



Peter Reed, director of the Sanford Center for Aging for the Division of Health Sciences.

Sanford Center for Aging welcomes Reed as new director

In his few short months as director of the Sanford Center for Aging for the Division of Health Sciences, Peter Reed sees tremendous excitement growing around what can be accomplished.

“The staff is actively engaged in delivering services to elders in our community and is strongly connected to the community through those services,” Reed says. “The strength of these programs enables me to focus on building new strategic directions to enhance the existing work and transition the Sanford Center for Aging to the comprehensive agency it needs to be.”

The commitment of University leaders will ensure the center moves on the right path by engaging the aging-related research community on campus in interdisciplinary research to generate the knowledge needed to deliver the highest-quality clinical services and community outreach programs, Reed says.

“We will collaboratively build a thoughtful

plan to launch a new set of clinical services to meet the needs of elders in our community,” Reed says.

These clinical services will take the form of an interdisciplinary geriatric assessment clinic in the Center for Molecular Medicine on campus, which can serve as the single point-of-entry for older adults to successfully navigate the network of available resources to meet their medical needs and support independence through individualized referrals to the many services available throughout the community.

“One primary goal will be to put older adults at the center of this process, supporting self-determination in outlining a tailored approach to best meet their needs,” Reed says.

The synergy of bringing the center’s community outreach, clinical service and research components together in service of seniors will also provide education and training opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students across the division and the University.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to join the University of Nevada, Reno, as well as a community and state that are ripe with

potential for partnerships and collaborations to explore innovative approaches to supporting older adults in maintaining well-being, independence and control in their everyday lives,” Reed says.

“Nevada’s population is rapidly aging and has known challenges in its health care and social service workforce in meeting present and future demands. Given these transitions, I believe there is a demographic imperative to bridge disciplines and link institutions, service agencies and providers of all types to foster a fully integrated and comprehensive system of supports,” he adds.

Reed served as CEO of the Pioneer Network, an international nonprofit organization based in Chicago dedicated to promoting a culture of aging that is life-affirming, satisfying, humane and meaningful. Under his strategic leadership, Pioneer Network engaged in research, advocacy and education to foster deep transformation in organizations across the continuum of aging supports and services. While at the Pioneer Network, Reed also served as adjunct associate professor at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at the University of California, Davis, lecturing on social ecology, program planning and evaluation, health policy, organizational leadership, the aging experience and supporting people living with dementia.

Prior to joining Pioneer Network, Reed served as president and CEO of the Center for Health Improvement, a national health policy research center based in Sacramento, Calif., and as senior director of programs for the Alzheimer’s Association national office, where he led the association’s program division in developing and delivering a wide range of care and support programs for people living with Alzheimer’s.

Reed received both his master and doctorate degrees in public health in health behavior and health education from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a National Institute on Aging Pre-Doctoral Fellow in the Carolina Program on Healthcare and Aging Research.

