The University of Kansas School of Medicine has named a nationally recognized researcher from Vanderbilt University, Roy Jensen, MD, to lead the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute, the research arm of KUMC’s cancer program.

The position is a key element in the efforts of the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute to become a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Jensen will set the direction and recruit additional cancer research faculty and clinicians to achieve this goal.

Jenson’s recruitment has been made possible, in part, by a recent pledge of $15 million by the Kansas Masonic Foundation, bringing its total giving for cancer research at KUMC to $20 million. In honor of the gift, the Kansas Cancer Institute was renamed the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute.

“Dr. Jensen is eminently qualified to lead KUMC’s efforts to build a cancer research and clinical cancer care program of national prominence. His work will advance our efforts in the Kansas City life sciences and help us achieve NCI-designation,” said Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive dean and vice chancellor for Clinical Affairs.

“As we continue the growth and development of our clinical cancer program, we look forward to working with Dr. Jensen to achieve the much-coveted NCI designation for conducting leading-edge cancer research and providing the most advanced patient care,” said Tajquah Hudson, the hospital’s senior vice president for Business and Strategic Development.

A native Kansan and a member of the Gardner Masonic Lodge, Jensen is a well-respected breast cancer pathologist and will be the first full-time director to head the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute. In assuming this position, he will become the first William R. Jewell, MD, Distinguished Kansas Masonic Professor in Cancer Research.

The professorship was funded by a $500,000 gift from the Kansas Masonic Foundation in honor of William Jewell, MD, surgical oncologist, founder and current director of the Institute. Although Jewell is stepping down as director, he will continue to teach and practice medicine at KUMC and be actively involved in the Institute’s activities.

Jensen’s research, funded by the National Institutes of Health, focuses on the function of specific proteins mediated by tumor suppressor genes and responsible for inhibiting the growth of pre-malignant and malignant tumors in breast disease. His collaborative research efforts have resulted in several patents involving the detection, diagnosis and treatment of pre-invasive cancer.
**Hospital Introduces PTO and Holiday Enhancements**

Hospital leadership recently announced significant improvements in employee paid time-off programs aimed at increasing flexibility, as well as recognizing employee service.

One of the enhancements is a PTO buy-back program. In May, all PTO-eligible employees will be able to “sell back” to the hospital up to 40 hours of unused PTO. To participate, however, they must have earned more than 80 PTO hours by their April 23 paychecks. For example, an employee who shows a PTO balance of 100 hours on April 23 may sell up to 20 hours.

In mid-April, all hospital employees will receive a home mailing that will include a letter about the PTO buy-back program and a request form. The form must be completed and turned in by 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 7. Drop boxes for the forms will be placed outside Human Resources at 5040 Delp, the cafeteria, hospital lobby, Broadmoor Building and Support Services Building.

Employees who sell back PTO hours will receive an extra paycheck by mail on Friday, June 11. Although taxes will be taken out of the check, other deductions, such as retirement and health plan benefits, will not be withheld.

This year, the hospital will discontinue the Veteran’s Day holiday and increase employees’ PTO accrual rates by eight hours. Similarly, in 2005, the discretionary day holiday will be transferred to PTO. By redistributing these holidays, full-time employees will earn an additional 16 hours of PTO annually.

These PTO and holiday changes have also been included in new three-year agreements recently approved by the Kansas University Nurses Association and Local 1132 of the Public Service Employees Union.

“We’re pleased to be able to offer our employees added flexibility in taking time off from work or being compensated for PTO they have accumulated but have not used,” explained Dwight Kasperbauer, vice president and chief Human Resources officer. “These enhancements will not only help us recruit new employees but also retain and reward the excellent employees already on our payroll.”

**DDC Takes Road Trip to Rural Kansas**

Bringing health care to Kansas children with special needs is the goal of a team from the Developmental Disabilities Center (DDC). Team members departed from KUMC on March 30 for a four-day van trip through northwest Kansas.

The trip is one of two the DDC does each year as part of a continued commitment to provide services to rural Kansans. This trip will take the group to Phillipsburg, Oakley and Hayes, where they will see infants, toddlers and school-age children who have been identified with severe behavioral and developmental disorders, autism or other neurological disorders.

“We work with families, schools and primary care physicians to help them develop individual health care plans, identify other resources in the state, conduct specialty diagnoses and offer consultation and follow-up care,” said Vicki Miller, senior coordinator of the program.

The group will provide in-service training programs over lunch, as well as see from six to eight children at each clinic location. The trips are funded by a joint grant from the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Education. The KUMC Auxiliary provided funding for the van rental and transportation costs.
Darryl Quarles, MD, a renowned researcher from Duke University Medical Center, is the new director of the Kidney Institute and Nephrology Division. His appointment became effective March 1.

