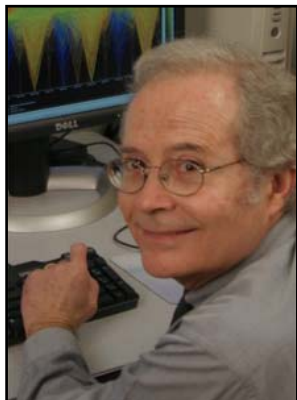


Creating a Climate of Collaboration



The annual report from the Higuchi Biosciences Center (HBC) outlines a strong record of continued success in both the conduct of basic biomedical research and in the development and transfer of new technologies from the University to the private sector. The number of scientist participants in HBC-sponsored scientific efforts has been increasing steadily and the HBC has been at the forefront of University Research Centers in terms of creating multidisciplinary research programs and core scientific facilities that serve the community of biomedical scientists. The University of Kansas and, in particular, the KU Center for Research (KUCR), have been strong supporters of the efforts of the HBC in all aspects mentioned above: establishment of grants preparation and management services, purchase of instrumentation for equipping core scientific facilities, and personnel support for the Directors and their associates in the scientific facilities. The establishment of the Transgenics and Gene Knockout Mouse facility was initiated by the HBC and is strongly supported by KUCR, as is true also for the

Genomics Facility. Other major laboratory facilities that were assisted in their expansion by the HBC include the Microscopy and Imaging, the High Throughput Screening, and the Analytical Proteomics facilities. Over \$3 million of Federal, KUCR and HBC funds have been invested in the last two years for the purchase of equipment for some of these facilities, and over \$2 million of National Institutes of Health (NIH) and KUCR funds will be invested in the renovation of the Animal Care facilities in order to house the Transgenics facility, a new Biobehavioral Measurement Laboratory, and a new Pathology Laboratory.

All of these investments in personnel and equipment are important in trying to maintain the competitiveness of all biomedical scientists at the University of Kansas. In this period of very difficult competition for grant support from Federal Agencies, in particular the NIH, any advantage that we can give our scientists in the competition could be very significant in tipping the scales of the reviews in a KU scientist's favor. The efforts and investments made by the HBC and KUCR in good grants preparation services and excellent core facilities may account, to a significant extent, for the continued success of HBC scientists in external grant competition. The HBC has continued to create a climate of true collaboration across disciplines as evidenced by the successful funding of large programmatic research efforts, such as two Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grants, a Chemical Methodologies and Library Design, a program project grant on Reactive Oxygen Species and Aging, and several multi-investigator grants that are neither Center nor Program Project grants. To support the research efforts of scientists affiliated with the HBC, the Center administration also approved a record amount of equipment purchases from the indirect cost return to the Center.

As outlined in this Annual Report, the HBC has also continued in its successes in the areas of technology development and technology transfer. Companies that originated from research at the HBC, are expanding their activities in the biotech/pharmaceutical arena. One of the companies became sufficiently attractive to other pharmaceutical companies so that it was purchased by one of them. The investment of essentially all Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation money received by the HBC in proof of concept grants for new products and in product development efforts is beginning to pay dividends in terms of new and exciting accomplishment in drug development. The partnership of the HBC with the Office of Therapeutics, Discovery and Development promises to lead to the advancement of one or more drug candidates to the level of an initial investigational drug. Thus, the HBC continues in a path of becoming a major component in the economic growth of the State of Kansas, a process that depends more and more on life sciences research and product development as evidenced by the passage of the Kansas Economic Growth Act and the establishment of the Kansas Bioscience Authority.

There is no doubt that the HBC is entering a new era of science and economic development and it is doing so in a manner that should produce even greater results in the areas of research and product development. It is clear that the HBC has an established position as a true "Center of Excellence" in biomedical sciences and that it is the leading Center in the State of Kansas in the area of economic development through research and technology development in the life sciences.

– Elias K. Michaelis, M.D., Ph.D.
Director