

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROFESSORS

2025-2026



PRESIDENT ELI CAPILOUTO
ACTING VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH
ILHEM MESSAOUDI

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROFESSORS

Background

The University Research Professorships were established by the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees in 1976 to recognize outstanding research achievements by members of its faculty.

The University Strategic Plan includes the principle of Inspiring Ingenuity, which advances a culture of innovation and builds upon the university's signature accomplishments in research to develop solutions that attract prosperity and well-being to Kentucky and its citizens. Consistent with the principles of Inspiring Ingenuity, the University Research Strategic Plan has as a major objective to foster an inclusive culture of research success to retain and develop outstanding faculty.

Toward these principles and objectives, the University Research Professors Program recognizes excellence across the full spectrum of research, scholarship and creative endeavors within each college. Individuals who displayed excellence in research and scholarly activity within their area of expertise, were nominated based on criteria developed by college leadership. The purpose of the University Research Professorship program is to recognize and publicize research accomplishments of these scholars across the full range of disciplines at the University of Kentucky.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Daniel K. Howe, Ph.D.
Department of Veterinary Science 7

College of Arts and Sciences

Chris Richards, Ph.D.
Department of Chemistry 8

College of Arts and Sciences

Scott Hutson, Ph.D.
Department of Anthropology 9

Gatton College of Business and Economics

William Gerken, Ph.D.
Department of Finance and Quantitative Methods 10

College of Communication and Information

Kimberly A. Parker, Ph.D.
Department of Integrated Strategic Communication 11

College of Dentistry

Mauro P. Santamaria, DDS, Ph.D.
Department of Oral Health Practice 12

College of Design

Daniel Vivian, Ph.D.
Department of Historic Preservation 13

College of Education

Neal H. Hutchens, J.D., Ph.D.
Department of Educational Policy Studies
and Evaluation 14

Stanley and Karen Pigman College of Engineering

Zach Agioutantis, Ph.D.
Department of Mining Engineering 15

TABLE OF CONTENTS

College of Fine Arts

Donna Lee Kwon, Ph.D.
School of Music 16

College of Health Sciences

Nicholas Heebner, Ph.D., ATC
Department of Athletic Training and Clinical
Nutrition 17

J. David Rosenberg College of Law

Michael D. Murray, J.D.
Law Instruction 18

College of Medicine

Kenneth S. Campbell, Ph.D.
Department of Internal Medicine 19

College of Medicine

M. Paul Murphy, Ph.D.
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry 20

College of Nursing

Ty Borders, Ph.D.
Nursing Instruction 21

College of Pharmacy

David J. Feola, Pharm. D., Ph.D.
Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science 22

College of Public Health

Krystle A. Lang Kuhs, Ph.D., MPH
Department of Epidemiology and Environmental
Health 23

The Graduate School

Rajeev Darolia, Ph.D.
Martin School of Public Policy and Administration 24

It is truly gratifying to recognize these distinguished experts who have made significant contributions across the breadth of research fields at the University of Kentucky.

The 2025-2026 University Research Professorship Awards honor 16 faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship and creative work that addresses scientific, social, cultural and economic challenges in our region and around the world.

Ilhem Messaoudi
Acting Vice President for Research
University of Kentucky

DANIEL K. HOWE, PH.D.
MARTIN-GATTON
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT



Daniel Howe received his M.S. (1990) from Western Illinois University and his Ph.D. (1992) from Purdue University. After a postdoctoral fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine, Howe joined UK as an assistant professor in 1999. He is currently a professor of Molecular Parasitology in the M. H. Gluck Equine Research Center in the Department of Veterinary Science.

Howe's research program focuses on the biology of pathogenic protozoa, particularly *Sarcocystis neurona*, the primary cause of a neurologic disease called equine protozoal myeloencephalitis (EPM). Howe's laboratory has played a central role in the development of genomic and molecular genetic resources to investigate *S. neurona* and EPM. Howe has received support from state, federal, industry and private funding sources. Howe's work has resulted in over 100 peer-reviewed publications, invited book chapters and lay articles. He holds 3 U.S. patents based on his research at UK, which have led to commercially available tests for EPM diagnosis.

Howe has served in multiple administrative roles, including associate chair (2014-2021) and later interim department chair and interim director of the Gluck Equine Research Center (2022-2024). He was the director of Graduate Studies for Veterinary Science (2009-2021), Steering Committee chair for the Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology undergraduate degree program (2009-2016) and chair of the Graduate Student Success Team (2018-2020). Howe served as a co-editor-in-chief for *Veterinary Parasitology*, the journal of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (2010-2017) and section editor (Protozoology) for the journal *Parasitology Research* (2018-2023).