“KU has built a first-class research laboratory and a magnificent clinical faculty,” Quarles said. Members of his research team from Duke – Shiguang Liu, MD, PhD, Min Pi, PhD, and Zhousheng Xiao, MD, PhD – will join him at KUMC.

His research team will continue its studies of bone and mineral metabolism and work with other members of the Kidney Institute to develop new research initiatives directed toward understanding the pathogenesis and treatment of kidney diseases.

Quarles believes successful research programs must bridge clinical and basic science, as well as traditional divisional and departmental boundaries.

“That’s why KU’s Kidney Institute is so remarkable. What Jared Grantham so brilliantly started here is a model for conducting basic and clinical research in an academic setting,” said Quarles. “The Institute provides an optimal environment for conducting kidney research by bringing together clinicians, physician scientists and basic scientists in an interdisciplinary environment that is real, not virtual.”

Jared Grantham, MD, a University Distinguished Professor, has directed the nephrology division at KUMC for 25 years and served as founding director of the Kidney Institute. Now director emeritus, Grantham is widely known for his contributions to understanding polycystic kidney disease or PKD.

“Dr. Quarles’ expertise will dramatically impact our research, education and clinical efforts here,” Grantham said.

In addition to his research team, Quarles brings three National Institutes of Health grants to KUMC.

Quarles graduated magna cum laude from Duke University and earned his medical degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Before joining KUMC, Quarles served as director of the Duke Center for Bone and Mineral Disorders. He is a former deputy editor for the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, a member of the editorial board for Bone and Mineral Metabolism and a member of the publications committee for the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research.

He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and in the subspecialty of Nephrology. He was recently elected into the prestigious Association of American Physicians (AAP), founded in 1886 to recognize American physicians who have made significant contributions to the science and practice of medicine. Grantham is the only other KUMC physician who is a member of the AAP.

Wine-Tasting to Benefit Cancer Research

Vin Kansas City, in conjunction with Boozefish Wine Bar, will host a wine-tasting event on Wednesday, April 21, to benefit the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute and raise awareness for cancer research.

“Taste Around the World, A Sampling of Wines” will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the wine bar at 1511 Westport Road, Kansas City, Mo.

In addition to the wine-tasting and appetizers, there will be a drawing for special items. A $30 donation is required to attend. Advance reservations may be made by calling 816-561-5995 or e-mailing rsvp@boozefish.com.
Hospital Honors Medical Staff

Each year on Doctor’s Day, The University of Kansas Hospital recognizes and thanks members of its medical staff for the specialized care and services they provide our patients.

Medical staff were treated to a breakfast buffet and chair massages March 30. Winners of an annual Department of Nursing poll to recognize outstanding performance by physicians and residents were announced.

Annual Resident Poll Winners

Qamar Khan, MD
Oncology Fellow

Dr. Khan was nominated for his knowledge, kindness and respect for patients and staff. His presentations and learning seminars for nurses and fellow residents were also mentioned.

One nominator said: “He is liked by all his patients because of his great knowledge base, and he listens intently to what they have to say.”

JoAn Monaco, MD
Plastic Surgery

Noted for her knowledge and competence, Dr. Monaco always puts the patient first. She has a passion for learning, and she develops relationships with the nursing staff that facilitate patient care.

One nominator wrote: “She will take the time to make a patient more secure, a family less anxious or an employee more confident.”

David Parmet, MD
Medicine/Pediatrics

Dr. Parmet always has a smile on his face, regardless of a stressful situation, and is always willing to help. He takes time to talk to patients and their families to explain the disease process, plan of care and the discharge plan.

One nominator wrote: “Dr. Parmet brings sunshine to the Pediatric Unit. He’s always available for the nurses and patients. He’s supportive, compassionate, and it’s obvious he loves what he is doing.”

Frank Quijano, MD
Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

Dr. Quijano is known for his positive attitude, excellent care and compassion for patients and families.

“He demonstrates excellence by being a team builder,” one nominator wrote. “He is easy to work with, and he stresses the importance of a team approach to health care.”

Another wrote: “I would trust him in all aspects to care for myself and my family.”

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Scott Ceule, MD
Emergency Medical Services

His knowledge, compassion and ability to talk to patients and their families earned Dr. Ceule a Top Doc award. He also was recognized as an excellent role model and clinical teacher of residents and nursing staff.

One of his nominators said: “Dr. Ceule has an excellent knowledge base and is always compassionate. Everybody loves working with him because he’s the best.”

Another wrote: “Dr. Ceule always has a positive attitude. His diagnostic skills are virtually unmatched.”

