

# **Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center A Proposal For a New Multidisciplinary Center**

## **Summary**

The overall goal of the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center is to organize and align the prominent clinical care and research focused on diabetes and obesity that is currently available at the University of Kentucky. The University of Kentucky already has a substantial core of researchers investigating diabetes and/or obesity with considerable extramural funding (see appendix A). Diabetes and obesity have broad impact on various facets of health, and clinicians and researchers are found within many departments in the College of Medicine, but also in many other colleges on campus (see appendix B). In addition, both clinical and basic science training programs with a diabetes and/or obesity focus are available across departments at the University of Kentucky. The goal is to formally recognize a Diabetes and Obesity Center as an interdepartmental vehicle for clinical care in diabetes and obesity, research growth, training in both clinical and research efforts, and to establish a focused area of excellence for recruitment. By aligning the diverse group of faculty who provide clinical excellence in patient care and/or conduct quality research in diabetes and obesity, we will build this Center to national prominence.

## **1. Goals and significance of proposed Center/institute.**

### **Specific goals:**

- 1) To create a nationally and internationally recognized Center of excellence in diabetes and obesity encompassing state of the art patient care and cutting edge research.
- 2) To encourage research interactions and collaborations including basic, translational and clinical research, with funding from federal agencies, national foundations, and industry.
- 3) To provide a stimulating environment for the training of research and clinical trainees, including medical students, doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, residents and fellows from all healthcare professions.
- 4) To provide a focus for the recruitment, development and retention of excellent faculty.

The goal of the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center is to organize and integrate clinical and scientific approaches to enhance diabetes and obesity research and clinical practice at the University of Kentucky. The Center will provide scientific organization and strategic planning to facilitate ongoing development of research, with the goal of obtaining federal and other extramural funding for large program project and Center grants. The Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences, already in existence, will be a natural sister Center with complementary basic science research and graduate training programs in obesity and diabetes. However, the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center will have a broader focus including pathogenesis of diabetes, diabetes treatments and clinical care of diabetes complications, public health implications of and potential strategies to combat obesity, pathogenesis of obesity associated health consequences including diabetes and other facets related to diabetes and obesity. A primary purpose of the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center will be to integrate and thereby strengthen clinical care, research and education currently performed across numerous different

Colleges and academic units (see Appendix B). As such, the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center will structurally integrate recruitment of faculty and trainees, development of collaborative research, and centralize provision of clinical care. Importantly, the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center will provide an over-arching structure beyond the College of Medicine, and serve as a vehicle to link clinicians and researchers interested in diabetes and obesity.

## **2. Justification for creating a Center/institute.**

Diabetes and obesity are rampant in Kentuckians, and the University of Kentucky is uniquely poised to focus its expertise with the establishment of a diabetes and obesity Center. As of 2003, Kentucky ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation for highest percentage of adults with diabetes: an estimated >8.5% of Kentuckians carry a diagnosis of diabetes and it is estimated that an additional 40% are pre-diabetic. In 2002 there were >96,000 diabetes-related hospitalizations in the state, and direct and indirect costs of diabetes in Kentucky were estimated at \$2.9 billion. The numbers for obesity are even higher: Kentucky ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in prevalence of adult obesity (25.6% of adult Kentuckians are obese), and 3<sup>rd</sup> for teenage obesity. Obesity is a major risk factor for development of diabetes, as well as numerous other chronic health consequences, including cardiovascular disease, hypertension, some cancers, arthritis, sleep apnea, and other conditions. Of particular concern, the rates of diabetes and obesity are continuing to increase, further adding to the health care burden.

The Division of Endocrinology and Molecular Medicine, with 7 physicians, a nurse practitioner, and 2 certified diabetes educators, is a key provider of diabetes care for both inpatients and outpatients, and has recently implemented a state of the art inpatient glycemic control approach in the Chandler Medical Center. In addition, Division faculty provide medical supervision for participants in intensive dietary programs run by Health Management Resources (HMR), via an ongoing contract. In addition, other patients receive diabetes and/or obesity care from providers in Internal Medicine, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Family Practice, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pharmacy, Nursing, Dentistry and other health care professionals. Patients with diabetes are at risk for many complications arising from end organ damage, including diseases of the retina, kidney, cardiovascular system, and damage to limbs. Thus, diabetes care often requires the expertise of ophthalmology, nephrology, cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, neurology, vascular surgery, podiatry, Maternal-Fetal Medicine and psychiatry. Clinical interventions for obesity are limited, but include intensive, medically supervised diet programs such as HMR, surgical intervention, and management of associated metabolic dysfunction and associated diseases, which also involve practitioners in numerous specialties. Despite our best efforts, a wait list for access to clinical care exists in Kentucky, and the levels of control of metabolic components of obesity and diabetes are well below standard in many individuals. Outside of our contract with HMR UK Healthcare does not provide any specific weight loss programs. Thus there exists a key need for further development and provision of clinical care to individuals with diabetes and obesity.

