

As part of our 2018 Research Week emphasis we will be having a collaboration meeting with the University of Kansas and Kansas City VA Medical Center. See our announcement below.



VA/KU Collaboration Colloquium
April 12, 2018, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Lawrence KU Campus.

The Colloquium: The KU/VA Collaboration Colloquium will provide a two-hour program to introduce VA clinician/researchers to KU faculty researchers. The program will feature presentations and activities to facilitate introductions and provide a useful exchange of research interests and capabilities.

Location:

The Chamber Room
Bioscience & Business Technology Center (BTBC)
2029 Becker Drive, KU West Campus, Lawrence

VA Collaborations: Research Collaborations are a terrific way to expand one's research interests and enhance one's clinical expertise. Such collaborations provide access to unique clinical populations and health and health-care-related data sets. A KU/VA collaboration can also increase the chances of winning competitive funding through other agencies such as DoD and NIH by highlighting the importance of your research to a relevant population.

Sample Topics: Common research interests include the following:

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Geriatrics/Neurodegeneration
- Prosthetic Engineering
- Living with Disabilities
- Personalized Medicine/Informatics
- Homebound Primary Care

Save the Date: This is a great opportunity for professionals from both KU and the VA to meet each other, understand opportunities to engage in collaborative research to include both clinical research and data mining opportunities. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE---more information coming soon.

More information to follow. If you'd like to be added to the contact list for the meeting, please email dbornemann@ku.edu or mary.oehlert@va.gov

Planning Committee Members

Doug Bornemann (KU) Tricia Bergman (KU) Robert Rummer (KU) Mary Oehlert (VA)

THE VA COLLABORATION COLLOQUIUM



THE CHAMBER ROOM

BIOSCIENCE & BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY CENTER (BTBC)

2029 BECKER DRIVE

KU WEST CAMPUS, LAWRENCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 3:00-5:00 P.M.



The purpose of this meeting is to build capacity for university researchers and VA clinicians to work together on collaborative research projects.

Agenda

3:00	“Why are We Here?”	A welcome and some background about developments that have brought us to this point. Potential funding opportunities.
3:10	“Finding Our Common Interests”	A quick introduction to some VA and KU current research and clinical challenges represented in attendees.
3:30	“Framing Research”	We all approach, identify, or frame the research “question” in different ways. A small group activity to meet new people and explore how we might define research questions around a hot topic.
3:45	“Collaboration?”	What does a collaborative research project look like that spans VA interests, academic research, graduate education, and possibly translational work? A small group activity to meet new people and talk about how to design a collaborative project.
4:00	“Tools”	There are a range of considerations in setting up a joint project. A brief overview to highlight some issues and share resources to overcome barriers.
4:05	“Making a Difference”	A key feature of a collaborative project with VA would be the opportunity to work on problems with strong significance. This whole-group activity will talk about how joint research can impact the lives of veterans.
4:20	“Where Do We Go?”	Large group discussion continues, reflecting on the interactions and ideas, on what could happen next.
4:30	“Networking”	Mix and mingle, have a cookie, follow-up on discussions.

SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT PROVIDED BY MIDWEST BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION



••**Nicholas S. Britt, PharmD, MS, BCPS** (nbritt@kumc.edu) is Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy and Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He is the Co-Director of the Antimicrobial Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics Translational Research Laboratory (ASTRAL) at the University of Kansas Medical Center and holds a joint research appointment at the VA Eastern Kansas-Leavenworth campus. Dr. Britt's clinical and translational research interests are in optimizing treatment of infectious multidrug-resistant “superbugs” through large-scale clinical comparative effectiveness research and *in vitro* studies of antimicrobial pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics and host-pathogen interactions.



