# NIH Predoctoral Genetics Training Grant Welcome...

### A very interesting period in the history of the University

A time of unusual opportunity, responsibility, and challenge...

A time during which we are attempting to implement a process of "strategic leadership" in which the University addresses the question of what it is and what it wished to become...

A time during which we are charting the course for the University into the next century...

# While we are still very early in that process, several things are clearly apparent...

- 1. We must reaffirm commitment to the achievement of excellence -- by our faculty, our students, our programs...
- 2. We must focus our resources to build spires of excellence
- 3. We must place academic excellence as our highest priority

#### Within that context, the University has clearly selected

the areas of biomedical research and instruction in general, and genetics in particular, as key thrust areas for the years ahead.

### Why?

In part because of our tradition in this area...

The establishment of the Department of Human Genetics under Jim Neel over 30 years ago

The initiation of the NIH supported genetics training program at about the same time...

In part because of opportunity...

Major emphasis on the medical and basic sciences at this University...accompanied by massive investments in this Medical Center and in the companion sciences in our College of Literature, Science, and the Arts...

E.g., Replacement Hospital

Med Sci II. Med Sci III

E. H. Kraus

**Chemical Sciences** 

More than 20 faculty appointments in past 2 years alone!

The Howard Hughes Medical Research Institute in Molecular Genetics

In part because of significance...

We believe that genetics, whether at the molecular, microbial, biophysical, developmental, or human level will be the thread that ties together our diverse efforts in the biomedical area.

It is for this reason that we have committed the resources

...and will continue to commit the resources, to build and sustain excellence in this area And it is for this reason that we seek your continued support of the graduate programs associated with these critical thrusts