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Indiana CTSI director to advise China on accelerating research

Jan. 23, 2014

A visit from top Chinese hospital administrators to the Indiana University School of Medicine is cementing the university's reputation as a leader in the field of biobanking, the practice of storing biological samples for use in research.

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute hosted the presidents of two of the largest medical hospitals in Beijing, China, as well as other international administrators and researchers on Jan. 17 as part of a visit focused on learning new ways to improve medical sample management for research and discovery.

"This visit was a way to give a first-hand look at how our systems are built and run -- both at the academic institution and within the health care system," said Anantha Shekhar, M.D., Ph.D., associate vice president for university clinical affairs at IU and director of the Indiana CTSI, who serves as U.S. co-director of the scientific advisory board for the Sino-American Symposium on Clinical and Translational Medicine. "Between the IU School of Medicine's nine campuses across the state; its partnerships with statewide health care systems such as IU Health; and a highly robust, standardized electronic medical record system, supported by the Regenstrief Institute, our system's ability to collect, analyze and act upon health data to advance new medical discoveries is an outstanding model."

Dr. Shekhar is also associate dean for translational research, the Raymond E. Houk Professor of Psychiatry and a professor of neurobiology and pharmacology and toxicology at the IU School of Medicine. The Indiana CTSI is a National Institutes of Health-funded collaboration among Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame established in 2008 to improve research infrastructure for the acceleration of lab research into new patient treatments and therapies across Indiana and beyond.

Members of the 15-member delegation included Li Ning, M.D., president of Beijing's You'an Hospital at the Capital Medical University; Jiafu Ji, M.D., president of the Peking University Cancer Hospital and Institute; and Hong Zhang, vice president of a hospital affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Military Medical Sciences. The group visited multiple facilities managed by the Indiana CTSI at the IU School of Medicine, including the Indiana Biobank, a statewide sample collection and storage system that provides scientists access to physical samples, such as blood or saliva, for use in research to improve health and health care in Indiana.

The Indiana Biobank stores samples related to specific research studies as well as materials from volunteers across the state. It currently contains 13,000 samples from individuals with conditions such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, asthma and depression representing men, women and children across multiple races and ethnic groups.

The biobank also features close integration with Indiana Network for Patient Care, an electronic record system containing data on more than 12 million people, including individuals who've contributed to the biobank. This means a physician-scientist working to advance treatment for a specific disease in a specific patient population, such as children with cystic fibrosis or African-American men with type 2 diabetes, can quickly determine whether they can access enough relevant samples to proceed with their research. All data in the biobank remains anonymous prior to careful review and approval from the university's internal review board.

Information provided to the Chinese delegation included physical documentation on proper sample handling, storage and processing; advice regarding patient outreach; and bioethical considerations related to use of



Li Ning, M.D., president of Beijing's You'an Hospital at the Capital Medical University, participates in a tour of Indiana CTSI-managed biobanking facilities during a visit to the IU School of Medicine.



Members of the China delegation with Robert Orr, sixth from left, operations manager for the Indiana CTSI sample processing lab.



Anantha Shekhar, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Indiana CTSI and associate dean for translational sciences at the IU School of Medicine, addresses the 2013 Sino-American Symposium on Clinical and Translational Medicine.

human tissues.

Additional Indiana CTSI-managed resources toured during the delegation's visit included fully equipped, continually staffed hospital facilities, maintained in partnership with IU Health, where patients may stay during participation in clinical research studies; lab space used to process and analyze medical samples after its collection during patient visits; and a highly advanced, secure centralized freezer storage system where samples are kept at extreme low temperatures until needed by researchers to advance investigations on specific diseases.

Internationally known medical collections stored in these freezers include the National Cell Repository for Alzheimer's Disease, an NIH-funded project that stores biological samples related to Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and the Komen Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center, the world's only collection of healthy breast tissue. The facility also serves as the physical site of the Indiana Biobank.

"Overall, this collaboration is trying to advance clinical and translational research in China, including topics such as biobank and biomarkers, bioethics, bioinformatics, big data and best practices in translational research," said Tim Z. Shi, M.D., Ph.D., executive director for international physician's group Global MD, who helped coordinate the visit as the Chinese co-director of the scientific advisory board for the Sino-American Symposium on Clinical and Translational Medicine. "Biobanking is a core foundation for translational research. If we want to create world-class biobanks, we've got to understand the highest international standards."