•**Maritza Buenaver, M.D.** (Maritza.buenaver@va.gov) is a Diplomat of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, with sub specialization in Geriatric Psychiatry and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She is also Director of Geriatric Psychiatry care and a provider of the Behavioral Health Community Living Center at the VA Eastern Kansas Healthcare System. Dr. Buenaver completed her training, including medical school and Psychiatric residency, at the University of Kansas (KU) School of Medicine and her fellowship in Geriatric Psychiatry at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, where she was also trained in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Buenaver provides care to patients in inpatient, outpatient, and long-term care settings. Specialized in assessment and treatment of mental health disorders and dementia care, Dr. Buenaver is an Associate clinical professor in the department of Psychiatry at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and volunteer professor at Washburn University's Department of Nursing. She has focused her career on educating paid and unpaid caregivers of persons with dementia.



•**Jeffrey M. Burns, M.D., MS** (jburns2@kumc.edu) is Edward H. Hashinger Professor of Medicine in the Department of Neurology, the Co-Director, KU Alzheimer's Disease Center, and Director of the Frontiers Clinical and Translational Science Unit. Dr. Burns started the Alzheimer's disease (AD) clinical research program at KU in 2013 after completing an AD research fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis. His goal has been to stimulate and support AD and aging research locally while pursuing research investigating how various lifestyle factors influence brain aging and AD. The program has grown into a vibrant research and training environment for AD and brain-aging research. Dr. Burns has received NIH funding for his work assessing the roles of fitness in brain aging and AD progression, including funding for exercise intervention trials assessing the role of exercise in brain health. Additionally, Dr. Burns directs the KU ADC Clinical Core and the AD Clinical Trials Unit, which is a full-member site in the Alzheimer's disease Cooperative Study

(ADCS). Dr. Burns also started and directs the KU Memory Care Clinic. His clinical and research experience have informed and motivated the need for new models of care for our aging population.



• **Crystal Burkhardt PharmD, MBA, BCPS, BCGP** (cburkhardt2@kumc.edu) is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy and serves as the geriatric clinical pharmacist at the University of Kansas Medical Center's Geriatric Clinics, where she provides consultative services. Dr. Burkhardt entered academia with a clinical practice within a VAMC. She developed a wide variety of ambulatory practices, ranging from Geriatric Chronic Disease Management (CDM) services to consulting in community-based nursing facilities. In 2012, she transitioned from academia to a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist and implemented CDM services in new practice areas. Dr.

Burkhardt returned to academia in 2014 at the University of Kansas. Her teaching responsibilities include didactic instruction pertaining to geriatric pharmacotherapy concepts to pharmacy and medical students. She precepts pharmacy students, residents, and numerous interprofessional learners during their geriatric clinical rotations. Her research interests include interprofessional teaching and practice models centering on geriatric patient care.



• **Rosemary Chapin Ph.D.** (rchapin@ku.edu) is Founding Director of the Center for Research on Aging and Disability Options (CRADO) and a nationally recognized leader in community-engaged research to improve social-service practice and policy for older adults and people with disabilities. Dr. Chapin pioneered the strengths-based approach to increase resiliency in work with older adults. Dr Chapin's research focuses primarily on care transitions and assessment development with the goal of ensuring people with long-term care needs have the option of remaining at home, with community-based supports. Her research using

large Medicaid and Medicare databases has informed state and federal long term-care policy. She authored the text *Social Policy for Effective Practice: A Strengths Approach* as well as numerous articles and book chapters, and teaches social policy and social work and aging courses at KU.



• **Ciara Cavitt** (ciaratcav@ku.edu) is an undergraduate Sociology major at the University of Kansas working with Dr. LaPierre. For her Honors Research Thesis, she plans to work with Veterans. As an Air Force ROTC Cadet, she understands how difficult life can be for Veterans and feels she can do her part by gaining familiarity with the daily issues Vets encounter and educating others through her research. While she has a particular interest in PTSD, she is open to all topics and is eager to get involved.



