the KC Animal Health Corridor and the veterinary schools at Kansas State and the University of Missouri, will present an **animal health research symposium August 30-31** at the Kansas City Convention Center. The topic is the growing risk of zoonotic and vector-borne diseases. **The complete agenda is available online.**

## KUMC to Break Ground August 27 for \$75 Million Health Education Building

A coalition of support from private, state and university funding sources is making it possible for KU to achieve one of its highest priorities: construct a building that will facilitate the education of a greater number of physicians, nurses and allied health care professionals for Kansas.

On August 27, a groundbreaking ceremony at the KU Medical Center will mark the beginning of work on the **Health Education Building**. The 11 a.m. event will take place on the future construction site, just south of the Hemenway Life Sciences Innovation Center.

The \$75 million cost of the six-story, 168,000 square-foot project is being met by \$25 million in state bonding authority, \$15 million from KU, and private gifts raised through KU Endowment. Key to the private support was a **\$25 million lead gift from the Hall Family Foundation**. Additional major gifts have been secured to support the funding, but fundraising will continue during construction to meet increased expenses and equipment needs for the building.

The KU School of Medicine trains 211 medical students annually at all locations. The new building – connected by skywalk to the existing 1976 Orr-Major classroom building – will enable the school to increase the number of medical students trained annually across all campuses by 50 students. In addition to better meeting the health care needs of Kansans, the building will provide the facilities necessary to transition to a modern medical education curriculum and integrate interprofessional components, including a virtual health center simulation laboratory. Completion is expected in 2017.

## Vaccine Institute to Host Meeting

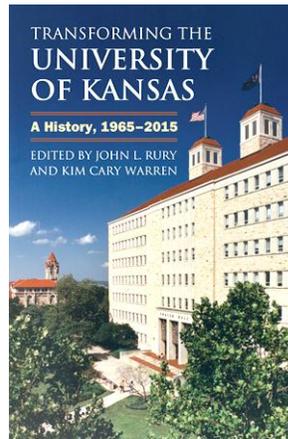
The Kansas Vaccine Institute at KU will host the 14th annual **Great Plains Infectious Disease Meeting** November 6-7 at the School of Pharmacy in Lawrence.

This meeting attracts researchers from throughout the region, and is an important platform for faculty in different states to share interesting new research and build research collaborations among universities.

**Abstracts for oral and poster presentations** can be submitted online now through November 1, which is also the **online registration deadline**. The keynote presentation on the evening of November 6 will be followed by a reception and dinner. The presentations will take place throughout the following day.

Attendance at the meeting is free, thanks to the generosity of sponsors. For more information, contact **Susan Wakefield**, (785) 864-7339.

## New History Part of 'KU 150' Celebration



The University Press of Kansas has published **Transforming the University of Kansas: A History, 1965-2015**. It features essays by current or former KU faculty or staff in three broad categories: leadership and politics; teaching and research; and students, protest and sports. The editors are John Rury, professor in the School of Education and Department of History, and Kim Cary Warren, associate professor in the Department of History.

KU Libraries and KU Bookstore will host a panel discussion with the authors and editors on Tuesday, September 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kansas Union. A book signing and reception will follow.



Publication of the book is part of KU's overall observance of its sesquicentennial – **"KU150: Boundless"** – that is starting this fall. KU research centers and the entire university are encouraged to take part in the ongoing celebration.

# Research Notes

## Save the Dates for “Research Administration 101”

The annual 10-week **RA 101 introduction to research administration** is scheduled for consecutive Wednesdays, September 16 through November 18. All sessions will be held 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the Ron Evans Apollo Auditorium at Nichols Hall.

RA 101 is a free certificate program offered by the KU Office of Research to members of the KU community. Each session is taught by in-house experts as well as invited guests from the campus community. The course provides participants with an overview of what sponsored projects are, how they are administered at KU, and who bears responsibility for seeing that they are administered responsibly.