Dr. Shekhar will return to China for the next meeting of the Sino-American Symposium on Clinical and Translational Medicine in June.

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Music therapy has positive effects on young cancer patients' coping skills

March 11, 2014

A former faculty fellow at the Indiana CTISI recently co-published an influential study on the power of music therapy to help adolescents and young adults undergoing cancer treatment.

Sheri L. Robb, Ph.D., associate professor of family health at the IU School of Nursing, is the co-leader of a study published early online Jan. 27 in [Cancer](#), a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society. The study found that cancer patients at Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health experienced greater coping skills and resilience-related outcomes when they participate in a therapeutic music process that includes writing song lyrics and producing videos.

"The availability of music therapy services from a board-certified music therapist in the United States has become more widespread, and through studies like this one, we hope to see increased availability and access to this important allied health service," Dr. Robb said. "One of the challenges in health care today is making sure that research findings from studies such as ours are used to inform health care practices and service delivery."

Dr. Robb was the recipient of an Indiana CTISI's Young Investigator Award from 2009 to 2011. These awards are designed to provide career development and research support to junior faculty working on promising research projects.

In addition to the the journal article, Dr. Robb's study garnered significant media coverage, including the [BBC](#), [Reuters](#), [HuffingtonPost Live](#), [Health](#), [Mother Nature Network](#), [Science Recorder](#), [The Plain Dealer](#) and [Utah People's Post](#).

The co-leader of the study is Joan Haase, Ph.D., Holmquist Professor in Pediatric Oncology Nursing at the IU School of Nursing. She and Dr. Robb are also members of the IU Simon Cancer Institute.

The researchers found that music therapy interventions can provide essential psychosocial support to help young patients positively adjust to cancer. Patients enrolled in the study participated in a music therapy intervention designed to improve resilience in the face of stem cell transplant treatments for cancer. In the study, "resilience" was defined as the process of positively adjusting to stressors, including those associated with a cancer diagnosis and treatment.

The study also sought to target a gap in research focused on the unique psychosocial needs of these adolescents and young adults.

The primary means by which the patients who received the most benefit engaged in the study was through the creation of a music video created to explore and express thoughts and emotions about their disease and treatment that might otherwise go unspoken. Through the creative process of writing song lyrics and producing videos, a board-certified music therapist offered children with cancer the structure and support needed to reflect on their experiences and identify what is important to them, such as their spirituality, family and relationships with peers and health care providers.

As they moved through phases of the intervention, including sound recordings, collecting video images and storyboarding, patients had opportunities to involve family, friends and health care providers in their project, maintaining those important connections during treatment and encouraging communication. Once complete, videos were shared through video premieres, events that allowed others the chance to gain a better understanding about the patients' perspectives on their cancer, their



Joan Haase, Ph.D., and Sheri Robb, Ph.D. Dr. Robb was named an Indiana CTISI Young Investigator Awardee from 2009 to 2011.

treatments and their desires for the future.

For the study, 113 patients age 11 to 24 undergoing stem cell transplant treatments for cancer were randomized to be part of a Therapeutic Music Video intervention group, or to be part of a control group that received audiobooks. Participants completed six sessions over three weeks.

After the intervention, the Therapeutic Music Video group reported significantly better courageous coping. One hundred days after stem cell transplant treatments, the Therapeutic Music Video group reported significantly better social integration and family environment.

The investigators found that several protective factors helped adolescents and young adults be resilient in the face of cancer treatments, including spiritual beliefs and practices; having a strong family environment characterized by adaptability, cohesion and positive communication; and feeling socially connected and supported by friends and health care providers.

"These protective factors influence the ways adolescents and young adults cope, gain hope and find meaning in the midst of their cancer journey," Dr. Haase said. "Adolescents and young adults who are resilient have the ability to rise above their illness, gain a sense of mastery and confidence in how they have dealt with their cancer, and demonstrate a desire to reach out and help others."

The researchers also found that that the patients of participating patients reported the videos gave them insights into their children's cancer experiences; however, the parents needed help initiating and sustaining important conversations about messages shared through their children's videos.

To address this need, Drs. Robb, Haase and their collaborative have received additional funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Children's Oncology Group to examine the potential benefits of adding a parent communication component to their intervention.

