STRATEGIC PLANNING: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

GUIDELINES

**Due:** The 1st Monday in February to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Submit to:** Email reports to Coordinator, Janet Waibel, at waibelj@missouri.edu.

**Content:** The Strategic Planning semi-annual report should be a narrative report on progress at the lever level for those levers with identified actions.

**Reporting Timeline:** Quarter one and two of the current fiscal year. (July 1st through December 31st)

**Reporting Format:** For each lever please include the following information:

*Note: No more than 1 page per lever.*

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**Campus or Unit:** UMKC

**Lever Number:** Theme 2 Lead in the Life and Health Sciences Lever 2.1

**Lever Description:** Engage in cutting edge research & develop strategic partnerships that enable translational research opportunities

**Lever Update Progress/ Update:**

UMKC has been developing plans for a Center for Clinical & Translational Research (CTRC) to serve as a mechanism for supporting inter- and trans-disciplinary research across the life and health sciences, as well as to help increase the quality and quantity of funded research. UMKC has taken some first steps towards accomplishing this goal by setting up a unit within the CTRC, the Center for Health Insights (CHI).

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**UMKC Clinical and Translational Research Center**

A primary initiative of our research strategic plan is the establishment of a Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC). The CTRC will be a cross-disciplinary resource engaging faculty from seven of our academic units, including the UMKC Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing & Health Studies, Dentistry, Computing & Engineering, Biological Sciences, and the College of Arts & Sciences. Areas of present research activity are patient-centered outcomes research, community-based health & behavioral medicine, drug discovery and delivery, clinical trials, and translational medical informatics. Our CTRC efforts take full
advantage of the close geographic proximity of our health professional schools to our major clinical partners, The Truman Medical Center, Children’s Mercy Hospital, The Center for Behavioral Medicine, and St. Luke’s Hospital, all prominently situated in the Kansas City, MO urban core.

Although we were not successful last year when we embarked on a national search, we did come close to identifying a Director of the CTRC. Furthermore, we were successful in attracting a top researcher in bioinformatics to UMKC. Mark Hoffman is now serving as Director of our newly formed Center for Health Insights (CHI), the health informatics arm of the CTRC. Prior to joining UMKC, Dr. Hoffman was a Vice President at Cerner Corporation, where he worked for sixteen years leading initiatives in genomics, personalized medicine, public health, and clinical research. Under Dr. Hoffman’s leadership, the CHI will serve as a major infrastructural component of our CTRC and will be the informatics conduit for all of our clinical and translational efforts, as well as a major partner to Children’s Mercy Hospital and the “Frontiers” Clinical and Translation Science Award (CTSA), of which UMKC is a member.

The CHI supports our outcomes research efforts, conducts primary health informatics research, and partners with other research centers, academic units, and local and regional academic research institutions (KUMC, Stowers Research Institute, MU-Columbia, KU-Lawrence, etc.) on grant applications to federal and private agencies as well as other external funding opportunities.

Investing in the CHI will be an important step toward ensuring that UMKC is able to provide institutional resources to accelerate and enhance the research of our current faculty and to create an environment that helps us attract high caliber translational researchers. Our intention is to build on this base, support the development of the Center for Health Insights, hire an interim Director of the umbrella CTRC, and then proceed with our National search for the CTRC next year as we seek to grow research at UMKC.

**System support:** We received $150,000 in recurring funds this year to support our CTRC. We are currently investing that into our efforts as described above.

**UMKC Support:** The total support provided for the Center for Health Insights is $657,570: UMKC is providing $426,348 in additional support beyond the $150,000 provided by the System. Additionally, Children’s Mercy Hospital provides 25% ($81,222) of Dr. Hoffman’s salary. Personnel in the Center include a programmer, a coordinator, and an analyst; other expenses include startup and operations. We can provide a detailed breakdown as needed. In addition, UMKC has borne the expense of the search that was initially conducted for the Center Director and resulted in the hiring of Dr. Hoffman. UMKC also is bearing various other costs related to startup for the center.