

Janice Z. Kinney Associates
Executive Search Consultants - Kansas City, MO
jzk@janicekinneyassociates.com
816-260-1963

Search Profile

Chair, Microbiology, Molecular Genetics & Immunology
The University of Kansas School of Medicine & Health System

Quick Facts/Benefits of Opportunity:

The mission of the Department of Microbiology, Molecular Genetics and Immunology is to conduct high impact research that is relevant to human health and train the next generation of biomedical scientists and physicians who will advance our understanding of immunity and infection in ways that benefit humankind. The short-term goal of the Department, with support from KU Medical Center leadership, is to recruit several additional immunology-focused faculty members to enhance and build a robust immunology practice.

- The Department's research programs are nationally recognized among U.S. public medical schools, and cover a variety of topics within immunology, host defense, microbial physiology and pathogenesis as well as virology.
- Current research interests of the faculty include bacterial physiology and pathogenesis, viral replication and pathogenesis, SARS CoV-2, and host/pathogen immune responses to infections, diabetes, and cancer with a grant portfolio more than \$4M in NIH funding.
- The Department has maintained a vibrant research environment for several decades. Since 2016, the department has doubled the number of grant awards and received a 37% increase in total direct cost funds for research.
- Faculty maintain active interactions/collaborations with several Centers including KU Cancer Center, Liver Center, Diabetes Institute, KU Lawrence Center of Biomedical Research Excellence Program on the Chemical Biology of Infectious Disease, and the Internal Medicine Department.
- As one of the ten basic science departments in the School of Medicine, the department contributes to the educational programs of the School of Medicine and the Graduate School and offers the Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. degree in Microbiology.
- Department faculty have been responsible for covering medical microbiology and immunology content in the medical curriculum, with both disciplines consistently remaining among the top performing basic science disciplines at KU on the USMLE medical licensure exams. The PhD program in Microbiology has experienced a four-fold increase in student enrollment since 2006, and the Department continues to train postdoctoral fellows.
- Excellent core facilities in flow cytometry and biocontainment.
- KUMC is one of only 26 U.S. universities that have a National Cancer Center Institute-designated Cancer Center, a National Institutes of Aging-designated Alzheimer's Disease Center, and a National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Award.
- KUMC is part of the University of Kansas system, a major public research and teaching institution that operates through a diverse, multi-campus system. This multi-campus system is comprised of the University of Kansas Campus in Lawrence, the University of

Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, the University of Kansas School of Medicine branches in Wichita and Salina, and the University of Kansas Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

- Founded in 1905, KUMC now spans 50 acres within metropolitan Kansas City, Kansas. It has extensive research and clinical facilities and houses the School of Nursing, the School of Health Professionals, and the School of Medicine.
 - KUMC's \$121M in extramural research funding in FY 2021 supports the full spectrum of basic, clinical and translational research, and in FY20 KU ranked 60th of 140 ranked medical schools by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research. KU is classified as an R1 'Very high research activity' institution in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, and is among the 64 members of the Association of American Universities.
 - Newsweek recently named The University of Kansas Hospital as one of the top health care organizations worldwide. In their "World's Best Hospitals 2021" listing, Newsweek-in partnership with Statista Inc., a global data research company-ranked KU Hospital among the top 200 worldwide and 42nd nationally.
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Position Description:

The position is full-time and tenured with appointment at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor, commensurate with experience, and reports directly to the Executive Dean for the School of Medicine, Dr. Akinlolu Ojo. **The successful candidate will have training in and an established research program with a focus on immunology.** The Chair will be responsible for recruiting several additional immunology-focused faculty members in collaboration with KUMC leaders.

The Chair will lead efforts in fulfilling the Department's educational, research and service missions. This individual will be responsible for providing the vision, strategic direction, and environment to grow and sustain the expansion of the Department. They will be accountable to the Executive Dean in fulfilling the mission and upholding the values of the University of Kansas Medical Center. The successful candidate will interact and collaborate with academic, clinical and research units including the various centers and institutes throughout KUMC, including the Cancer Center, Alzheimer's Center, and the Department of Internal Medicine. Building relationships, mentoring faculty, and partnering with peers and senior leadership are key elements of this position.

Qualifications: Ph.D., M.D., M.D./Ph.D. or equivalent degree with a record of accomplishments in research, education, and service, as well as program development and leadership. Strong track record of research productivity, including NIH or similar funding and publications in reputable journals. Experience in mentoring faculty and trainees. International recognition in their area of research expertise. Strong managerial skills and ability to build consensus.

Required Leadership Competencies:

- Excellent interpersonal skills, conducive to development of relationships and strong collaborations throughout the organization
- Articulates and exemplifies the importance of scientific rigor and the highest standards of good laboratory practice as applied to biomedical research problems that will advance the health of the population

- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion on all levels
- Ability to provide leadership and direction in an academic medical environment
- Develops commitment in others by setting a personal example; motivates and empowers faculty, staff and students
- Experience with operating budgets and fiscal management, and an understanding of the challenges facing academic medical schools
- Demonstrates honesty and sincerity
- Models KUMC's organizational values

Responsibilities:

- Recruitment of additional core faculty in areas of immunology that will complement existing research programs in related areas, including cancer immunology and immunotherapy, neuroinflammation, and maternal-fetal immunobiology.
- Promote, support and value the institution's graduate and medical educational missions. Provide guidance and resources for the development and continual improvement of excellent educational opportunities for medical and graduate students and postdoctoral trainees. Support lifelong learning initiatives. Promote and sustain a culture of inquiry and scholarly discovery. Ensure objective evaluation of educational programs, learners and educators. Prepare and present formal lectures on topics of relevance through didactics lectures, small group interactions, and other educational activities. Ensure objective evaluation of learners that demonstrates transfer of learning. Participate in scholarly activity as appropriate.
- Promote, support and value the department's research mission. Strive for a broad vision of the future trends in biomedical research. Understand and promote standards of research integrity and compliance; identify research areas important to the mission of the department and the institution; nurture appropriate research teams. Involve students, postdoctoral trainees, residents, fellows and faculty in a research environment. Advance knowledge of funding sources and processes for acquiring internal and external research support. Manage the research mission of the Department and be responsible for its focus and development. This will include the priorities for research as well as development of a recruitment plan to grow the research program of the Department.
- Coach, counsel, lead, mentor and motivate faculty, trainees, and staff at all levels within the Department. Recruit able faculty, support them in achieving their career potential and maximize their contribution to the University. Establish expectations and standards. Evaluate performance and apply an appropriate compensation model that rewards excellence. Identify and take appropriate action for unacceptable behavior by faculty, staff and trainees.
- Serve on committees, boards, councils and ad hoc groups to advance the goals of the institution, to represent the department and division, and to contribute to the well-being of the community at large.
- Maintain a robust externally funded research program in the appropriate discipline.

Contact information for Janice Z. Kinney Associates:

Janice Kinney, Principal
jzk@janicekinneyassociates.com
 816-260-1963 (private voicemail)