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AREA LIFE SCIENCE, HOSPITAL, CIVIC LEADERS FORM COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE STRATEGIC COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Goal is to advance Greater Kansas City as a life sciences leader, leveraging "shared interests"

KANSAS CITY, Mo: A steering committee comprised of the leadership of the University of Kansas School of Medicine, The University of Kansas Hospital, Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics and Saint Luke's Health System has been formed to explore future strategic collaboration and partnership opportunities within the area of health care education and life sciences research in Greater Kansas City.

The steering committee's work will center on two primary goals: advancing the Greater Kansas City area as a leading life sciences center and leveraging the shared academic and research interests of each institution.

The committee is chaired by Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive vice chancellor of the University of Kansas Medical Center and executive dean of the KU School of Medicine. Irvine O. Hockaday, chairman of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, has been designated as the committee's spokesperson.

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Other members of the steering committee are:

- Richard Brown, Co-Chair, Stowers Institute for Medical Research
- Irene Cumming, President and Chief Executive Officer, The University of Kansas Hospital
- Bill Hall, President, Hall Family Foundation
- G. Richard Hastings, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Luke's Health System
- Robert Hemenway, Chancellor, the University of Kansas
- Randall L. O'Donnell, President and Chief Executive Officer, Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics
- David Powell, member, Saint Luke's Hospital Board of Directors
- Charles Sunderland, member, The University of Kansas Hospital Authority
- Maurice Watson, Chairman, Board of Directors, Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics.

"Kansas City is on the edge of a new frontier regarding scientific research and the life sciences," Hockaday said. "We have an opportunity to take better advantage of our capabilities and leverage our community assets."

The committee has not set a specific timetable for completing its work. Additionally, the scope and parameters of its work have not been finalized.

"While the community opportunity is immense, a number of complex issues will need to be resolved. Given the vision and cooperative dialogue that have emerged to this point, I am confident the process will lead to greater collaboration and ultimately benefit everyone interested in strengthening life sciences capacities in the metropolitan area and the region." Hockaday said.

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