CHRIS RICHARDS, PH.D.
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Chris Richards is a professor in the Department of Chemistry in the UK College of Arts and Sciences. Richards received a Ph.D. from Georgia Institute of Technology in physical chemistry with a focus on developing new analytical techniques with related to single molecule photophysics. Richards was also a postdoctoral researcher at Caltech where he was also a Beckman Postdoctoral Scholar. He joined UK as an assistant professor in 2012. Richards also serves as the director of the Light Microscopy Facility and the director of the Bioelectronics and Nanomedicine Center.

His lab has developed novel nanoscale biomaterials for therapeutic delivery and in vivo sensing within the central nervous system. Incorporating these materials with nanofabricated devices has enabled his lab to develop new platforms to study biological systems in cell culture, isolated tissue and in vivo. Richards' lab also focuses on the development of ensemble and single-molecule fluorescence spectroscopy techniques to study complex biological systems. He has recently applied this approach to study substance use disorders along with the development of therapeutic delivery platforms for cancer and spinal cord injury. He is currently principal investigator on a National Institute of General Medical Sciences project, "Ex Vivo Single Molecule Tools to Analyze Membrane Receptor Dynamics," which focuses on central nervous system communication between neurons and glial cells. He is also a co-investigator on a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences that seeks to unravel the dynamics of Cytochrome P450 enzyme disease associated dysfunction.

SCOTT HUTSON, PH.D.
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Scott Hutson is a professor in the Department of Anthropology. Hutson served as department chair from 2021 to 2025. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley in 2004. After postdocs with Dumbarton Oaks and the Wenner Gren Foundation, Hutson joined UK as an assistant professor in 2007.



Hutson is an archaeologist focusing on ancient Mesoamerica, which encompasses Guatemala, Belize and portions of Mexico, El Salvador and Honduras. Hutson began conducting fieldwork in 1994 and currently specializes in the ancient Maya of Yucatan, Mexico. His research explores how cities grew and declined, and the degree of inequality found within them. Hutson focuses on how ancient leaders maintained authority and whether power was centralized among a small group or more widely dispersed. Hutson is also interested in ancient economies, with emphasis on forms of exchange, household production and consumption, and how ritual and systems of belief intersect with livelihoods. His methods include aerial laser scanning of ancient settlements, mapping on foot, excavation and artifact analysis.

Hutson has written four books: *Ancient Maya Economies* (2024), *The Ancient Urban Maya* (2016), *Dwelling, Identity and the Maya* (2010) and *Reading the Past* (2003). He also served as an editor of *Realizing Value in Ancient Mesoamerica* (2023), *The Maya World* (2020), *Ancient Maya Commerce* (2017), *Households Make History in Ancient Mesoamerica* (2014) and *The Social Experience of Childhood in Ancient Mesoamerica* (2006). By 2026, Hutson will have published 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters.



WILLIAM GERKEN, PH.D.
GATTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND
ECONOMICS

William Gerken is a professor in the Department of Finance and Quantitative Methods at the Gatton College of Business and Economics. Gerken received his Ph.D. in Finance from Michigan State University in 2009, M.B.A. with concentration in Finance and M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. Gerken joined UK in 2012 and currently holds the Real Estate Endowed Professorship.

Gerken's research focuses on financial intermediation, with emphasis on investment advisory misconduct. Using innovative data obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests, Gerken was an early pioneer in what is now a growing subfield examining misconduct among financial advisors. His research has been cited in multiple U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission releases and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority rules regarding broker-dealers and investment advisers. Gerken's research has been published in prestigious journals including the *Journal of Finance*, *Review of Financial Studies* and *Journal of Financial Economics*.

Gerken's scholarly contributions have been recognized with numerous national and international academic awards. His work has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times* and NPR. His research has been continuously supported through grants from the Institute for the Study of Free Enterprise and the Institute for Fraud Prevention. He serves on the UK Retirement Plan Committee, helping direct retirement investing for university employees. As director of the Certificate in Financial Planning program, Gerken has taken his research to the classroom and has driven significant growth in training the next generation of ethical financial advisors.