### Scope of Diabetes and Obesity Research at the University of Kentucky

Numerous UK faculty across several divisions, departments and colleges conduct diabetes and/or obesity-focused research at UK (See Appendices A and B). Diabetes and obesity are so closely linked that many research projects address both. Many of the faculty conducting diabetes and/or obesity research have joint appointments in the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences, Cardiovascular Research Center, the Kentucky Pediatric Research Institute and/or other Centers or Institutes. Despite a

diversity in academic settings that fragments researchers at the University of Kentucky, this group of faculty has obtained substantial funding including federal, foundation and industry sources (see appendix A). Evidence of the ability of the faculty to obtain funding is clearly demonstrated by the recent attainment of a \$10 million NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence grant on Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease. The faculty are highly productive with numerous publications of high quality manuscripts annually. Furthermore, these faculty play a critical role in future development as they are pivotally involved in the training of numerous students, fellows, and residents. Evidence of excellence in training at the basic science level includes an NIH T32 Training Grant to the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences with an emphasis in diabetes, and a USDA training grant on Obesity and Diabetes. The purpose of the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center is to serve as a central site to synergize efforts across the diversity of units engaged in diabetes and obesity research and clinical care. For example, development of a diabetes/obesity registry to link researchers conducting diabetes and obesity research with individuals with diabetes and obesity who are interested in participating in research, will provide a key resource facilitating improved knowledge about health and outcomes in individuals with diabetes and obesity.

### **3. Faculty leadership.**

Spokesperson: During the development of the Center, Dr Lisa Tannock MD, assistant professor of Medicine, Interim Division Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Molecular Medicine is acting as the spokesperson for the Center. However, the intent is to recruit a physician-scientist of national recognition to serve as Director of the Center, and to recruit a senior clinician with leadership skills and clinical practice experience to serve as Clinical Associate Director (see below)

Director: The Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center will be headed by a Director. The Director will provide guidance and support in the career development of faculty members and serve as a focal point for recruitment efforts. The main goal of the Director will be to facilitate interactions amongst faculty members of the Diabetes and Obesity Center, and with other faculty across campus, to encourage collaborations and clinical and research excellence. The Director has primary responsibility for administrative oversight of the Center and finances, and will supervise the Clinical Associate Director. This position will be filled by a physician-scientist of national recognition, and is expected to maintain a high profile research program.

Clinical Associate Director: A Clinical Associate Director will report to the Director, and be primarily responsible for daily operations of clinical care. The Clinical Director will play a key role in linking basic researchers with clinical practitioners, to enhance translational research opportunities, and linking the diverse healthcare professionals involved in provision of care to individuals with diabetes and obesity. This position will be filled by a senior physician or other health care provider with experience in clinical development and leadership, and is expected to maintain significant clinical productivity, and collaborative research and teaching activities.

Administrator: An administrator (50% effort) will assist the Director with administrative management of the Center, including financial records, co-ordination of Center activities, and grants preparation. This individual will maintain Center accounts, monitor the annual budget and prepare financial reports, liaise with grants personnel for grants accounting and reporting, maintain the Center website, assist with scheduling and itineraries of invited speakers, and organize the annual Research Day. As the Center

grows and develops the responsibilities of this position are expected to expand to 100% effort.

Executive Committee: An Executive Committee will provide input to the Scientific and Clinical Directors of the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center. The Executive Committee will be composed of faculty within the diversity of units engaged in diabetes research or clinical care. A purpose of the Executive Committee will be to represent faculty from participating units within the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center.

External Advisory Board\*: An external advisory board will be formed to provide external (to the University) input on the performance and value of the Center. The external board comprises 5 physicians and/or scientists who have national leadership and scientific recognition.

Robert Eckel, MD, Professor of Medicine, Physiology and Biophysics, University of Colorado; past president of American Heart Association

Irl Hirsch, MD, Professor of Medicine, University of Washington, Director of University of Washington Diabetes Care Center, previous recipient of the American Diabetes Association Outstanding Physician Clinician in Diabetes Care.

Ira Goldberg, MD, Professor of Medicine Columbia University

Phil Scherer, PhD, Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Texas Southwestern.

Clay Semenkovich, MD, Professor of Medicine, Cell Biology and Physiology, Chief, Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Lipid Research, Washington University in St Louis.

\*membership to be confirmed upon formalization of Center status

**Center membership:** The Center will be composed of affiliate investigators with clinical, educational or research interests in diabetes and/or obesity. The faculty will self-identify, and the Center will not be exclusive. However, faculty seeking affiliate membership of the Center will be subject to approval by the Director and Executive Committee, and membership will be evaluated every 3 years. Membership requires participation in Center activities including clinical care, educational mission, and/or research activities. Members will have access to the different activities of the Center, including the clinical, educational and research conferences, ability to host external speakers in any of these conferences, participation of themselves and trainees in the clinical, educational and research activities including the annual Research Day, and access to core facilities that will be developed within the Center (such as the patient registry, and core research facilities to be developed). Please see Appendices A and B for a list of faculty that expressed interest in Center membership.

#### **4. Reporting relationships.**

The Director will be appointed to a 6-year, renewable term, by the Dean of the College of Medicine/ Vice President for Clinical Affairs, with confirmation by the Provost, Board of Trustees and President. The Director will be subject to annual reviews by the Dean of the College of Medicine/ Vice President for Clinical Affairs. Overall performance of the Director will be evaluated formally every 6 years as part of the formal institutional review of the Center (see below).

The Clinical Associate Director will be appointed to a 6-year, renewable term by the Director in conjunction with the Dean of the College of Medicine/ Vice President for Clinical Affairs, and will report to the Director. Annual reviews will be performed by the

Director, and the Clinical Associate Director will be evaluated every 6 years as part of the formal institutional review of the Center.

The Administrator will report to the Director and be evaluated by standard University evaluation programs.

Executive Committee: The members of the Executive Committee will be appointed to a 6-year renewable term by the Dean of the College of Medicine/ Vice President for Clinical Affairs in consultation with the Provost. The Executive Committee will liaise with the External Advisory Board and perform the annual formal institutional review of the Center.