"The study's findings provide evidence supporting the use of a music-based intervention delivered by a music therapist to help adolescents and young adults positively cope with high-risk, high-intensity cancer treatments," Dr. Robb said. "One of our team's next steps is to disseminate findings; train professional music therapists on this intervention; and then conduct an implementation study to examine how the intervention may change as it moves into the standard care setting and whether, in the presence of these changes, patient benefits are maintained," Dr. Robb said.

In addition to Haase, and Robb, members of the research team were Debra Burns, Kristin A. Stegenga, Paul R. Haut, Patrick O. Monahan, Jane Meza, Timothy E. Stump, Brooke O. Cherven, Sharron L. Docherty, Verna L. Hendricks-Ferguson, Eileen K. Kintner, Ann E. Haight and Donna A. Wall.

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IU School of Medicine launches new peer mentoring committees modeled on Indiana CTSI Project Development Teams

March 11, 2014

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute has launched three new Project Development Teams, or PDTs, in collaboration with the IU School of Medicine.

The new team's primary goal is to increase the competitiveness of the School's federal grant applications in the face of "ever-tightening pay lines at the National Institutes of Health," said David S. Wilkes, M.D., executive associate dean of research affairs and August M. Watanabe Professor of Medical Research at the IU School of Medicine.

"We can't do much about budget gridlock in Washington, D.C., but we can set up a system to do a better job of submitting and winning grants," Dr. Wilkes added.

The new teams, called Peer Review and Mentoring Committees, or PRMCs, are modeled on the Indiana CTSI's PDT system due to the verifiable success of the Indiana CTSI's PDT system, which has leveraged returns of more than \$65 million with a \$4 million investment.

Dr. Wilkes also noted that a similar system at the [Herman B Wells Center for Pediatric Research](#) has also seen success, with about \$800,000 in mentoring efforts and have seen some \$16 million in returns on that investment.

"We know this system is effective," he said. "The new teams are meant to do what their names imply: use the experience and expertise of some of our successful scientists to review and advise colleagues who are working on grant proposals."

The PRMCs also aim to help investigators improve A1 re-submissions of applications that are "promising but didn't quite score well enough to be awarded," Dr. Wilke added. They're not just for new applications.

"With the right changes, a good number of these proposals could be pushed into the 'funded' category," he said.

The new PDTs focus on the three thematic areas of strategic importance to the school of medicine. They are:

- A Neuroscience PDT, chaired by Michael Vasko, Ph.D., Paul Stark Professor of Pharmacology and professor of anesthesia and medicine at the IU School of Medicine;
- A Cardiovascular Disease PDT, chaired by Michael Sturek, Ph.D., chair and professor of cellular and integrative physiology and professor of medicine at the IU School of Medicine; and
- An Obesity/Metabolism PDT, co-chaired by Aaron Carroll, M.D., professor of pediatrics and assistant dean for research mentoring, and Bob Considine, Ph.D., professor of medicine and cellular and integrative physiology, both of the IU School of Medicine.

Faculty researcher may submit proposals to these teams now at <http://www.indianactsi.org/prmc-home>. Eligible proposals must be related to the re-submission of federal grant applications that received a score upon their initial submission.

The teams are comprised of individuals from the clinical research and basic science faculty "with proven track records in grantsmanship and mentoring," Dr. Wilkes added. "In addition, each team will have a project manager assigned to help keep the process moving, and a biostatistician to provide that critical advice."

The Indiana CTSI also continues to offer eight project development teams



Wilkes, M.D.

David S.

focused on a wide range of research topics. They are the Behavioral and Population Sciences PDT., co-chaired by Victoria Champion, DNS, and Gregory Zimet, Ph.D.; Community and Urban Health PDT, chaired by Sarah Wiehe, M.D.; Concepts to Clinic PDT, co-chaired by Sharon Moe, M.D. and Michael Sturek, M.D.; Human Health and Biomedical Technologies PDT, co-chaired by Connie Weaver, Ph.D., and Wayne Campbell, Ph.D.; Networks, Complex Systems and Health PDT, co-chaired by Bernice Pescosolido, Ph.D., and Brian O'Donnell, Ph.D.; Pediatrics PDT, co-chaired by Scott Denne, M.D., and Linda DiMiglio, M.D.; Program Project Planning PDT, chaired by John Thomas Callaghan, M.D.; and Therapeutics Development and Diagnostics PDT, chaired by Paul Helquist, Ph.D.