● **Jonathan Farrell-Higgins, Ph.D.** (Jonathan.Farrell-Higgins@va.gov) is currently the Assistant Chief of Psychology at the Topeka campus (Colmery-O'Neil VAMC) of the VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System. He earned his B.S. (Psychology) and B.A. (Economics) from the University of Illinois, and then his M.A. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Kansas. He then interned at the Topeka VAMC. He has worked in both private and public sector hospitals and has maintained a private practice for 28 years. For over 20 years, he served as the Chief of the VA's Inpatient PTSD Treatment Unit (Stress Disorder Treatment Program). Dr. Farrell-Higgins provided specialty trauma treatment for male and female Veterans and military personnel coping with PTSD and comorbid disorders. He also served as the Psychology Internship Training Director and as a long-time supervisory psychologist. His research interests are in treatment outcomes, particularly in the field of PTSD. He has made numerous poster presentations in the PTSD arena concerning variables affecting treatment outcomes including hope, abuse history, shame, and combat exposure. Dr. Farrell-Higgins has presented numerous times locally and regionally and has served as a national expert/consultant on PTSD treatment. He is currently involved in efforts to enhance suicide prevention in the delivery of mental-health services and in efforts to maximize the effective delivery of empirically based psychotherapies in the VA.



● **Ken Fischer, Ph.D.** (fischer@ku.edu) is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Bioengineering and the Director of the Biomechanical Rehabilitation Engineering Advancement in Kansas (BREAK) program at KU. Dr. Fischer's main research area has been experimental and computational biomechanics, primarily applied to orthopaedic applications. The BREAK program was established to engage Mechanical Engineering undergraduate students in rehabilitation engineering and design and to provide custom design solutions for people with disabilities. Work with the BREAK program has led Dr. Fischer to begin developing a biomechanics research arm in rehabilitation engineering. The first project in rehabilitation research focused on the efficacy of dynamic seat cushions in reducing time-averaged seating pressure. He is currently working with a student design team on developing novel add-on wheelchair devices to inexpensively extend the capabilities of a standard/basic wheelchair.



● **Ted Grabarczyk, PharmD, BCACP** (ted.grabarczyk@va.gov) serves as the Associate Chief for Clinical Pharmacy Services at VA Eastern Kansas – Topeka where he works as an ambulatory care provider, manages the quality and expansion of clinical pharmacy services, and supervises the facility's clinical pharmacy specialists. His background is in ambulatory care pharmacy, having completed PGY1/PGY2 ambulatory care training at the Wm. S. Middleton VAMC in Madison, WI. He also serves as the Residency Program Director for the VAEKHCS PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program for which he also serves as a preceptor and research mentor/PI. He is also currently enrolled in the M.S. Clinical Research program at KU School of Preventative Medicine. Research interests include: effectiveness of new pharmacy clinical services within ambulatory care, behavioral economics in health decision-making, and effective teaching/learning/educational design in postgraduate training programs.



● **Melinda Gaddy, Ph.D.** (melinda.gaddy@va.gov) is a licensed psychologist in the Addiction Treatment Program at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC in Leavenworth, KS. She received her Ph.D. from the Clinical Psychology program at the University of Kansas. She is a full-time clinician and also maintains consistent involvement in research activities with the VA, including in her current role as Chair of the hospital's Research and Development Committee. Her research interests include the application of structural equation modeling to retrospective data, meta-analysis, integrative-medicine approaches, and treatment-outcomes research.



● **Jean P. Hall, Ph.D.** (jhall@ku.edu) is the director of the Institute for Health and Disability Policy studies at the University of Kansas and a Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the KU Medical Center. Dr. Hall received her PhD in Disability Studies and has an extensive background in the evaluation of health-care programs, especially for people with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Her research has included private, state, and federal projects related to health care, education, and employment for people with disabilities or chronic illnesses in the educational, welfare to work, workforce center, Medicaid, and Medicare systems. A priority of her research is to give voice to people with disabilities and their experiences with the health care system.



● **Martha Hodgesmith, J.D.** (marthah@ku.edu) is the Associate Director for Disability Policy for the Research and Training Center on Independent Living within the LifeSpan Institute. She has supported researchers, advocates, legal professionals, professional organizations, businesses, and local, state, and federal agencies in analyzing the impact of laws and policies on the lives of persons with disabilities. She develops legal and policy resource materials on key disability, health, and public-benefits laws and policies that are used in continuing professional education, peer training, direct advocacy, and public testimony on state and national policy initiatives. She has developed collaborative systems for distribution and training that have been implemented at local, regional, and national levels on issues such as vocational rehabilitation, special education, public-benefits law, elder law, Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) application to the state court system, access to health care and other public services and supports, health-care fraud, patient/abuse neglect, public financing of community-based long-term services and supports, and primary health care.