KIMBERLY A. PARKER, PH.D.
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION

Kimberly Parker holds a M.A. from University of Central Oklahoma, a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma and is a former Fulbright Scholar. Parker, a professor in the Department of Integrated Strategic Communication in the UK College of Communication and Information, has 25 years of experience working with nonprofits in the area of social change campaigns. She most recently collaborated with the UNHCR-Macedonia, Mission Health, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass and Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice. Her work is unique in its ability to provide meaningful insights into the work of nonprofits and provide important academic contributions.

Parker studies strategic communication, social marketing, inoculation theory and promoting social change across a variety of contexts. Her work has appeared in numerous presentations (six top paper awards), book chapters and journal publications, such as Communication Monographs, Journal of Communication, Human Communication Research, Journal of Public Relations Research, Communication Quarterly, Communication Research Reports, and Health Communication. Parker is the co-editor of the upcoming Handbook of Inoculation Theory and Practice. Parker is also the lead editor on a new book, Navigating Turbulent Times: A Strategic Communication Approach.

Parker was awarded a grant from Merck to develop innovative message strategies to increase Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine uptake. Parker received the Outstanding Researcher Award from the College of Communication and Information in 2023. Two of her co-authored articles were also selected for International Award for Excellence in the Journal of Communication and Media Studies in 2023 and 2024.



**MAURO P. SANTAMARIA, DDS, PH.D.
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY**

Mauro Santamaria earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of São Paulo in 1999. Santamaria completed a residency in periodontology at the University of Campinas, (UNICAMP) in 2004. He earned an M.S. in 2007 and a Ph.D. in Periodontology in 2009, both from UNICAMP. Santamaria has been an associate professor in the Center for Oral Health Research and Division of Periodontology at the College of Dentistry since 2022. Before joining UK, Santamaria served as an associate professor at São Paulo State University for 11 years.

Santamaria's research primarily focuses on periodontology, with a particular emphasis on mucogingival defects, wound healing, and treatment of gingival recessions. He is actively engaged in translational clinical studies that investigate factors influencing oral mucosal wound healing, with the goal of advancing precision therapy for patients with impaired wound healing. Santamaria is developing a novel drug delivery system to enhance oral mucosal healing.

Santamaria has published over 170 peer-reviewed manuscripts and 13 chapters in books. He has successfully mentored 18 master's students, 12 Ph.D. candidates, and 24 dental students. He has been invited to give lectures worldwide, including in the U.S., Europe, New Zealand, India, Argentina, Colombia and Brazil. Since Santamaria's appointment at the UK in 2022, he has published 26 manuscripts, secured internal grants, and mentored four graduate students. Santamaria also serves as an editorial board member for the Journal of Periodontology, Journal of Periodontal Research, and Clinical Advances in Periodontics.

DANIEL VIVIAN, PH.D.
COLLEGE OF DESIGN

Daniel Vivian is an associate professor in the Department of Historic Preservation of the College of Design and a faculty affiliate of the Department of History and the African American and Africana Studies Program of the College of Arts and Sciences. Vivian earned his M.A. in Public History at the University of South Carolina, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in History at Johns Hopkins University. He joined UK in 2017. He previously taught at the University of Louisville.



Vivian's research focuses on historical memory of slavery during the era of Jim Crow. He is the author of *A New Plantation World: Sporting Estates in the South Carolina Lowcountry, 1900-1940* (2018) and has published articles in *Winterthur Portfolio*, *The Public Historian*, *Ohio Valley History* and the *South Carolina Historical Magazine*. Vivian is currently co-editing a collection of essays on modern architecture in the southern states and writing about underrepresentation of historically marginalized groups in the *National Register of Historic Places*. His research has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the UK Sustainability Challenge Grant Program, the Hagley Museum and Library, and the Maryland Historical Society. He currently serves on the boards of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians and the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, and he is a member of the African American History Advisory Committee at Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate.

Vivian has received several awards for his teaching, most recently the 2024 Tau Sigma Delta Silver Metal for excellence in design education.



NEAL H. HUTCHENS, J.D., PH.D.
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Neal Hutchens is a faculty member in the Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation. Hutchens' research focuses on topics dealing with the intersections of higher education law, policy and practice. Hutchens was awarded a Ph.D. in education policy from the University of

Maryland and J.D. from the University of Alabama School of Law.

Alongside scholarship that broadly considers legal issues in higher education, Hutchens has sought to produce meaningful and impactful research centered on themes of free speech and academic freedom. His scholarship has examined how issues of open intellectual inquiry and free speech serve as cornerstones of the higher education enterprise, setting the conditions for colleges and universities to carry out their vital missions of education, research and service.