## Uniform Guidance Desk Copies

The KU Office of Research has made arrangements with **Jayhawk Ink in the Kansas Union** for print-on-demand spiral bound hard-copies of the OMB Uniform Guidance. A section number guide has been added as a *de facto* table of contents to help users find the information they need.

At Jayhawk Ink the file is called "Research Administration Uniform Guidance Handbook." The cost is \$5.18 per copy. Anyone can obtain a copy of the booklet by:

- Ordering in person at the Union during operating hours;
- Calling (785) 864-6348 to order over the phone; or
- Emailing [jayhawkink@ku.edu](mailto:jayhawkink@ku.edu) with the request.

## New Staff at KU Research

- **Doug Bornemann** is a research development officer. He came to KU from UC Irvine, where he worked for 13 years as a researcher investigating fruit fly models of Huntington’s Disease and the basic science of signal transduction. He also worked as a research development officer at UC Irvine, where he assisted faculty in preparing biology-related grants for the NIH and various foundations. His background includes a Ph.D. in cellular, molecular, and developmental biology from the University of Minnesota and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Doug joins Bob Rummer and Rebecca Peterson on the KU Research Development Team to assist faculty in crafting large, collaborative proposals.

- **Kevin Teel** is business manager, succeeding Jay Darnell. He oversees research participant payments, Greenphire, contract review and administration, insurance liaison, and other administrative functions within the Financial Services Team. Kevin has been at KU for nine years, most recently as a grant specialist in the Education, Social and Biobehavioral SSC group. His background includes a B.A. in economics from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a B.B.A. in accounting from Texas State University.
- **Donna Burruss** is a grant specialist with Pre-Award Services, Team 3. She has extensive professional experience, including six years as a grant specialist at the Higuchi Biosciences Center and almost 10 years total experience at KU.

## Postdocs Plan First Luncheon August 28

The **KU Postdoctoral Association** (KUPA) will hold its first luncheon meeting of the year on Friday, August 28. All KU postdocs are welcome to attend from noon-1 p.m. in the Relays Room at Burge Union. Lunch is free, but registration at the website is requested by August 21.



The initial meeting will feature a networking and online image seminar. Chance Clutter, assistant director of the KU Career Center, will present.

The new KUPA president this year is Sara Thomas (left), a postdoc in the Department of Chemistry. Vice president and treasurer is Huili Yao, also a postdoc in the Department of Chemistry. Rita-Marie McFadden is communications officer. She is a postdoc in the Department of Molecular Biosciences.

The group normally meets for lunch on the last Friday of the month. Check their website for current information. KUPA also sponsors an annual postdoc research day and speaker.

*Note:* September 21-25 is the sixth annual **National Postdoc Appreciation Week**. It recognizes the significant contributions postdoctoral scholars make to U.S. research and discovery. Plan to participate.

Support for KUPA is provided by the KU Office of Research. Sue Lunte, Ralph N. Adams Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, is the group’s faculty adviser.

## KU Receives National Recognition for Economic Development, Innovation

**KU received a prestigious distinction in June** for its leadership in fostering local and regional economic development. The **Association of Public and Land-grant Universities** (APLU) named KU to its 2015 class of “Innovation & Economic Prosperity Universities.” KU is one of only 18 institutions nationwide chosen this year, joining just 30 others selected since the program began in 2013.

According to the APLU, “The designation acknowledges universities working with public and private sector partners in their states and regions to support economic development through a variety of activities, including innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development, and community development.”

KU’s award-winning APLU **application is available online.**

“This is a significant national recognition for the University of Kansas,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, “especially for the researchers whose discoveries and new technologies have such a profound economic impact. This designation confirms once again that KU’s economic development mission is strong, active and growing for the benefit of Kansas and the world.”

The designation followed a thorough self-study, extensive regional stakeholder input and a rigorous independent review process. Scoring was based on a range of criteria emphasizing universities’ development of their economic engagement enterprise, their planning efforts around economic engagement, strategic communications around these efforts and participation in encouraging economic engagement among peer institutions.

