

**Proposal to Create a Cardiovascular Research Center
University of Kentucky**

last revised September 2004

Please direct correspondence regarding this Center to David Watt (3-6589; dwatt@uky.edu) or Alan Daugherty (3-4933 ext 81389; alan.daugherty@uky.edu)

[1] Goals and Significance

We propose to create a Cardiovascular Research Center as a center of excellence in basic, translational, and clinical cardiovascular research. A major emphasis will be placed on using the considerable strength in basic cardiovascular research at the University of Kentucky to develop our translational and clinical research programs.

The goals of this center are:

1. To develop a nationally and internationally recognized center of excellence in cardiovascular research;
2. To provide an environment for the development and retention of productive faculty;
5. To facilitate the training of students, including postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, medical students and residents; and
6. To encourage the development of translational and clinical research with funding from federal agencies and industry.

[2] Justification

Cardiovascular diseases are the predominant cause of morbidity and mortality in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Modifiable risk factors for the development of major cardiovascular diseases, such as acute coronary syndromes and stroke, include poor nutrition, excessive smoking, and a sedentary lifestyle. However, the full spectrum of factors that initiate and propagate these diseases has not been defined. Still other major cardiovascular diseases, such as abdominal aortic aneurysms, have poorly defined etiologies and limited medical treatment strategies.

The University of Kentucky has recruited a faculty with exceptional strength in cardiovascular research. This group of investigators is particularly prominent in research on cardiovascular diseases that develop as a consequence of dyslipidemia and inflammation. As indicated by the accompanying list, this group of faculty has obtained substantial funding from both federal and non-federal sources. This funding level, when compared to that of established cardiovascular research centers, speaks directly to the level of maturation of this center at the University of Kentucky and supports the notion that it should be created immediately.

The Linda and Jack Gill Heart Institute, which was established in 1997, contributed to the success of this nascent cardiovascular research center. The Institute facilitated informal interactions to take place that led to the development of a highly collaborative environment. This success can be judged by both the large number of co-authored manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals and the number of co-investigators on a substantial number of funded, grant

applications. Structured interactions are supported through a number of well-attended meetings and programs that have been sustained over a number of years. These include:

Gill Heart Institute Awards. The Gill Heart Institute presents two annual awards that were made possible through the generosity of Linda and Jack Gill.

1. *Young Physician Scientist Awards.* These awards recognize physician-scientists in the formative stages of their careers. The awards also highlight the University of Kentucky as an institution that encourages the development of talented physician-scientists.
2. *Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cardiovascular Research.* The past recipients of this award have been among the most prominent cardiovascular investigators in the country. In addition, the members of the external advisory committee that assists in the nomination and selection process are also recognized cardiovascular researchers. In aggregate, this award provides the University of Kentucky with high visibility.

Cardiovascular Journal Club. This journal club, in place for over 10 years, provides a forum for faculty members, fellows, and students to present and critique contemporary papers in their own areas of interest.

Cardiovascular Research Seminars. This seminar series, established more than six years ago, provides a forum for presentations by University faculty and trainees. The series also features regularly invited outside speakers. Featuring external speakers on a regular basis is pivotal to highlighting the positive cardiovascular research environment that exists at the University. Significant too are interactions with external speakers that have led to collaborations, invited presentations, and appointments to national committees.

Cardiovascular Research Day. The seventh annual research day took place on October 25, 2004. This event has regularly attracted 50-75 poster presentations and as many as 200 attendees. Cardiovascular Research Day also has received considerable media attention.

The details of these events are on the Gill Heart Institute web site (ghi.uky.edu). This web site currently has over 100,000 hits per month and is one of the most visited web sites at the University of Kentucky.

The faculty members who have federally funded cardiovascular research programs are appointed in the colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Agriculture and in multiple departments within these colleges. The Center will enhance the cardiovascular research environment at the University of Kentucky by facilitating both interactions through the consolidated location of some investigators with similar interests within the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences and through collaborations with investigators elsewhere at the University. It will also assist in

the development of core facilities to increase efficiency and expedite the generation of data.

