

From the director...

We are pleased to share with you the first KUCTC Newsletter. The KUCTC is not merely a name change but is designed to unify and standardize our technology commercialization processes and policies across the university; leverage the best practices of both organizations; coordinate the interactions with business, economic development, and government leaders; reduce the duplication of resources; better utilize existing resources; and support research collaborations across the KU campuses. Several new initiatives are underway, including the establishment of a KUCTC Fellows Program and expanding the commercialization of creative works across the KU campuses.

James G. Baxendale MS,MBA,
Director, KU Center for
Technology Commercialization
The University of Kansas

In this issue...

- 1 From the director
- 1 New KU Tech Transfer Structure
- 2 Teacher Learns Tech Transfer
- 2 Recent Addition
- 3 KU Grants license to Relive for Kids to commercialize Headache Hero
- 3 KC BioMediX Update
- 3 Savara Pharmaceuticals
- 4 BMERI planned at KUMC

Enhanced research commercialization is goal of new KU Tech Transfer structure

Turning faculty research into products and start-up companies is about to get a significant boost at the University of Kansas.

Effective July 1, separate technology transfer offices at the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses will combine to form a new KU Center for Technology Commercialization (KUCTC). The goal is to move the results of KU research out into the marketplace, benefiting society while enhancing economic development in Kansas and the region.



Lab technicians at Critech are developing ways to improve pharmaceutical manufacturing.

“KU has a strong foundation in technology transfer,” says KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway. “Faculty throughout the university – from education and social welfare to pharmaceutical chemistry and engineering – come up with new ideas that may have commercial value. It only makes sense to increase our efficiency by combining offices. This also makes it easier for businesses and inventors to work with us.”

Research that benefits others

If a researcher’s invention shows potential, KUCTC will seek appropriate intellectual property protection, says Jim Baxendale, director of the center. This can result in a new company, or it can lead to the licensing of the invention to an existing company. The inventor and the university benefit financially, but that’s not the reason KU does it.

“Very few universities reap a windfall from technology transfer,” says Baxendale. “We provide this service because it’s part of KU’s mission, and we want our research to benefit others.”

(continued on page 2)



New KU Tech Transfer structure

(continued from page 1)

There are currently, 17 active Kansas companies that originated with KU research. In addition, KU has 91 licensing agreements with companies that use KU patents. About a third of these agreements are with Kansas companies. The remainders bring money into Kansas from other states. The royalty revenue generated by licensing is used by the university to support more research.

Examples of local companies that started with KU research include KC BioMediX, Cadstone, CritiTech, CyDex, eLearning Creations, Flint Hills Scientific, and XenoTech. Some of the companies produce medical devices or enhanced drug delivery solutions. Others involve educational materials or computer software.

Research and entrepreneurial spirit

According to Baxendale, KU has received invention disclosures from nearly 300 different faculty in a wide range of departments. The university holds 150 active U.S. and foreign patents.

"We receive up to 70 new disclosures each year," he said. "All of them are important, but not all of them wind up as products. Even so, this growing level of activity demonstrates the strength of KU research and the entrepreneurial spirit of our faculty. The KUCTC hopes to capitalize on both."

KUCTC will have a total of six staff, and an office on each campus. A 13-member board — composed of faculty and staff from both campuses and area business leaders — will be chaired by KU Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere. □

Teacher Learns Tech Transfer

Carrie Lodge, an elementary teacher in the Olathe School District, is spending eight weeks this summer learning about technology transfer and entrepreneurship with the KU Center for Technology Commercialization. She is KU's first participant in the UpLink TeacherTech program, designed to provide K-12 teachers with exposure to real-world applications for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The experience can then be incorporated into future classroom teaching. Carrie's background includes an M.B.A. degree. She participated in TeacherTech as a paid extern and spent part of her 40-hours per week working in each of the KUCTC offices. KUCTC will host one Greater Kansas City area K-12 teacher each summer. More Information about the program can be found at <http://www.yf-uplink.org/TeacherTech/>.