● **Roy A. Jensen, M.D.** (rjensen@kumc.edu) was appointed the director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center in 2004, which was designated as a cancer center by the National Cancer Institute in July, 2012. Dr. Jensen is currently Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Professor of Cancer Biology, and the William R. Jewell, M.D. Distinguished Kansas Masonic Professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Jensen's research interests focus on understanding the function of

BRCA1 and BRCA2 and their role in breast neoplasia and in the characterization of premalignant breast disease at both the morphologic and molecular levels.



• **Sarah Kirk, Ph.D., ABPP** (skirk@ku.edu) is a clinical faculty member and administrator. She directs all practicum activity and supervises and facilitates clinical training opportunities. She also teaches graduate courses and provides professional development mentorship to students.



• **Tracey LaPierre Ph.D.** (tlapie@ku.edu) specializes in social determinants of health and healthcare, disability studies, life course/aging, and family studies. Her research projects include investigating pregnancy decisions among women with disabilities, access to healthcare and healthcare experiences for low-income individuals and individuals with serious mental illness, the role of non-kin in providing informal care to older adults, and grandparents raising grandchildren. Dr. LaPierre teaches courses in statistics, mental illness, death and dying, gender, family and the life course, and health and social behavior. Dr. LaPierre is also an affiliate of the Gerontology Program, The Center for Research on Aging and Disability Options (CRADO) and a Courtesy Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.



• **Wen Liu Ph.D.** (wliu@kumc.edu) is a faculty member in the Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science at KUMC. He pioneered well-recognized research and clinical trials using mind-body interventions with breast-cancer survivors and with chronic-pain and Parkinson's-disease patients. These trials have achieved impressive improvements in study subjects' pain, sleep quality, and fatigue. For example, in some of those studies, patients' measured sleep-quality scores improved by more than half. Dr Liu's research also involves neuro-rehabilitation engineering. His research laboratory is currently working on using novel training devices developed in his laboratory for gait training for non-ambulatory stroke survivors and spinal-cord-injury patients. These devices can be used to provide in-home walking exercise for people with disabilities. Dr. Liu is looking for VA collaborators to apply for DOD research grants.



● **Carl W. Lejuez, Ph.D.** (clejuez@ku.edu) is the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a professor in the department of psychology at KU. He began his career at the University of Maryland in the department of psychology, where he was the founding director of the Center for Addictions, Personality, and Emotion Research and was the inaugural associate dean for research in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. His work has been funded continuously by NIH since 2002, and he has published extensively in the area of novel behavioral treatment development for addiction and mood disorders—including collaborations with VAs in Charleston, Orlando, and Palo Alto, as well as with Walter Reed National Military medical Center. At KU, he has received a \$2M gift from Gladys Cofrin and Daniel Logan to start an addictions research and treatment center that will open in summer 2018.



● **Noraida Martinez-Rivera, Ph.D.** (n_martinez@ku.edu) is a postdoctoral researcher at The University of Kansas, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology under the supervision of Dr. Eduardo Rosa-Molinar. Her research is focused on axo-somatic mixed synapses, a poorly studied synapse that combines the features of both chemical and electrical synapses (*i.e.*, gap junctions) on sensory neurons (*i.e.*, supramedullary and dorsal neurons) within the spinal cord. To this end, she contributes to developing, testing, and applying innovative approaches and technologies that will enable new and radial insights of synaptic geometry. Dr. Martinez-Rivera completed a doctoral degree in Ecology and Neurobiology at the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras. Her areas of interest and research discipline include Neuroethology and Sensory Ecology, Immunohistochemistry, Microscopy, Diversity, Science Education, and Mentoring.