[3] Faculty Leadership

The Director will:

1. Provide guidance and support in the career development activities of faculty members internal and external center who have cardiovascular interests;
2. Provide oversight and advice to faculty on grants administration, financial management, regulatory affairs, and personnel issues;
3. Identify critical equipment and core facilities for enhancing research productivity;
4. Facilitate interactions with translational and clinical cardiovascular researchers;
5. Assist in the procurement of endowment funds to develop a stable financial structure for the future development of the Center.

[4] Reporting Relationship

The Director of the Center will report directly to the Dean of the College of Medicine. Since one of the missions of the Center is to stimulate and facilitate translational and clinical research, the Medical Director the Gill Heart Institute will be invited to participate in all interactions between the Center Director and the Dean.

[5] Staff and Facilities Requirements

The Cardiovascular Research Center will require at least 1 FTE for administrative support to cover the following functions:

1. Financial management
2. Grants administration
3. Regulatory affairs
4. Procurement
5. Personnel issues
6. Organization of the Gill Heart Institute Awards
7. Organization of the Gill Heart Institute Cardiovascular Research Day
8. Organization of the Gill Heart Institute cardiovascular seminar series
9. Maintenance of a Center web site.

[6] Space and Equipment Needs

The locus of the majority of the faculty involved in the Cardiovascular Research Center will be the 5th floor of the Health Sciences Building. The completion of this floor was partially funded through the NIH to the Nutritional

Sciences Program. Therefore, the faculty in this new Center will also be members of this program and have nutritionally-related, cardiovascular research interests. The structure of this entire 5th floor will accommodate laboratories, core facilities, common equipment rooms, and administrative areas. All Center faculty in this fifth floor space will have appointments in the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences. However, faculty at other locations will also be members of the Cardiovascular Research Center but will not be located physically in this space.

[7] Proposed Operating Costs

No operating costs are requested. We anticipate that a combination of incentive funds, grant funds, and endowments will be used to cover the operating costs of \$35,000 per year. These funds cover seminar programs, office supplies and communication costs.

[8] Potential for Generating Extramural Funds

The current funding level of the proposed faculty for the Center attests to the quality of these investigators and their ability to acquire extramural funding. The collaborations that will ensue from the creation of a Center will facilitate further success in grant funding. In addition, the Center will encourage the development of programmatic funding that will be pivotal to the evolution and retention of the talented cardiovascular researchers.

[9] Other Benefits of the Center

The Center for Cardiovascular Research will provide a high visibility research Center that will encourage the recruitment of high quality graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The location of the Center adjacent to the Gill Heart Institute will also facilitate interactions to develop translational and clinical research.

Appendix 1: Cardiovascular Research Center Faculty

Resident Faculty	
Asmis, Reto Bruemmer, Dennis Cassis, Lisa Daugherty, Alan de Beer, Fred de Beer, Marcielle De Villiers, Willem Gong, Ming	Hennig, Bernard King, Victoria Mao, Catherine Post, Steven Tannock, Lisa Toborek, Michal Webb, Nancy van der Westhuyzen, Deneys
Associated Faculty	
Basic Scientists Akers, Scott Andres, Doug Brown, David Bruce, Eugene Evans, Joyce Ferraris, Suellen Graf, Gregory Jackson, Brian Knapp, Charles Lasley, Robert Lodder, Robert Loftin, Charles Moncman, Carole Patwardhan, Abhijit Pettigrew, L. Creed Piascik, Michael Porter, Todd Randall, David Satin, Jon Schoenberg, Nancy Smart, Eric Whiteheart, Wally	Clinical Faculty Anderson, James Ballard-Croft, Cherry Booth, David Camp, Phillip Chasen, Craig Corl, John Di Sessa, Thomas Douglas, William Endean, Eric Ferraris, Victor Gurley, John Kakavand, Bahram Kuo, Chien-Suu Kusmirek, Luke Jahania, Salik Mazzoleni, Alberto Mentzer, Robert Moliterno, David Moser, Debra Mullett, Timothy Ramaiah, Chand Schroeder, Valerie Smith, Mikel Steinhubl, Stephen Strobel, Gunnar Vranicar, Mark Whayne, Thomas Xie, Gong-Yuan