Michael Gorton, MD
Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery

Dr. Gorton was nominated for his compassion to patients and their families and for his graciousness and helpfulness to the nursing staff.

Vincent Hayes, MD
Emergency Medical Services

Known for his calm and professional manner, even during a crisis, Dr. Hayes was nominated because he routinely goes the extra mile with patients, residents and staff.

One nominator noted Dr. Hayes is very supportive to students.

Another nominator wrote: “Dr. Hayes is a unique physician who goes above and beyond with the residents he mentors. He’s compassionate with patients, he has a great bedside manner, he’s a team player and an outstanding human being.”

Michael Moncure, MD
General Surgery

Dr. Moncure was nominated for his excellent communications skills with patients, their families and the nursing staff. One nominator noted that his first concern is always what’s best for the patient.

His nominators wrote: “He is compassionate, a leader, a teacher and an excellent clinician, and he’s polite on the elevator!”

“He maintains a high standard of care and expects that of others. His sense of humor is appreciated in every way, every day.”

Kahdi Udobi, MD
General Surgery

Dr. Udobi was recognized for the appreciation and respect he shows his staff and for the care he shows his patients. He was described as “easily accessible” and “ready to explain and teach.”

One nominator wrote: “The relationship he has with his staff is fabulous! There is next to nothing his staff would not do for him and he for them. He shows us his appreciation and respect all the time.”

Another wrote: “He treats his patients the way we all want to be treated.”
**Director Named for Technology Transfer**

Richard Huston, PhD, has joined the KUMC Research Institute, Inc. as director of the Division of Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property and Commercialization.

He replaces James Baxendale who previously oversaw Technology Transfer offices on both the Lawrence and Kansas City, Kan., campuses. Baxendale now concentrates on the Lawrence campus.

Huston reports to Thomas Noffsinger, PhD, vice chancellor for Research Administration and executive director, KUMC Research Institute. Huston is responsible for the strategic leadership, management and coordination of the technology licensing and new start-up programs, intellectual property protection and all other aspects of the technology transfer function at KUMC.

Technology transfer, intellectual property and commercial ventures advance research, increase revenue and provide economic growth to the residents of Kansas and the Kansas City area.

Huston also serves as chair of the management committee of the Biotechnology Development Center of Greater Kansas City (KCBDC), a 6,000-square-foot business incubator located on the KUMC campus. The incubator provides wet lab space and business development services to start-up life sciences companies.

He identified several goals for his first few months on the job. These include meeting personally with key administrators and researchers, increasing the number of disclosures and patents stemming from breakthrough research at KUMC, and recruiting clients for the recently renovated KCBDC.

**Grant Awarded to Allied Health Faculty Member**

Irina V. Smirnova, PhD, research assistant professor in the KUMC Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences, School of Allied Health, recently received the Scientist Development Grant from the American Heart Association.

Her grant – “Can a Drug Replace Exercise to Improve the Diabetic Heart?” – will try to determine whether the effects of physical training can be achieved by using a drug that inhibits a molecule known as protein kinase C. The protein is responsible for increased fibrotic tissue in the diabetic heart. Over the next four years, Smirnova will receive $260,000 to carry out her research project.

Smirnova said the major cause of death for people with diabetes is heart failure. Diabetic heart muscle is replaced by fibrotic tissue (fibrosis), and the heart becomes stiff and cannot pump blood efficiently to supply blood needs. Physical exercise is known to help maintain a healthy heart, even in people with diabetes.

“While exercise has many beneficial effects, not all diabetic patients can undertake aerobic exercise due to advanced renal or cardiovascular disease, blindness or peripheral neuropathies,” Smirnova said. “It’s important for these patients to have a drug that would have the same effect as exercise.”

Using diabetic rats, Smirnova and her collaborators will investigate if cardiac structure and function improve with the drug treatment. Her research partners are Lisa Stehno-Bittel, PhD, associate professor and chair, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences; Mehmet Bilgen, PhD, associate professor, Molecular and Integrative Physiology, and director of high-field MRI, Hoglund Brain Imaging Center; and Karen Kover, PhD, assistant professor, University of Missouri, Kansas City.
Heart Walk Benefit

You can purchase tickets for the ARCA RE/MAX Series Kansas Lottery $200 Grand Race on June 5 and help raise money for the American Heart Association’s Heart Walk.

Ticket sales will be held outside the cafeteria on Fridays, April 9 and 23, from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Prices are $25 for general admission and $30 for reserved seats. Kansas Speedway will donate $3 for each ticket sold on site to the American Heart Association. If more than 500 tickets are sold during the two days, Kansas Speedway will donate $5 per ticket.