● **Jason Matejkowski, Ph.D.** (jmate@ku.edu) has been an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Welfare at the University of Kansas since 2012. Prior to KU, Jason held research-scientist positions at the Treatment Research Institute and Pathways to Housing in Philadelphia. He has worked on a variety of projects involving justice-involved adults with serious mental illness (SMI) and co-occurring disorders. For example, he has served as investigator on state- and federally-funded projects that examined integrated services for recently released inmates with SMI as well as on effective data collection and information sharing among treatment and recovery services and the criminal justice system. He is principal investigator on a BJA grant to evaluate jail diversion efforts targeting adults with SMI and co-principal investigator of a HRSA training grant that aims to develop and expand the behavioral-health workforce serving populations in rural and medically underserved areas. He also has several peer-reviewed research publications examining disparities in behavioral-health service utilization.



● **Aidyn M. Medina-Lopez, B.S.** (aidynmedina@ku.edu) is a second-year Ph.D. student from the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. Her research focuses on the development of a novel dynamic three-dimensional (3-D) tissue model of the blood/spinal-cord barrier to study spinal-cord injury (SCI). This 3-D tissue model allows the screening and evaluation of SCI serum for SCI biomarkers and has potential for translation to traumatic brain injury, as well as to other central-nervous-system traumas.



● **Brittany Melton, PharmD, Ph.D.** (bmelton2@kumc.edu) is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, where she teaches health care systems, health insurance, and informatics. Dr. Melton's work involves consumer informatics, human-computer interaction, and medication-safety-alert design. Her work includes development of a virtual physical-therapy program and evaluation of medication alerts to improve usability and patient safety. She also regularly collaborates on studies related to patient outcomes and pharmacy-service development.



● **S. Mukui Mutunga** (mutungam@ku.edu) is a second-year graduate student in the Bioengineering program. Ms. Mutunga is mentored by Dr. Sara Wilson in the Human Motion Control Laboratory (HMCL). The focus of the laboratory is to understand how low back pain (LBP) develops by observing various populations (i.e., nurses, truck drivers, weight lifters, etc.). Ms. Mutunga's current research aims to characterize normal trunk and pelvis coordination patterns during running and understand how those patterns change in runners with LBP. For her dissertation project, she hopes to characterize similar coordination patterns in unilateral above- and below-the-knee amputees.



● **Dot Nary, Ph.D.** (dotn@ku.edu) is an Assistant Research Professor on the Promoting Interventions in Community Living research grant at the Center on Community Health and Development in the Lifespan Institute. She worked in the independent-living movement for nine years, and her research interests focus on eliminating health disparities, increasing independent-living opportunities for persons with disabilities, teaching advocacy skills, and transforming communities to promote participation for all. She has taught courses on disability and advocacy at several universities and is a frequent guest lecturer on topics related to health and independent-living for people with disabilities. She has been a NIDILRR (National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research) fellow to study the issue of visitability (making homes accessible to wheelchair users).



● **Sheni Meghani M.D.** (Sheni.Meghani@va.gov) is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, and Hospice & Palliative Care Medicine. Her responsibilities include clinical and programmatic oversight to hospice and palliative-care services at VA Eastern Kansas where she is Hospice and Palliative Care Lead/Champion for VISN 15. Dr. Meghani has conceptualized, developed, and implemented several innovations in training and delivery of palliative care and has presented at national and international conferences. Her interests include developing and implementing innovative models to integrate palliative care in primary and specialty care as well as process- and quality-improvement projects.



● **Mary E. Oehlert, Ph.D.** (mary.oehlert@va.gov) serves as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research at VA Eastern Kansas Healthcare System (Leavenworth and Topeka, Kansas). She is a licensed psychologist in Kansas and Missouri. Research interests include the use of Health Care Informatics to inform decision-making processes. Integrating research and educational training, Dr. Oehlert has introduced large data-base research to psychology interns and pharmacy/medicine residents, assisting them to learn how to use data to support clinical changes. Her personal interests include using large data sets in the process of norming commonly used computerized psychological assessment measures on the Veteran population. Dr. Oehlert is the local site investigator for the nationally approved Million Veteran Program, which has the goal of enrolling 1 million veterans (current enrollment—650,000) who contribute a blood sample and give permission to link that sample to the Computerized Patient Record System. This program provides the opportunity to combine genomic data with clinical data in support of the Precision Medicine initiative, a medical model that customizes healthcare to the individual patient.



