

# THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

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## CANCER CENTER

April 26, 2016

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little  
Room 250 Strong Hall  
1450 Jayhawk Boulevard  
Lawrence, KS 66045-7518

Dear Chancellor Gray-Little,

In just five months, The University of Kansas Cancer Center will submit its application to obtain Comprehensive Cancer Center designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This level of designation is the highest honor a cancer center can achieve – just 45 cancer centers throughout the U.S. have received the award - and none are in our region.

In order for us to receive Comprehensive designation, KU Cancer Center must demonstrate that we are significantly improving the health of our communities. We must show that we are providing highly effective and wide-spanning efforts around cancer prevention and education.

And one of our biggest challenges is helping people to stop smoking.

Last year, cancer became the number one cause of death in Kansas, and lung cancer is the biggest culprit. More than 2,000 Kansans were diagnosed with lung cancer, one of the most preventable types of cancer, and most of these people will die for one reason alone: they smoked cigarettes.

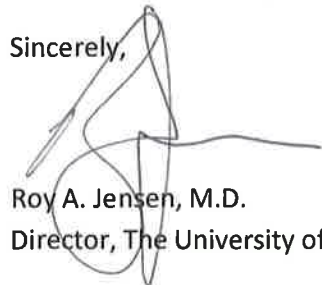
On behalf of The University of Kansas Cancer Center I fully support the Tobacco Free KU Initiative. KU Lawrence is the main campus of our flagship university and protecting our students, faculty and staff by removing the leading cause of cancer deaths would send an unmistakable signal to the National Cancer Institute – a sign that we are serious about preventing cancer and that we have the commitment and the power to make change happen in our own region. Many organizations—including the NCI—place a premium on a completely tobacco-free campus and not allowing or constructing designated smoking areas.

KU Cancer Center stands firmly behind efforts to reduce cancer in our region. Our Cancer Control & Population Health Research Program scientists have recently received significant funding from the NCI to conduct smoking cessation trials throughout the state. We know 31 percent of all cancers could be eradicated if people no longer smoked, and we strive to see a minimum of a 20 percent decrease in the use of tobacco over the next 15 years.

With your support of the Tobacco Free KU Initiative we stand far better equipped to enhance our application for Comprehensive designation, which will allow us to continue to receive critical research funding to effectively prevent cancer as well as care for future cancer patients.

Thank you for helping save the lives of thousands of Kansans.

Sincerely,



Roy A. Jensen, M.D.  
Director, The University of Kansas Cancer Center

