

# UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CENTRAL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Project Update: **SUMMER 2017**



## Inside:

- ✦ *In His Own Words:* University of Kansas Distinguished Professor Steven A. Soper, PhD
- ✦ New Dining Center Completed Ahead of Summer Break

## Project Progress Tracker



## In His Own Words: University of Kansas Distinguished Professor Steven A. Soper, PhD

**Q: For those of us with a more limited scientific vocabulary, could you explain your research / field of focus?**

We are developing new tools for the diagnosis and monitoring treatment response of patients with cancer. The tools we develop consist of what is called, "Lab on a Chip (LOC)"—the LOC allows one to take complicated laboratory and the associated equipment and shrink it down to the size of a credit card without sacrificing capabilities. Evolution of these LOCs will allow patients in isolated locations to receive highly sophisticated care for their disease, without having to travel to major health centers.

Our LOC can accept a blood sample and search for rare cancer cells that can determine what type of cancer a patient may have, how to treat that patient effectively, and also see if the patient is responding to treatment. The LOC technology has proven successful in several cancers, including ovarian, prostate, breast, colorectal and pancreatic as well as monitoring recurrence in patients with leukemia.

**Q: How will your new space in the Integrated Science Building help you advance your research?**

The ISB is going to be the home of a new fabrication room called a cleanroom that will

be a state-of-the-art facility for Kansas and the KC metropolitan area. This cleanroom will be populated with new machines that can generate structures on the order of 10 nanometers (a nanometer is 1/100,000<sup>th</sup> the diameter of a human hair) and other machines to allow us to scale the production of LOCs to make them a commercially viable platform. The cleanroom in the ISB will be a multi-user facility that can service the Midwest and serve as a major showpiece for the KU campus.

**Q: How do you think the new Integrated Science Building will help facilitate collaboration with other scientists (especially those who perform research in other fields)?**

We are running a major National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded Center of Biotechnology and as part of this Center, we have collaborators (ranging from engineering to biomedical) from across the country that visit. The ISB will serve as a wonderful home for this Center and enhance our visibility as well as that of KU. The modernization of our laboratory space will provide the



appropriate venue to bring to the KU campus collaborators whom are seeking to improve their capabilities by utilizing our LOC tools for biomedical discoveries.

**Q: How do you think the Central District project (specifically the Integrated Science Building) will impact the campus in the future from a teaching and research perspective?**

The ISB will serve as a major research and teaching showpiece for KU's Lawrence and medical center campuses, as well as the National Cancer Institute-supported KU Cancer Center. This important resource will not only catapult research capabilities regionally and at KU, but also leverage major funding opportunities for all affiliated members. One example would be the cancer center trying to reach a Comprehensive designation at the National Institutes of Health.

The ISB also will serve as a resource for fostering the evolution of new technology related startups. Finally, the ISB will help in the efforts to recruit new and highly innovative faculty to the KU campus.

*"Using the ISB cleanroom we will be able to generate a nanotechnology device that can sequence the entire genome of cancer patients at unprecedented speeds and accuracy. This technology will allow for speeding up the clinical acceptance of new drugs being discovered on the Lawrence and KU Medical Center campuses and foster precision medicine efforts on the medical center campus."*



## New Dining Center Completed Ahead of Summer Break

On May 1, 2017 the Dining Center, located between the new Residence Hall and the existing Oliver Hall, was completed on schedule.

In addition to serving the 660 student residents in Oliver Hall, the new Dining Center will serve the additional 545 students that will reside in the new Central District Residence Hall when it opens in Fall 2017.

The new Dining Center features over 400+ seats and offers a wide variety of food choices, including Italian, a Euro Grill, Deli, Tex-Mex, World at Your Table, the K-You Zone, Home Cooking, and Nature's Finest. KU Dining staff will be training in the new facility this summer in preparation for full-service operation in Fall 2017.

*"University dining has greatly evolved in recent years with students expecting fresher, higher quality food, cooked to order in front of them. The amazing facility Edgemoor has built for KU Dining exemplifies the passion and excellence our chefs and department strive for in reaching our guest's expectations."*

*- Mark Petrino, Director of Dining  
University of Kansas*

 Check Out Our Construction Progress

Visit the project webcams at:  
[oxblue.com/open/clarkconstruction/kucddp](http://oxblue.com/open/clarkconstruction/kucddp)  
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