**FAQ on the Nov. 5 ballot initiative in Jackson County**

The Institute for Translational Medicine, on the ballot Nov. 5 in Jackson County, would mean an additional $8 million a year for UMKC research. Go to [info.umkc.edu/cures](http://info.umkc.edu/cures) for more information on UMKC’s translational research efforts.

**Why Question #1?**

The ballot initiative would transform Jackson County by creating a world-class medical research institute right here that will help solve some of our toughest health care challenges. If passed, this initiative will boost our county’s economy, create hundreds of new jobs, attract new companies to our region, and generate hundreds of millions of dollars for our community.

**What Will the New Institute Do?**

The Institute for Translational Medicine will enable Next Generation Medicine by bridging basic disease discovery and the application of that discovery in people.

The Institute’s mission will be to engage the highest quality researchers to convert discoveries into clinical applications that positively impact the health of the world and elevate Kansas City to the forefront of the life sciences.

**What Kind of Research Will Be Conducted?**

Right now, there is a gap between scientific research in labs and the actual application of those findings for patients. The *Institute for Translational Medicine* will fill that gap by developing next generation medicine in order to find diagnoses and cures for people more quickly.

**What’s At Stake?**

We can benefit and enhance the lives of patients in Jackson County and beyond by investing in tomorrow’s cures and improving today’s care, and in the process generate new, good-paying jobs, encourage the development of new companies, and produce long-term revenues for Jackson County and its citizens with the commercialization of discoveries resulting from translational research.

The Institute is expected to foster hundreds of new jobs and more than $30 million in economic output in its first year of operation. By Year 10, the Institute is projected to have nine world-class investigators and hundreds of jobs on-site. The development of new medications, treatments and cures – especially in the fields of pediatric and geriatric medicine – will induce more than $600 million in direct and indirect economic benefits for Jackson County in just the first decade of operation.

The cutting-edge translational research programs will put Kansas City at the forefront of entrepreneurial medical research efforts that have the potential to revolutionize American health care in the 21st century.

**How Would the Institute be Paid For?**

The Jackson County Cures initiative is a public-private partnership. The research and economic development mission of the Institute will be financed through a 0.5 % sales tax in Jackson County that will raise an estimated $40 million a year to attract world-class researchers and support staff, and to provide them with the equipment necessary to develop truly life-changing discoveries, treatments and cures. The tax will sunset in 20 years. In addition, Donald J. Hall and the Hall Family Foundation pledged to build a $75 million facility to house the Institute if the ballot issue passes, to ensure more funding can go straight to the research itself.

**How Will the Proceeds of the Sales Tax be Allocated?**

Fifty percent of the revenue will be used to support translational research conducted and overseen by Children’s Mercy, 20 percent will be used to support translational research conducted and overseen by UMKC, and 20 percent will be used to support translational research conducted and overseen by Saint Luke’s. The remaining 10 percent will be used for research-related economic development initiatives designated by the Institute’s board, such as helping prepare Jackson County residents for health care and research jobs through programs offered by the Metropolitan Community College System.

Funds will be governed by an independent board, subject to regular audits, and can only be used by the county to support the institute.

**Who Will Oversee the Spending of Our Tax Dollars?**

By law, the money raised from this tax will be governed by an independent board, subject to regular audits, and can only be used by the county to support the institute. To ensure that all funds generated as a result of the sales tax are appropriately expended, the County Executive will appoint a five member Oversight and Transparency Board with six-year staggered terms. This Board will allow independent fiscal and performance audits to be conducted and will provide its findings to the County legislature, Community Advisory Board, Economic Development Tax Board and the public. Up to 2.5% of the tax proceeds will be reserved for such purpose.

**How Would the People of Jackson County Benefit?**

The benefits of this research, discoveries and testing will reach the people and patients of Jackson County first. Patients here will ultimately receive a quality of health care service inaccessible in most other places. In addition, research conducted by the Institute will develop new products and services that will create jobs through startup and spinoff companies that will want to be located in Jackson County.

**When’s the Last Date to Register to Vote in Jackson County for the Nov. 5 election?**

You must be registered at your current home address on the fourth Wednesday before the election in which you wish to vote. For the Nov. 5 election, that would be Oct. 9. For more information, go to: http://jcebmo.org/