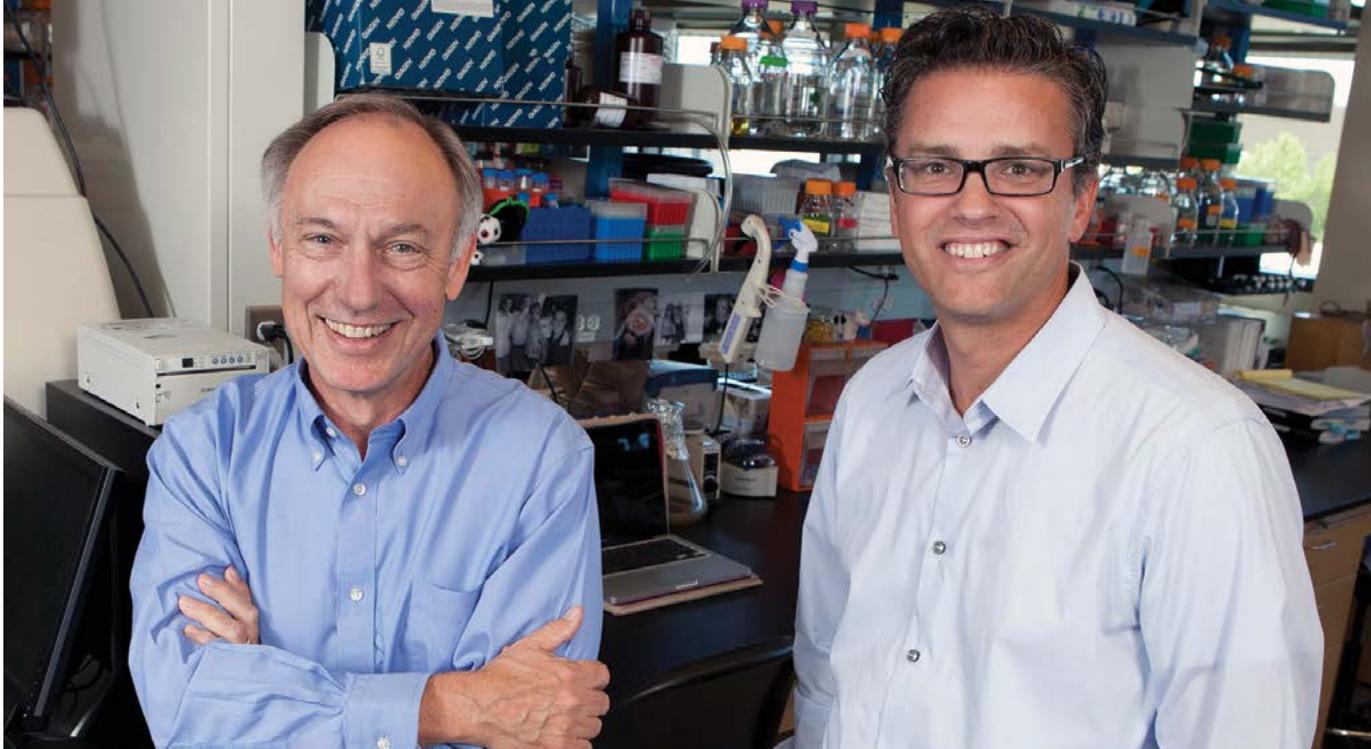


Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Thomas Kozel and David AuCoin '00, '02Ph.D.

Biotech start-up launched by School of Medicine researchers

The work of two University of Nevada School of Medicine researchers has led to the launch of a new Nevada biotechnology corporation based on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. DxDiscovery, Inc. began operations this summer, marking the start of what could be a new dimension of commercial and economic development for Nevada.

The start-up was assisted by the University's Technology Transfer Office in collaboration with representatives from the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) and the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

The core focus of DxDiscovery is the development of medical diagnostics tests for infectious disease using highly optimized monoclonal antibodies. Co-founders Tom Kozel, professor of microbiology and company CEO, and David AuCoin '00 (biology), '02Ph.D. (cellular and molecular biology), professor of microbiology, are both School of Medicine faculty members who have each successfully commercialized some of their research.

"Having a top-tier biotechnology company in Nevada will help eliminate the current 'brain drain'—students leaving Nevada to work for other companies—and will further the economic growth of Nevada," Kozel said.

Kozel and AuCoin are beginning work to develop a biomarker for early diagnosis of invasive candidiasis, the fourth most common bloodstream infection among hospitalized

patients in the United States. The infection carries with it a high mortality rate. DxDiscovery just received a Phase 1 \$600,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health's Small Business Technology Transfer program to further the candidiasis research.

Kozel said his research will seek to detect "something that the yeast sheds" in order to develop an assay, or test, for the presence of the infection. Kozel and his team will request a grant from the NIH to develop that assay into a prototype to diagnose the infection. While the funding for the candidiasis diagnosis is underway, more research projects are also in development under the auspices of DxDiscovery.

AuCoin said the company has a grant request in to the NIH to study sickle cell disease and another, working in conjunction with Iain Buxton in the pharmacology department, has been submitted to detect a breast cancer biomarker. Grant requests to study Lyme disease and pertussis have been submitted by DxDiscovery to the NIH as well.

In addition to generating research with the goal of creating marketplace technology, DxDiscovery is providing jobs for two highly trained scientists, both of whom are University alumni.

David Maine, '10 (environmental resource economics) and a current master's student, was hired by Kozel and AuCoin to be DxDiscovery's acting chief operating officer and chief financial officer after completing his master's

internship project in the Technology Transfer Office.

Maine said Karsten Heise, of Governor's Office of Economic Development, and Doug Erwin, of EDAWN, were critical to the successful development of the company.

"Kartsen offered solutions pertaining to issues with initial funding gaps and local economic development strategies that shed some light into the initial stages of business development," Maine said. "Doug offered his expertise in business plan development and investment strategy, leading to a successful business pitch to investors. Without their assistance, with the combined efforts of the Tech Transfer Office, negotiating the move from a university research laboratory to the formation of a private company would have been more difficult."

Mark Hubbard, '08 (biology), '12Ph.D. (cellular and molecular biology), is a northern Nevada native who was able to keep his education and training in the state by becoming DxDiscovery's principal scientist, after earning his doctorate under the mentorship of Kozel and AuCoin.

"Being able to stay on with an incubator business such as DxDiscovery gives me a chance to stay in Nevada and use my skills here instead of moving out-of-state," he said.

—Anne McMillin, APR and
Mike Wolterbeek '02