To learn more about the PDTs, visit <https://www.indianactsi.org/pdthome> or email Tammy Sadjyk at tsajdyk@iu.edu.

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Indiana CTSI-funded summer research student studying music and biology

March 11, 2014

A few months ago, Vanessa Gehring was studying the genetics behind retinoblastoma -- a disease of the eye that affects young children -- at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Eye Institute.

These days you might find her on stage as well as behind a lab bench. The IU freshman is a voice major at the prestigious Jacobs School of Music at IU-Bloomington studying under a world-class opera singer. But she's also a participant in a special program that lets her simultaneously seek a degree in music and biology -- a combination that often surprised her right-brained fellow students at the school.

"The Jacobs School has a [special degree program](#) that is a bachelor's in music and an outside field, and you can pick your outside field," said Gerhing. "For me, when I was in high school and started thinking about college, I knew music was something I didn't want to give up because I love it so much. But when I was in the sixth grade, we visited the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago and there was this genetics exhibit with cloned mice. And it just clicked. I love it too."

Gerhing's first exposure to academic-level research took place this summer through Indianapolis Project Seed, an Indianapolis-based program sponsored in part by the [Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute](#) that connects local students with researchers and labs at IUPUI, including many at the IU School of Medicine. Her mentor for this three-month experience was Timothy Corson, Ph.D., assistant professor of ophthalmology and of biochemistry and molecular biology at the IU School of Medicine.

Dr. Corson's work aims to develop new therapies for retinoblastoma, a form of eye cancer that causes loss of vision or eyes in young children, with a specific focus on a single gene, called KIF14, which his previous research has identified as highly over-expressed in the cancer. Gehring's job over the summer involved purifying catalytic proteins related to KIF14 in order to investigate their potential as a drug target.

"Protein purification itself is a bit monotonous and repetitive; it's a lot of centrifuging and re-suspending, but it was a great experience to get to learn and practice all these lab techniques," Gehring said. "Just the feeling of being in the lab was wonderful."

The program that allows her to pursue music without sacrificing her love of science originated among dance students in Bloomington as a way to provide job security to majors whose careers are notoriously brief due to the physical rigors of the discipline.

"Ballet dancers' careers are typically very short, and the injury rate is very high, so it was thought studying an outside field will help them in the long run," she said. "Fortunately, the program's since been made available to any student who gets into Jacobs."

A soprano who has taken voice lessons since sixth grade, Gehring is now studying under [Marietta Simpson](#), a faculty member at the Jacobs School who has performed with all the major orchestras in the United States and most of those in Europe. While she enjoyed earlier forays in musical theater, Gehring now enjoys singing opera and classical music.

"If music opens a door for me, I'd like to try and get my masters and perform wherever they'll have me," she said. "But biology-wise, if that's the door that opens for me, I'd like to try and go for my Ph.D., or at least go as far as I can, and do research. I'm not just studying biology in case music doesn't work out; it's because I want to."



Vanessa

Gehring spent three months this summer as a lab intern at the Glick Eye Institute under Timothy Corson, Ph.D.



Gehring

plays Kitty Verdun in Park Tudor High School's 2013 spring production of the musical *Where's Charley?*

Gehring's parents, Daniel and Liliana, who both have scientific backgrounds, say they support their daughter's career no matter what the future holds, but also point out they're proud of her interest in science, as well as art, and credit their daughter's summer lab experience with opening her eyes to a future in the life science.

They also note it didn't hurt that her mentor, Dr. Corson, is a talented pianist and cellist, as well as a researcher.

"As chemical engineers and business professionals with a long association to healthcare, advocating STEM to our children comes naturally to Liliana and me," said Daniel Gehring. "Admittedly, we initially had doubts about the role of fine arts in our children's development; no longer. Dr. Corson is a great example of the role arts plays in the life of a scientist. We've learned that science and the arts enables Vanessa to explore her inner-being, creativity, and compassion, as well as develop lifelong skills in discipline, project management, collaboration, teamwork and fortitude."

"Indianapolis Project Seed provided an excellent environment for her to cultivate a desire to learn and embrace the sciences, or, put another way, 'to liberate the arts and sciences,' versus 'liberal arts and science,'" he said.

Added Elmer Sanders, program coordinator for Indianapolis Project Seed and a science teacher in the Perry Township Metropolitan School District: "The Indiana CTSI has been truly wonderful to the students and families we serve, and mentors like Dr. Corson are the heart of the program."