Formal Institutional Evaluation: The Center will be subject to annual external review by the External Advisory Board, and will be formally evaluated by the University at six-year intervals.

a) The External Advisory Board will meet annually on campus during the annual Research day (schedules permitting). Prior to their visit, the members will be provided with an executive summary of the year's activities to include reprints of publications from the Center over the prior year, grant applications and status submitted by Center investigators over the prior year, and the annual financial report. During the visit the members will meet with the Director, Clinical Associate Director and Executive Committee, as well as with other Center members and investigators as appropriate. Following the visit, the External Advisory Board will prepare a written report on the Center, pointing out both strengths and weaknesses, suggestions for improvement, and responsiveness of leadership to prior concerns.

b) University review. The Center will be subject to full review by the University at 6 year intervals. A review panel will be organized by the Dean of the College of Medicine/ Vice President for Clinical Affairs or delegate in consultation with the Provost, and will be given the charge of evaluating the effectiveness of the Center, its activities, and its leadership. The panel will have full access to all Center documents, facilities and personnel. The panel will evaluate the Center productivity, success in meeting defined goals, and finances, and will prepare a formal report summarizing its findings and recommendations. The findings of the review will be presented to the Provost. Continued support of the Center will depend on an acceptable evaluation by the panel.

## **5. Staff and facilities requirements.**

During the initiation and implementation of the Center the center will have administrative support from a single individual (30% effort, see Administrator, above) housed in office space within the Division of Endocrinology and Molecular Medicine. As the Center develops and expands it is expected that these duties will expand to occupy 100% effort. At present all founding members have adequate staff and facility support and no additional requirements are needed for Center start up. Future increases in personnel or facilities, as required for example for establishment of core facilities and Center grants will be addressed as appropriate at the time.

## **6. Equipment or instrumentation, if any, that will be needed.**

A major goal of the Center will be to submit grants for extramural funding to develop new techniques or core facilities on campus. As a component of these applications, new equipment may be sought. However, no equipment is required for formation of the Center. As an example of Center faculty's ability to obtain extramural funding for major

equipment we cite Dr Andrew Morris' recent attainment of an NCRG grant for a Triple Stage Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer (S10RR024598; awarded 03/01/2008)

### **7. Projected operating costs and proposed source of income.**

The Center will be funded by the Healthcare enterprise, by extramural funding, and by endowment funding. UK HealthCare funding will support the clinical operations of the Center, and the clinical operations budget will be distinct from the research budget. The clinical budget will be developed according to current UK HealthCare budget processes. Extramural funding such as the \$10M recently obtained by the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence on Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease (COBVD), is evidence of the Center's ability to attract extramural funding. Dr. Karpf has secured endowment funding of \$2,000,000.00 towards initiation of the Center.

The funding will be used to support the administrator's effort, for salary support of personnel as needed, and for the annual Research Day. A major focus of Center funding will be to develop core facilities not presently available on campus to facilitate the mission of the Center. The Table outlines the estimated 3 year budget.

### **8. Potential for generating extramural funds.**

The Center is initiated in conjunction with the recently funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence on Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease, PI Lisa Cassis, thus demonstrating the ability of the identified faculty to generate significant extramural funding. The identified members (see appendix A) have established track records in obtaining substantial extramural funding from sources such as NIH, American Diabetes Association, Kentucky Diabetes Research Board, and others. A major goal of the Center is to enhance interactions amongst faculty to obtain training grants, and multi-investigator funding such as program project grants. We anticipate that participation in clinical and research seminars, the Research Day, and other Center activities will enhance development of collaborations, stimulate development of new ideas, and lead to greater success in obtaining extramural funding.

### **9. Other proposed benefits of the Center/institute.**

Clinical care for Kentuckians: The Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center will provide exemplary care for patients with type 1, type 2, or other types of diabetes. Upon admission to hospital, patients will continue to be followed by their endocrinologist or other health care provider, leading to seamless provision of care. Rapid responses to clinical consults will be provided by Center clinical staff for both inpatients and outpatients. Referring physicians are provided with rapid communication summarizing findings and treatment plan. Diabetes education is offered to all patients through the Certified Diabetes Educators in the Center, including UK's ADA recognized diabetes education program: PharmacistCARE, or referral to a local diabetes education offices. Urgent Endocrinology appointments will be accommodated every Tuesday or Friday afternoon, or at other times by arrangement. A major goal is to facilitate patient care from diverse health care providers on campus, including primary care, PharmacistCARE, and other healthcare providers, including allied health professionals, Dentistry and Nursing. Patients will receive pre-operative or pre-procedure guidelines for diabetes management. Excellent glycemic control during hospital admissions is a priority.

Centralized treatment algorithms and guidelines are developed and provided to affiliated divisions and departments. All providers of diabetes care within the UK HealthCare network are welcome to use these guidelines and algorithms to ensure that all patients

with diabetes receive exemplary care by all UK HealthCare providers. Where possible, patients will receive their diabetes care from affiliated practitioners at geographic locations close to home, and utilize the UK Diabetes and Obesity Center clinic location only as needed.

To facilitate care for outpatients with diabetes, the goal is to develop a “one stop” clinic visit addressing all diabetes needs. This will require collaborative clinical efforts and scheduling to accommodate diverse health care provider evaluations. However, by scheduling diabetes, ophthalmology, cardiology and other consultant appointments on the same day, especially for those patients who travel long distances to their appointments, patients will receive excellent, multi-disciplinary care addressing their healthcare needs, and maximizing efficient use of their time.