Recent Addition



Aswini K. Betha joined KUCTC in April as a Licensing Associate focused on pharma and other life science technologies. He works out of both the Lawrence and KUMC offices. Aswini earned his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Houston, holds a Master of Science degree in Human Genetics and a Certificate in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He worked as a Research Scholar in the Biochemistry department of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to joining the KUCTC team, he worked as a technology commercialization analyst in their Office of Technology Management.

Research

Total research expenditures at the University of Kansas doubled during the past decade, reaching \$289 million in FY07. Areas of particular strength include drug development and delivery, driven by one of the nation's top schools of pharmacy in terms of federal research funding. Other traditional areas of strength include education and human development; biosciences, biofuels and bioengineering; and information technologies and informatics.



KU grants license to Relive for Kids to commercialize “Headache Hero”

Researchers at the KU Medical Center, with funding provided by NIH and AstraZeneca, invented “Headache Hero,” an online therapy program designed to reduce the frequency and severity of headaches in children. The program has been shown in clinical trials to be 2.5 times more effective than standard medical care alone in treating recurring pediatric headaches.



“Headache Hero,” www.headache-hero.com, is non-invasive, non-pharmaceutical and self-directed. It uses fun and interactive lessons tailored to children ages 7-12. An Internet-based program, “Headache Hero” can be delivered at a fraction of the cost of therapist-led training. More than 8 million children currently suffer from recurrent headaches, and “Headache Hero” provides a treatment option when in-office therapy may not be available.

Relive for Kids, LLC, a Kansas corporation, has an exclusive license from KU to commercialize “Headache Hero.” Relive for Kids is owned and

operated by local business experts with experience in start-ups, fast growth management, medical sales, marketing and financing. “Headache Hero” will soon be tested in an expanded clinical trial involving up to 22 patients at Cook Children’s Hospital in Ft. Worth. □



KC BioMediX Update

KC BioMediX, Inc., a KU start-up, will close July 18 on Round 2 funding of \$4 million. This will enable the company to expand and complete clinical trials, further develop its NTrainer System, and begin commercialization in 2009. The NTrainer is a neonatal intensive care medical device developed at KU by Steven Barlow, with funding from NIH. □

SAVARA PHARMACEUTICALS™

Cory Berkland, assistant professor of pharmaceutical chemistry at KU, invented a technology that improves the way inhalers dispense medicine. His technology, NanoCluster, creates precise-size micro or nanoparticles that permit greater control as well as improved time release.

The NanoCluster technology has broad potential application. It can be used for inhaled respiratory medicine or vaccine. It has great potential for the reformulation of existing products as well.

Savara Pharmaceuticals is an early-stage biotechnology company in Lawrence. It was co-founded by Berkland and George Laurence to make the NanoCluster technology available for medical applications. Savara has attracted interest from pharmaceutical companies with respiratory therapeutic products. The company is currently raising seed financing. □



Biomedical Entrepreneurial Research Incubator (BMERI) planned at KUMC

The KU Medical Center Research Institute is making plans to establish a 40,000-square foot life sciences incubator at 39th and Cambridge on the Kansas City campus. Completion is expected in 2010.

A \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, along with \$2 million from the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA), will enable KUMC to renovate the Breidenthal Research Building. According to KBA, the Biomedical Entrepreneurial Research Incubator (BMERI) “will help bridge the gap between bench science and product commercialization with its direct-indoor connection to laboratory animal resources facilities and close proximity to the main research facilities on campus.”

Total cost of the BMERI will be \$6.25 million, with the KUMC Research Institute providing the balance of the funding. The Economic Development Administration estimates the project will help create 300 jobs and generate \$44 million in private investment.

When renovated, the BMERI will have 16,000-square feet leasable for labs and offices of start-ups plus space for administration and common areas for meeting and shared equipment.



Youngberg Hall
2385 Irving Hill Road,
Lawrence, KS 66045-7563