● **Emily M. Potter, PharmD, BCPS** (emily.potter1@va.gov) is the Infectious Disease/Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist for the VA Eastern Kansas Healthcare System (Leavenworth and Topeka, Kansas). She is a full-time clinician and precepts pharmacy students and residents as well as numerous interprofessional learners during Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, and Antimicrobial Stewardship rotations. Dr. Potter has consistently maintained involvement in research activities with the VA, including in her current role as Co-Chair of the hospital's Research and Development Committee and as an active member of the KCVIA IRB. Her research interests include Gram-positive infections (i.e., bacteremia, skin, and soft-structure infections, etc.) and *clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhea.



• **Eduardo Rosa-Molinar Ph.D.** (erm@ku.edu) is the Director of the Microscopy and Analytical Imaging Research Resource Core Laboratory and Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology and the Neuroscience Graduate Program. His research focuses on determining and recreating the three-dimensional (3-D) *in vivo* nano-scale geometry and chemical composition of synapses, particularly for “mixed synapses,” a poorly studied synapse that combines the features of both chemical and electrical synapses (*i.e.*, gap junctions). Rosa-Molinar and his research group develop/refine reagents, technologies, and workflows for scanning transmission electron microscopy and electron spectroscopy and develop 3-D *in vitro* tissue models.



• **Codi Schale, Ph.D.** (codi.schale@va.gov) is the Assistant Chief of Psychology Service for VA Eastern Kansas at the Leavenworth Campus. She supervises 20 psychology staff members on various units, including the outpatient Mental Health Clinic, Domiciliary, Addiction Treatment Program, Neuropsychology, and Primary Care Mental Health Integration. Codi is also a national Whole Health Educator for the Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation and a Champion for Whole Health at Eastern KS VA. Her current clinical interests involve using “Whole Health”/integrative-health interventions for chronic disease, chronic pain, and mental health, and exploring how such interventions improve staff engagement and reduce burnout among healthcare professionals.



• **Ram Sharma, Ph.D., MHA** (Ram.Sharma2@va.gov) serves as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research at Kansas City VA Medical Center. He is involved in promoting and facilitating clinicians, residents, and fellows to carry out basic, clinical, translational and large-database research. Dr. Sharma’s research focuses on understanding the pathophysiology of chronic kidney diseases, including Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis. He has authored 60 peer-reviewed articles.



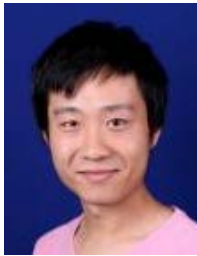
• **Jim Sharpnack Ph.D.** (james.sharpnack2@va.gov) has worked as a psychologist in the outpatient PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) since 2007, and he has been PCT program manager since 2012. PCT providers work with Veterans using evidence-based practice interventions such as Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy to decrease symptoms and facilitate PTSD recovery. Dr. Sharpnack’s interests include assessment, individual therapy, couples therapy, and working with psychology interns and practicum students.



● **Catherine Shenoy** (cshenoy@ku.edu) is the Director of the Center for Business Analytics Research <https://business.ku.edu/centers/center-for-business-analytics-and-research> and formerly director of the MBA Programs in the School of Business. She has served on the faculty since 1993, teaching Finance, Accounting, and Statistics. She taught the Applied Portfolio Management student-managed portfolio class from 2001-2017. Her teaching interests are in the areas of investments, corporate finance, statistics, and decision analysis.



● **Prakash P. Shenoy** (pshenoy@ku.edu) is the Ronald G. Harper Distinguished Professor of Artificial Intelligence in the School of Business, University of Kansas at Lawrence. He leads the [Center for Business Analytics Research](#) in the Business School, whose missions are to advance research with “big data,” teach business analytics to undergraduate and graduate students, and engage in outreach with companies that need help with their data. He is currently working with companies such as VA Hospital, Leavenworth, KS; Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co., Sunnyvale, CA; and Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technology, Kansas City, MO.



● **Yi Tan** (y549t268@ku.edu) received his BS in Statistics from Wuhan University, PRC, in August 2011 and his MS in Business Analytics from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, in December 2013. He is a candidate for a PhD degree in Decision Sciences in KU’s School of Business. His research interests include machine learning, business analytics, healthcare, and sports analytics. He has a publication in the *Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Probabilistic Graphical Models*.



● **Michael Vitevitch, Ph.D.** (mvitevitch@ku.edu) is Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department. His research examines how people retrieve words from memory when they perceive or produce speech, and has implications for aphasia, stuttering, and other language-related disorders. He uses traditional psycholinguistic tasks in the laboratory, web-based diaries to collect speech errors in the field, computational models to explore our understanding of language processing, and the mathematical tools of network science to map out the relationships among words that people know (and how those interconnections make a word stand out or “hide” in memory). He has also used network analysis to build networks of the symptoms in eating disorders and in people who stutter to better understand those conditions.



● **Sara Wilson, Ph.D.** (sewilson@ku.edu) is Director of the Bioengineering Graduate Program and an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Her research focuses on using engineering tools and methods to better understand musculoskeletal injuries. She has investigated the effects of occupational vibration exposure on the neuromotor stabilization of the lumbar spine and the dynamics of occupational lifting in professions including nursing. She also has worked on the development of a number of medical devices for a variety of medical fields including physical therapy, obstetrics, internal medicine, and gastroenterology. She holds a US Patent and has published numerous articles in biomechanics and biomedical engineering. With her graduate student, Mukui Mutunga, she is currently engaged in investigating the effects of lower-limb prosthetics on low-back coordination and movement.



● **Joseph (Joe) Weir Ph.D.** (joseph.weir@ku.edu) is Professor and Chair of the Department of Health, Sports, and Exercise Sciences at the University of Kansas. Dr. Weir's doctoral training is in exercise physiology, and his research primarily focuses on neuromuscular and autonomic nervous-system responses and adaptations to exercise, as well as other perturbations such as orthostatic challenge. Much of this work has occurred via a long-standing research collaboration with the Spinal Cord Damage Research Center at the James J. Peters Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Bronx, NY. His collaboration with the Bronx VA has emphasized the cardiovascular autonomic nervous system in spinal-cord injury, and recent studies have begun to examine the relationships between blood-pressure regulation, cerebral blood flow, and cognitive performance in spinal-cord injury. In addition, through a related collaboration he has begun work examining the effects of concussion on cardiovascular autonomic-nervous-system function. Dr. Weir has extensive experience in statistical analysis and digital signal processing, including wavelet approaches for time-frequency analysis of biological signals. He has authored or co-authored numerous research papers, reviews, book chapters, and books (including the textbook *Statistics In Kinesiology*).



● **Westley Youngren** (way946@ku.edu) is a 2nd year graduate student working towards his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Westley's research focuses on parasomnias, specifically, on nightmares related to traumatic events. Currently, Westley and his advisor, Dr. Nancy Hamilton, are working towards developing an augmented posttrauma nightmare treatment protocol that will be administered in collaboration with the Topeka VA. This study aims to improve upon a current posttrauma nightmare treatment by attempting to manipulate brain-wave patterns during sleep.

FACILITATORS



●●**Mary E. Oehlert, Ph.D.** (mary.oehlert@va.gov) serves as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research at VA Eastern Kansas Healthcare System (Leavenworth and Topeka, Kansas). She is a licensed psychologist in Kansas and Missouri. Research interests include the use of Health Care Informatics to inform decision-making processes. Integrating research and educational training, Dr. Oehlert has introduced large data-base research to psychology interns and pharmacy/medicine residents, assisting them to learn how to use data to support clinical changes. Her personal interests include using large data sets in the process of norming commonly used computerized psychological assessment measures on the Veteran population. Dr. Oehlert is the local site investigator for the nationally approved Million Veteran Program, which has the goal of enrolling 1 million veterans (current enrollment—650,000) who contribute a blood sample and give permission to link that sample to the Computerized Patient Record System. This program provides the opportunity to combine genomic data with clinical data in support of the Precision Medicine initiative, a medical model that customizes healthcare to the individual patient.



●**Bob Rummer Ph.D.** (bobrummer@ku.edu) is the Director of Research Development in KU's Office of Research. The role of the RD team is to provide strategic scoping and analysis of research opportunities, develop collaborative research teams, and provide direct support to major research proposal efforts. During a 30-year career as a federal research scientist Bob authored over 150 technical publications, served in positions as a Laboratory Manager, Assistant Station Director, and National Program Leader for US Forest Service Research. He has been in Research Development at KU since 2012.



●**Tricia Bergman** (tricia.bergman@ku.edu), KU's Director of Strategic Partnerships received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and M.S. in Industrial Administration from Purdue University. For ten years she served as Associate Director of the Center for Clean Energy Engineering at the University of Connecticut. In this role, she was responsible for the Center's operations and outreach activities. Tricia also developed and coordinated large research and demonstration programs with state and federal agencies, as well as industry partners, including facilitation of contractual agreements. She was also part of a team that developed and initiated a unique, industry-focused Masters of Science in Engineering program. Prior to arriving at KU, she was involved in developing the strategic business plan for a start-up company involved in energy storage and conversion. Earlier in her career, Tricia spent 13 years with two entrepreneurial companies in Austin, Texas, Carroll Touch and Xetel, where she directed various functional activities in research and development, engineering, manufacturing, program management, as well as finance and accounting.



● **Mike Denning, Colonel, USMC (Ret.)** (gmjdenning@ku.edu). A retired Marine Corps colonel, Mike is a graduate from the University of Kansas, the Naval War College, and a National Security Fellow from Harvard Kennedy School. He served in the Marine Corps for 27 years, commanded light-attack and tilt-rotor aviation units, and had multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. As the Director of Graduate Military Programs, Mike serves as the University's liaison to the DOD for advanced civilian education programs and research proposals.



● **Douglas Bornemann J.D., Ph.D.** (dbornemann@ku.edu), KU's Assistant Director of Research Development, spent several years practicing IP law at firms in Chicago and Minneapolis before switching gears to a 20-year scientific research career in *Drosophila* genetics. Upon moving to Kansas in 2015, he joined KU's Research Development team, where he focuses on strategic scoping for research opportunities, facilitating collaborations, and direct support for large proposal efforts.



● **Nancy Cayton Myers** (ncmyers@ku.edu) is the Research Development Officer at KU's Institute for Policy & Social Research. Myers has over 17 years of success leading all phases of research development. She supports, conceptualizes, plans, and manages complex proposals, aligning project goals with appropriate grant and contract opportunities to build portfolios for multiple disciplines, teams and individuals, and all career levels. Myers has managed or supervised over 800 submissions, resulting in \$40M in grant and contract funding, growing the IPSR client base from fewer than 10 to over 150 university affiliates from a wide variety of fields, including health policy and management, economics, social welfare, law, business, engineering, and education. She has broad experience with health-related funding agencies and foundations including the NIH, CDC, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



● **Ashley Carlson MS** (acarlson5@ku.edu) began this year as Research Development Specialist in the Humanities Grant Development Office at KU's Hall Center for the Humanities after serving five years at the medical center as Assistant Director of Postdoctoral Affairs and Graduate Studies. She recently received her MS in experimental psychology and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in creative and performing arts. Ashley is personally and professionally committed to supporting and facilitating interdisciplinary research collaborations and helping advanced scholars build skills and connections for successful initiatives. In her role at the Hall Center, she supports individual and collaborative proposal development and provides training and workshops to graduate students and faculty in grant writing and professional development.



● **Robin Rusconi J.D.** (ROBERTA.RUSCONI@va.gov) is Chairperson of the NAVREF Board of Directors and executive director of the Midwest Biomedical Research Foundation in Kansas City, MO. Before leading MBRF, Ms. Rusconi served in various roles at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, culminating as the Director of Research Administration and Project Management. She earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas School of Law and her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Kansas.
