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OMRF, OU Health Sciences Center ranked among “Best Places to Work in Academia”

Posted: August 1, 2012

OKLAHOMA CITY, August 1, 2012 —The Scientist magazine has named the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center among the 25 “Best Places to Work in Academia” in its annual rankings.

OMRF was ranked 21st and OUHSC came in at 25th on the list, which includes institutions from the United States, Canada, Europe and the Middle East.

The rankings, which appear in the August issue of The Scientist, were based on surveys that gathered more than 1,000 responses from scientists across the country. Participants were asked to rate their institutions on 37 criteria in 8 different core areas and to rank which factors were most important to them.

OMRF received high marks for job satisfaction and pay, while OUHSC scored best in the categories of teaching and mentoring as well as tenure and promotion.

“We work to create an environment that is both professionally and personally rewarding,” said OMRF President Stephen Prescott, M.D. “We understand that job satisfaction entails not only giving our scientists the tools and support to excel in the laboratory, but it also means providing them with resources like an on-site fitness facility, a Weight Watchers program and lunchtime yoga classes.”

OUHSC and OMRF are the state’s leading recipients of biomedical research funding; together, the two institutions received \$66 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health in 2011.

For OMRF Vice President of Research Paul Kincade, Ph.D., the rankings are further proof that Oklahoma has carved a niche for itself in the world of research.

“It’s no secret that Oklahoma is home to some of the nation’s leading immunologists and cardiovascular biologists,” he said. “A big part of that comes from working in an environment that values and enhances our scientists’ work.”