Currently UK Healthcare does not provide any specific weight loss programs outside of our contract with HMR; thus, a major goal is to initiate a specific weight management clinic to include diet and exercise counseling, management of obesity associated conditions, and liaison with surgical intervention centers. Furthermore, outreach efforts to develop public health measures to counteract the epidemic of obesity will be pursued.

#### Research, Teaching and Training

Diabetes and Obesity Research Seminars: A research seminar featuring UK or external invited speakers will be held monthly. This conference will facilitate interactions between diverse University faculty and trainees interested in diabetes and/or obesity research. Furthermore, regular hosting of external speakers will serve to highlight the research environment at UK and assist in the development of collaborations and external (national and international) recognition of University faculty. This conference is held jointly with the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, 4-5 pm.

Diabetes and Obesity Clinical Conference: A clinical conference involving diverse health care professionals providing care to those with diabetes and/or obesity will be held monthly. This conference series includes members of the Divisions of Endocrinology, Nephrology, Cardiovascular Medicine, as well as members of the Departments of Ophthalmology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery (especially cardiovascular surgery), transplant medicine, and psychiatry. This conference is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 2-3 pm.

Graduate Training: Training of masters and doctoral students in the area of diabetes will be provided by the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences, as well as other participating Basic Science Departments within the College of Medicine. Within the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences, an integrated curriculum provides didactic courses in macro- and micro-nutrients, emphasizing human nutrition as relates to prevention and treatment of diabetes. Students enrolled in this training area of focus will attend the seminar series and journal club of the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center, and present results of their research in the Diabetes and Obesity Research Day.

Clinical Training: Training of physicians and other health care providers in the area of diabetes and obesity management will be provided by the Division of Endocrinology and Molecular Medicine, as well as other participating clinical divisions and departments. Physicians wishing to become board certified in endocrinology will be encouraged to apply for clinical fellowship positions within the Division of Endocrinology. Other health

care providers who seek to increase their knowledge and expertise in diabetes and obesity care will attend the clinical conferences, didactic seminars and journal clubs offered by the Division of Endocrinology and the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center, and in some instances may participate in clinical care provision and consult rounds.

#### Diabetes and Obesity Journal Club:

A monthly journal club meeting will serve as a forum for clinical and research faculty, fellows, residents and students to present and critique contemporary papers in their areas of interest. This journal club is currently held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month, 7:30-8:30 am.

#### Diabetes and Obesity Research Day:

The Cardiovascular Research Center has been hosting an annual research day for 10 years that has led to regional and national recognition. The recently funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease (COCVD) includes an annual research retreat. Given the close link between diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular complications, we will initiate an Annual Research Day held jointly with the COCVD as an opportunity to highlight the breadth of diabetes and obesity research on campus. Over time, we plan to expand this event into a regional meeting, with attendees from research institutions in the region participating. The annual Research Day will also serve as a vehicle to showcase the activities of the Center to the External Advisory Board.

#### Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center Webpage

To facilitate communication and announcements of seminars, journal clubs, visiting speakers and other events at the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center, we will develop a webpage displaying event details, highlighting affiliated faculty, and research accomplishments.

#### **Expected outcomes:**

Clearly there already exists on campus a critical mass of extremely competent and well funded faculty committed to clinical care and research focused on diabetes. The goal of the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center is to serve as a focus to enhance faculty efforts in diabetes and obesity care and research. As a recognized campus Center, the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center will bring regional, national and international recognition of the high quality clinical care and research performed at the University of Kentucky. This will enable further recognition of the faculty members through development of collaborations, participation on national committees and Societies, and further enhance the acquisition of extramural funding. The Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center will serve as a key focus of the University enterprise, and will play a critical role in recruiting and retaining talented faculty. Furthermore, the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center will provide a highly visible research and clinical care Center that will attract donors, to further support care and research into these diseases that afflict so many in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

**Table: Budget**

<b>Income</b>	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Endowment income *	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Personnel (0.5FTE)	30,200	31,100	32,000
Administration	25,800	21,500	16,900
Educational Activities	22,000	24,200	26,600
Research Day	12,000	13,200	14,500

\* estimated based on endowment of \$2M

**Justification:**

Personnel: Salary and fringe benefits for Administrator at 0.5FTE. No support is requested for other personnel

Administration: Costs include cost of developing website in the first year and establishing administrative activities. These activities will be completed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and account for decrements that reach a stable level in year 3. In addition, costs to support the annual visits of external advisory board members (estimated cost per member is \$2000/visit including airfare, hotel charges and meals) are included.

Educational Activities: Costs include travel expenses for visiting speakers to present in the clinical and/or research seminar series (estimated cost for domestic speaker is \$2000/visit including airfare, hotel charges, and meals), and include annual 10% increments.

Research Day: Costs include room and catering charges and expenses for visiting speakers, and include annual 10% increments. The Research Day will be held jointly with the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease (COCVD), and the costs will be shared according to the COCVD budget. The expenses are expected to exceed these costs, but every effort will be made to seek external support for this annual research conference.

