

2005

Redox Biology Center Mini-Symposium

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Redox Biology Center Mini-Symposium

Nebraska Union Auditorium, 14th & R

9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 30, 2005

John C. Owens, NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR

" Good morning. It's my very-great pleasure to welcome you to this third annual mini-symposium in Redox Biology.

I know you have a full and rewarding day ahead of you as you focus on Redox Signaling. It takes only a quick glance at your program to see you have an exciting, stimulating line-up of topics and speakers. I am delighted to see Dr. Ruma Banerjee, George Holmes University Professor of Biochemistry and director of our Redox Biology Center, serving as symposium host. Dr. Banerjee is an accomplished scientist who we are pleased to have as a key-member of the faculty here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Tremendous scientific studies occur at our university. I hope you all saw the story in August that reported external funding for University of Nebraska-Lincoln research has doubled since 2000, with UNL's total external-research funding totaling \$98.3 million for the fiscal year ending in June. Of that, \$70.7 million came from federal sources, including the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Education, and other agencies.

Certainly our faculty's achievement in reaching this new record is an impressive accomplishment, occurring as competition for federal funding clearly has increased nationwide. Not only does the research conducted here contribute to the world body of knowledge, it also creates jobs and attracts students interested in cutting-edge information and techniques. And, of course, grant-funded projects generate research-related jobs and assistantships for both undergraduate and graduate students, helping our next generation of scientists learn-and-grow.

Faculty in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources are among those scientists most cited in agricultural research worldwide over the last decade according to the Institute For Scientific Information.

The ISI Essential Science Indicators Report, 1994-2004, which indexes nearly 9,000 journals and tracks how often articles are cited by other scientists, reviewed the agricultural sciences articles published by 298 institutions worldwide, and determined our faculty ranks 16th in the world.

Topping the list is the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The number one university is Wageningen University in the Netherlands. When it comes to **ALL** universities we rank 10th worldwide, and eighth among U.S. universities.

The top U.S. university cited is the University of California-Davis and the university just behind UNL is the University of Florida. We are both pleased and proud to find ourselves in the "Sweet Sixteen," something the NU Basketball Team has not yet accomplished!

One of the things I particularly like to note about this ranking is that not only does it reflect so well on the work of our faculty and on the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, it reflects extremely well on the state of Nebraska.

All the highest-ranked universities are located in states with populations far in excess of Nebraska's 1.7 million citizens. Yet Nebraska has, over the years, made an especially-strong-commitment to public education. Our faculty, in turn, provide an excellent return on the dollars Nebraska taxpayers invest with us. As Nebraska's land-grant university, we understand and are dedicated to our role of taking the resources of the university to the citizens of our state. That includes both formal and informal education, and conducting research that not only advances the world body of knowledge, but also benefits our state, our country, and our world.

We are especially proud of all our scientists and their work. We are very ^{pleased with the} ~~proud of our~~ Nebraska Redox Biology Center, which collaboratively combines the expertise and facilities of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska Medical Center to unravel fundamental redox-biology problems. There is some fascinating science underway in the Center, led by some extremely talented researchers.

The work that each of your present today do is so very important to the global-community and we are pleased you are participating in today's symposium. We are delighted to have you here today, coming together to listen to these esteemed speakers, to discuss their topics, to think, and to explore ideas. It is indeed my pleasure, on behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to welcome you to this program, and I wish you a most stimulating and productive day.

Thank you.

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