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE COMMITTEE REVIEW AND CONSULTATION SUMMARY SHEET

Proposal Title: Proposal to Create a Cardiovascular Research Center

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Instruction: To facilitate the processing of this proposal, please identify the groups or individuals reviewing the proposal, identify a contact person for each entry, provide the consequences of the review (specifically; specifically approval, rejection, no decision, and vote outcome, if any) and please attach a copy of any report or memorandum developed with comments on this approval.

Reviewed By (Chairs, Directors, Faculty Groups, Faculty Councils, Committees)	Contact Person Name (phone, e-mail)	Consequences of Review	Date of Proposal Review	Review Summary Attached
Chair, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine	Dr. Paul Bachner 257-1446 bachner@pop.uky.edu	Letter of support	8/18/04	Letter Attached
Dean, The Graduate School	Dr. Jeannine Blackwell 257-4613 blackwell@uky.edu	Letter of Support	9/07/04	Letter Attached
Director, Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences	Dr. Lisa A. Cassis 323-4933 x81400 lcassis@uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/18/04	Letter Attached
Chair, Department of Internal Medicine	Dr. Frederick de Beer 257-5116 Fcdebe1@uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/13/04	Letter Attached
Chair, Molecular and Biomedical Pathology	Dr. Philip Landfield 323-3711 pwland@pop.uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/23/04	Letter Attached

Reviewed By (Chairs, Directors, Faculty Groups, Faculty Councils, Committees	Contact Person Name (phone, e-mail)	Consequences of Review	Date of Proposal Review	Review Summary Attached
Director, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and Alzheimer's Research Center	Dr. William Markesbery 323-6040 wmark0@email.uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/11/04	Letter Attached
Chief, Cardiovascular Medicine	Dr. David J. Moliterno 323-5843 moliterno@uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/23/04	Letter Attached
Chair, Cardiovascular Research Center	Dr. Michael B. Reid 323-6045 michael.reid@uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/10/04	Letter Attached
Dean, College of Pharmacy	Dr. Kenneth B. Roberts 323-7601 krobe2@email.uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/18/04	Letter Attached
Vice-Chair, Pediatric Research	Dr. Eric Smart 323-6412 eric.smart@uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/19/04	Letter Attached
Director, CV Education & Clinical Research, Gill Heart Institute	Dr. Steven Steinhubl 323-5479 steinhubl@uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/20/04	Letter Attached
Director, Graduate Center for Toxicology	Dr. Mary Vore 257-3760 maryv@pop.uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/31/04	Letter Attached
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs	Dr. David Watt 323-6589 dwatt@email.uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/11/04	Letter Attached

Reviewed By	Contact	Consequences of Review	Date of Review	Review Summary Attached
Executive Vice President for Research	Dr. Wendy Baldwin 257-5294 vpr@email.uky.edu	Letter of Support	10/19/04	Letter Attached
Dean, College of Medicine	Dr. Jay A. Perman 323-6533 jperman@uky.edu	Letter of Support	8/20/04	Letter Attached
Faculty Council of the Medical Center	Dr. Steve Haist 323-6642 stevehaist@uky.edu			
Academic Council of the Medical Center	Dr. David Watt 323-6589 dwatt@email.uky.edu	Minutes of 10/19/04 Mtg	10/19/04	Minutes Attached
University Senate	Dr. Ernest Yanarella 257-5871 ejyana@uky.edu			

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