## **APPENDIX A:**

### **List of faculty conducting EXTRAMURALLY FUNDED diabetes and obesity research at UK**

#### **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,**

##### **Department of Internal Medicine**

###### ***Division of Cardiovascular Medicine***

Dr. Andrew Morris, PhD

Funding from NIH

Dr. Susan Smyth, MD, PhD

Funding from NIH, and the American Heart Association

Dr. Victoria King, PhD

Funding from NIH

###### ***Division of Endocrinology and Molecular Medicine***

Dr. Dennis Bruemmer, MD

Funding from American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, and NIH

Dr. Zhenheng Guo, PhD

Funding from the American Heart Association, and NIH

Dr. Dennis Karounos, MD.

Funding from the American Diabetes Association, and a VA Merit Review.

Dr. Lisa Tannock, MD

Funding from the American Heart Association, and NIH

Dr. Deneys van der Westhuyzen, PhD

Funding from NIH

Dr. Nancy Webb, PhD

Funding from NIH

###### ***Division of Pulmonary Medicine***

Dr. Leigh Ann Callahan, MD

Funding from NIH

Dr. Gerald Supinski, MD

Funding from NIH

##### **Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences**

Dr. Lisa Cassis, PhD

Funding from NIH, NIEHS Superfund Research Project, USDA Training Grant, NIH T32 Training Grant, and a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant from NIH, (PI is Lisa Cassis, but numerous faculty from the Department of Internal Medicine are also involved in this large grant.)

Dr. Jianhua Shao, PhD

Funding from the American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, and NIH

Dr. Shuxia Wang, PhD

Funding from the American Heart Association

##### **Department of Physiology**

Dr. Ming Gong, PhD

Funding from NIH

Dr. David Randall, PhD

Funding from NIH

Dr. Sean Stocker, PhD

Funding from NIH

**Department of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry**

Dr. Sidney Whiteheart

Funding from NIH

Dr. Brian Finlin

Funding from the American Diabetes Association,

Dr. Sabire Ozcan, PhD

Funding from the American Heart Association, and NIH

Dr. Xiaqing Tang

Funding from NIH

**Department of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology**

Dr. Olivier Thibault

Funding from NIH

Dr. Hollie Swanson, PhD

Funding from NIH

**Department of Pediatrics**

Dr. Eric Smart, PhD

Funding from NIH

**COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY**

Dr Jeffrey Ebersole, PhD

Funding from NIH (Center of Biomedical Research Excellence)

Dr Karen Novak, DDS, PhD

Funding from NIH

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Dr. Charlotte Peterson, PhD

Funding from NIH

## **APPENDIX B:**

### **List of other faculty conducting research pertinent to diabetes and obesity at UK**

#### **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE**

Dr. Lisa Gaetke, PhD  
Dr. Bernhard Hennig, PhD  
Dr. Leigh Ann Simmons, PhD  
Dr. Guilang Tang, PhD

#### **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Dr. Sylvia Daunert, PhD  
Dr. Suzanne Segerstrom, PhD  
Dr. Arnold Stromberg, PhD

#### **COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION STUDIES**

Nancy Harrington, PhD, Chair, Department of Communication  
Jeff Huber, PhD, Director of School of Library and Information Science  
Al Cross, Director of Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues  
Don Helme, PhD, Department of Communication

#### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Jody Clasey, PhD

#### **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Dr. Maria Boosalis, PhD  
Dr. Geza Bruckner, PhD

#### **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

Dr. Erik Eckhardt  
Dr. Thomas Kelly, PhD  
Dr. Kristine Lain, MD  
Dr. David Mannino, MD  
Dr. Stephanie Rose, MD

#### **COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Dr. Debra Moser, DNSc, MN, RN  
Dr. Terry Lennie, PhD, RN

#### **COLLEGE OF PHARMACY**

Dr. Holly Divine, PharmD  
Dr. Gregory Graf, PhD  
Dr. Carrie Johnson, PharmD  
Dr. Robert Lodder, PhD  
Dr. Amy Nicholas, PharmD

#### **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

Dr. Guoqiang Yu, PhD, Center for Biomedical Engineering

## **University of Kentucky Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee**

From: UK SAOSC ( Sue Humphrey (Chair), Charles Fox, Robert Houtz, William Smith, David Moliterno, Dwight Denison, Timothy Sellnow, Charles Griffith, Melanie Hardin-Pierce)

To: Sheila Brothers, Office of the Senate Council

Date: October 27, 2008

The following proposal has been reviewed by the Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee:

### **Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center: A Proposal for a New Multidisciplinary Center**

This proposal recommends the creation of a multidisciplinary research center for the study of diabetes and obesity. The goals of the center are to integrate and facilitate current and future clinical and research efforts in diabetes and obesity. **The committee strongly supports the proposal but would suggest the following considerations:**

- 1) With no formal budget, there is no clear understanding of how income (clinical, indirect research dollars, enhancements, endowments with eligible matching funds) will be handled.
- 2) There is no physical location for the center at this point. Thus it will be a “virtual center” with the administrator/assistant located in the Division of Endocrinology within the Department of Medicine. It is suggested that having some designated physical space assigned to the Center would improve interaction and a sense of cohesiveness of the Center.
- 3) There is only an assumed reporting structure for the appointed Director and Associate Director for annual reviews listed in the proposal.
- 4) It is suggested that more frequent meetings of the external advisory board during the first year would be beneficial, as well as interdisciplinary membership on the board and in executive leadership positions.

## Brothers, Sheila C

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**From:** Lindsay, Jim D.  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 01, 2008 9:31 AM  
**To:** Brothers, Sheila C  
**Cc:** Greissman, Richard; Anderson, Heidi Milia  
**Subject:** HCCC Transmittal -Center for Diabetes & Obesity  
**Attachments:** Diabetes and Obesity Center.pdf

November 1st, 2008

T R A N S M I T T A L

TO: Sheila Brothers  
Senate Council

FROM: Jim Lindsay  
Health Care Colleges Council

On October 31<sup>st</sup> the Health Care Colleges Council approved the following proposal and is now forwarding it to the Senate Council to approve:

College of Medicine

New Center: KY Center for Diabetes and Obesity

Attached are the materials to implement the requested action.

cc: Richard Greissman  
Heidi Anderson

**Jim Lindsay**  
Health Care Colleges Council Coordinator  
Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs Office  
University of Kentucky, 205 Frazee Hall  
Lexington, KY 40506-0031 Ph. (859) 323.6638  
[www.uky.edu/Provost/AcademicCouncil/council.php](http://www.uky.edu/Provost/AcademicCouncil/council.php)



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October 22, 2008

Dear Jim,

With encouragement from Associate Provost Heidi Anderson, I write to request your help in undertaking an expedited review of the attached center proposal among the members of the Health Care College Council. Permit me to provide some background to this request.

The development of a formal proposal for a multidisciplinary research center, the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center, began in earnest last spring, at which time Dean Jay Perman presented to the College of Medicine Faculty Council. He explained to the Council that the University had submitted to NIH a proposal for a COBRA that, if successful, would fund the proposed center. Further movement on the center proposal awaited word on the grant submission. Indeed, we received word in late September from NIH that the University had been awarded a \$10+ million COBRA grant. As the email below from Dr. Carol Martin (Chair, COM Faculty Council) attests, Dr. Perman returned to the COM Faculty Council and has secured unanimous support for the formal creation of the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center.

The awkwardness of the situation, and the reason I respectfully request an expedited review by the HCCC, is that NIH has elected to announce this week the recipients (in this funding cycle) of its COBRA awards. It would be prudent, if not compelling, that the University demonstrate as quickly as possible its resolve to endorse formally the Center, the conduit through which the COBRA funding will be channeled. In my email message to Dr. David Randall (see below), I outlined the timing of an accelerated (but deliberative) vetting process that would conclude, if all went well, with final action by the UK Board of Trustees at its December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. I hasten to add that the Senate Council elected to reject my request for a waiver and instead agreed to send the center proposal to its subcommittee on academic organization, ahead of college and HCCC vetting, to demonstrate its willingness to comply with the spirit of my request for expedited consideration.

I ask nothing more of the HCCC than I have of other councils – a request for a deliberative but expedited review of the attached center proposal. Please indicate to the HCCC membership that I would be pleased to address questions or concerns they have about this request for an expedited review.

Thank you.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Greissman'.

Richard

Richard B. Greissman  
Assistant Provost  
University of Kentucky  
205 Frazee Hall  
Lexington, KY 40506-0031  
(phone) 859.257.2471

August 18, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

Attached for your information and comment is a proposal from Lisa Tannock, M.D, Director of the Division of Endocrinology in the College of Medicine's Department of Medicine. Collaborating in the development of this proposal are Fred Debeer, M.D. Chair of Medicine and Lisa Cassis, Ph.D. director of our Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences. The proposal has been reviewed and contributed to by me, and it has had the benefit of review and endorsement from Drs. Karpf and Subbaswamy.

I wish to share the proposal with you so that you are fully informed of our intent to announce in the near future the creation of an entity we will call the Kentucky Center for Diabetes and Obesity. It is important to note that the center is not intended to be a formal academic entity of the College of Medicine in contrast to our creation over the last several years of several new entities such as Nutrition and the new Center for Muscle Biology. There will not be formal academic appointments to the center; funds will not flow from the College to support the center. Accordingly, it is the opinion of the Provost and myself that the process of formal approval of formal academic units with ultimate presentation to the Senate and Board of Trustees is unnecessary here. Nevertheless, I always wish to keep you all informed, to clarify any questions, and to listen to suggestions for improving what we craft. Similarly, Dr. Subbaswamy will inform the Senate.

What is the genesis and reasoning behind this proposal? I believe the proposal itself nicely sets this out. We wish to project ourselves to the various constituencies of the Commonwealth----the public, legislative leaders, and public and private funding sources----as the state leader in diabetes care and research. Moreover, we wish to grow our efforts in understanding and combating the obesity epidemic. The center is conceived as an umbrella fostering collaboration among our clinicians and scientists focused on diabetes and research across the University with a view toward enhancing our efforts. In that spirit, I hope you will forward to me the names of any faculty we have failed to include in the appendix.

It will be our intent to announce the advent of this UK HealthCare/ University of Kentucky effort in diabetes and obesity in conjunction with our anticipated announcement of the awarding of a \$10M COBRE grant to Lisa Cassis which we believe is imminent and is focused on obesity. We wish to marry this announcement of a very large grant with our creation of an entity which will foster UK's efforts to combat two major "Kentucky uglies".

I am available of course to answer questions.

With thanks,

Jay

Cc: Kumble Subbaswamy, Ph.D.  
Michael Karpf, M.D.

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From: Martin, Catherine A  
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2008 11:07 PM  
To: Perman, Jay A  
Subject: Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center

Today the Faculty Council unanimously supported the formation of the Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center.