Hutchens is a previous recipient of the William A. Kaplin Award from the Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy, an award designated to recognize nationally leading scholars at the intersection of higher education law and policy. Among his publications, Hutchens is on the author team for the seventh edition of *The Law of Higher Education: Essentials for Legal and Administrative Practice*, a leading work on higher education law. In 2022 his work was published in the chapter "Academic freedom protections in national and international law" in the *International Encyclopedia of Education: Fourth Edition*. Hutchens' writing has been published in *The Conversation*, *The Hechinger Report*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *Inside Higher Ed*.

**ZACH AGIOUTANTIS, PH.D.
STANLEY AND KAREN PIGMAN
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**



Zach Agioutantis is the Mining Engineering Foundation Professor and Chair of the Department of Mining Engineering at UK. He received an Engineering Diploma in Mining and Metallurgical Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece (1982) and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Virginia Tech (1984, 1987). He has authored or co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal papers and book chapters and more than 250 conference papers on topics including ground subsidence, applied and theoretical rock mechanics, soil mechanics, numerical modeling in applied geomechanics, slope stability, blasting, computer applications in mining and geotechnical engineering, mining systems, and mining systems simulation and sustainability in mining operations.

His current research focuses on (a) automation of mining equipment, such as haulage vehicles, used in underground operations and (b) development of ground control technology software with easy-to-use tools for designing underground mining operations. Some of his software packages are currently used by federal agencies.

Agioutantis has received several awards from the Society for Mining, Exploration and Metallurgy, (SME), including the 2018 Syd and Felicia Peng Award, 2022 Rock Mechanics Award and 2024 Howard N. Eavenson Award. He also received the 2020 College of Engineering Research Award (UK), 2020 Steven McCann Award for Excellence in Education (Pittsburgh Coal Mining Institute of America) and 2020 Ludwig Wilke Award (Society of Mining Professors). Agioutantis currently serves on the council of the Society of Mining Professors (2019-present) and the board of directors of the American Rock Mechanics Association (2023-2029).



DONNA LEE KWON, PH.D.
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Donna Lee Kwon is an associate professor in the School of Music in the UK College of Fine Arts and is the division coordinator of Musicology/Ethnomusicology. Kwon holds an M.A. from Wesleyan University and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley (Music/Ethnomusicology).

Kwon joined UK in 2008 and held previous teaching appointments at Lawrence University, Grinnell College and Rhodes College.

Kwon's research interests include the music of North and South Korea, East Asian and Asian American popular music, site-specific performance and transmission, music and embodiment and voice studies. Kwon is the author of two books: *Stepping in the Madang: Sustaining Expressive Ecologies of Korean Drumming and Dance* (Wesleyan University Press, 2024) and *Music in Korea: Experiencing Music, Expressing Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2011). Her work on K-pop is also featured in the edited volume titled *Korean Pop Culture Beyond Asia* (University of Washington Press, 2024). In addition, Kwon has published in journals such as *Ethnomusicology*, *Music and Politics* and the *Ecomusicology Review*.

Kwon is the board chair of the Bann Yun Lexington Korean Cultural Center. She has also served in various positions for the Association for Korean Music Research and the Society for Ethnomusicology (council member and board treasurer, Midwest chapter president). Kwon currently serves as a U.S.-Korea NextGen Scholar (CSIS) and was a recipient of several awards including the American Musicological Society's (AMS) 75 PAYS Fund award, the American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (2015-2016) and the Fulbright IIE.

NICHOLAS HEEBNER, PH.D., ATC
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Nicholas Heebner is an associate professor in the Department of Athletic Training and Clinical Nutrition in the College of Health Sciences. Heebner is also the director of UK's Sports Medicine Research Institute (SMRI). Before joining the UK faculty in 2015, Heebner received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh. Heebner's clinical and research background has focused on high-performing athletics and military injury.



Heebner's research broadly focuses on the development and implementation of musculoskeletal health and human performance practices to reduce the burden of musculoskeletal injury, primarily in military populations. Musculoskeletal injury is the leading cause of medical discharge in the armed forces, often leading to life-long impacts on quality of life. Heebner's work investigates new assessments, monitoring techniques and technologies, and early intervention strategies to reduce the rate and impact of these common injuries.

