

Dear Kansas Legislator:

We eagerly embrace the opportunity to forge a vibrant future for our state and region through the expansion of the life sciences. The State of Kansas has articulated an aggressive agenda to transform our economy by investing in and growing our state's capacity to conduct leading edge scientific research. The humanitarian and economic benefits of this targeted strategy are immense. This promising agenda requires that all of us think in new ways about how we can advance the expansion of research opportunities in Kansas. We believe that to fully leverage the opportunities before us we must be willing to partner with collaborators who share our passion for discovering new knowledge and who have the capacity and willingness to invest in the work necessary to achieve scientific breakthroughs.

We believe that the efforts currently underway to broaden the KU Medical Center's affiliations with area hospitals will accelerate our state's efforts to become a leader in the life sciences. We endorse these efforts and we support the leadership of the Medical Center for pursuing these alliances.

We are humbled by the role this academic medical center and its faculty have been asked to play as our state and region looks to us for leadership in moving the life sciences initiative forward. As leaders we have an obligation to pursue those strategies necessary to ensure our success. We firmly believe that the task of transforming our state's economy will not be a success in the absence of broader affiliations and collaborations with other valued life science institutions and hospitals.

The affiliations currently being finalized include the commitment from corporate and private donors for a significant influx of philanthropic support to further our educational and research mission. This philanthropic support is essential if we are to achieve our stated aspiration to become a top fifty school of medicine. These funds and others generated from our hospital partners will fuel our success in recruiting world-class faculty researchers and clinicians. This in turn will allow us to significantly expand our basic, translational and clinical research programs. More cures, better treatments and healthier patients will result. The health of the economy will also improve.

For our state's vibrant life sciences aspirations to be achieved we believe that the KU Medical Center must seek out new partners and strong education and research affiliations. We urge the support of the Kansas Legislature as the leadership of the medical center engages in this important initiative.

While we believe there are significant benefits to be achieved through broader affiliations, we also believe there is much to be lost if we choose not to pursue them. We are competing on a global stage--and many communities, states and regions are engaged in the quest to compete in the new knowledge economy. If we choose to stand still they will pass us by. Kansas is fortunate to have an academic medical center that is closely aligned with one of the most generously endowed private medical research institutes in the world, the Stowers Institute for Medical

Research. Should we fail to align the assets of our region to fully leverage the strengths of Stowers, we will seriously impede our ability to ever become a major life sciences center. If the affiliations KU now seeks are derailed it is likely Stowers will seek to partner with Washington University in St. Louis and their highly regarded school of medicine. To allow this resource to benefit a private, out of state medical school instead of our own KU School of Medicine would be a disaster.

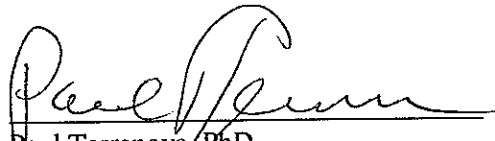
We are proud of all that the KU School of Medicine has achieved for the citizens of Kansas. We are also excited about the opportunity for this medical center to achieve its goal of becoming a top fifty academic medical center. We hope you share our belief that new affiliations designed to enhance health, provide cures and new treatments and improve the education of health care professionals are worthy of your support.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate your service to the citizens of Kansas.

Sincerely,



Roy A. Jensen, MD
Director, Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Inst.
William R. Jewell, MD, Distinguished
Kansas Masonic Professor



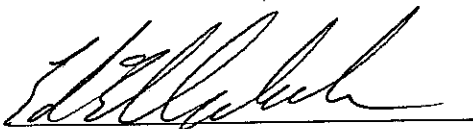
Paul Terranova, PhD
Sr Assoc Dean for Research & Graduate
Education
Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor



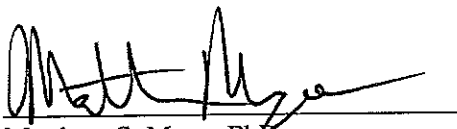
Dale R. Abrahamson, PhD
Professor & Chairman
Anatomy and Cell Biology



David F. Albertini, PhD
Hall Professor of Molecular Medicine
Dept of Molecular & Integ. Physiology



Edward Ellerbeck, MD, MPH
Professor and Chairman
Department of Preventive Medicine



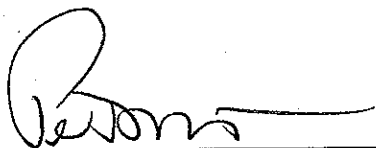
Matthew S. Mayo, PhD
Director
Center for Biostatistics and
Advanced Informatics



Opendra Narayan, DVM PhD
Professor and Chairman
Microbiology, Molecular Genetics & Immunology



L. Darryl Quarles, MD
Professor/Director
The Kidney Institute



Peter G. Smith, Ph.D.
Director, R.L. Smith Mental Retardation &
Developmental Disabilities Research Center
Professor, Molecular & Integrative Physiology



Michael J. Soares, Ph.D.
University Distinguished Professor &
Director, Inst. of Maternal-Fetal Biology
Div. of Cancer & Develop. Biology
Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine



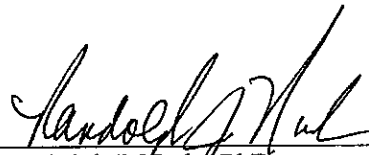
Jared J. Grantham, MD
University Distinguished Professor
The Kidney Institute



William (Bill) Brooks, PhD
Director
Hoglund Brain Imaging Center



Chris Crenner, MD PhD
Department Chair, Professor
History and Philosophy of Medicine



Randolph J. Nudo, PhD
Director, Center on Aging
Aging, Center on (Landon Center on Aging)



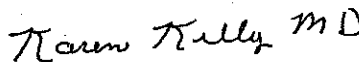
Patricia A. Thomas, MD, MA, FCAP
Professor & Chair
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine



Paul D. Cheney, PhD
Professor & Chair
Molecular and Integrative Physiology



Scott J. Weir, PharmD, PhD
Director
Office of Therapeutics, Discovery and Development



Karen Kelly, MD
Deputy Director
Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute