



IDeA Programs at KU Medical Center

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Since 2000, the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), the University of Kansas (KU) and other Kansas higher education institutions have received funding from the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) Institutional Development Award (IDeA). The IDeA program is critical to Kansas and has been instrumental in supporting: (1) collaborative research that leverages external funding; (2) recruitment packages and pilot grants; and (3) research infrastructure needs. Recently the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced plans to eliminate the NCRR, which could have an impact of the IDeA program. As we make positive organization changes to the NIH, particularly in the area of translational research, it remains crucial to Kansas that the IDeA program is housed in an NIH center where its mission and purpose can be retained.

Importance of the programs

The IDeA program was created in 1993 with the goal of broadening “the geographic distribution of NIH funding for biomedical and behavioral research.” Twenty-three states, plus Puerto Rico, are eligible to receive IDeA grants. The IDeA program focuses on those states where the success rate for NIH research grant applications has been historically low.

The program is composed primarily of two different types of awards: the IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) and the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE). The INBRE program focuses on collaboration between institutions, with the goal of recruiting and retaining top faculty. KU Medical Center is the lead institution for the INBRE grant in Kansas. The COBRE program focuses on establishing core facilities to enhance biomedical research capacity. Kansas researchers hold six COBRE grants; three are located at KU Medical Center, two are located at the University of Kansas, and one is located at Kansas State University. All six cores are open to investigators on all Kansas INBRE network campuses.

Since 2000, IDeA funding in Kansas has totaled approximately \$150.2 million across the campuses, which has leveraged an additional \$202 million in external research funding for the state. This funding – in addition to providing resources for research – has assisted with recruitment packages and pilot grants, and supported 49 new faculty and 571 undergraduate researchers. It has also allowed our state’s higher education institutions to grow our research infrastructure, so Kansas scientists can be more competitive in their applications for external funding.

Potential effects of the NCRR’s elimination

The NIH’s proposed elimination of the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) may have negative consequences for the IDeA program. In order to ensure IDeA’s vitality going forward, we encourage the NIH

Kansas IDeA Funding Since 2000

KU and KU Medical Center:

- **\$130.5 million**
- \$176.1 million leveraged in additional funding

State of Kansas, total:

- **\$150.2 million**
- \$202.0 million leveraged in additional funding Faculty across institutions

Supported **49 new faculty** across network institutions

Supported **571 undergraduate researchers** across network

Kansas holds **six COBRE grants**:

- KU Medical Center (3)
- University of Kansas (2)
- Kansas State University (1)

to consider placement of the IDeA program in the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD).

Although the NCMHD has historically focused on ethnic disparities in health, in recent years, it has expanded its mission to include health disparities in underserved communities more broadly. Because the IDeA program also serves States with rural and medically underserved communities, housing the program within the NCMHD could be an ideal match.

With an expanded mission, the NCMHD could synergize its current efforts to “promote, assist, and support research capacity building activities in the minority and *medically underserved communities*, focusing on *research infrastructure development, faculty career development*, and increasing the number of underrepresented minority students and students from health disparity groups with an interest in careers in biomedical and bio-behavioral research.” These goals are similar to those of the IDeA program. An analysis of health disparities in the 23 IDeA states could provide a thoughtful initial approach to identify common areas of interest and mission.

K-INBRE fosters inter-campus biomedical research among 10 campuses: the University of Kansas Medical Center, the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas State University, Wichita State University, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Haskell Indian Nations University, Pittsburg State University and Washburn University in Kansas, along with Langston University in Oklahoma. Its goals are to support students, faculty development and retention, and cutting-edge technology.

COBRE: Six funded Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grants are in the state of Kansas: one at Kansas State University, three at the University of Kansas Medical Center and two at the University of Kansas – Lawrence.

KU Medical Center (3 COBRE grants)

- Investigators in the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics at the University of Kansas School of Medicine study the role of nuclear receptors in liver health and disease. Examining these receptors and exploring how they

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