Members of the steering committee that led the application process were Julie Nagel, interim associate vice chancellor for innovation and entrepreneurship; David Cook, vice chancellor, KU Edwards Campus; Joe Heppert, associate vice chancellor for research; Rodolfo Torres, associate vice chancellor for research; G.R. Underwood, president, Bioscience & Technology Business Center; Joe Monaco, director of strategic communications, Office of Public Affairs; and KU Innovation and Collaboration (KUIC) staff members Rebecca Peterson, director of research collaborations; Rajiv Kulkarni, director of technology commercialization; Patricia Bergman, director of strategic partnerships; and Julie Murray, director of corporate and community engagement, KUIC and the School of Business.

## Student Travel Awards Available

KU’s Center for Undergraduate Research continues to offer **Undergraduate Travel Awards**, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. The awards provide \$500 to KU undergraduate students to defray the cost of travel to present at a professional conference in their field. All full-time, currently enrolled undergraduate students in good academic standing are eligible to apply. Funds are dispersed until depleted, so early application is encouraged. The Center receives funding for this program from the Student Senate’s Equal Opportunity Fund and the KU Office of Research.

*Note:* The **Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund** is a similar program. It is also funded by the Student Senate and the KU Office of Research.

## KU Patent Work Ranked Internationally

**KU ranked 79th in the world last year among all universities receiving U.S. utility patents.** This marks the first year KU has ranked in the top 100.

KU was granted 28 such patents in 2014, according to a new report by the **National Academy of Inventors and the Intellectual Property Owners Association**. KU holds a total of 276 U.S. and international patents. More than 300 other KU patent applications are currently pending.

“Making the top 100 in new patents for the first time is quite an accomplishment for KU,” said Rajiv Kulkarni, director of KU Innovation and Collaboration (KUIC). “Patents are an important measure of applied or translational research productivity. We are committed to improving society through translated research.”

Patents issued to KU represent innovations from across the Lawrence, KU Medical Center and KU Wichita campuses. These patents represent KU’s varied research excellence in such areas as pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, engineering, health sciences and information technology.

KU’s intellectual property is protected through KUIC, whose widespread economic development activities include marketing the KU portfolio of technologies to prospective licensees. KUIC has 100 active license agreements, including 32 completed in 2014. Gross revenues from all forms of intellectual property management exceeded \$10 million last year.

## KU Competes for National UEDA Award

KU is one of four finalists in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship category of the upcoming University Economic Development Association (UEDA) Awards of Excellence program. A KU Innovation and Collaboration (KUIC) team will make a formal presentation at the annual **UEDA Summit, September 27-30 in Anchorage**. Winners will be chosen by the summit attendees.

Each year, leading initiatives across North America are nominated and evaluated by peers, recognizing innovative approaches to advancing economic prosperity in their respective regions. The five categories of awards are designed to accelerate economic development by recognizing cutting edge initiatives and promoting their adoption by other institutions and communities.



The five categories are Community-Connected Campus; Innovation & Entrepreneurship; Research & Analysis; Leadership & Collaboration; and Talent

Development. Criteria for judging are initiative replicability, scalability, sustainability, impact and originality.

In its category, KU will present on the "Entrepreneurs@KU" initiative, a transparent and supportive infrastructure to assist faculty and staff in starting companies. Other finalists in this category are Penn State, the University of Southern Indiana, and the University of New Mexico & New Mexico Angels Partnership.

"Institutions of higher education are the drivers of modern economic development," said Rich Overmoyer, executive director of UEDA. They "contribute to regional growth and serve as key partners in creating entrepreneurial ecosystems, building civic amenities, and producing world-class talent in direct response to industry needs."



United Way of Douglas County  
[www.unitedwaydgco.org](http://www.unitedwaydgco.org)

**2015 Campaign  
Kicks Off on  
September 2**

## Meet Inventors at 'Technology Tuesday'

KU Innovation and Collaboration (KUIC) and the Bioscience & Technology Business Center (BTBC) will host a free networking event on September 22 from 4-6 p.m. for researchers, investors, companies and economic development professionals.