Heebner has 68 peer-reviewed manuscripts and 10 national and international invited speaking engagements for his work in musculoskeletal injury, rehabilitation and prevention. Heebner's current active federal research activity totals \$7.7 million as principal investigator and \$11.3 million as co-investigator, primarily through the Department of Defense. Most recently, Heebner and the team at the SMRI completed a 10-year research effort with the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command working to develop and implement population-specific musculoskeletal health assessments and reporting to improve training and health across the command.



MICHAEL D. MURRAY, J.D.
J. DAVID ROSENBERG COLLEGE OF LAW

Michael Murray is the Spears Gilbert Associate Professor of Law at the UK J. David Rosenberg College of Law. Murray received a graduate certificate from Fudan University in Shanghai, China. Murray graduated from Columbia University Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. After law school, he clerked for United States District Judge John F.

Nangle of the Eastern District of Missouri and Chair of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation. Murray also practiced commercial, intellectual property and products liability litigation for seven years at Bryan Cave law firm in St. Louis.

Murray started at UK as a visiting professor of law in 2016-2017 and has been teaching full time since his appointment in 2018.

Murray is the principal investigator of the “Artificial Intelligence and the Law” and “Blockchain, Cryptocurrency, Non-fungible token (NFT) and the Metaverse Law” projects at UK. He is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar in four disciplines: artificial intelligence and the law, art law (including blockchains, cryptocurrency, and NFTs), intellectual property law (especially in copyright, trademark, and right of publicity), and legal rhetoric and communication (especially in visual legal rhetoric).

Murray is the author or coauthor of 27 books and 37 law review articles and he teaches law school, graduate school and undergraduate honors courses at UK. Among other appointments, Murray has been selected as a peer reviewer for the journal *Science* and for Cambridge University Press.

KENNETH S. CAMPBELL, PH.D.
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Kenneth Campbell received his undergraduate and Ph.D. degrees from the Universities of Oxford and Birmingham in the United Kingdom. After postdoctoral training at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Campbell joined the University of Kentucky Department of Physiology in 2004. He was promoted to Professor in 2018 and appointed as Director of Translational Research for the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine in 2022. Dr. Campbell currently serves as Associate Vice-Chair for Translational Research for the Department of Internal Medicine.

Campbell's research focuses on cardiac contractility and seeks to help patients by bridging the scientific gaps between clinical care and organ, cellular, and molecular-level function. In 2008, Campbell initiated a collaboration with cardiothoracic surgeons to procure biospecimens from organ donors and patients receiving heart transplants. This program has evolved to become one of the largest cardiac biobanks world-wide. Campbell's team share samples donated by Kentuckians with approximately 40 groups in 8 countries to advance research focused on the genetic, biochemical, and biophysical mechanisms that contribute to heart failure. Campbell's team are also experts in computer modeling and collaborate with cardiologists and engineers to develop simulations of patients' hearts that grow and evolve in response to therapeutic interventions. The long-term goal is to use these models to help optimize treatments for patients who have heart failure.

Campbell has published approximately 130 peer-reviewed manuscripts and has also mentored more than 120 individuals ranging from high school students to junior faculty members. Campbell's team is currently supported by multiple grants including four R01s from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).



M. PAUL MURPHY, PH.D.
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

M. Paul Murphy, is a professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry in the College of Medicine and the associate director for education at the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging. He received his M.A. in Psychology, Ph.D. in Neuroscience at the University of Toronto and completed postdoctoral training at the Mayo Clinic, in Jacksonville Florida. He joined UK in 2005. Murphy has authored or co-authored more than 100 articles on work funded by the Alzheimer's Association, American Heart Association, Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust, Kentucky Science and Engineering Foundation, American Federation for Aging Research, Bright Focus Foundation and five different agencies at the National Institutes of Health.

Murphy studies the development of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Murphy's research has involved basic cellular and molecular biology, preclinical translational studies and early-stage human clinical trials. His recent research focuses on how sleep and metabolism affect AD and how interactions between aging and poor sleep may be particularly harmful in women. Student involvement plays a major role in Murphy's research, and he has worked directly with 90 students, half of which were undergraduates.

Murphy has been named to the UK College of Education's "A Teacher Who Made a Difference" six times. In 2010, he received the Thomas Maciag Award from NIH for exemplifying research excellence and innovation and for the mentorship of new scientists. In 2013, Murphy was honored by the UK College of Medicine with the Abraham Flexner Master Educator Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentorship.