But no matter how the future unfolds, Gerhring said she is confident that science, as well as music, will always remain a part of her life.

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Access Technology Program Updates -- March 2014

March 11, 2014

Core pilot grant update

The next round of Indiana CTSI core pilot grants will be open in early April.

These pilot grants promote the use of CTSI cores within and across CTSI partner institutions and supports science with a high potential for external funding or intellectual property. Faculty may apply for up to \$10,000 in CTSI Designated Core services. The core may be from the faculty home institution or from a partner institution.

For questions about the spring core pilot grant submissions, please contact Lilith Reeves at lreeves@iu.edu. For questions after submissions, contact Anne Nguyen at annnguye@iu.edu. Check the [open grant information](#) on the Indiana CTSI website in early April for more submission guidelines and to apply.

New CTSI designated core facility

The HANDS in Autism core facility, directed by Naomi Swiezy, Ph. D., Alan H. Cohen Family Professor of Psychiatry and professor of clinical psychology in clinical psychiatry, was recently designed an Indiana CTSI core facility. Indiana CTSI-designed cores are facilities that have officially passed a review process from the Indiana CTSI demonstrating quality oversight, users that span departments and schools, and established policies for prioritization, publication, confidentiality, cost recovery/payment, conflict resolution and user satisfaction.

The HANDS in Autism® Interdisciplinary Training and Resource Center was founded in 2004 as an extension of outreach and training offered at Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health and the IU School of Medicine. The vision of the HANDS in Autism® Center is to build local capacity through continuous learning and demonstrations of effective implementation of (1) evidence-based practices in supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other neurodevelopmental and behavioral disorders across home, school, medical and other community settings and (2) regional community networks composed of same stakeholders bridging across systems and settings with a focus on shared responsibility for positive individual and family outcomes. Inherent in HANDS in Autism® practice and research is a focus on data-driven decision making, program evaluation and fidelity measurement in regards to effective implementation of identified best practices across settings.

Services Offered through the HANDS in Autism® Core include assistance in recruitment and/or evaluation efforts involving parents, schools, healthcare settings, and/or other community providers; consultations regarding effective and appropriate assessments, interventions and study participation regarding ASD and other developmental disabilities as related to the identified project; use and/or development of various behavioral and educational measures to characterize the sample and/or measure treatment impacts of individuals (children through adults) with disabilities, and/or the caregivers and systems supporting them.

For more information on the HANDS in Autism core, visit <https://handsinautism.iupui.edu/index.htm> or email nswiezy@iupui.edu.

New core equipment and services

Three core facilities have added or are in the process of adding new equipment or services.

- The [Purdue Translational Pharmacology](#) (PTP) facility is augmenting its capabilities to include the Culex® automated blood sampling system

for rodent models. This new system can be used for traditional pharmacological applications (PK/PD) and "first pass metabolism" studies that may include tissue/brain microdialysis and bile measurements. This unique system is extensively used by the pharmaceutical industry in doing early discovery work. The Culex® system automatically collects blood samples in a stress-free environment from conscious freely moving animals without human presence or intervention. The system combines simultaneous monitoring of behavioral and pharmacological parameters for a more complete picture of dose effects. These new units should be operational in May 2014. In combination with our already established Culex® systems for swine models, the new Culex® for rodents allows the PTP to build a more comprehensive platform for translational research.

- The [Proteomics Core in Indianapolis](#) has a new LTQ Orbitrap Velos Pro mass spectrometer installed and in full service. This instrument has high resolution and high mass accuracy. It is the instrument of choice for biomarker discovery and post-translational modification analysis.
- The [Indiana University Simon Cancer Center Flow Cytometry Resource Facility](#) (IUSCC FCRF) provides essential and varied flow cytometric services. It also provides consultation, technical advice and collaboration. Recently, the facility has acquired a SORP FACSria sorting instrument complete with five lasers enabling the excitation of 15 unique fluorochromes. This is the first instrument which is capable of simultaneously detecting the distinct signals from UV, violet, yellow-green, blue and red wavelength excited fluorochromes used to label cellular proteins and other molecules of interest. This facility is located in Walther Hall, 980 W. Walnut St., Room C360. For more information contact, email Edward Srour, Ph.D., at esrour@iu.edu.

