

SWOSU's Kelly Receives \$50,000 Plus Award for Cancer Research

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University Professor Dr. William Kelly (right) has received a \$59,094 award for the 2009-10 year to collaborate with researchers at Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in developing a novel class of anticancer drugs. Pictured with Kelly are Dr. Blake Sonobe, senior vice president provost at SWOSU, and Anita Blankenship, director of the SWOSU Office of Sponsored Programs.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University Professor Dr. William Kelly has received a \$59,094 award for the 2009-10 year to collaborate with researchers at Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in developing a novel class of anticancer drugs that will begin human clinical trials in late 2010.

The title of the project is "Effects of Short and Long Term Flex-Het Therapy on Mitochondrial Electron Transport Function."

The grant will support continued investigations into the mechanism of selective cancer cell death by observing the drug action on several key enzymes within the mitochondria.

SWOSU students will carry out much of this work, and the grant will also support travel by these students to present their results at scientific meetings.

SWOSU is collaborating with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in the National Institutes of Health Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (OK-INBRE) award, a grant administered by the National Institutes of Health Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program.

Kelly, who also serves as chair of the SWOSU Department of Chemistry and Physics, is the principal investigator for the OK-INBRE Program on the SWOSU campus.

The INBRE Program is diverse, comprising two lead institutions whose primary missions are biomedical research, education and patient care.

Oklahoma's INBRE builds state capacity to carry out biomedical research by supporting promising new faculty, recruiting students into biomedical research careers, and sustaining vital core facilities. The scientific themes of Oklahoma's INBRE are multi-disciplinary, targeting the fields of microbiology and immunology, cancer, and neurosciences. This thematic focus is closely linked with support for biomedical research at SWOSU and other regional collaborating universities through direct research grants for faculty and research infrastructure enhancement equipment grants.

Support for students is provided by summer internships, participation in the faculty research projects, and enrollment in new educational programs in bioinformatics and genomics.

Also, during the summer of 2009, Dr. Kelly received \$2,200 from the INBRE Program to purchase supplies for the INBRE Summer Student Mentor Program.