

Strategic Initiatives Summit Two

PROMOTING WELL-BEING, FINDING CURES

Faculty Presenters (in order)

BERL OAKLEY, Irving Johnson Distinguished Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, came to KU in 2008 from Ohio State University, where he was a faculty member from 1982 and a founding member of its Department of Molecular Genetics. His lab made a number of advances in understanding mitosis and the cytoskeleton, and he was recognized as an Ohio State Distinguished Scholar. At KU, his work involves the application of molecular genetic methods to the discovery and analysis of fungal secondary metabolites. His academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from the University of London.

RONALD T. BORCHARDT, Solon E. Summerfield Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, is the author of 500 scientific publications and 460 abstracts, and the editor of 10 books. His research interests include drug design and drug delivery. He has received numerous professional honors in the U.S. and abroad, notably the Distinguished Pharmaceutical Scientist Award and the Higuchi Research Prize from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, and honorary doctorates from universities in Denmark, Belgium and Sweden. His academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from KU.

LISA FRIIS, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, came to KU in 2001 following 14 years with the Orthopaedic Research Institute in Wichita, where she worked with surgeons on applied research and development activities involving biomaterials and implants. At KU, she has led efforts to incorporate technology entrepreneurship education into the curriculum. She was a Kauffman Entrepreneurial Faculty Scholar in 2004 and a member of the charter class of the PIPELINE entrepreneurial development program. She is Product Development Core Director for the Bioengineering Research Center. Her licensed technology is nearing market launch. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from Wichita State University.

MABEL L. RICE, Fred and Virginia Merrill Distinguished Professor of Advanced Studies, Speech-Language-Hearing, studies children's language acquisition and impairments and genetic influences on language and reading abilities. She directs the Merrill Advanced Studies Center, the Child Language Doctoral Program, and the Center for Biobehavioral Neurosciences in Communication Disorders. Her research involves longitudinal studies of children and families to determine genetic influences on language growth. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Psychological Association, and the Association for Psychological Science, and has received Honors of the American Speech, Language, Hearing Association. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from KU.

DAVID EKERDT, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Gerontology Center, came to the Lawrence campus in 1997 from the KU Medical Center, where he was Associate Director of the Center on Aging and Associate Professor of Family Medicine. He is editor-in-chief of the *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Aging*, a four-volume, million-word work with specialty editors in biology, health care, social and behavioral sciences, humanities, ethics, and social policy. From 1994 to 1997 he served as editor of the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*. His academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from Boston University.

JOHN COLOMBO, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Life Span Institute, came to KU in 1982 as a research associate at the Bureau of Child Research, now the Life Span Institute. He joined the faculty in 1988 and the Department of Psychology in 2002. He is Director and PI of the NIH-funded Kansas Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center. He has published widely on developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, pediatrics, nutrition, disability, and neuroscience, and he serves as an associate editor for the journal *Child Development*. His academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from the University at Buffalo.

YO JACKSON, Associate Professor of Psychology and Applied Behavioral Sciences and Associate Director of the Child and Family Services Clinic, conducts NIH-funded research on the mechanisms and development of adaptive behavior for youth exposed to child maltreatment. She served in 2008 as a member of the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Resilience and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents, and is a member of the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology and Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from the University of Alabama.

MUGUR V. GEANA, Assistant Professor of Strategic Communication, is also an affiliate Assistant Research Professor with the Department of Family Medicine at the KU Medical Center. He is a former clinician with extensive experience in health communication, with emphasis on message development and strategic communication campaigns planning. His research interests focus on utilization of new communication technologies for health promotion, and implementation of new communication persuasive approaches to increase health information availability and usage. His academic background includes an M.D. degree from the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in Romania and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia.

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