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Register for the 2014 Indiana CTSI CHEP Community Advisory Council Meeting -- April 1

March 11, 2014

The Indiana CTSI Community Health Engagement Program (CHEP) will present its 2014 Community Advisory Council Meeting from 8:30 to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, Marion County Public Health Library, 40 E. St. Clair St., Indianapolis.

This annual event provides an opportunity for health science researchers and representatives from community organizations across Indianapolis and beyond to create connections and learn more about the ways in which they collaborate to tackle health-related issues of concern to both the academic and local community.

This year's keynote speaker will be Lisa Harris, M.D., CEO of Eskenazi Health and John F. Williams Jr., M.D., Scholar and associate dean for Eskenazi Health Affairs at the IU School of Medicine. Additional presenters include Sarah Wiehe, M.D., co-director of the Indiana CTSI Community Health Engagement Program.

Participants in this year's event will also be the first to receive a request for applications from the Indiana CTSI for about \$100,000 to support collaborative projects between academic researchers and community organizations.

A [complete agenda](#) is online. To RSVP, visit the [registration page](#).

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Indiana CTSI Opportunities — March 2014

March 11, 2014

Several Indiana CTSI funding programs are accepting applications. They are:

Indiana CTSI Core Equipment Grants -- applications due March 28, 2014

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute is seeking proposals from Indiana CTSI-designated cores at the IU School of Medicine requesting support for the purchase of equipment, software or other resources that enhance the research environment and contribute to the research mission of the School and the Indiana CTSI.

Up to \$100,000 will be available for distribution through this grant mechanism. Applicants may request anywhere from \$5,000 to \$100,000. Proposals for equipment costing more than \$100,000 will be entertained if matching funds to cover the balance are identified.

Competitive applications will be those that bring new technology and services to Indiana CTSI investigators in the form of equipment or software that contributes to bench or in-silico research; expand existing services to meet the needs of Indiana CTSI investigators; or contribute to the strategic research mission of the institution.

Proposals for funds to subsidize ongoing operations will not be allowed. Only Indiana CTSI-designed cores at the IU School of Medicine are eligible. Indiana CTSI-designed cores are facilities that have officially passed a review process from the Indiana CTSI demonstrating quality oversight, users that span departments and schools, and established policies for prioritization, publication, confidentiality, cost recovery/payment and conflict resolution. They have also monitor user satisfaction.

Applications are due 4 p.m. Friday, March 28. For more application information, or to apply, visit the Indiana CTSI [grants portal](#) and enter your institutional username and password. Applications instructions are located under "Indiana CTSI/IUSM Core Equipment Funding - 2014.03."

For more information, contact Lilith Reeves at ictsi@iu.edu.

Indiana CTSI Young Investigator Awards -- applications due April 1, 2014

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute is seeking applications for its Young Investigator Awards in Clinical-Translational Research.

Benefits include partial salary support, as well as tuition and fees for required and elective coursework, pilot research monies, and travel funds to attend the national CTSI young investigator meeting. Awards will begin July 1.

These awards provide promising junior investigator faculty with the opportunity to be mentored in research-intensive multi-disciplinary settings toward the goal of developing careers in clinical-translational research. Clinical research includes epidemiological studies, clinical trials, or other investigations involving human subjects. Translational research consists of either "T1 research," which involves the interface of basic science to human studies, or "T2 research," which involves the interface of human studies to the community.

To be eligible, candidates must fall into one of two categories:

- Clinician-scientists with a doctoral degree (physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, veterinarians, allied health care professionals, etc.)
- Basic scientists with a PhD, who are doing translational research, which has high potential for early translation into impacting patient care

Applicants must be full-time junior faculty or research scientists who would be eligible to apply as principal investigator on an NIH grant or career development award, but who have not to date been a principal investigator on an R01 or equivalent grant. Applications must also be able to identify co-mentors who are faculty investigators from at least two different disciplines (preferably a clinician-scientist and a Ph.D.-scientist) and be planning to submit a grant for external funding (either a career development award or independent research grant) during the first 12 months of the award. U.S. citizens or permanent residents is also required.

Postdoctoral clinical or research fellows are not eligible to apply unless their institution has arranged for them to have a full-time faculty or research scientist appointment by summer 2014.

Applications are due Tuesday, April 1. For more information, or to submit an application, visit the Indiana CTSI [grants portal](#) and enter your institutional username and password. Applications instructions are located under "CTSI Young Investigator Award in Clinical - Translational Research - 2014.04."