TY BORDERS, PH.D.
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Ty Borders is a professor in the College of Nursing and acting director of the Center for Health Services Research. He was awarded an M.S. in Epidemiology and M.A. and Ph.D. in Hospital and Health Administration from the University of Iowa.



Borders' research applies epidemiological methods to identify barriers to health care access in rural populations. His research contributions have helped shape rural health policy. At UK, Borders established the Rural and Underserved Health Research Center, one of only 10 rural health research centers funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. The center's policy briefs are widely disseminated and have been downloaded over 20,000 times. Borders has published 72 high-impact, peer-reviewed articles and served as the principal investigator on grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Borders serves as editor of *The Journal of Rural Health*, which ranks among the leading health services and policy journals.

Borders' honors include being named a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology, the Outstanding Alumni Award for Career Achievement from the University of Iowa College of Public Health, the Excellence in Writing Award from the UK Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies, and being appointed a Colonel of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



DAVID J. FEOLA, PHARM.D., PH.D.
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Dave Feola is a professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science. Feola received his Doctor of Pharmacy (1997) and Philosophy (2005) degrees from the UK College of Pharmacy. He also completed residencies in pharmacy practice and infectious diseases pharmacotherapy at the UK Chandler Medical Center. Feola joined the College of Pharmacy faculty in 2005 as an assistant professor and was promoted to professor in 2022. Feola has served as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program since 2016, leading the program which trains the next generation of pharmaceutical scientists across five specialty areas. Feola has had an impact on graduate education at a national level through his leadership within the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, collaborating on new graduate education initiatives within this organization.

Feola's translational research program focuses on harnessing the regulatory function of macrophages to impact diseases in which inflammation is a component of the pathology. Primarily focusing on bacterial pneumonia, his collaborative work has expanded to investigation of regulatory macrophage function during acute myocardial infarction and spinal cord injury. His team's work in myocardial infarction led to patenting a liposomal formulation of azithromycin, translating the group's research to develop novel therapeutics to treat patients. Feola's research has been supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases as well as the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute.

**KRYSTLE A. LANG KUHS,
PH.D., MPH
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Krystle A. Lang Kuhs is an associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health in the UK College of Public Health and co-leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program at the Markey Cancer Center. Kuhs was awarded her Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from the University of Pennsylvania, an MPH from Johns Hopkins University, and completed postdoctoral training at the National Cancer Institute.



As a molecular epidemiologist, Kuhs specializes in developing innovative molecular predictors to assess the risk, treatment response and recurrence of head and neck cancers, with a particular focus on human papillomavirus (HPV)-driven cancers. Kuhs currently leads three large clinical studies evaluating biomarker-based screening for early detection of HPV-driven throat cancer, a rapidly increasing cancer that disproportionately affects Kentuckians and for which no screening methods exist.

Kuhs has published over 50 research articles in top journals such as JAMA Oncology, Journal of Clinical Oncology, International Journal of Cancer, American Journal of Clinical Pathology, and Viruses. Her work has been cited over 1,600 times. Kuhs has secured over \$7 million in research funding and currently leads multiple projects, including R01 and R21 awards from the National Institutes of Health and two R01-equivalent awards from the American Cancer Society and Department of Defense. She received a New Investigator Award (2015) from the American Society of Preventative Oncology and the Fellows Award for Research Excellence (2016) from the National Cancer Institute Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics.



RAJEEV DAROLIA, PH.D.
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Rajeev Darolia is the Wendell H. Ford Professor in the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration and Professor of Public Policy and Economics. Darolia previously served as Chief Economist and Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Education. Darolia received a Ph.D. in public policy from George Washington University and joined the faculty of UK in 2017 as an associate professor.

Darolia's research interests include questions about how public policy affects postsecondary educational decisions and outcomes and more broadly, economic mobility and financial security. His work has been influential in policy formulation related to higher education accountability and student loans. In recent work, he studied the costs and benefits of non-traditional educational pathways, transitions into and out of postsecondary education and the workforce, and public investments in human capital.

Darolia is a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, a research fellow at the IZA Institute of Labor Economics, and a member of the Board on Higher Education and Workforce at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Darolia was a National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation postdoctoral fellow and served as an economic advisor for a federal rulemaking committee on college affordability and student loans. At UK, Darolia has served as associate dean for research at The Graduate School, associate director of the Center for Poverty Research and director of Graduate Studies. Darolia currently serves as a co-editor for the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management.



**OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH**

311 Main Building
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky 40506