Members present: Jayakrishna Ambati, Hubert Ballard, Jennifer Brueckner, Thomas Curry, Greg Davis, Davy Jones, Thomas Getchell, Catherine Martin, Martha Peterson, Nancy Schoenberg

Catherine A. Martin, MD  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Kentucky College of Medicine  
3470 Blazer Parkway  
Lexington, KY  
40536

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From: Greissman, Richard  
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2008 11:28 PM  
To: Randall, David C  
Cc: Brothers, Sheila C; Subbaswamy, Kumble; Perman, Jay A; Tannock, Lisa R; Cassis, Lisa A; Anderson, Heidi Milia  
Subject: waiver request re: KY Center on Diabetes and Obesity

Dear David,

At a recent Senate Council meeting, Drs. Tannock and Cassis engaged the Council membership in a discussion on a proposal to establish a new multidisciplinary center, the Kentucky Center on Diabetes and Obesity. They and I are most grateful for the quite favorable opinions expressed by the Senate Council members. We also appreciate why the Senate Council, against the background of its informal endorsement, is nonetheless obliged to conduct a formal review of the center proposal.

Having been encouraged by the Senate Council membership do so, I write to request a waiver of the review ordinarily conducted in these matters by a Senate Council committee. I respectfully submit the argument that the award of a \$10 million NIH COBRE grant is sufficient evidence in support of the Center's intended purpose and viability as a multidisciplinary research. Approval of this request for a waiver would ensure a more timely consideration of the center proposal by the University Senate at its November 10th meeting and final action by the Board of Trustees at its December 9th meeting. The faculty leadership of the Center is especially keen to secure, as

expeditiously as possible, the formal endorsement by the University of the unit's status as a multidisciplinary center.

I propose the following timetable for the formal vetting of a proposal to establish the Kentucky Center on Diabetes and Obesity:

October 21st: consideration and vote on approval by the College of Medicine Faculty Council

October 22nd: 10-day circulation by the Health Care Colleges Council

November 3rd: consideration and vote on approval by the Senate Council

November 10th: consideration and vote on approval by the University Senate

December 9th: final action by the Board of Trustees

I would be pleased to answer questions about this matter at the October 10th meeting of the Senate Council. Meanwhile, please share this request with your Senate Council colleagues.

Respectfully,  
Richard

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#### **LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM COLLEGES WITH AFFILIATED CENTER FACULTY**

**From:** Turner, Sharon P

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 14, 2008 4:12 PM

**To:** Tannock, Lisa R

**Subject:** RE: Proposed Diabetes and Obesity Center

Lisa:

I am supportive of this center but swamped right now. Do you offer ghost writing services?

Sharon

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**From:** Peterson, Charlotte

**Sent:** Monday, October 13, 2008 4:37 PM

**To:** Tannock, Lisa R; Gonzalez, Lori S

**Subject:** RE: Proposed Diabetes and Obesity Center

I would be happy to write a letter. Do you want one from our college with multiple signatures or separate letters? Charlotte

Charlotte A. Peterson, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Research  
College of Health Sciences

University of Kentucky  
900 S. Limestone, CTW 105  
Lexington, KY 40536-0200  
859-323-1100 x 80476  
859-257-2375 fax  
[cpete4@uky.edu](mailto:cpete4@uky.edu)

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**From:** Cox, Nancy  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 12, 2008 7:52 PM  
**To:** Subbaswamy, Kumble  
**Cc:** Smith, M S; Tannock, Lisa R  
**Subject:** Proposal for Diabetes and Obesity Center

Dear Swamy

Scott Smith and I have had email discussions with Lisa Tannock and we have reviewed the proposed center documentation. While we really can't provide a considered opinion on whether a separate department is the best model for the program, we certainly concur with the need to address these topics with an aggressive research approach involving clinical research on behavior and physiology. There are several faculty in agriculture who have expressed a strong interest in the program. Our faculty offer expertise in applied behavioral intervention strategies as well as nutrition research.

We support the goal of the program and would like to establish a means of effective communication with the program participants.

Sincerely  
Nancy

Nancy M. Cox  
Associate Dean for Research  
Director KY Agricultural Experiment Station  
UK College of Agriculture  
129 Ag North  
Lexington KY 40546-0091  
Office 859-257-3333  
FAX 859-257-3393  
Cell 859-230-7759  
[ncox@uky.edu](mailto:ncox@uky.edu)

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**From:** College of Education KHP Faculty [<mailto:KHPFAC@LSV.UKY.EDU>] **On Behalf Of** Slaton, Deborah  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 14, 2008 11:00 AM  
**To:** [KHPFAC@LSV.UKY.EDU](mailto:KHPFAC@LSV.UKY.EDU)  
**Subject:** [KHPFAC] FW: Proposed diabetes and obesity center

Dear KHP faculty, I was catching up on my e-mail using a top-down approach, and I see that Jody wrote me about the diabetes and obesity proposal yesterday. I'm very glad that Jody has been in meetings about the proposal, and I wonder if others may be interested in being involved. Please see the second paragraph in Jody's message below.

Rosetta is away at a meeting today, but I'll draft a support letter that will be from

both of us.

Jody, to whom should the letter be addressed?

--Deborah

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**From:** Harrington, Nancy

**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2008 3:21 PM

**To:** Tannock, Lisa R

**Cc:** '[jeffrey.huber@uky.edu](mailto:jeffrey.huber@uky.edu)'; '[al.cross@uky.edu](mailto:al.cross@uky.edu)'; Helme, Don; '[jperman@uky.edu](mailto:jperman@uky.edu)'

**Subject:** RE: Kentucky Center for Diabetes and Obesity

Thanks so much. We'll look forward to participating in Center activities and possible research collaborations. Such important work and great opportunity!