Questions to Donna Burgett at dfburget@regenstrief.org.

Brater Scholarships -- applications due April 15, 2014

The Indiana Institute for Personalized Medicine is accepting applications for the Brater Scholarship Program. Medical fellows who will be engaged in research in personalized medicine in any medical subspecialty in the 2014-15 academic year are eligible to apply.

- The scholarship provides a structured environment for cutting-edge translational research with access to International leaders in personalized medicine.
 - Scholars will have access to peer-reviewed funding specifically designed for studies centered on personalized medicine.
 - The scholarship is designed to facilitate opportunities and career development in translational research.
- Successful applications must complete their research under the mentorship of a funded investigator at IU School of Medicine. Each scholar will have a formal mentoring committee for each scholar to guide research and participate in monthly research meetings, as well as an annual retreat designed to stimulate collaborations and nurture peer-peer interactions.

This scholarship also includes an additional annual salary stipend during research years.

Additional eligibility requirements include advanced training in clinical or basic sciences, including M.D./Ph.D., M.D./MPH, M.D./MS and/or M.D. degrees. Candidates must be in an IU School of Medicine fellowship program and not in the final year of training.

Applications are due **Tuesday, April 15**. For more information, visit the [application page](#).

Questions may be sent to Bryan P. Schneider, M.D., at bpschnei@iu.edu.

Collaboration in Translational Research (CTR) RFA -- applications due May 9, 2014

Applications are sought for the 2014 Indiana CTSI Collaboration in Translational Research grants.

These grants aims to foster and encourage collaboration across the Indiana CTSI partner institutions of Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame. Proposed projects should have participation by two (or more) principal investigators representing at least two of the sponsoring affiliates for this program.

Affiliated sponsors are defined as IU-Bloomington, IUPUI (non-IUSM), IUSM, Purdue and Notre Dame.

Applications to this program are limited to \$75,000 and are typically two years in duration. Funds support efforts to initiate or continue translational research projects that have very strong and immediate potential to develop into larger, externally funded research programs, or generate novel intellectual property.

The application deadline is **4 p.m. Friday, May 9**.

For complete application information, including eligibility guidelines, submission forms and a proposals presentation checklist, visit www.indianactsi.org/grants. (Log in using your institutional username and password, and select "Collaboration in Translational Research Pilot Grant Program -- 2015.05.")

For more information, email Anne Nguyen at ictsi@iu.edu.

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On the Horizon — March 2014

Indiana CTSI Purdue Retreat - April 1

Save the date! Please place a hold on your calendar for the **2014 Indiana CTSI Purdue Retreat** is scheduled **Monday, April 21**. Please watch the Indiana CTSI HUB for more information. Questions to Tommy Sors, Ph.D., at tsors@purdue.edu.

Bioethics at the Crossroads - May 7

The IU Center for Bioethics will present a conference, "Bioethics at the Crossroads: Where Public Health, Genomics, Data and Translational Science Meet," **Wednesday, May 7**, in the IUPUI Campus Center, Room 307.

The IU Center for Bioethics is also the site of the [Indiana CTSI Bioethics and Subject Advisory Program](#).

For more information, email Eva Jackson at evajacks@iu.edu.

Breast Cancer Prevention Symposium - Oct. 16-18

The Fourth International Breast Cancer Prevention Symposium, "Genes, the Environment and Breast Cancer Risk," will be Oct. 16 to 18 at Purdue University.

The goal of this symposium is to bring together global public health actors, advocates and researchers on breast cancer prevention to discuss the impact of environmental factors such as foods, stress, exercise on the genome. The symposium will cross disciplines to study different levels of gene-environment interactions; the epigenetic mechanisms of gene expression control; health policy and practices; and socioeconomic and cultural contexts in which these environmental factors come into play.

This event is presented by the Purdue University International Breast Cancer and Nutrition (IBCN) Group, co-directed by Connie M. Weaver, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor and chair of food and nutrition at Purdue and a deputy director of the Indiana CTSI.

Abstract submissions open in mid-March. For more information, visit www.purdue.edu/breastcancer or www.facebook.com/PurdueIBCN.

Submit your events!

Other events will be listed as they are scheduled on the Indiana CTSI's newly upgraded [events calendar](#). To submit an event, email date, time, location, description and contact information to info@indianactsi.org.

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