This **first "Technology Tuesday" event** will take place at the BTBC, 2029 Becker Drive on the West Campus Research Circle. KUIC licensing staff will present partnering opportunities in several leading areas of research. You can meet inventors and mingle with entrepreneurs, investors, and business executives.

Refreshments are provided and no reservations are necessary. A second "Technology Tuesday" event is planned for December 8.

## New Hire Strengthens Autism Research

Matthew Mosconi, a psychologist and neuroscientist who studies autism spectrum disorders, has joined KU as an associate professor in the Clinical Child Psychology Program and associate scientist in the Life Span Institute. He was previously an assistant professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwestern, and head of clinical research in its Children's Health Center for Autism and Developmental Disorders.

**Mosconi's appointment** is part of KU's Biobehavioral Approaches to Neurodevelopmental Disorders initiative. His research is focused on understanding the development of behavioral and cognitive issues characteristic of autism spectrum disorder and identifying the brain mechanisms that cause these issues. His work also examines brain-behavior linkages in related monogenic conditions associated with autism, including Fragile X syndrome.

"Dr. Mosconi's arrival represents a clear enhancement of the university's research strengths in autism and neurodevelopmental disabilities," said John Colombo, Life Span Institute director. "He represents the best of the new generation of nationally visible autism researchers, and we firmly believe that he will contribute to the tradition of high-quality intellectual and developmental disabilities research here at KU."

Mosconi's recruitment was supported in part by a Strategic Initiative Grant Level I award to Debra Kamps, director of the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training, an affiliated center of the Life Span Institute.

# Upcoming Events

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

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**AUGUST 27**

**Groundbreaking: KUMC Health Education Building**

11 a.m.

KU Medical Center, Kansas City

**AUGUST 28**

**Meeting: KU Postdoctoral Association**

Noon – 1 p.m.

Burge Union, Relays Room

**Red Hot Research: “Water, Energy and Climate”**

4 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

**AUGUST 30-31**

**KCALSI Animal Health Symposium: “The Growing Risk of Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease”**

Kansas City (MO) Convention Center

**SEPTEMBER 10**

**Thursday Research Topics: “Electronic Research Administration (ERA): What System Administrators Want You to Know”**

11 a.m.

Simons Labs, Auditorium

**SEPTEMBER 15**

**KUIC Workshop: SBIR/STTR Proposal Preparation for the Department of Defense**

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Bioscience & Technology Business Center, Chamber Room

**SEPTEMBER 16**

**Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series: Rick Perlstein, “The Invisible Bridge: From Nixon to Reagan to Palin and Beyond”**

7:30 p.m.

Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium

**SEPTEMBER 16 – NOVEMBER 18**

**Training: “Research Administration 101”**

Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Nichols Hall, Ron Evans Apollo Auditorium

**SEPTEMBER 21-25**

**National Postdoc Appreciation Week**

**SEPTEMBER 22**

**KUIC Technology Tuesday**

4 – 6 p.m.

Bioscience & Technology Business Center, Chamber Room

**SEPTEMBER 25-27**

**KUIC “Start-Up Weekend at KU”**

Bioscience & Technology Business Center, Chamber Room

**SEPTEMBER 29**

**Authors Panel: Transforming the University of Kansas: A History, 1965-2015, ed. John L Rury and Kim Cary Warren**

7:30 p.m.

Kansas Union TBD

**SEPTEMBER 30**

**KCALSI Annual Dinner: “Exponential Health: Solving Today’s Problems with the Technologies of Tomorrow”**

Arvest Bank Theatre at The Midland, Kansas City, MO

**OCTOBER 7**

**KUIC Innovation Celebration and Startup Showcase**

1 – 5 p.m.

Bioscience & Technology Business Center, Chamber Room

**OCTOBER 9**

**Deadline: Strategic Initiative Grant Level II Proposals**

**OCTOBER 24**

**KU Libraries: “Hackathon: Water @KU”**

All Day

Anschutz Library, Learning Studio

**NOVEMBER 6-7**

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Plains Infectious Disease Meeting**

School of Pharmacy

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