--Nancy

Nancy Grant Harrington, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Department of Communication

Immediate Past Chair, Coalition for Health Communication

Associate Dean for Research, College of Communications & Information Studies

228 Grehan Building

University of Kentucky

Lexington, KY 40506-0042

859.257.3622 (phone)

859.257.4103 (fax)

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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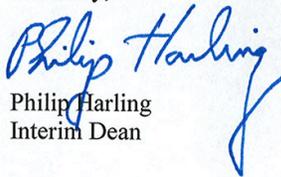
October 14, 2008

Dean Jay Perman  
College of Medicine  
MN 150 Medical Science Building  
CAMPUS 0298

Dear Dean Perman,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed multidisciplinary Center on Diabetes and Obesity. As we all know, diabetes and obesity pose increasingly serious health challenges to the nation and to the Commonwealth. The University of Kentucky presently has a good number of researchers investigating these two phenomena, notably in the College of Medicine, but elsewhere as well. It will be beneficial, not just for research but also for the provision of care and the nexus between research and care, if researchers and clinicians can be brought together in a collective effort to confront these related health challenges. Collaborative efforts in a multidisciplinary center will strengthen research and clinical care and also enhance the receipt of grants, the recruitment of faculty, and the training of future researchers and physicians. There are faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences whose current research touches or bears on diabetes and obesity and who can thus contribute to such a center from its inception. Once a center is up and running, its gravitational pull might well draw more of our faculty members into germane fields of inquiry. It is thus for a number of compelling reasons that I strongly support the creation of a multidisciplinary Center on Diabetes and Obesity on the UK campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip Harling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'g'.

Philip Harling  
Interim Dean



October 16, 2009

Jay A. Perman, MD  
Dean of the College of Medicine  
138 Leader Avenue  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40506-9983

College of Nursing  
Office of the Dean  
UK Medical Center  
315 College of Nursing Building  
Lexington, KY 40536-0232  
859 323-6533  
fax 859 323-1057  
[www.mc.uky.edu/nursing](http://www.mc.uky.edu/nursing)

Dear Dean Perman:

We heartily endorse your proposal for the new multidisciplinary Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center. In a state that is disproportionately affected by both diabetes and obesity, it is essential that we come together to address these major health issues to improve the health of our Kentucky constituency and to reduce the enormous health care costs associated with these problems. Because Kentuckians' rates of diabetes and obesity are continuing to escalate, it is imperative that action be taken to halt their progression.

We are pleased that the center will have a strong interdisciplinary focus with the goals of improving clinical care, expanding related research, conducting graduate training, and supporting the recruitment of faculty in this area. A critical mass of experts from a variety of fields will be the key in achieving national prominence of the center.

Several of our faculty have current relevant funding from the National Institutes of Health (Drs. Debra Moser and Terry Lennie). We also have several junior tenure track faculty with expertise in diabetes and they are working to obtain funding for their programs of research (Drs. Leslie Scott, Gia Mudd, and Elizabeth Tovar). Our RICH Heart Program (Research and Interventions for Cardiovascular Health Program) and our Center for Biobehavioral Research on Self-management of Chronic Illness provide potential areas for cross linkages with the new center.

We look forward to the opportunities this new center will bring for interdisciplinary collaboration in education, research, and service aimed at reducing the health care burden brought on as a result of diabetes and obesity in the Commonwealth.

Best regards,

  
Jane Marie Kirschling, RN, DNS  
Dean and Professor

  
Lynne A. Hall, RN, DrPH  
Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship



College of Health Sciences  
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Wethington Bldg. Rm 123  
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859 257-3303  
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October 20, 2008

Dr. Jay Perman  
Dean, College of Medicine  
University of Kentucky

Dear Dr. Perman,

It is with great enthusiasm that the College of Health Sciences endorses the proposed formation of a Diabetes and Obesity Center. Diabetes and obesity are major health problems in Kentucky and integrating multidisciplinary research, excellent clinical care and training in both research and clinical care aspects of diabetes and obesity will enable the University of Kentucky to more effectively battle these problems. In the College of Health Sciences, faculty within the Division of Clinical Nutrition have long been engaged in clinical education and research in obesity and diabetes with current funding from the KY Diabetes Research Trust Fund. Moreover, the Associate Dean for Research is funded through the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to study the role of obesity in compromising muscle insulin sensitivity. Formalizing a Diabetes and Obesity Center will increase collaboration among the many researchers on campus with common interests resulting in synergistic growth of quality research, which will ultimately translate into improved clinical education and care. We are pleased to participate in this worthwhile undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori S. Gonzalez".

Lori S. Gonzalez, Ph.D.  
Dean  
College of Health Sciences

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlotte A. Peterson".

Charlotte A. Peterson, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Research  
College of Health Sciences

October 16, 2008

Dean Jay Perman  
College of Medicine  
138 Leader Avenue  
Lexington KY 40506-9983  
Campus 9983

Dear Dean Perman

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Diabetes and Obesity Center. Diabetes and obesity pose risks in many aspects of health, including dentistry and oral health. The College of Dentistry already has faculty involved in clinical care and research aspects of diabetes and obesity, and by joining this Center, we will enhance our collaborative efforts and strengthen research and clinical care. I support the inclusion of Drs. Jeffrey Ebersole and Karen Novak in this Center, as their work is germane to its mission. By including faculty from multiple Colleges, this proposed Center will strengthen interdisciplinary ties across campus, and enhance success in obtaining extramural funding.

Sincerely



Sharon Turner  
Dean, College of Dentistry