Tickets will be provided on the day of purchase for those paying with cash or checks. Tickets purchased with MasterCard, Discover and Visa will be mailed and include a service charge.

In addition, the Speedway will provide prizes to be awarded during the on-site sales events. They include a Richard Petty ride-along experience and several Kansas Speedway promotional items. For more information, go to www.kansasspeedway.com.

Free Health Fair

A free Spring Health Fair at St. Benedict’s Special Children’s Center, 220 S. 9th Street, Kansas City, Kan., is scheduled for Saturday, April 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The event will include:
- Physical exams for children six months to five years of age (early Head Start, Head Start, preschool and pre-kindergarten)
- Free developmental screenings including hearing, vision and speech
- Immunizations (A $5 fee or more may apply, and you must bring an immunization card.)
- Lead screening
- Hemoglobin checks
- Important health information regarding nutrition, exercise and more

The Spring Health Fair is coordinated by the Gardner Institute, KU HealthPartners, Inc., Catholic Charities and Children International. For more information, call 913-321-1672.

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<tr>
<th>Student Research Forum Calendar of Events</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, April 7</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8:15 a.m.: Presentation Session I</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Public Health and Outcomes, 1014 Orr-Major</td>
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<td>• Molecular and Cell Biology, 1015 Orr-Major</td>
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<td>• Genetics, 1023 Orr-Major</td>
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<td>• Neuroscience I, 1025 Orr-Major</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:45 a.m.: Snack Break, Stoland Lounge</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10:15 a.m.: Presentation Session II</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Neuroscience II, 1014 Orr-Major</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Clinical Studies I, 1015 Orr-Major</td>
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<td><strong>1:30 p.m.: Presentation Session III</strong></td>
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<td>• Developmental Biology, 1023 Orr-Major</td>
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<td>•Behavioral Health, 1025 Orr-Major</td>
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<td><strong>Noon:</strong> The A. L. Chapman Research Lecture, Jonathan Beckwith, PhD, “Adventures in the Gene Trade,” Rieke Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1:30 p.m.: Poster Session, Hixson Atrium</strong></td>
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<td>• Wine Reception</td>
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<td>• Jonathan Beckwith Book Signing</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, April 8</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Noon:</strong> Science in Society Workshop, B018 SON</td>
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<td><strong>6:30 p.m.: SRF Awards Banquet (RSVP required), The Fairmont Country Club Plaza</strong></td>
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Friday, April 2

• Neurology Grand Rounds, “Multiple Sclerosis Prevalence: Independence and Sugar Creek, Mo.,” Sharon Lynch, MD, and John Neuberger, PhD, 8:30-9:30 a.m., 1563 hospital. 913-385-7216.


For Sale:

Lenexa 2-story Tudor, 4 BR, 3½ BA, 3,320 sq. ft., new Pella 20-year warranty windows, Corian kitchen with sink, custom bar, finished basement, 2 blocks from city pool/grade school, must see, $240,000. 913-492-3874.

4 BR, 4½ BA, 3,100 sq. ft., new roof/furnace, great location in Overland Park, walk to excellent elementary/high schools, $275,000. 913-345-1940.

2 BR, 1 BA, near KUMC, 4469 Booth St., KCK, recently remodeled, detached garage, off-road parking, fenced backyard, full unfinished basement, $120,000. 913-406-5146.

Wrought-iron dining room set, large glass table with marble, 6 chairs, white cushioned seats, complete set for $850. 816-224-3991.

2 wedding dresses, beautiful condition, size 12 with long sleeves/train, hat; size 6 with short sleeves, make offer. 816-356-1410.

Alpine 6-CD changer, auto, $100; Kenwood 100W stereo receiver, $100; Kenwood 5-CD changer, home, $100; Sony cordless phone/answering system, $50; Technics 5-speaker surround system, $25, 913-831-9183.

Whirlpool gas dryer, extra large lint basket, like new, $195 OBO...913-642-1671.

Jazzy scooter/electric wheelchair, great condition, all options, red w/oversize seat, great deal. 913-271-3005.


Rainbow vacuum cleaner, great condition, new hose, $300 OBO. 816-697-1920.

To Rent:

Duplex, 2 BR, 1 BA, 1-car garage, washer/dryer hook-ups, large backyard, good neighborhood, Overland Park near 85th and Antioch, $695/mo., deposit required, pets welcome with additional deposit. 913-220-9927.

Wanted:

Person to do general yard work, 5-10 hours per week, flexible, weekends/evenings OK, strong, reliable, with transportation. 816-522-1790.

Free to good home:

Cinnamon and Sadie, 2 adorable, loving dogs who have been rescued, current shots, spayed. 913-236-7407.